Farm, Garden and Household.

WHICH PAYS BEST?

How often do we hear farmers ask this question? Which will pay me best, cattle or sheep? Now, there is much difference of opinion on this question. Those that keep cattle claim that they are the most profitable, and those that keep sheep think the same of their flocks. I claim that sheep are the most profitable, and I will try and prove it. Take, for instance, a two-year-old steer, weighing 1,000 pounds, worth 4 cents a pound, or $40; what is the cost of raising to that age?

First year to milk, grain and hay, $12; one summer's pasture, $4; six months' feeding hay and grain, $16; making the total cost $32. This is a very low estimate, everything being down to the lowest notch. Now, you see that it has cost $32 to raise this steer, and he is sold for $40. Subtract his keeping from what he sold for and you have the profit of $8. This is counting nothing for trouble, allowing the manure to balance that.

Now for the sheep. It will cost to raise and keep eight lambs until they are one year old, for pasture, hay and grain, $20; making their total cost from birth until two years old $32. Now for the other side. Eight head of sheep, weighing 125 pounds per head, making 1,000 pounds at 4 cents per pound, is $40. Two clips of wool, 16 fleeces, weighing 5 pounds per fleece, makes 80 pounds of wool; at 32 cents per pound, $25.60. Now take the $40 that the sheep sold for, and you have $65.60 as total receipts. Subtract cost from this and you have $33.60 profit on eight sheep against $8 profit on steer, both weighing the same at the same age, and both costing the same for keep, leaving a balance of $25.60 in favor of the sheep, showing clearly that it is better to keep sheep than cattle, especially where we have small farms. I think that this estimate is correct, taking prices in this neighborhood as a basis.—*Ex.*

COW CHOKING.

A veteran farmer told me a few days ago of a method of relieving a choking cow, which he assured me was unfailing. It is worthy of trial at any rate. A round stick, two or three inches long, is put into the cow's mouth, like a bit into a horse's mouth. A string is then fastened to each end of the stick and tied to the horns or up over the head This forces her to keep her mouth open and allows the gas which forms in the stomach, and is the cause of the severe pain and rapid swelling which accompanies choking in a cow, to escape. The effort also of trying to rid the mouth of its unusual encumbrance is the best help toward freeing the passage of the throat; if the trouble is not removed in this way the cow may be kept alive until help is obtained for trying other measures for her relief. In such cases time is of great importance. He assures me has seen his plan tried in many cases, and in none had it ever failed of a complete cure in less than half an hour.—*Ex.*

WINTER TREATMENT OF POULTRY.

A correspondent in addressing us on this subject, says in brief, that each fowl ought to produce 160 eggs a year; that in winter warmth is indispensable; that the fowls must have some of the food they find at other seasons when at large; that they must have plenty of room in their house, and it and the laying boxes kept clean; that they must be fed with corn, barley, oats, have a box of sand, oyster or clam shells pounded up, or old mortar, or bones dried and pounded fine; that mashed boiled potatoes and corn meal are excellent; that fatty matter of any kind, fresh beef or pork scraps, &c., must form a portion of their diet; that hens are fond of vegetable matter during winter and will eat cabbage, &c.; and that they must be kept free from vermin, which nearly always follows entire cleanliness. In case, however, vermin should still make their appearance, there is nothing so effective in removing them as rubbing the top of the head, under the wings and upon the back with lard. These suggestions we have made time and again, and have only to add now that all who desire complete success, and, of course, satisfactory profit from poultry raising, must adopt them.

TO KEEP APPLES.

Apples to be good keepers must be free from bruise or blemish. They must be spread out on shelves or packed in barrels, and kept in an atmosphere of from forty to fifty degrees, better from forty to forty-five—that is at a temperature as equable as possible. Some cellars are just the thing, and preserve them beautifully. Others are too moist. Where this is the case a few bushels of stone lime should be used. Sliding shelves, six inches apart, latticed bottom with a single layer of fruit, are extremely convenient, as they allow of constant examination without disturbing the fruit.

TO TIGHTEN WAGON TIRES.

