

AMONG THE AFGHANS.

The area of Afghanistan is about twice the size of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Afghans are proud of their ancestors and claim descent from no less an exalted personage than King Saul.

The camel is a necessity with the Afghans, and nearly all the merchandise of the country has to be transported on the backs of these animals.

Everybody in Kabul is a nobleman. At least every person of any account calls himself a khan, which is the Afghan interpretation of the word.

The medical profession ought to thrive in Afghanistan, for fevers are very prevalent, and the people are also subject to a peculiar disease of the eye.

At Ghanzi, in Afghanistan, which is over 7,000 feet above the sea level, the cold in winter is intense, and it is nothing uncommon for the inhabitants to be snowed up in their houses for months at a stretch.

The Afghans are not passionately fond of soap and water, though they wash their hands before and after meals. They prefer using their fingers in place of knives and forks and change their garments about once a month.

The origin of the empire of Afghanistan was due to an accident arising out of the sudden and unexpected acquisition of vast wealth. In its earlier days the internal resources of the country yielded little or nothing to the imperial treasury, and the state coffers were replenished by plundering expeditions into India.

The Afghans are a fine race, of splendid physique, but of corrupt morals. One candid writer sums them up as perfidious, avaricious, selfish, revengeful, merciless, treacherous, idle, proud, vain and cruel, and it must be admitted, in view of England's experience with the country, that the writer's statement is pretty near the mark.

TOWN TOPICS.

With all her faults Atlanta is the grandest city of her inches in the Union.—Waycross Herald.

Chattanooga will probably refrain from annexing Georgia until it sees how this Greater New York experiment turns out.—Washington Star.

They may poke fun at Boston for her "school of domestic science and Christian work," but the combination promises well just the same.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Boston calls Chicago a "porcinarium." The Windy City might retort by reminding the Hub that it's the "beanificary" of Chicago's hog products.—Kansas City Times.

The population of the town of Tombstone has declined from 10,000 to less than 1,000. In picking out a name its founders were altogether too farsighted.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Chicago paper says Chicago is not afraid of yellow fever. Should think not. With the combination of smells that Chicago can put up there is no show for yellow jack.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Chicago is going to make the attempt of cleaning her river. Presumably the pieces of the river will be dug out and buried and then the channel flushed with lake water.—Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

It is useless to enlarge upon the need of adopting some system of drainage. Baltimore has no sewerage system, being little better in that respect than it was a century ago, when it was first incorporated as a city.—Baltimore Herald.

GLEANINGS.

Japanese children are taught to write with both hands.

The cost of becoming a naturalized Englishman is about \$30.

Fifteen Hebrew officers served under Wellington at Waterloo.

The United States contains today 4,564,000 farms, of an average size of 137 acres each.

A colony of Italian fishermen in San Francisco support a Dante society of their own and read the poet together.

In a boiler 32 by 6 1/2 feet, constructed recently in Saxony, not a rivet was used, the plates being welded together.

In Nicaragua, with the temperature in the Llanetes during the summer months, the heat is seldom oppressive, owing to the influence of the trade winds.

The Mennonites are to found a colony near Houston, Tex., purchasing an immense farm, to be colonized by all the Mennonites now scattered through the west.

Belgian swindlers have been pasting transparent paper over the postage stamps they put on letters. The paper took the postmarks, leaving the stamps beneath uncancelled.

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JEWELRY JOTTINGS.

There is no limit to the amount of gem jewelry allowed for full dress occasions. Jewel encrusted watches lead the styles. They are small in size, but gorgeous in effect.

Flexible bracelets set with gems are included now in every fashionable woman's collection of jewelry.

The trend of the times is toward primitive articles in the precious metals rather than articles prized merely as ornaments.

Empire powder boxes are tiny affairs in gold and silver. They are embellished with enamel and gems and are worn on a long chain.

Lorgnette chains afford a wide field for selection. There are gold and silver chains, plain and simple, and chains mounted with precious and semiprecious stones.

For evening wear there are flexible hair ornaments in which single diamonds of assorted sizes are mounted, each on a separate spiral of gold wire. As the gems vibrate with every movement, the result is decidedly effective.—Jewelers' Circular.

THE WILY SULTAN.

The European sovereigns are falling over each other in their haste to give the sultan "the glad hand."—Indianapolis News.

After a long season of experimenting with him, the diplomats of Europe are quite willing to concede that the sultan's illness is about nine parts cunning.—New York Journal.

Prince Constantine made a mistake when he undertook to be a bigger man than the sultan, but so did a combination composed of Victoria, Nicholas, William, Francis Joseph, Faure and Humbert.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Dairy and Creamery.

When you buy butter color, be sure that it is not an aniline preparation. There is a butter color on the market which is made of aniline and which is a deadly poison. It killed a child that accidentally swallowed a portion of it recently.

