On Feeding Horses New Hay and Oats.

The question whether horses are injured by being fed on new hay and fresh oats has been made a subject of investigation by a French military commission, who have been experimenting upon cavalry regiments. The *Kameraden* reports that the results of the experiments prove that the health of the horses was not essentially injured by new hay if they received the ordinary regulation ration along with other fodder. Some animals were at first rather less active and more quiet, they sweated more freely, and the excrements were somewhat softened; but in a short time this ceased. In general, the horses ate the new hay more willingly than the old. They retained the same strength and corpulence as before. The hair kept bright, the health perfect. Of 150 horses from 4 to 13 years old, with which the experiments were instituted, 37 gained in fatness, and 18 in strength and endurance. Only 18 lost flesh, and 8 lost strength, while 79 remained unchanged. A second series of experiments upon 150 horses gave the same results. On the other hand, another series of experiments was less successful, where 74 horses, from 4 to 13 years old, were fed exclusively with new hay, the quantity being increased until it equalled the regulation ration of old hay, straw, and oats together. On this feed there was no real sickness, but a general weakness, frequent sweat, loss of appetite, digestion disturbed, diarrhœa, relaxation of the muscles, weariness, etc. The decision of the commission was that new hay can replace old hay in the regulation rations without injury, and perhaps with advantage, but that to feed them exclusively on new hay is injurious to the horses. Experiments were made upon 1800 horses by feeding them on new oats, and were attended with favorable results, inasmuch as the animals nearly all increased in bulk and strength, from which the commission concluded that new oats can be substituted for old ones with advantage, and hence it is useless to wait two months after the harvest before permitting the use of new oats. These experiments refute most positively the prejudice that still prevails in many places that feeding on new hay and oats is injurious to horses. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that horses, to which new hay is given, are frequently exposed to colic. The danger is only present then when the horses receive no definite rations, but have put before them as much as they can eat. In this case they not only eat much more new hay, but they also eat much more eagerly and greedily, which can be so much more injurious, as experience proves that those very horses which are most inclined to the colic eat most greedily.—*Industrie Blatter.*

Arab Maxims.

I. Let your colt be domesticated and live with you from his tenderest age, and when a horse he will be simple, docile, faithful, and inured to hardship and fatigue.

II. Do not beat your horses nor speak to them in a loud tone of voice; do not get angry with them, but kindly reprove their faults; they will do better thereafter, for they understand the language of man and its meaning.

III. If you have a long day's journey, spare your horse at the start; let him frequently walk to recover his wind. Continue this until he has sweated and dried three times, and you may ask of him whatever you please, he will not leave you in difficulty.

IV. Observe your horse when he is drinking at a brook. If in bringing down his head he remains square, without bending his limbs, he possesses sterling qualities, and all parts of his body are built symmetrically.

V. Four things he must have broad—front, chest, loins and limbs; four things long—neck, chest, fore-arm and croup; four things short—pasterns, back, ears and tail.—*Tribune.*

English Agricultural Statistics.—An interesting and exhaustive report of the agricultural aspects of Great Britain and Ireland for the year 1877 is furnished by Mr. R. Given, of the Statistical and Commercial Department of the London Board of Trade, based upon the returns of 556,962 occupiers of land, and 5,335 livestock owners, with comparative estimates of such districts as have not yet been heard from. The report shows the cultivated area of the whole United Kingdom to be 47,263,000 acres, exclusive of heath and mountain, pasture-land, and of woods and plantations. For England, Scotland, and Wales, this is an increase of 160,000 acres since 1876, while in Ireland there is an apparent decrease of 297,000 acres, resulting from change in classification. The cereal acreage of the United Kingdom, including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, is reported at 11,103,196; green crops, or roots, 4,961,691; clover, sanfoin, and grasses under rotation, 6,459,404; permanent pasture or grass not broken up in rotation (exclusive of heath or mountain land), 23,903,314; flax, 130,846; hops, 71,239; bare fallow, or uncropped arable land, 633,495. The wheat crop alone reached 3,321,000 acres, an increase of 6 per cent. over 1876, but an appreciable decrease from former years.

