

PEKIN DUCKS IN AMERICA.

The first successful effort to import these rare birds was made by James E. Palmer, of Stoughton, in the spring of 1873. He brought them with him in a ship to Newport, and it is probably owing to the fact that they had his personal attention for the whole voyage that any of them survived the long journey, passing twice under the Equator.

Only a drake and three ducks were brought to Mr. Palmer's farm in March, 1873. They soon recovered from the effects of the voyage, and, before he suspected, they had begun to lay in the pasture where they were kept. All the ducks of this breed in the country have sprung from this quartette.

We have in this remarkable duck the results of long years of thorough breeding for economical purposes. Where the population is so dense as in China they are compelled to economize in the use of animal food, and much more attention is paid to the breeding of fish and of poultry than in this country, many live upon rats, or in boats, and keep large flocks of ducks as a means of subsistence.

In the experience of the last two years the Pekin have shown themselves to be far superior to the Rouens and Aylesbury's in size, vigor and fecundity. We claim for the Pekins a comely form of snowy whiteness, that makes them very desirable pets for the lawn or for small bodies of water in cultivated grounds. They are a very hardy bird, and easily raised in yards, without more water than hens require. The eggs hatch in warm weather in about twenty-five days, coming out two or three days sooner than common ducks.

They seem larger and stronger at birth, and, after a week with the hen, may safely be put in flocks of about fifteen, and, with a barrel or box for shelter, will take care of themselves.

They can be raised in any place where chickens can be, and do not need any more water than chickens until they are two or three months old.

We have had much better success with them than with either Rouens or Aylesbury's in an experience of six years. We raised last year, in the small back yard of a village lot, 23 birds, removing them to a larger lot when about ten weeks old. They have had about the same care as Buff chickens, and have been no more trouble. They are very easily restrained, and seem to be perfectly at home in narrow quarters.

We have a flock on a half acre, and the only fence on one side is a board a foot high. They have never offered to pass this barrier, and probably could not if they tried.

The qualities in which the Pekins are strong are their capacity to produce flesh and eggs. They mature very early, and, in the vicinity of cities and places of summer resort, they can be marketed in July and August, at very high prices.

Fourteen to eighteen pounds a pair are not uncommon weight for them during the first year.

As egg producers, their record has been very remarkable. Two of the imported birds laid the first year, the one one hundred and twenty-five eggs, the other one hundred and thirty-one. Last year one of them laid on the 27th of February, and missed but four days during the season, making 201 eggs. Mr. Palmer's flock of seven ducks laid over 900 eggs. This included two old birds and five young ones.

The two-year-old birds are more prolific than the young ones. What is more remarkable still, one of the young ducks hatched in the spring began to lay in August. This we have since learned is not unfrequent with these birds. A neighbor raised a flock of nine, from eggs of spring birds, hatched in October. These birds were kept under a shed during the winter, and are apparently as fine birds this summer as the spring hatch of last year.

We have never been able to get more than 50 or 60 eggs out of a Rouen or Aylesbury, with the best of care.

We think the Pekins are entitled to the front rank among our useful aquatic fowls. There are probably not over 300 female Pekins in the country this spring, and they must necessarily be in great demand for several years.

A NOTED LOCAL HERD.

Situated 16 miles from London and 7 from Lucan Station, G. T. R., in the northwestern end of London township, near Alderton, which is to be a station on the London, Huron and Bruce R. R. (now in course of construction and nearly completed), lies the farm of Belvoir, belonging to Rich'd Gibson, formerly manager for Hon. S. Campbell, New-York Mills, and well known as leading importer and breeder of Lincoln sheep. The farm contains 300 acres of a rich clay loam soil, with considerable acreage of rich alluvial meadow land. The farm is mainly in grass, and such thick, soft, rich pasture we have not seen anywhere else in Canada. One field of 23 acres is set in natural grasses of old growth, interspersed with large patches of Kentucky blue grass, showing quite a thick green mat at the time of my visit, Sept. 25.—Country Gent.

Some workmen occupied at the Ohateau of Conde, in Normandy, have just found some cannon-balls of granite, probably thrown by the English when that castle was taken by them in 1417. In 1429 a stone-cannon, discharged from the tower of Notre Dame, at Orleans, killed the Earl of Salisbury on the opposite side of the Loire. Some of those projectiles used during one memorable occasion are still preserved in the same city, two of them measure over thirteen inches in diameter, and their weight exceeds 200 pounds. The journal of the siege of that place relates that on the first of December, 1428, the English batteries threw against the town walls weighting nearly 200 pounds. On 29 of January, 1429, Lancelot de Lile who commanded the English, had his head carried off by a stone shot from the walls.

