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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

MORNING DAILY

READ ALL OVER PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

MORNING DAILY FOUNDED 1891
WEEKLY (NOW EVENING DAILY) 1887

"THE LATEST NEWS FIRST OF ALL."

CHARLOTTETOWN, CANADA, FRIDAY DECEMBER 19, 1913

$3.50 PER YEAR (DELIVERED) IN ADVANCE
$2.50 PER YEAR BY MAIL IN ADVANCE

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 Turf, 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 tor this department should be addressed to
President Teachers' Association
Guardian's School and Home
P. O. Box 198, Charlottetown.

GIRL GRADUATE RAISES POULTRY.

A graduate of one of the girl's colleges in New York State is conducting quite successfully a poultry fram. Recently in an address before an organization of girl students interested in practical talks on desirable occupations and professions, she described her experiences, trials and successes.

As a guide to such of her hearers as felt inclined to follow her examples she said that the girl who intends to go into poultry raising should take a course in an agricultural college and, if possible, spend a little time upon a farm in order to become acquainted with the practical side of the business. Then she must have sufficient capital, the amount depending upon the size of the farm, to meet expenses for the first six months and for the winter season as well, because there is comparatively little return in that time. After that a fair return may be expected. To secure the best results, it is necessary to devote a great deal of attention to the chicks from the time that they are hatched until they are well grown, and even after that the food must be selected with care and the chickens houses and pens kept clean. She advises the selection of pure bred stock which although more expensive, pays best in the end.

Hard work is required to obtain good results, especially when the farm is a small one and it would not be profitable to hire help, but the life is a healthful and interesting one. Raising fancy stock for exhibition purposes, is a fascinating branch of poultry raising, although it is fairly troublesome.

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE COUNTRY BOY.

From actual experience I know that the boys who stay on the farm are enjoying the better and bigger things in life, while the farmer boy who lives in the city rooming-house existence frequently finds it as lonesome as a desert and lacking the beautiful and interesting things he dreamed of, writes Chalmers Lowell Pancoast, in Farm and Ranch.

Every country boy who wants to come to the city to win fame and make money should take the advice of one who has gone through the mill, and learned that the biggest diamonds are nearly always found close at home. The boy who leaves the farm steps over dozens of opportunities he cannot see because his eyes are on the far-away horizon.

When you get the idea into your head that nothing but the city life will do for you, stop, open your eyes and look about you.

CITY HARDSHIPS

I left a good country home and came to the city because I thought there were no chances to make money at home.

The only work I was able to obtain in the city was selling household articles from door to door. It did not take me long to see that I had a better opportunity to do the same thing back home among friends and neighbors.

The farm papers I had never given much attention to back home now revealed to me a dozen and one ways of making money, of going out through my section and selling appliances and articles which people actually wanted and needed.

When I was on the farm I did not realize the country boy had the same opportunity to wear stylish clothes as the city boy, that he had more time for playing baseball, for sports, for recreation in the open, than a city fellow can ever hope to have.

It seems a very ordinary possession to have horses to ride whenever you want to; to have plenty of open space for ball playing and other sports, streams of pure water for swimming and rowing.

In the country you can have a motorcycle and travel for miles around, or take long pleasure trips.

It is nothing uncommon for the country boy to enjoy automobiling where the boy who is struggling along in the city can only look on as the procession flies past.

FARM OPPORTUNITIES

The average boy who stays on the farm is able to have a piano or any musical instrument he desires all his own. He can have many forms of amusement and recreation which he must give up in the hustling, hurrying city. People there haven't time for interesting themselves in innocent pastimes. It is either work or some exciting diversion. The boy on the farm can find a hundred subjects where the city boy can find one.

I used to think farm work monotonous, but that was because I did not take pictures with his camera, realize I made it that way by failure to appreciate my advantages. Farm life is filled with inspiring sight if you only think about them and try to realize what they mean to you.