A French writer remarks that "the modest deportment of those that are truly wise, when contrasted with the young and inexperienced, may be compared to the different appearance of wheat, which, when the ear is empty, holds up its head proudly; but as soon as it is filled with grain, bends modestly down, and withdraws from observation."

Allow a man to have wit, and he will allow you to have judgment.

A River of Burning Oil.

One of the most remarkable conflagrations on record occurred in Patterson, New Jersey, on Monday night, when, during two hours in the early evening, a line of fire a mile in length and 20 feet high cut the town in halves, sending people out of their houses and illuminating the whole country round to the farthest hills of Preakness. Strange to say, however, no lives were lost, and but little damage was done to property. It seems that an oil-train eastward bound, on the Erie track, broke a coupling, losing four cars. This occurred just beyond the town, and as the cars were ascending an up-grade. Accordingly, the detached cars, when the coupling broke, rolled back down the incline. Not far from the lowest part of the grade in this vicinity, the road commences another upgrade toward the west. It appears that a coal train was following the oil train, and met the straying cars at the lowest point of valley, both moving at considerable speed. Three of the four lost cars had on them large oil tanks filled with petroleum. When the collision occurred, the first tank was crushed and the oil, taking fire, ran into an underground brook through the sewers, and thence into the Passaic. Soon after the Passaic, which a short time before was quietly flowing in the shadows, became a broad ribbon of flame for nearly a mile along through the town. The second oil tank soon exploded, adding its quota to the conflagration. There were many people standing near the tank at the time of the explosion, and it seems almost a miracle that no lives were lost. As it were, in the blinding flight a number were trampled under foot, but beyond a few broken bones and bruises, no greater calamities are recorded. A number of dwelling houses in the path of the flames were burned, but the damage was slight, considering the extent and fury of the flames. It is related, that as the first tank was thrown down the embankment towards the town, as it caught fire, a little house standing near the track was deluged with oil and broke into flames in an instant. The good wife was about getting into bed, having drawn up the shades to admit the moonlight, when she saw the flames. The house was wood, and the family had barely time to run out and no time to save any of their household goods, so quick was the destruction.—*Toledo Blade.*

The Abuses in the Sale of Postage Stamps.

The Third Assistant Postmaster-General has made a very interesting report on the subject of abuses in the sales of stamps by country postmasters. It seems that the fourth-class offices, which are all allowed a commission on the sale of stamps, comprise 96 per cent. of the total number of postoffices in the United States. The commissions range from 40 to 60 per cent. on the face value of the stamps sold at these offices, whereas the Government receives the entire proceeds of stamps sold by regularly salaried postmasters of the other grades. Hence the abuse appears when the postmaster of a fourth-class office sells or trades stamps for use outside of its proper sphere of delivery. The assistant postmaster-general says that all possible vigilance has failed to suppress these widespread frauds upon the Government. Experience has shown that second only to variety of expedients developed by postmasters in effecting sales is the plausibility of the excuses assigned by them for needing unusual supplies, and as there are over 30,000 fourth-class postmasters, the department must, to a great extent, accept their representations. Some interesting instances are related of the thriving business done in this way. A Mormon, from Southern Utah, bought a new set of furniture in Salt Lake City for his entire house, and paid for them in postage stamps. Two of the largest business houses in that city, receiving daily from 100 to 200 letters, have not bought $5 worth of stamps from the Salt Lake postoffice in two years, but they have stamps constantly on sale, and once offered to furnish the city postmaster with $1,500 worth. A country postmaster in Maryland has recently been detected in furnishing all the stamps used by a prominent railroad company's main office in Baltimore. The treasurer, living in the neighborhood of this dishonest postmaster, has purchased stamps of him from so-called friendly motives. The Postmaster of a small Mississippi office last summer claimed $400 commission on stamps sold in two days, although he could not legitimately have disposed of stamps to that amount in a dozen years. Sales of stamps at all large cities are falling off greatly, because country postmasters who get such enormous commissions sell them to the business people at a heavy discount. The abuse has become so glaring that Congress will undoubtedly hasten to amend the law so as to provide that compensation of fourth-class postoffices be determined either by the number of stamps cancelled or the number of letters delivered by them.—*Washington Special to Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

