

# THE MAGAZINE GUARDIAN For Parents, Pupils, Teachers, Farmers, Dairymen, Horsemen

## TO THE FARMER

Farmers and others interested are invited to contribute to *The Farm, The Dairy, The Pulp, and Good Roads* departments of the *Guardian* either by question, correspondence or otherwise. Answers will be given by experts to all questions of general interest and space will be given to any articles that will in any way help to advance Prince Edward Island interests.

Contributors are asked to have their articles at this office early each week as only a short emergency item can be handled as late as one p.m. Wednesday. All received after that hour cannot appear until the following week.

## THE SCHOOL AND THE HOME

Contributions for this department should be addressed to *Guardian School and Home*, P.O. Box No. 116, Charlottetown.

### AN OLD WARNING REPEATED

Superintendent Frank B. Dyer, of the Boston schools sounds a warning which is worthy of more than local notice against the neglect of the three R's. Writing in his first annual report he says:

"It is of vital importance that amid the multiplicity of educational activities in our schools we do not neglect the essential elements of an education—English, writing and arithmetic."

"There is a lingering suspicion in the public mind, that American schools do not produce satisfactory results in these branches. The courses of study read well enough, and the teachers work hard enough, but the product in many cases is disappointing. Children have been writing every day for eight years, and yet their penmanship is not legible and fluent. They have been reading, reading, and yet have not formed right reading habits, while their spelling and their manner of expressing themselves in written and oral English is strangely at variance with the time spent upon English in the curriculum. In arithmetic, the children work thousands of examples and cover a multitude of topics from numeration to mensuration, but cannot add."

"The general cause of failure is found to be due to mass instruction—the failure to discover the needs of the individual pupil and to apply the requisite remedy at the appropriate time. It is found that drills in fix forms are not clearly enough distinguished from exercises that require the higher powers of the mind, and that such drills should as a rule be individual rather than class exercises. It is also found that the lack of clearly defined standards of attainments in different subjects in the different grades holds some children back and permits others to pass on accumulating deficiencies. In addition, it is found that in the multiplicity of topics and details of the course of study, the mastery of the simple elements by the individual child is sometimes overlooked."

### TO INTEREST THE SCHOLAR

Perhaps at this time of the year, when the novelty of school has been thoroughly worn off, a new bit of equipment may put heart into the reluctant school girl or boy. The shops are full of attractive things for the school child.

For the child who takes his lunch to school there are interesting boxes and baskets. Some persons think that a lunch packed in a basket always tastes fresher. The current of air which the basket permits to circulate about the lunch removes any odor of closeness that might otherwise accumulate, and so altogether the lunch is more appetizing in a basket than in a box. There are delightful baskets to be had. It is best to pay a little more and get a basket of substantial weave, than to get a cheap basket which will fall apart before spring comes.

There are many variations among the lunch boxes. One is a flat, square box with a compartment containing a bottle for hot or cold liquids and a big compartment for sandwiches and other tidbits in the school lunch. Another is in the form of a kodak, collapsible, so that it may be closed flat when it is not in use. There is a lunch box which looks like a music roll for small girls—or larger ones. All these are covered with imitation or real leather. There are brown paper boxes of various sizes and shapes, strong and cheap, so that they can be replaced by new ones when they begin to look soiled or worn.

A pencil case of some kind is a treasure in the childish mind, one with a little colored stone in the end, out with all the beauty of a jewel, is attractive. The jeweled end is removed to disclose an eraser, and when the pencil is not in use the pointed end is inserted in the case. The flat pencil case is dainty, but it accommodates only a special pencil, flat and short. The round cases are especially desirable because they make stubs of any pencil useful.

And for sharpeners, the best are the kind that serve firmly to the edge of a table. The individual sharpeners, that can be carried in the pocket,

They have a way of becoming dulled in a very short time.

The boxes of desk supplies are well equipped. Some of them have half a dozen colored pencils, a couple of pen holders, a box of pen points, two or three black pencils, an ink and a pencil eraser, a sharpener, and a ruler. Others are more elaborately stocked, and still others have a simpler outfit.

### A WASH FOR CLEANING SILVER.

Mix together half an ounce of fine salt, half an ounce of powdered alum and half an ounce of cream of tartar. Put them into a large white-ware pitcher, and pour on two quarts of water, and stir them frequently, till entirely dissolved. Then transfer the mixture to clean bottles, and cork them closely. Before using it, shake the bottle well. Pour some of the liquid into a bowl, and wash the silver all over with it, using an old, soft, fine linen cloth. Let it stand about ten minutes and then rub dry, with a buckskin. It will make the silver like new.