These facts are not given to discourage the young man with city ambitions, but to point out why there are more opportunities in the country that lead to permanent stations in life than there are in the city. And, furthermore, we are entering a new era when agriculture is to be the most desirable of professions, when the country is made more attractive and when rural people have more influence for good citizens.

THE FARM

FUMIGATING FOR LICE

Lice and mites ought to be checked before the flock is confined to winter quarters. These pests live on the feather tissue and skin scales of the fowls, and not only sap the vitality but retard growth and work against the keeping of fowls in thrifty condition. It is the continual irritation and discomfort, as well as the loss of vitality which renders these parasites so damaging to the flock.

Insect powder, pyrethrum powder, powdered sulphur, and some of the various preparations on the market, such as louse powders, are good in combating these pests. The hens may be dusted with one of these powders after they have gone to roost. Have the powder in a box with a perforated cover, grasp the fowl by the legs, and shake the powder well among the feathers. Dust at least three times at intervals of about a week in order to catch the lice which hatch out after the first dusting.

The mites subsist on the blood of the fowls and are not usually found on the bodies of the bird except when at roost or on the nest. During the day they inhabit cracks and crevices of the walls, roosts, and nests. Setting hens are often so annoyed that they are compelled to leave the nests in order to relieve themselves of the parasites. The free use of kerosene about the nests and perches is useful in fighting mites. The walls of the house may be sprayed with kerosene, the operation being repeated every three or four days for two weeks. Insect powders are of little avail.

The following method has proved excellent in ridding houses of mites and lice when the weather conditions are, such as to permit the birds being kept outside the house for five or six hours. Close all the doors and windows and see that there are no cracks or any other openings to admit air. Get an iron vessel and set it in gravel or sand near the center of the house; place in the vessel a handful of shavings or straw saturated with kerosene and on these sprinkle sulphur at the rate of about 1 pound to every 90 or 100 square feet of floor space. Instead of using the shavings and kerosene the sulphur can be saturated with wood alchol. When every thing is in readiness light the material and hastily leave the house. In case any anxiety is felt about fire a glance through a window will show whether everything is all right. There is very little danger of fire when proper precautions have been taken to have plenty of soil beneath the vessel. Allow the house to remain closed for three or four hours, at the end of which time one can safely conclude that there are no living beings inside. Now throw all the doors and windows wide open so as to drive out the sulphur fumes thoroughly, and then the fowls may be allowed to enter. Let them in one by one, and as each enters, catch it and dust it well with insect powder, which will destroy the lice on the birds. Tobacco dust is also good to use instead of insect powder, The birds and house have now been freed from vermin for the present, but the eggs of the insects have not been destroyed, and in a week another swarm will be hatched out. Therefore it will be necessary to repeat the operation once or twice before the pests are exterminated. After this care should be used to see that no strange fowl is admitted to the house or yard without having been thoroughly rid of lice, for one lousy hen will contaminate all the rest.

RHUBARB GROWING IN YOUR CELLAR.

November is the month to transplant rhubarb, either for winter forcing or to increase the number of your roots. The secret of growing winter rhubarb is freezing the roots. One heavy frost is enough, but I would not advise you to wait until the ground is frozen before getting them out.

My plan is to dig rhubarb roots from the 15th to 28th of November and leave them exposed on a board until hard frost. About the same date I carry into the cellar three or four wheelbarrow loads of rich soil. Plant the roots in the soil, which is kept in place by boards, about ten feet from the furnace. The heat from the furnace will force the rhubarb. You will notice it begin to sprout about Christmas, and you will be able to pull it about the 10th of January, and as often as you like till the 1st of May, when your garden supply will be ready.

No sunlight should get into the cellar and if there are any windows they must be covered with dark blinds. If you have no electric light in your cellar you must attend to your furnace by lantern light! Also, your rhubarb requires daily watering. The water should be hot, but not boiling, and the ground should be kept damp, but not muddy. One large watering can full daily is enough if not too near the furnace.