"I can conceive," said Lord Erskine, "a distressed but virtuous man, surrounded by his children looking up to him for bread when he has none to give them, sinking under his last day's labor, and unequal to the next, yet still supported by confidence in the hour when all tears shall be wiped from the eyes of affliction, bearing the burden laid upon him by a mysterious Providence, which he adores, and anticipating with exultation the revealed promise of his Creator, when he shall be greater than the greatest, and happiest of mankind."

Gold does not satisfy love; it must be paid in its own coin.—*Madam Deluzy*

A Christian Wish.

The boys up on the Northwestern were telling us about an old Catholic priest who lived until quite recently out at Boone, and was, in his way, decidedly and characteristically original. It seems that on a certain occasion, some, or many years ago, we don't remember which, he became a party, or a witness, in some lawsuits, and, as is the legal custom, was soundly berated and abused by the learned counsel on the other side, for having the temerity to have anything whatever to do with a case at law, of any kind. The result was that a very bitter feeling grew up between the old prelate and the two young lawyers, and time did not appear to soften this feeling, at all. But one day the old man fell very ill. He was very old, and his sickness sat so heavily upon him that he feared he would never arise from the bed upon which he had lain down. So when he thought his last hour was approaching, he sent for these two lawyers, and they obeyed the summons, and came into his presence. With great difficulty he accosted them and begged them to stand one on either side of his bed, and remain there until he passed away. Deeply affected, the two lawyers did as he desired, and when they were standing on each side of him, with solemn faces, one of them, in low, earnest tones, told the old man how glad they were that in his dying hour he should forgive them, and feel no bitterness towards them, for any innocent or even excessive display of professional zeal.

The old priest slowly opened his eyes. "It isn't that," gasped the old priest. "It isn't that. But I feel that I am a dying man. And I want to die like my dear Master."

The words came slowly and very painfully, and the young barristers held their breath while they leaned forward to catch the next sentence. The old man turned his eyes upon them:

"Between—two—thieves."

Two crestfallen young men tiptoed silently toward the chamber door. Two blank looking faces stared at each other out on the sidewalk, and two rising young barristers didn't know whether to laugh or get angry. But the old priest didn't die. There was enough good humor in his old heart to conquer a dozen diseases, and send even death away smiling, and we believe the old man is still alive and living in Fort Madison.—*Burlington Hawk-Eye.*

It seems there has been a terrible eruption in the volcano Cotopaxi. A thousand human beings and two thousand cattle were destroyed. Ashes from the eruption have been falling 1,000 miles away.

It is decided that trees are not essential to a forest. The word comes from *foris* or *foras* (out of bounds), and etymologically applies to any wild, unfenced land.

The Commissioners of Accounts have charged excessive estimates upon the Board of Education of New York, amounting in seven years to $4,675,892.27.

The Parent of Insomnia.

The parent of Insomnia or wakefulness is in nine cases out of ten a dyspeptic stomach. Good digestion gives sound sleep, indigestion interferes with it. The brain and stomach sympathize. One of the prominent symptoms of a weak state of the gastric organs is a disturbance of the great nerve intrepot, the brain. Invigorate the stomach, and you restore equilibrium to the great centre. A most reliable medicine for the purpose is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which is far preferable to mineral sedatives and powerful narcotics which, though they may for a time exert a soporific influence upon the brain, soon cease to act, and invariably injure the tone of the stomach. The Bitters, on the contrary, restore activity to the operations of that all important organ, and their beneficent influence is reflected in sound sleep and a tranquil state of the nervous system. A wholesome impetus is likewise given to the action of the liver and bowels by its use.

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