The following way of tightening wagon tires will be found to be successful. Apply leather rings between the shoulders on the outer ends of the spokes and the corresponding portions of the felloes, which may be done as follows: Procure a number of small pieces of leather from an inch and a half to two inches in diameter; with a sharp knife and compasses or with a cutting punch make round holes in the centres of these pieces, and make a straight cut from the holes to the outer edge of the pieces, so as to form open rings. The holes must be made of a size that will nicely fit the tenons on the outer ends of the spokes. Place a fulcrum on the top of the hub, on which place your lever, with its short end under the felloe, near a spoke; have an assistant bear down on the outer end sufficiently to raise the felloe and expose the shoulder and tenon of the spoke; open your leather ring and fit it nicely around the tenon, holding it to its place, while your assistant relaxes the lever and settles the felloe firmly upon the leather by a blow or two on the tire. Having repeated the process with a sufficient number of spokes to make the tire all right, trim off the projecting leather even with the surface of the spokes, and your task will be done. If your pieces of leather should be spongy hammer them down some before using.

LIME ON POTATOES.

To prevent potatoes from rotting in the bins, dust the floor of the bin with lime and put in six or seven inches of potatoes, then dust as before, and put in more potatoes; using one bushel of lime to forty bushels of potatoes. The lime improves the flavor of the potatoes, and effectually kills the fungi which causes the rot.

THE PENSIONERS' BUREAU.

Since the passage of the arrears of pensions act fifty thousand rejected claims have been presented again to the Commissioner of Pensions. These, with the number of unsettled claims now before the bureau swell the total number to more than one hundred and eighty thousand. The number of claims received each week since the passage of the act referred to averages twenty-five hundred, which is double the number that the bureau can consider under its present system of doing business. The Commissioner receives about twenty-two hundred letters daily from inquiring pensioners, and over twelve hundred letters sent out daily in reply. The pensioners now on the roll number about one hundred and thirty-five thousand, the list having been increased more than ten thousand during the year by the settlement of claims of pensions of the war of 1812. Commissioner Bentley has a plan to radically change the present system of paying pensions. It is to divide the United States into districts, which shall be under the control of a commission consisting of a surgeon and a skilled pension clerk, the duties whom shall be to attend at the principal places in the district and hear evidence in application for pensions.

An ingenious system of blanks has been suggested for communicating with the central office. The benefits of this plan would be to subject old claims to a more rigid examination, and to protect the Government and the pension fund against fraudulent and unmeritorious claims, and at the same time to greatly reduce the cost of the payment of pensions. The first pension law of which there is any knowledge in England was the act of 1592, which authorized the payment of a weekly sum from every parish for the relief of the sick, hurt and maimed soldiers or marines. Commissioner Bentley goes back to the original principle, and relegates the question of the right to pensions to the people of the parish. The witnesses would all be neighbors of the claimants.

A STRANGE COLLISION AT SEA.—The Rotterdam steamship P. Caland, which arrived at New York September 9, brought the Captain and crew of a Norwegian bark which had been sunk by collision with some sea monster in mid-ocean. The bark Columbia left London for Quebeck, in ballast, August 8, and met with variable weather until the morning of the 4th of September, when she was sailing at the rate of from 6 to 7 miles an hour before a fair wind. The sea was not very rough, and the bark was carrying all sail and westward. The Captain was on deck at five bells in the morning watch, when a tremendous shock, which shook the bark from stem to stern, was suddenly felt. The men who were asleep in their bunks were awakened, and thinking that the foremast had been carried away, sprang on deck Capt. Larsen and three of his men ran to the port side and saw the water discolored with blood, while the tail and fins of a huge monster were seen splashing about in the sea, which had become violently agitated on that side of the vessel. At this moment one of the crew cried out that a leak had been sprung, and Capt. Larsen and the carpenter hurried down into the hold to see if the bark had suffered any injuries. In the port bow, about three feet below water mark, they found that four planks had been crushed in for a space about four feet long. A large hole had been made, through which the daylight above the water could be plainly seen. The water was pouring into the vessel through this hole. Several attempts were made to stop it up, but failing, the bark was abandoned and sank soon after. The Captain and his crew of twelve men were fortunately picked up by the P. Caland the same day in the afternoon. No precise description of the colliding monster could be given. The Columbia was an old ship, but about two years ago was put on the stocks and thoroughly replanked. Her bow was made of solid four and a half inch oak planking.