### TO FILL CRACKS IN PLASTER.

Use vinegar instead of water to mix your plaster of Paris. The resultant mass will be like putty, and will not "set" for twenty or thirty minutes, whereas if you use water it immediately becomes hard almost as it is pushed into the cracks and smooths it off nicely with a table knife.

### TO TOUGHEN LAMP CHIMNEYS AND GLASSWARE

In immerse the article in a pot filled with cold water, to which some common salt has been added. Boil the water well, then cool slowly. Glass read in this way will resist any sudden change of temperature.

### POLISH OR ENAMEL FOR SHIRT BOSOMS

Is made by melting together 1 ounce of white wax and 2 ounces of spermaceti; heat gently and turn into a very shallow pan; when cold cut or break in pieces. When making boiled starch the usual way, enough for 10 dozen bosoms, add to it a piece of the polish the size of a hazel nut.

### TO KEEP OUT MOSQUITOES

If a bottle of the oil of pennyroyal is left uncorked in a room at night, not a mosquito, nor any other blood-sucker, will be found there in the morning.

### A PLEA FOR THE DUNCES

"Error, though blind herself, sometimes brings forth children who can see." In that do-it-as-you-short-sightedness, please, labels him—may be the germ that will fructify into a leader of men, a being obsessed with the one idea, and capable of sticking to one thing till he "gets there." His oneness of idea and singleness of aim stand him in better stead than the eccentric flights of genius.

In the hustle of modern school life, with a crowded curriculum, one is apt to look askance at the dunces who find the strenuous educational struggle too much for him, and is, in consequence, hopelessly left in the rear in the race of life.

Poor dunces, I pity thee! And yet there are many examples of dunces at school who became famous. Thackeray, of *Vanity Fair* fame, whilst at Charterhouse, was told, every morning, by the head master, of his shortcomings. Isaac Newton, who discovered the laws of gravitation, in school always gravitated towards the tail end of the class. Professor Dalzell said of Walter Scott, "Dunce is he, and dunce he will remain." Rider Haggard was looked upon by both his mates and masters as a rather stupid boy. Robert (afterwards Lord) Clive had a long list of sins of omission to his credit whilst the great preacher, Henry Ward-Beecher, was so dull that he "always broke down" at learning the Catechism. Even the great Dr. Chalmers was expelled from Austruther Parish School as a dunce for whom there was no hope.

Not to labor the point, we can instance Charles Darwin Robert Chambers (the pioneer of cheap literature) and Sir David Wilkie, who at school was dubbed "idle, eccentric, and a dunce."

Your dunces may be a plodder; if so, the stay of hope shines clearly through the mist of years. That his shortcomings may be—as far as consistent with discipline—overlooked, is the sincere wish of the writer.

—Tom Pierce Cowling, in *The Teachers' Aid*, London.

### A COOKING KINK.

As our family do not care for chicken unless iced, I have evolved a way in which a young chicken, weighing about 1 lb., can be cooked in a slow oven at least one hour, longer if the chicken is large. When done each piece should be coated with a delicious crisp brown crust, added to its size. Few cooks know that the rib, if broken next to the back, may be easily removed with the fingers, thus making a fairly good piece of chicken. The fat not used in the gravy is superior to butter for seasoning vegetables. Pork chops cooked in this way are much better than when fried.

## THE FARM

### BUTTER AND CHEESE.

At Winnipeg, dairy butter has declined another cent or two except on the fancy dairy which still remains at 23c. and retail at 30c. No. 1 dry and down to 18c-20c, as compared with 25c. a year ago, and good lots 66c-17c. The market is still heavily overstocked both locally and in the eastern and southern cities and as there is no outlet for Winnipeg in that quarter, the price is down. New Zealand butter is another depressing factor as it can be landed in Winnipeg for 31c. New York unsalted creamery 23c. to 24c. Creamery prints wholesale, Toronto 31c. to 33c. Farmer's separator prints 24c-26c. Montreal butter ready and business very wholesome, reameries 27c. to 28c. Dairy butter old at 22c-23c.

Exports of 9,768 boxes of cheese cut forward during the past week to British ports, and comparatively lots have yet to be disposed of. Sales are reported to us of about 3,500 boxes of Western, at prices ranging from 13c. to 13c. and 13c., which prices are about 1c. higher than at this time last year.