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THE CORRECT WAY TO FEED STRAW AND ROOTS.

The North British Agriculturalist, in reply to a correspondent, thus describes the proper method of feeding straw and roots together.—The straw should be cut one and one half inches long, and a heaped teaspoonful of salt mixed to each beast per day. The mixing process should be accomplished the day before the stuff is to be used, and water must be within the animal's reach. Hay for the horses should be cut three-quarters of an inch long and put into deep boxes before the animals. We prefer giving the bruised oats and a good Swiss turnip or two daily, separate from the cut hay. Rather less than an ounce of salt daily is plenty for a horse. They should get an ounce of niter every Saturday night. As to the question of pulping or straw-cutting (using a good deal will depend on the power available. If water-power can be obtained, so much the better, but if animal or steam power is employed the expense of the system will be increased. We should be surprised to find that our correspondent can keep nearly one-fourth more of cattle on his farm by means of pulping and straw cutting. If the animals get what they can eat they will consume more turnips pulped with safety than in any other way. The great advantages of pulping are that there is no choking or blowing, that feeders are enabled to have turnips, though in a mixed state, continually before cattle, and that cattle will consume more roots and, we think, take on fat and flesh rather quicker than with any other system of feeding. Deeper troughs will be required with pulped roots and cut straw than for the ordinary system practiced in the district in which our correspondent farms. We would not advise the addition of cake to the mixture, as it is, we think, too costly to be mixed up in such a heap, and is more satisfactorily given by itself. It is a decided improvement, as preventing waste, to cut the hay given to horses, and yet more desirable is it to bruise the oats, but we would give the hay and oats separately.

DRY EARTH IN STABLES.

I am asking about the use of dry earth in a cow stable. The writer has seen it stated that earth which has been used in an earth-closet, is less valuable for manural purposes than the manure itself would have been without the admixture, he has planned to use the dry earth in his cow stable, but does not wish to do it to the detriment of his manure heap. I have tried to keep a watch of the discussion here and in England, on this subject, and have never seen anything tending to so strong an argument against the use of earth closet earth as the objection also indicated. Dr. Voelcker, who is a very high authority, published the results of his investigation as to the value of the earth closet manure, showing that it was very much less than the advocates of the system had claimed. When I saw him in London, I asked him how he accounted for the small amount of fertilizing matter in the samples analyzed. His reply was that there is but a small amount in the manure itself, nearly the whole of all animal faeces consisting of water and refuse matter of little fertilizing value, the nitrogen and fertilizing manural matter, though large in the aggregate when large populations are considered, are small when compared with the large amount of earth used in the closet. I especially asked him whether there was through oxidation or otherwise, any actual destruction of fertilizing parts, this is distinctly disclaimed, and said that the only bearing of his criticism was, that his analysis showed the same small proportion of manural, that a mathematical calculation of the quantity and character of the faeces, and the quantity of the earth would indicate. I shall say that, unquestionably, the use of earth in a cow stable must be productive of the very best results, not only as saving all the fertilizing matter present, but also, and very largely, by reason of the development of available plant food in the earth itself, in consequence of the chemical action going on in the manure it contains. In addition to this, the increase of bulk, enabling us to spread the manure more evenly over the ground, and the increased effect of the manure as mulch or covering, when used as a top-dressing, constitute a sufficient reason for the use of earth in very liberal quantities. I have little doubt that my correspondent's experiment in this direction, will result satisfactorily.—American Agriculturalist

CURE FOR THE EPIZOOTIC.—The indications are that this epidemic, in a milder form, however, than any in the past, has already attacked the Quebec horses, many of which are to be noticed in the streets sneezing and coughing, or with their muzzles covered with mucous matter. European servants have predicted that there will be trouble with horses from now to the middle of May next, such as we have never before had. They assert that there are now found in the atmosphere particles of the dust, red in appearance like cayenne, tasteless, but which induce sneezing, followed by the well known epizootic. Owners of horse flesh are cautioned not to use their horses roughly, or at all, during an attack. Keep them well blanketed, and rub lard or olive oil on the throat morning, noon, and night. In Paris, Major Bayley, the famous French horseman, says out of scores and scores of diseased horses he did not lose three cases. He used medicine but he followed this treatment, and said good grooming was the secret of his success. The fact is, in this country, we overworked and overstrained our horses. You might as well undertake to work a man when suffering from typhoid fever as to work a horse with this often fatal disease.

HUMOROUS.