Above all, farmers must be made to understand that good butter and cheese cannot be made from dirty or tainted or unacrated milk. This is the law and the prophets.

If a cheese has become moldy on the outside, wash it in very hot water into which you have first poured a little ammonia.

There is no sight more pleasing to gods, men or angels than a shining clean creamery or dairy without any sloop, dust, spider webs, mold, rust, rottenness, bad smells or filth anywhere to be seen.

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THE MANAGER.

How Much Pay Should a Creamery Superintendent Receive?

The Creamery Journal sent letters of inquiry to a large number of creamery managers asking how much pay they got and whether they thought they received enough money for their services. The answers showed in almost every case that the manager received no adequate compensation for the large round of duties required of him. A creamery manager cannot be successful unless he gives his whole time to the factory, and that he cannot do unless he has salary enough to support him and his family in comfort and have something left over. Either he must neglect the creamery or let his family go half fed and clothed.

The Creamery Journal says on this subject and on one or two other important points:

The subject is of great importance, as many students of the co-operative system as carried on in this country at present agree that it is a dangerous rock on which many a creamery has been stranded.

The question is, Is it possible to conduct a business involving the manufacture of, say, \$50,000 worth of a delicate and perishable product properly and without loss year after year at an expense for supervision and management of from \$75 to \$360 a year? Would any individual conducting a business of similar magnitude in any line intrust the management of it to an employee so poorly paid for his services? Is it reasonable to expect a farmer who has his own farm to look after (as most of them have) to devote his best energies and thought to the management of a creamery, assuming all of the responsibilities of the office year after year, for the miserable pittance of \$75 per annum?

A prominent New York buyer and exporter tells us that while in Chicago recently he sent out 22 telegrams to co-operative creamery managers, making them an offer of from one-fourth to one-half cent per pound more than they were getting for their product and requesting an answer by wire. He received in the course of two days two replies, one by letter and the other by telegraph. He wanted to contract for a large amount of goods and with a responsible house back of him, and authority to pay a price that would gladly be snapped up by any good business man, he felt confident that he could quickly do the business.

Why did the secretaries not reply? Why were they and why are they in nine cases out of ten indifferent to any kind of a business proposition which involves their personal responsibility?

Jerseys In Texas.

I wish to give your readers some performances of Texas and Springside Jerseys. First let me say to those who have tame grass pastures and hay that the Jersey cow in Texas has to make her record without either of these. She has wild grass pasture in summer (providing it is not dried up, as it now is) and oat hay or crab grass hay in winter, with shocked sorghum in some cases. We have ensilage, but in the three seasons I have been here only this year has the quality been what it should be. But for all the above against her the Jersey of Texas has not much to be ashamed of. Our champion cow of past year's butter yield gave 7,300 pounds of 5.6 per cent milk, or 408 pounds fat. We get a 15 per cent gain over test in churn, so this cow has been fairly profitable. We have six others that have gone above 400 pounds. Our highest testing cow reaches 7.6, but her limit in milk is 18 pounds per day. The best 2-year-old heifer gave 6,223 pounds of 5.2 per cent milk, or an average of over one pound of butter per day. These records were made with only ordinary care or such care as balance of herd got. Our herd of 28 to 30 cows and heifers have averaged one pound of butter each per day for the past year.

We keep a set of records so complete that any cow or heifer can be traced back to her calfhood, and not only her milk yield is accounted for, but any peculiarity she may have is recorded for our own benefit and also for those who may have her in charge in the future.—Buff Jersey in Hoard's Dairyman.

Dairy and Creamery.

Vegetable gardeners have found there is refuse enough on their farms to feed several cows, and that keeping them pays well in connection with the added fertility which the cow brings to the soil. A butter factory in the vicinity of a large tract of vegetable gardens is the right thing. Where there is no creamery and the vegetable raisers have a retail trade they can add delicious butter, cream and pot cheese to their goods and make money in two ways.

A milk aerator is a necessity on every farm where cows are kept. So is a milk cooler.

An expert declares that after a butter tub has once become moldy it is impossible even by steaming and sandpapering ever to clean and purify it again.

Put up in big letters at the entrance to every door in the creamery or in your milkroom if you keep a private dairy, likewise in the cow stable, the sign, "No smoking."

The co-operative creamery at Shafer, Minn., is a most successful one, selling some months over 8,000 pounds of butter. During last June its patrons got 14 cents a pound for their butter, and the creamery used up 750,000 pounds of milk.

When cheese is in the curing room, every day when you turn it brush all the surface over very thoroughly and stiffly to rub off any eggs of the cheese fly that may have been deposited there. The cheese fly is fond of laying its eggs in cracks, and these must be very carefully watched. If skippers make their appearance in these cracks in spite of your care, cut the walls of the crack entirely out to remove every egg or skipper. Then get some soft cheese and fill the crack out even with the surface.

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