The season for the marketing of last year's make of cheese in Canada being pretty well over, attention is already being directed to the probabilities of this year's make. It is claimed that it will be found that farmers as a rule have taken advantage of the free entry of cattle into the United States by selling of their own and undesirable stock, whilst being careful not to part with their best milk cows. There have been extensions to this rule of course. But what is disturbing the trade is, as regards the shipments of milk and cream which are admitted free into the United States, as contracts we are having already been entered into in a large scale with parties on the other side of the line.

Cheese, selling to the trade at Toronto is firmer by a quarter of a cent or pound. New large types are quoted at 15c. and other classes are up accordingly. Stocks of cheese in Canada are very low, and exports have been liberal of late. The animal was a quick return to the flock. There need have been no hurry, for, to my astonishment, the animal never struggled in the basket. Several more were weighed in the same way, and the farmer said he weighed his whole flock before sending it to market and then he knew how to go on then. This somewhat primitive plan might suit anyone who wished to take the weight of lambs or light sheep. Of course, the weight of basket must be allowed for. I think a clothes basket will answer better than a box for the purpose. It is about the right size. As regards live and dead weight, it varies considerably, according to the breed of animal, its sex, age, fatness and whether fattened or not. I once weighed a cross bred lamb—a Leicester Shropshire, after it had fasted twelve hours. It was between three and four months old. Live weight was 79 lbs., dead and dressed 40 lbs. The lamb was, as might be supposed, nice meat—ready for butcher. Big South Devon would not give quite so good a return according to the above figures. An old South Devon, moderately fat, would, I should say, slide off a bit more than half in weight in the killing and dressing when fasted for 12 hours. An eleven month old Devon lamb in fair condition would waste nearly half, I daresay. But many circumstances and conditions have to be reckoned in calculating what certain live animals will weigh dead.—*Farm and Home*, England.

### THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE MAY SPREAD

In discussing the question of how the disease of foot and mouth may spread from one country to another and from one farm or district to another, we pointed out that the dribbling from the mouths and discharges from the vesicles on the feet of infected animals in and about the farm buildings and on fodder, etc., are very easily recognized causes of infection. In addition to these, however, there are other causes of infection which are perhaps not so well recognized, from their having a foreign source probably, and there is an interesting chapter on this subject in a Mr. J. Sutherland Thomson's book on "British and Colonial Dairying," reviewed lately. "Not to mention the traffic in foreign hides, eggs, etc., which is capable of being controlled so as to afford some protection to British stockowners, there is a prolific source of infection which is connected with the importation of foreign grain and fodder, and the danger is that connected with the importation of maize from the east of Europe, where the cereal is cultivated to an enormous extent by small cultivators and is by the village populations, who bring to the maize fields during the season their families and entire live stock, comprising draught cattle, pigs and poultry. These details connected with the harvesting of maize which make it an easy vehicle for the carriage of foot and mouth disease.

The infection of grain by vermin—e. g., field rats, mice and birds—which are numerous in maize fields and in granaries, points to another source of infection, and there is the probability that wind and dust play a part in the transmission of the disease. Hares, foxes and even dogs also have been mentioned, and there is not a biped or a quadruped in existence which may not be, in certain circumstances, the innocent cause of an outbreak of this very infectious and costly disease. It is a fact that a strong agricultural committee should be formed in England to confer with leading agricultural associations on the Continent, with the object of minimizing the spread of the disease from one country to another.

### THE BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK.

The Barred Plymouth Rock as a breed was originated in 1864 or 1865 in Connecticut, and since its origin it has been one of the most popular fowls of the poultry kingdom. Barred Plymouth Rocks are to be found everywhere, and no other breed is kept on the average farm in such large numbers, and, at the same time, it is an extremely popular fowl among fanciers. It is a beautiful bird, but requires great skill in handling and breeding to secure the proper black and white barring effect to give the desirable bluish "ringlet" colored plumage. From a utility standpoint it is popularly respected in its profit producing qualities. It is a general purpose fowl, is a good layer, and is an excellent table bird. The breeds used in the production of the Barred Rock which was commonly spoken of as the Plymouth Rock, before the later varieties of the White and Buff were introduced, were Black Cochins, Light Brahma, and the common hawk colored fowl of Connecticut. Several dis-

made, and finally a well established barred color and Rock type was obtained. The popularity of the new breed, the Barred Plymouth Rock, was instantaneous, and has increased with its more widespread breeding. It is a bird of good size, the standard weights being: Cock 9 lbs.; hen 7 lbs.; pullet 6 lbs. It has a single comb, yellow legs, and is a yellow fleshed bird. Its hardiness is exceeded by few other breeds, and it is quite well adapted to winter laying. Many egg laying strains of Barred Rocks have been developed, and this adds to its profitability. It is also a flesh producer, and makes an excellent fowl for roasting purposes, the usual weight when dressed being 5 to 7 pounds. Coupling the qualities for eggs, and meat production, (for some strains are well up over the 100 egg mark, and when dressed make a fine plump carcass) the Barred Plymouth Rock will long remain popular among poultrymen and farmers, and to a great extent will be the mainstay of the poultry industry.