An Indiana man could not understand what benefit his wife derived from wearing false teeth, until in the course of an altercation she hung on his left ear for a few brief seconds, during which he executed a mazourka around his bed-room, and called all the "bald-headed angels" to witness that he would go to Utah the next day and become a Mormon.

The epizootic is around again, and the horaces are running up enormous laundry bills, by using from five to ten pocket-handkerchiefs a day. Most of these creatures get not pay aside from their board, and are obliged to reach a good way to meet this extra expense.

An Oswego bully-goat broke up a base ball match by butting both sides off the field. And so it seems that goats are good for something besides eating old brooms and fruit cans, and knocking little children over endways. That Oswego goat is now valued at four hundred and fifty dollars.

When an amateur farmer in Delaware county read in his local paper that the neighborhood was full of rail hunters, he took a shot gun and sat up three successive nights watching his rail fence. He knows the difference now between a rail bird and a furo rail.

"Are you registered, Jemmy?" asked one Irish voter of another, whom he met on Tompkins Square. "Faith, an' I am. Sure the census man came round to me house two months ago, and tuck me wid the childer an' the old woman. Sure, we're all registered loike decent people, so we are," replied the proud citizen.

Some weeks ago a Detroit wife disguised her chirography and wrote her husband a love letter under an assumed name. He answered it very promptly, and a correspondent ensued which lasted for six weeks. He finally threatened to commit suicide in case his unknown correspondent did not meet him, and his wife then had a parlor seizure and exhibited the letters. The attempts of the husband to laugh and declare that he knew her handwriting all the time, and wanted to see how far she would go, were among the most lamentable failures of the present and year.

Anna Dickinson says she does not see any sense in pull back dresses. This is very true, but it isn't sense that men are looking for when they gaze on a travelling pull-back.

There is an animal in Pennsylvania that knows how to run a camp meeting. It is the skunk. Five of these little animals ran a camp meeting out of a village recently.

A HUSKING BEE.

Did you ever see one? You may have heard of them, but that counts nothing, did you ever take part in one? Well, you have missed a treat if you never did, that let us tell you.

We speak of a real old-fashioned husking bee, none of your half-and-half affairs. Of a gathering of the young folks for miles around, with a sprinkling of middle-aged ones for ballast; of a barn floor heaped high with yellow-husked corn, bursting to be stripped, of youth and maiden paired off and anxious to heap the rustling husks high around them. Where song, joke, laughter, repartee and jollity hold high carnival, and where every youth seeks for the red ear of corn as earnestly as ever alchemist sought for the philosopher's stone.

All this and more that pen can not portray, the little bits of color and incident which compose the picture, is there to be seen. And then, when the corn has all been undressed and put away in its little bin, then comes the good old-fashioned supper, spiced with blushing cheeks and homely gallantry, a supper of round substantial, pork and beans and pumpkin pies, then to be shook down with a boisterous, good-natured dance and frolic, after which "waiting" upon the girls home, frames the picture and tunes up every heart.

We don't see them very often now-a-days, these glorious husking bees. Like quilting bees and apple parings they have grown out of date, and in their stead we have corn-husking machines at which an over-fed booby will stand and disrobe more corn ears in an hour than a good-sized husking bee could do in a night. But there isn't half the fun, for the machine never stops to kiss anybody when a red ear is found, and nobody dances but the man who feeds it. It may be more rapid, but, like the old woman, we like the good old-fashioned way the best.

—Blenheim, 10th con., has an excellent Literary Society.

—The Holman Opera Troupe have been on a tour through the Province.

—Mr. McIntosh is the name of the newly appointed Collector of Customs at Kincardine.

—A new Grange of the Ontario Patrons of Husbandry has been organized in School Section No. 8, Township of Grey.

—Arkona people need not despair for want of secret societies. They have lodges of Free Masons, Oddfellows, Orangemen, Templars and Grangers.

—The foreman of the Grand Jury, at the Kent Assizes in Chatham, became severely ill on Friday morning, and the Judge swore in Mr. Moore in his stead.

—Farmers are busily engaged in securing the turnip crop at present. The crop, generally speaking, is good. Potatoes have mostly been taken up and housed, and are a good yield.

—Seaford Council has passed a by-law granting a bonus of \$10,000 to Dr. Coleman, on condition of his establishing a machine shop. It is said the people will vote the by-law down.

—Mr. Allan Blair, Lake Shore, Pico River, threshed 100 bushels of Scotch wheat off two and one-half acres, the average number of sheaves it took to make a bushel was twenty, this does not look like the Scotch wheat being run out.

