

Specimens of the few surviving buffaloes shipped across the Atlantic.

Fifty or even half that number of years ago the possibility of the "buffler" of the American prairies becoming extinct was not so much as dreamed of. For ages they had wandered in countless herds on the plains on the eastern side of the Rocky mountains, providing the red Indian with an apparently inexhaustible supply of meat. Thousands were killed for their tongues and the steak cut out of the hump—the most delicate part. The bison from which early "voyagers" and fur traders obtained their "pemmican" did not suffer from the demands made upon their numbers by the Indians, but the white hunter with his ever improving firearms did the work of destruction. Where once the herds were so numerous that it was the practice to drive them gradually to the edge of a precipice and then frighten them over none can be found.

At last the United States government awoke to the fact that America was upon the point of losing the bison. The agents of the Smithsonian institute had a difficulty in procuring some specimens which were required. The result was that a small herd of about 40 is now strictly preserved in Yellowstone park. But one or two wander away every year and are soon killed when once outside the protected territory. The security of the herd is consequently by no means assured. The news therefore that a number of Nebraska buffaloes have been imported to this country, having been obtained for the purpose of being turned loose in some of our parks, will be welcomed by our naturalists.

It is, unfortunately, very questionable if the experiment of keeping and breeding the grand beasts in our English parks will be attended with any success. The bison on its native plains is accustomed to great heat in summer and extreme cold in winter. But for all that the climate is a constant one, and the change to the variability, the fog and the damp of this country will be great. Indeed, when we look at the condition of the bison's European relation, the aurochs, we may well doubt if the genus bison will long remain an inhabitant of the earth. It may be many years before we quite lose it, for representatives will probably linger for a comparatively long period preserved in parks, just as the ancient white British cattle linger now.

But, as in the case of the latter, the want of fresh blood and the consequent close interbreeding will tell in time and result in constantly diminishing fertility, until in the course of years the last representative of the race will die and the world know them no more. We may safely say the extinction will not happen in our own time, or even in that of the next few generations, but it is to be feared that come it surely will.—St. James Budget.

## A London Band Heard in Paris.

An interesting and amusing instance of the efficacy of the London-Paris telephone occurred the other day which is worth recording. The Salvation Army band was marching from the Royal Exchange, playing the "Marseillaise," when an idea struck the men present in the telephone room.

The windows and doors were thrown open, and the attendant at the Paris end was asked if he could hear anything. The response (in French) was immediate: "Yes, I can hear the band playing the 'Marseillaise.'" That a band of music playing in the streets of London could be plainly distinguished in Paris is, we think, a sufficiently striking marvel of the nineteenth century science.—London Electrical Engineer.

## George Was Sorry.

George was a small boy, as well behaved as small boys commonly are, but impulsive. He had been allowed to sit in his high chair at the family table, and one day, having satisfied his hunger, he suddenly threw his knife with all his little strength across the table at his father. Fortunately, it fell short and no particular harm was done, but it seemed a fit opportunity for the inculcation of a lesson. When the rest of the family arose, he was detained, and his mother essayed to impress upon him the enormity of his offense. For awhile the effort seemed hopeless, but at length there were signs of appreciation, and with a quivering lip he cried out, "Georgie'll never throw knife at papa again; throw fork!"—New York Times.

## When Lace Was Man's Adornment.

The history of lace contains many curious facts, and while essentially a womanly adornment in its earlier development was almost exclusively appropriated by the sterner sex. Cing Mars left at his death more than 300 sets of lace collars and cuffs. It is stated that desiring to produce an extraordinary collar for Louis XIV no horsehair sufficiently delicate could be obtained, and the workers employed instead some of their own hair. The beautiful fineness of the outlines of point de Venice and point de Alencon results from the exceedingly deft use of a horsehair, over which the tiny stitches are cast, and the same little secret method gives the delicate crispness of its loops and points.—Washington Star.

Begin Early, as Soon as the Hot Weather Is Over.