Rhubarb growing in the cellar is more tender, and has a much pleasanter flavor, and is not nearly so acid, as that grown in sunlight.

Winter rhubarb has no leaves, but only a salmon colored turf on the top of each of the large red stalks, and no flower stems are thrown up as in the garden. A bed of winter rhubarb is an interesting sight to show your neighbors when they call on you with the snow three feet on the level outside.

The first or second week in April you can divide the roots each into five or six pieces and plant them in the garden six feet apart. Most of them will grow again, but you must not pull the stalks the first summer, because most of their nourishment has been removed during the winter.

The best food for garden rhubarb is hen manure. There is no danger of killing the plants by putting too much on, so all winter put the droppings from your hen house over the rhubarb in the garden.

Rhubarb has the greatest medicinal value of all plants as a blood purifier. It stimulates the flow of bile from the liver, and when your liver is healthy you will not mind listening to this my first sermon on the much-neglected pie-plant.

FROSTED TOES AND COMBS.

People who have had the experience know it to be a positive fact that frosting the toes, combs or wattles of a hen will put a stop to egg production. The old hen man will tell you that a hen will not lay again until spring spring if her toes once get frost bitten and if the weather nips her comb. She is so fastidious that she will not visit the nest again until her head piece has resumed its normal condition. This may be simply obstinacy and perverseness on the part of the old hen, but we must take her as she is and not as we would like to have her. It is useless to criticise her, nonsense to blame her, and the height of folly to abuse her.

BUSINESS METHODS ON THE FARM

A good business man aims to have everything convenient and such a condition that he can realize a profit.

Ship-shod methods would quickly invite disaster.

The men who succeed in business are careful, energetic and enterprising.

While this is true of the business man, it is equally true of the poultry man.

The merchant in arranging his store has everything convenient, so that he can quickly place his hand on what he wants. He aims to save time and steps. The poultry man in building his houses should use the same precaution arranging them so that the most work can be done with the least labor, and in the quickest time.

The question of feed comes next. For best results in manufacture, the best raw material is used. So with poultry. For good laying, there must be good feed. Simply because a certain article of food is cheap, is no argument that it will do to feed. What is wanted in this kind of food that has in it the largest amount of ingredients to make eggs. Such an article is cheap at almost any price. Damaged or burnt grain is entirely unfit for food—not only is it injurious but it is devoid of the elements necessary for making eggs. Hence, it is dear food even at half the price of good grain. It is poor economy to buy something that is cheap in price only

Then comes labor. Cheap labor is not economical labor by any means; some mean are dear at one dollar a day, while others are cheap at twice that amount. A man's work must not be measured by his pell-mell, rush style. It is how quickly he does rush style. It is not how quickly he does the job, but how well.

Where a farmer has succeeded by years of careful treatment in eliminating, or practically eliminating, the smut diseases from his farm, the use of a smut-infected machine will undo the work of years during one single process of threshing.

The heavy feeding of corn to poultry, especially where there is an absence of good, hard, sharp grit, will bring on bad cases of indigestion, which in many ways resembles cholera. About 92 cases out of 100 of reported cholera victims are cases of indigestion.

Eggs should be sold by weight rather than by the dozen. They vary so widely as to size and weight that the seller or the buyer is sure to lose when sold by the count.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF POULTRY EXHIBITIONS

(By W. R. Gilbert, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.)

In these days of great exhibitions with their thousands of birds, at which competition is found to be severe in the extreme and the chances of small poultry keepers appear to be limited, the educational side is apt to be forgotten. Yet every poultry show has an educational value which may be even proportionately greater in the smaller local gatherings than in the larger exhibition. It has been proved, perhaps more especially in Australia, that the first steps in the improvement of the poultry of a country is the holding of a poultry show in every district, so that the farmers and others may see better types of fowls than they possess and become dissatisfied with what they were before contented. To do this means an awakening of a spirit of emulation—one of the greatest factors towards improvement.