WHY LINCOLN ALLOWED HIS BEARD TO GROW.—The portrait of Mr. Lincoln was painted in 1860, during the pendency of the Presidential election, or immediately after, under an order from Mr. Bryan, then a citizen of Chicago. The face is unshaven, which gives it a rather youthful look, without in the least improving its native homeliness. Mr. Lincoln was in the habit of explaining that he "turned his beard loose" at the suggestion of a lady, whose knowledge of his personal appearance was confined to newspaper cuts, which fairly made him an ogre. She wrote to him that in her woman's judgment whiskers would add much to his beauty, and if he could be persuaded to cultivate them she would kiss him the first time they ever met. The gallant rail splitter at once restricted his tonsorial operations to the upper and nether lips, leaving them free for the osculatory reward, and in a few weeks garnished his cheeks, chin and throat with a hirsute adornment, which puzzled Mrs. Lincoln and surprised his friends without, as already intimated, enhancing his personal pulchritude. As the necessary conclusion to this "ower true tale," it chanced that he and the unknown lady met, and the promised reward was claimed and received.

THERE is a certain logic in business which is exceedingly fascinating, and a great many persons do business in the logical way to which we refer. Instance: A gentleman bought a horse of a dealer who was never before known to get the wrong end of a bargain for his portion. The agreement—and a very simple and fair one it appeared to be—was that one-half of the price should be paid down and that the buyer should owe for the other half. When the horse dealer, however, presented himself and demanded the pay our logician replied that the horse had been paid for. "How can that be?" cried the unhappy jockey. "It's as clear as the light," replied the man of superior inteligence. "Our agreement was that I should pay you one-half your price, which I did, and that I should owe you for the other half." "Exactly," said the jockey, "those were the precise words, and now I've come for the other half; don't you see?" "I prefer to stand by my agreement, for I am a man of my word," the philosopher responded, 'and how in the world can I owe you for the second half of your price, as I promised I would, if I pay it? No, my friend. I'll stick to my bargain and owe you, just as I said I would."

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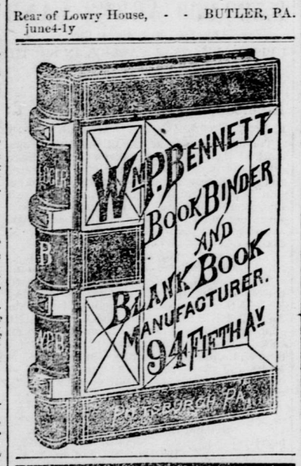

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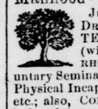

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Boys' Shirts same price as above. Fashion Shirts or Cornered tabs. Catalogue of goods sent with all shirts. NEW YORK FURNISHING CO., 451 Broadway, New York, U. S. A.

A MAN

WHO IS UNACQUAINTED WITH THE GEOGRAPHY OF THIS COUNTRY, WILL SEE BY EXAMINING THIS MAP, THAT THE

Omaha
Council Bluffs
Indianola
Keokuk
Burlington
Quincy
Hannibal
St. Louis
Kansas Cy.
Leavenworth
Atchison
Topeka
Santa Fe
Pueblo
Denver
Cheyenne
Ogden
Salt Lake
Virginia City
Helena
Walla Walla
Portland
Oregon
Sacramento
San Francisco
Stockton
Los Angeles
San Diego
Yuma
Tucson
Prescott
Albuquerque
Santa Fe
Las Vegas
Pueblo
Denver
Cheyenne
Laramie
Salt Lake
Ogden
Virginia City
Carson
Winnemucca
Boise City
Walla Walla
Olympia
Portland
Oregon
Sacramento
San Francisco