The fattening process of hogs begins generally in the fall, so that the carcasses can be sent to market in the winter. This is due largely to the fact that hot weather is a bad time to fatten hogs, but it does not follow that the work must be left too late in the fall. As soon as cold weather is really here early fattening should begin. In the fall there are many things which can contribute toward fat which later will be lost through lack of use. When the fattening is begun late in the fall, the work is carried well into winter, at a time when very often all kinds of feed are high. The cold weather of winter is almost as bad a time for fattening hogs as the hot period of summer. The animals have to eat to make heat to resist the cold.

The best time for the work is early in autumn—as soon after hot weather has gone as possible. Spring litters that have passed successfully through the summer season are in excellent condition for the fall fattening. They are of the right age, and if they have been fed properly through the heated term they have formed bone and muscular frames that are perfectly adapted to fattening. The keeping through the summer should not be expensive. Plenty of milk, grass and clover are the essentials—articles that are never so cheap as during the months from June to September. Such feed keeps the hogs healthy, and their appetite for corn and meal is strong in the fall.

Experiments prove that hogs to be the most profitable should be placed on the market in a fat condition in from eight to nine months. This means that March and April pigs should be ready for the butcher in November or December, or even earlier. Give them red clover for the first five or six months and then fatten them on Indian corn along with their clover. The result is that they should weigh from 250 to 300 pounds by late fall—a good growth profitably made.

The change from clover to corn should begin gradually in the early fall. First give them corn along with their clover, a little at a time. Gradually increase the amount until they are fed without the clover at all. To increase the amount of food for fattening it is also essential that the process should be gradual. Any haste or great change might cause sickness and retard growth for several weeks.

Pigs raised on corn all summer will not take kindly to corn at once. It often makes their appetite poor, and this means poor health and unprofitableness. Constipation often follows the change, and this can be avoided by giving them more of loosening food until their systems have become accustomed to the corn feed. Pumpkins are great things for feeding the hogs when inclined to constipation, and in the fall these are plentiful. Boiled apples or steamed grass or clover are also excellent bowel regulators. When it is remembered that four-fifths of diseases of swine are due to constipation, this point will be generally heeded.—E. P. Smith in American Cultivator.

## The Horses to Raise for Profit.

There are but two kinds of horses for farmers and small breeders to profitably raise now, and these are the highest types of light harness horse and the heaviest draft horse that can be produced, with quality, high finish, action and good bone. These kinds may be raised at a good profit if the business is conducted with proper care and the right kind of breeding stock is procured to start with. To commence right the best material is very important for a breeder.

If farmers want to raise light harness stock, let them aim to raise coach or carriage horses, found their principles of breeding on individuality, knee action, good color, with high finish, quality and above all size, this being a leading feature in a light harness animal, and on which its value depends, everything else being equal. No animal should be less than 15½ hands, and a stallion should be 16 hands and weigh not less than 1,250 pounds, always, if possible, dark bay or brown. Strive to breed a fixed type of horse, so that any two would match. Never cross or mix the breeds. This means retrogression.

A fixed type is what the public wants. Every animal should be bred for a fixed purpose, improving the stock all the time by weeding out the culls and keeping the very best for breeding purposes. Occasionally, buy a good one, when the opportunity occurs, with both breeding and individuality to strengthen the harem. The very best stock to produce this class of horses is the Hambletonians, the Wilkeses preferred. All animals purchased for breeding should be as near as possible the standard wished to be produced and should be selected from the most producing lines of blood and the highest type of the American trotter that the purchaser can afford, all being selected from the most fashionable lines of blood within the breeders' reach; but do not sacrifice size, quality, color or action for the standard.—Spirit of the Turf.

## Live Stock Points.

If you wean lambs in September, they will be able to get fall pasture and take a whack at caring for themselves before cold weather.

Don't neglect to cull out the chickens in August. Weed out the roosters, the old hens and the feeble ones and leave only strong, prime birds for winter laying.

Cudaby, the great meat man, failed partly because of the drought in Europe. Lack of rain destroyed the fodder crops there, and farmers were obliged to throw their live stock upon the market to keep it from starving to death. That brought down the price of meat across the Atlantic. Shippers and dealers here who had invested heavily on the chance of continued high prices for pork and meats lost accordingly. The rest of the story is, however, that with the scarcity of stock animals in Europe next year prices there will go soaring. Then American producers and shippers can get their innings.

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