One of the first lessons learned from an exhibition of poultry is the remarkable variation of breed and type and the wonderful changes brought about by the distribution, by differing conditions and by breeding, for the majority of diverse types to be seen are descended from a common parent. While it is true that some of our breeds have been evolved by direct breeding, the majority is due to natural selection and the result of environment. What is here meant is that any district where the conditions are fairly uniform, if the fowls are bred on ordinary lines, the tendency is toward the development of one type. This influence may take many years, perhaps generations, to accomplish its purpose, but such is the fact.

When modified by direct selection on the part of breeders, the effect is much more rapid. Therefore, a poultry show combines the work of many countries and of multitudinous breeders. It proves, if proof were necessary, how plastic is the fowl, together with its capacity for modification and its adaptability.

Study of the breeds displayed in almost any exhibition shows that while there are great variations and divergences in respect to minor points of difference, such as color of plumage, markings, amount of feathers, size and shape of combs, color of legs and feet and shape of body, these are secondary to other qualities which are not on the surface and the varities resolve themselves into four classes—namely, such as are primarily layers, in which the amount of flesh is small; those that are highly developed in muscle and which, therefore, carry a considerable quantity of edible flesh and, as a rule, are much heavier in body; a third class stands between these two, combining them without special development in either direction.

These latter, in many instances, are favored by reason of the fact that they serve a dual purpose. There is fourth class, that of purely ornamental breeds, in which the economic properties are frankly ignored and all efforts are devoted to the external characters. As a means of displaying the skill of the breeders and of encouraging the recreative side of the industry, the ornamental breeds are worthy of study.

Exhibitions, therefore, teach the differences between the respective breeds and varieties and should show the best types of each. It is an interesting study to learn that differentiates one breed from another. In some cases these differences are small. For instance, take the Buff Orpington and the Buff Plymouth Rock, in which the color of the legs practically determines whether a bird is of one or the other breed. In the former this is white, in the latter, orange or yellow.

The main educational value of shows, therefore, is to teach these differences; to encourage clearness of definition and to afford that stimulus to the beeeds and varieties which shall help forward practical production. Whether that is realized as much as it ought to be is another question.

* * *

There is some talk now days about "Breeder and Fancier" and who is who. I will let others give the defition of a fancier: He is a person who is clean, who neither looks up to the judge nor down on the solicitor, who can lose without squealing and win without bragging, who is considerate of the amateur, who will not lie nor bleach, nor in any way fake birds illegally, and who takes his share of the prizes and lets others have theirs. Are you a fancier from the above point of view?

SORE MOUTHS IN PIGS

There are two kinds of sore mouth in young pigs. One kind is caused by the little pigs cutting each other with their sharp tusks. This kind is not very serious, but it often turns into the infectious sore mouth, which is very dangerous, since it spreads from pig to pig and may kill a fourth to a half of the litter.

I suggest that all breeders read very carefully concerning this form of sore mouth trouble in pigs. The cause of it is a germ which is found everywhere in dirty bedding and damp, wet yards, and around manure piles. In rooting in dirty yards or pens, or in sucking the sow's udder, it is very easy for pigs to get these sore mouth germs in their mouths. If the mouths have already been cut because of teething or fighting with other pigs, trouble will start at once. The sore spots in the mouths will become larger and larger, then they will become ulcers and the flesh will fall away. About this time the pig becomes very dull and stupid and refuses to suck any more. In three to ten days he generally dies, or if he recovers will never be much good.

In treating pigs for sore mouths, the first thing I would do would be to separate all the sick litters from two ounces of potassium permanganate or two ounces of good coal tar dip a gallon of warm water. I would put this in a pail or tub and stick each effected pigs head into it, taking care of course not to leave any animal in long enough to drawn. Do this once or twice a day for five days At the same time wash the sow's udder off with some of the disinfectant. It will also help to take a syringe and wash out each pig's mouth thoroughly with one of the two solutions twice daily. If the sores seem to have any dead matter on them, scrape it away and touch them with lunar caustic.