Commercial Intelligence.

CHEESE MARKET.

INGERSOLL.

Oct. 12, 1875. — Fifteen factories registered 7,065 boxes. One sale recorded of 900 boxes, of Sept. and Oct. make, at 11c. One buyer reports having bought 6,000 boxes during market hours, most of which were not placed on the bulletin board. Eleven cents is freely offered for Sept and Oct make, and holders are firm in asking an advance on these figures.

Oct. 5, 1875. — 14 factories offered 9,150 boxes. 3,850 boxes were sold. 900 boxes, August make, at 10c; 1,750 Sept. and Oct., at 10c; 500 do, at 10c; and 700 do, at 11c. Market dull. Several thousand boxes were sold since last Market day at 9c to 10c for August, 10c to 10c for Sept. and Oct., and 11c. offered for balance of season, but manufacturers want 12c.

LONDON, ONT.

Oct. 10, 1875. — The market on this date was thinly attended. Some 750 boxes were offered for sale, and a good portion sold at 10c and 11c.

LITTLE FALLS.

Oct. 11, 1875. — 10,000 boxes offered and 8,000 boxes were sold at 13c. Five lots were offered 13c., but were held at 14c.

These prices are equal in gold as follows: — 13c U. S. is 11 50 gold; 13c is 11 50; 14c is 12 02 Market firm.

New York market, 11c. is the outside figure. Exports since 1st January to October 1st, is 1,293,851 boxes. Same time last year, 1,350,644 boxes.

Table with columns for New York, Liverpool, and London quotations for week ending Oct 12, 1875. Includes rows for Gold, Exchange, Prime, Receipts, and various market rates.

HARD TIMES.

THE FARMER'S WON'T BRING IN THEIR GRAIN. Several complaints are made about farmers not bringing in their produce, and this is the reason our towns are suffering. We may say, from the lateness of the harvest, and the amount of work to be performed in the way of fall ploughing and other work, have prevented them from making our markets as lively as they should be at this time of the year.

LONDON MARKET.

Dehl Wheat, \$1.60 to \$1.73; Treadwell, \$1.55 to \$1.67; Red Winter, \$1.55 to \$1.60; Spring, 1.60 to 1.75; Barley, per 100, \$1.20 to \$1.60; Peas, \$1.08 to \$1.13; Oats, 90c. to 94c.; Corn, \$1.20; Beans, Dec. to \$1.21; Rye, \$1.05 to \$1.10; Buckwheat, \$1.

MONTEAL MARKET.

Montreal, Oct. 23.—Flour receipts 8,000 bbls.; sales 4,000 bbls. Market dull and prices nominally unchanged, but tending in buyers favor. Sales of \$1 100 extras \$3 25; 100 fancy \$5.10; 200 spring extra \$4.35, 2500 Welland Casual spring extra on private terms, said to be about \$4.87; 300 strong bakers \$5.10, and 600 city bags at \$2.

Grain nominal. Provisions unchanged. Ashes—Pots uncut; firas, \$4.55 to \$4.95; pearls nominal.

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Buffalo, Oct. 22.—Cattle—receipts 935 head, making the total supply for the week, 11,101 head. The market was dull and slow. Only 17 cars of fresh arrivals on sale, the balance were shipped out, leaving the yards bare of stock.

Sheep and Lambs.—Receipts to-day 2,000 head, making the total supply for the week, 18,500 head. The market was flat, dealers refusing to sell at the prices offered, shipping East in preference. Those not shipped to day will be to-morrow, which will leave the yards bare of stock. The only transactions were 213 Illinois sheep, averaging 93 lbs. at \$5.10. All fresh arrivals were through consignment.

Hogs.—Receipts 5,200 head, making the total for the week 29,100 head. The market was dull and heavy, receipts and prices lower. Yorkers at \$7 to \$7.75 for fair to good quality; heavy hogs at \$8.12 for good to choice.

NEW YORK MARKET.

New York, Oct. 23.—Cotton steady; 14 3/16 for middling uplands. Flour reported dull and declining to-day; receipts 17,000 bbls., sales 11,000 bbls.; \$3.50 to \$5.60 for superfine state, \$5.65 to \$7.50 for common to choice extra state and western.

Rye flour is quiet, \$3.25 to \$5.60. Wheat dull and heavy; 1c to 2c lower; receipts 147,000 bushels; sales 40,000 bushels; \$1.03 to \$1.12 for No. 3 Chicago; \$1.23 to \$1.26 for new and old No. 2 do; \$1.30 to \$1.31 for No. 2 Milwaukee.