In the cities with the steadily increasing prices of meat, eggs through eggs may be high in proportion, the fact that eggs are such a wholesome and nourishing food, and that they can be served in such a variety of ways and prepared with such little labor, keeps them in constant and ever increasing demand.

Canada, an agricultural country, also imports eggs for home consumption. Canada once exported eggs. Ten years ago between ten and twelve million dozen were exported to England, and previous to 1900 even greater quantities were shipped annually to the United States. The following table gives the exports and imports of eggs since 1900:

### WEIGHING SHEEP

There appears nothing like going about a bit among brother farmers, in different counties to pick up wrinkles. In South Devon lately I was looking over some strong lambs. Something was said about the weight of them, and to my surprise there was an animal—a lamb or sheep, which ever it might be called—put on its back in a trice in a clothes basket which was on a common weighing machine, and the weight taken in the time it took to write it. The animal was a quick return to the flock. There need have been no hurry, for, to my astonishment, the animal never struggled in the basket. Several more were weighed in the same way, and the farmer said he weighed his whole flock before sending it to market and then he knew how to go on then. This somewhat primitive plan might suit anyone who wished to take the weight of lambs or light sheep. Of course, the weight of basket must be allowed for. I think a clothes basket will answer better than a box for the purpose. It is about the right size. As regards live and dead weight, it varies considerably, according to the breed of animal, its sex, age, fatness and whether fattened or not. I once weighed a cross bred lamb—a Leicester Shropshire, after it had fasted twelve hours. It was between three and four months old. Live weight was 79 lbs., dead and dressed 40 lbs. The lamb was, as might be supposed, nice meat—ready for butcher. Big South Devon would not give quite so good a return according to the above figures. An old South Devon, moderately fat, would, I should say, slide off a bit more than half in weight in the killing and dressing when fasted for 12 hours. An eleven month old Devon lamb in fair condition would waste nearly half, I daresay. But many circumstances and conditions have to be reckoned in calculating what certain live animals will weigh dead.—*Farm and Home*, England.

### SOMETHING ABOUT MILK VEINS AND THE UDDER

A few years ago we thought we would see what percentage of the farmers believed that the milk veins on the belly of the cow, which are called milk veins, were really veins or conveying milk to the udder. So without expressing any opinion of our own on the matter we simply asked the following question of one farmer after another: "By any means, what percentage of your cows are answer from 30 out of 100 that there was in effect, like the blood, carry the milk to the udder." Of the remaining ten, five could not give any answer except to say that they did not know, while only five had the right idea, viz: that these veins returning blood from the udder to the heart.

If we believe the truth as it really exists, that these veins return the blood to the heart it will teach us several valuable lessons.

1. It will show us the enormous circulation of blood that is required to produce milk in a good cow.
2. It will teach us that we must take good care of the udder, for with such a heavy inflow and outflow of blood, the organ is very sensitive to abrupt changes of heat and cold.
3. This is the reason that cows are very apt to have garget by lying on cold ground late in the fall. Also by lying on stone or cement floors.
4. It will teach us the folly of tying cows in the common stanchions where it is easy for a standing cow to step over onto the teats or udder of the cow that is lying down next to her.
5. A knowledge of the true physiology of the udder will teach us the importance of careful and gentle use of the udder, and the great importance of attending to any derangements at once.
6. We wish also to speak of the importance of the knowledge of the above facts to every farmer and dairymen in selecting a dairy cow. Milk approaches the blood in color,

in fact almost a part of the blood itself. The milk glands and the blood system are so closely associated and a large milk yield is so absolutely dependent upon a heavy blood supply that large milk veins in connection with a good big udder can be taken as proof that a cow is a first class milkler.

## THE DAIRY

### ORCHARD RENOVATING — POTATO GROWING

Mr. G. S. Freeborn, at a recent meeting of the Farmers' Institute held in Kincairdine, gave his experience in pruning, spraying, and cultivating an orchard the past year, as follows:

It was an old orchard of about three acres. Some said it could not be made pay. They pruned and cultivated, and sprayed three times. It cost sixty-six dollars altogether, and they had just after paying all expenses, ninety-one dollars. Orchards will pay, and pay well. This from first expense.