What is all this for? By all this we are simply trying to kill the germs that cause the trouble. Both the coal tar dip and the potassium permanganate solutions are death to germs. By sticking the pigs' heads in one of these solutions, we kill the germs that are sticking about the heads, and also kill a lot of those which may be in the mouth. By syringing the pigs' mouth, we kill more of them, and by washing off the sow's udder we kill those germs which may be sticking there ready to get into the mouths of the little pigs If any sores appear on the nose or face, put on an oimtment which is made by mixing one-half ounce of iodine and eight ounces of vaseline.

Sore mouth can generally be prevented by keeping the pens and yards as clean as possible and disinfecting them with coal tar and whitewash. But even then sore mouth occasionally breaks out, and it will be necessary to stop the spread of the disease by coal tar dip solution or some other germ killer. It is always a good plan to break the sharp little teeth of young pigs off close to the gums so as avoid the simple kind of sore mouth which may become the serious sort.—Wallaces' Farmer.

OLD HENS

Why it is old birds are tolerated is past my comprehension. Every week in poultry papers fanciers are recommended never to keep their birds more than a second summer, yet some people, simply because they have a certain love for one pen, or because they have laid a large number of eggs, will not kill them off, and this is one of the reasons why poultry farming at the present time is often so unsatisfactory, and egg-production especially in winter, is on reduced scale. Yearling hens are not anywhere near as good layers as pullets; some of them do very well, but others can not be depended on. A man who wants a big quantity of winter eggs must keep pullets, because they are sure to lay well if he looks after them in proper fashion.

The exact time to kill off two-year-old hens is also most important; many farmers I know usually sell fifty or sixty birds all at the same time; they like the idea of getting rid of a big quantity. This is a handy method no one will dispute, but it means that quite a large number of birds must be sacrificed while still laying. The best plan is to carefully examine each bird, and when it is found that they are not laying, they should be sold off singly to customers in the district. Buyers of old hens can easily be found at a good price per pound live weight. Or another plan one dozen birds can be selected out each week, and sent to the nearest poulterer, This system is better than getting rid of fifty or one hundred birds in one lot. If half of the birds would only lay six or ten eggs each, surely these eggs are worth having, especially at prices now prevailing!

Those who have old hens that are entering the mould should get rid of them quickly. The markets are crying out for good, heavy hens, and willing to pay high prices, but as soon as large numbers are offered prices will drop very quickly, and instead of making 60 to 75 cents per head little more than half this amount will be made. If most of the eggs have been obtained from a flock of birds little time should be lost in getting rid of the non-layers. It is only by careful work in this direction that big profits can be made.

THE DAIRY

THE MILKER

In a recent bulletin issued by the Sierra Agricultural Experiment Station of Connecticut, the authors discuss in milk and base their discussion on practical observation and experiments conducted at the station.

The kinds of bacteria, they say, that the milker is likely to introduce into the milk include nearly the whole list of those found in milk. It seldom occurs to the average milker that it is necessary to wash the hands before milking as before eating a meal or vituals. The number that come from soiled clothes and dirty hands which get into the milk are large. The hands of a milker working around the farm during the afternoon were tested, just before milking time, for the number of bacteria that could be washed off in a quart of sterile water. The number was found to be 45,000,000. This washing did not remove all these that would have dropped off during the milking. Another experiment was tried to determine how many bacteria were left on the hands after thorough washing with soap and warm water. The number that could be washed off them in sterile water was found to be 900,000. These two experiments show that 98 per cent. can be washed from the hands.

The clothes of the ordinary dairymen carry immense numbers of organisms with dust from all sorts of contamination. The milker, has a much wider range for the collection of a larger number and greater variety of organisms than the cow. The only proper attire for a milker is a white suit and cap to be worn only at milking time. A white suit shows dirt very readily, and when made of white will last a long time and can be sterilized almost indefinitely.

The milker may not only be the source of a very large number of harmless bacteria, but the largest source of disease germs that get into milk. The milker may be the immediate source of disease germs or may transmit them to another person. The disease germs that get into milk are largely from human origin, infectious diseases that pass from individual to individual. A grave mistake has been made in the past by allowing persons ill with contagious diseases to enter a cow stable or dairy where milk is handled. Many an epidemic of diphtheria, scarlet fever and typhoid has been traced to a case of illness on a dairy farm which was not properly quarantined and cared for. One high grade milk handling concern requires that if a case of contagious disease arises in the dairy of one of its patrons, that the milk supply be withheld until the patient has passed the danger limit of conveying the disease germs. The milk produced, however, is paid for during the quarantine. It is very difficult to make the average individual understand or even believe that our worst diseases are caused by special kinds of bacteria and that these bacteria can be transmitted to a healthy individual, who is likely to contract the same disease.

MILKING TIME.

Although considerable storied romance hangs about the evening hour of milking, there is a practical side to it which should be recognized by every dairyman. In these days of a multiplicity of statues, many states have promulgated laws for the guidance of milk producers. while large creamery owners and milk companies have added rule to rule in their efforts to satisfy the public as to cleanliness and sanitation. All these things should open the eyes of the farmer to the necessity of exercising the greatest care all milking time.

In the first place the pails used for milking should be thoroughly clean. This does not mean cleaning with cold water but scalding and re-scalding and then an exposure to the effects of air and sunshine. I like the partially covered pail best, as the covering keeps out a great many particles of dirt and rust, but of course more work is required to keep it clean.

A great many do not recognise the necessity of approaching the cows with gentleness. I have seen a cow that would not give more than half the usual mess if milked by a stranger. There are some cows of such a nervous temperament that the greatest care is always necessary. A harsh word would practically stop the flow of milk. While this is not true to the same extent in all cows, yet it is well to remember that steady, careful handling of the herds will increase the flow of milk while arbitrary methods will cause a decrease.

If a cow is inclined to be restless at milking, gentleness will almost always prove more effective that the kick of a number ten boot—which so many hired men and even owners of herds, themselves, often resort to. If a cow kicks she can often be cured of the habit by tying her close to a partition. Then crowd her close to the side when sitting down to milk. In this position she cannot use her feet with much effect, and unless she is too badly confirmed in the habit, she will soon submit to the inevitable.

ACCIDENTS TO DAIRY COWS.

The old saying is that accidents will happen in the best of regulated families, and I think this old adage will prove true when applied to dairying. Accidents will happen in the best managed dairies, at least, accidents keep happening in the dairy, not every day, but occasionly. Not more than two months ago a cow came up at night from the pasture with her hip capped; that is, the cap at the end of the hip bone was knocked off. Of course cows recover from this after a while, but she was lame for two or three weeks so we couldn't let her run with the herd. She finally got better and now limps but little.

But it damaged her. We had her in the test for the register of merit and the accident caused her to shrink so in milk that she is entirely out of it for this period of lactation. There is no particular plade to lay the blame, it was simply an unavoidable accident, and we will have to suffer the consequences.

Another good cow got her teat injured. It looks as if she stepped on it in getting up, but how she did it is more than I can see. On one side of the teat the hide is all scraped off and it extends over the end of the teat so that the scab practically closes up the opening. It is a very sore thing. You have to take the scrap off from the end of the teat every time you milk, and the cow resents it. You can't blame her. She doesn't know any better. It is getting better now, but the cow in this condition will not give a normal flow of milk. She will as a fresh cow and may practically recover from it, and yet I doubt it. Any little thing like this in the beginning of the period of lactation imply gets the cow out of sorts and he doesn't do as well as she would if the accident had not happened. I wish I knew how to prevent all of those accidents, but I haven't learned yet, and I doubt if I ever will, or anybody.—Colon C.