Potatoes—The question was asked, what depth is best to plant potatoes. The reply was that he would not plant less than five inches. Was not in favor of hilling. With flat culture there is less likelihood of drying out. (Spray potatoes for rot, whether there is danger of rot or not. He instanced two plots of potatoes of equal size, and as near alike as possible. One plot was sprayed for rot, the other was not. The unsprayed plot gave 90 bushels at digging, and the other 180, a difference of 90 bushels.

It pays to spray. The labor and cost was questioned. The labor is not much, and the cost insignificant compared to the difference of a good or bad crop.

The potatoes can be sprayed with a barrel sprayer which can be bought for about \$20, for spraying orchards and with an attachment for spraying potatoes. \$13 more will supply it, and taking four rows at a time it takes but a short time to spray an acre. The mixture is four pounds of blue-stone, dissolve the blue-stone in a little open bag. Pour boiling water on, which soon dissolves it. Or tie the bag near the surface of the water you are dissolving it in. Then shake your lime and strain; stir well, and add the blue-stone solution slowly. This should make 40 gallons of mixture. To kill potato bugs add two ounces of Paris green to 40 gallons. Some give stronger solution, 5 pounds Canada blue-stone and 5 pounds of fresh lime.—W. W.

### A FOOD QUESTION

Where fowls have free range, as on farms, it is becoming constantly more debatable question whether any soft feeding is either necessary or desirable. One is often cropping up against really practical poultry keepers, both in the utility ranks and also some of those who breed high-class birds for exhibition and stock purposes, who say they can do best with all hard grains, and that the birds get sufficient soft food from natural products. I incline to this view, but where the mistake is often made is in feeding a fixed measure per head, irrespective of the ruling conditions. In a mild autumn and winter much less feeding is required than in more severe weather, when grubs and worms are scarce. Much the same applies to summer. In hot and dry weather, little soft insect food is obtainable, whereas in a showery time there is ample, and the amount of food given should be regulated accordingly. And if any soft food is scarce, in winter the birds will peck a sweet or manure for hours, and when these are available the supply sufficient soft food, and a hard grain feed is their best accompani-

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ment. It pays to regulate the amount of food given according to the ruling conditions, not only in a saving in the quantity consumed, but also in the regulation of the hen's productiveness. If one or two birds are occasionally handled when on the perches at closing time, a very good idea may be carried at as to whether they have had enough, given and found, to properly fill the crop and sustain the body. The morning feed should be spared, so that foraging may be encouraged with its attendant exercise and warmth of body, and the evening meal regulated according to present requirements. If the latter be too liberal, the hens will gorge in their eagerness to catch each as much as possible, and indented crops lead to trouble. As a rule, I think hard grain, varied in character, is best for birds at liberty, but so successful in the hen house up to the chin, then gently but firmly push back saving, over and over again, "Back! back!" He will soon take the hint, and a little practice will make perfect.

"That horse would go anywhere I told him to, if it was right out of the back door of the barn, ten feet down!" That is what a man once said to me, and I believe it.

But the man never asked his horse to do unreasonable things. This is

est people are ashamed of them.—Henry Ward Beecher.

### HORSE POINTERS.

Don't hold the box stall door open and allow the colt to rush through into the yard for exercise, writes an exchange.

He might not strike his hip or shoulder on the post in his haste, but if he did it might not cripple him for life; but changing is a poor thing to bring a colt up on.

Better lead him quietly through before releasing him. The extra restraint will do him no harm anyway. The time to teach a colt to back is when he is a colt. A good way to do this is to put a halter on him, lead him out of the stall, take hold of the halter close up to the chin, then gently but firmly push back saving, over and over again, "Back! back!" He will soon take the hint, and a little practice will make perfect.

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(Continued on page 8.)

### Attention to Horses' Teeth

There are many horses of all ages that are not thriving well, although consuming a reasonable amount of food, and their owners are at a loss to account for it, and often spend money in condition powders, stock food, etc., without result. The animals do not show symptoms of illness, but simply do not thrive, and have not the spirit of energy they should have. The cause in the majority of cases, will be found in the mouth, either there is faulty dentition or there are irregularities of the teeth. The subjects do not require medical treatment, all that is needed is intelligent attention to the teeth. We say "intelligent attention" as in many cases unskilled or ignorant interference does much more harm than good. It requires a man who thoroughly understands the anatomy of the mouth, and has the necessary instruments and skill to correct whatever is wrong.

J. M. NICHOLSON, D.V.D.,  
VETERINARY DENTIST,  
202 Kent St., Charlottetown, P.E.I.  
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