

BADLY FOOLS THE BULLFROGS

Boiling Water Used for Milk Cans Poured into Brook Stops Hibernation—Easily Caught.

Cedar Grove, N. J.—Notwithstanding the mercury had dropped to within 20 degrees of zero, and ice had formed which was thick enough to hold skaters, when Squire Hake Baldwin was on his way home early he heard several big bullfrogs booming with all the vim they usually display in spring.

"George, I heard bullfrogs bellowing in your brook early this morning," he said. "You have another guess." Taylor said. "Bullfrogs are two or three feet in the mud this season, and you won't see anything more of them until next spring. I guess what you really heard was my old Holstein bull or that red-and-white bullock."

"No, I heard bullfrogs," Baldwin said. "I know it doesn't sound right in winter, but I heard them, just the same, and I think I can show you about where they are in the brook."

The two walked to that part of the brook near the creamery. Sure enough, there sat 14 big bullfrogs, and they were huddled together in an effort to obtain protection from the cold. Incidentally, they were so stiff from the weather they could not jump.

"Seven a piece," Taylor said. "I'll tell you how this happened. When I scalded the milk cans last night I poured all the boiling hot water in the brook right there. The frogs felt the warmth, thought spring had come again, crawled out of their sleeping places, and sitting in the warm water began to croak away. Before they knew what was up the mud froze beneath them, and they could not get back to cover. When the water began to freeze they had to stay on the bank."

ITALIAN IN STUDY OF MARS

Latest Observations of Schiaparelli, Noted Astronomer—Convinced of Canals.

Rome.—The Italian astronomer Schiaparelli, is studying Mars with the help of spectri photographs taken at the Observatory of Brera. He is convinced that in the near future the progress of photography will lead to important discoveries. Meanwhile he explains in the review Natura ed Arte the results of his recent studies.

Besides the large white regions at the poles, which are undoubtedly glaciers, the greater portion of Mars' surface presents different gradations of colors, light red, orange and yellow, with real spots similar to those of the sun in which gray, brown and sometimes black predominate, but only 578 lines and thin heads. The coloring of the surface of Mars resembles that of a mosaic on a background of gold deeply shadowed.

With reference to the canals Prof. Schiaparelli absolutely excludes any possibility of an optical illusion and he is thoroughly convinced of their reality. In fact all the canals run from one sea to another or to a lake or between two lakes; sometimes one canal is connected with another, but never does a canal have a free end or terminate in a cul de sac.

Professor Schiaparelli is now engaged in studying the so-called bridges. He measured several of them and says the one known as the Bridges of Achilles is 200 kilometers wide and 1,000 long.

TEACH BY MOTION PICTURES

Philadelphia Physician Depicts Growth of Plant and Development of Explosion.

Philadelphia.—Dr. Henry Leffman of this city has become interested in moving pictures, and is experimenting in his laboratory to get a series of views of a growing plant covering a period of ten days, which, when thrown on the screen by the moving picture machine, will show the development of the plant from a bud until it is full grown.

By reversing his string of pictures a fantastic picture of a full grown plant, shriveling into a small bud, is made. In his experiments Dr. Leffman is trying to produce a picture of the workings of nature too slow for the human eye to catch. Further, he is trying to get individual pictures of the workings of nature too rapid for the human eye to catch.

With his moving picture camera, Dr. Leffman is able to get the development of an explosion, from the first puff of smoke until the gases causing the trouble explode.

Old Draft is Honored

Baltimore, Cal.—A draft for \$100, issued here 52 years ago by the D. O. Mills & Co. bank, has just been honored by that institution. It was found recently in the effects of the late George Gridley of Libertyville, Ill., and was payable by the American Exchange bank of New York. In one corner is shown an ocean liner with side wheels.

PUPILS WIN PRIZES

Children Exhibit Better Crops Than Parents.

Placed on Exhibition in Pennsylvania Town So That Teachers May See Them and Judges Can Select the Prize Winners.

Reading, Pa.—It is now three years since Prof. E. M. Rapp, superintendent of the Berks county schools, induced the public school children to take an interest in agriculture and in rural home life, and the work these boys have done on their parents' farms in the summer of 1909, and the girls in the homes of their mothers. Has shown such a notable advance over the first two years' work that the superintendent and the 550 teachers scattered over the county were surprised.

Like the farmer who prides himself every fall in taking his largest pumpkins, the fattest steers, the long, wet ears of corn and the biggest heads of cabbage to the Allentown and Reading fairs, the young members of the Berks County Agricultural club and of the Girls' Domestic Science club proudly show results, not only to their parents and teachers, but twenty or thirty miles away, at the county seat in Reading, where they place them on exhibition for one day only, so that all the teachers can see them and judges can select the prize winners.

Berks county farmers are more engaged in their work while growing corn than at any other period, for it is their greatest crop. Thus, it is but natural that their sons should select the corn crop, also, to make their best showing before the public. Naturally, this year everything seemed to be against the boys. There was no rainfall of any account, and in the spring they were at a loss to get good seed corn. However, there were a great many farmers in knee pants who had been thrilled to action, and they produced specimens of corn that would do to exhibit at a state exhibition or a corn-growing contest conducted at larger experiment stations.

Among 100 young farmers, 22 saw fit to bring ten or more ears of corn to this annual agricultural school exhibit, and have experts examine it. Every one won a prize. Stanley M. F. Saller of Stonersville, a little farmer in knee pants, aged 12 years, won the first prize, six dollars, as the best corn grower, and an extra dollar for the best ear exhibited. Christian Wentling of Dorane, 16 years old, won second, four dollars, and Earl S. Geho, nine years old, of Rockland township, had third, winning three dollars. All had planted Reid's Yellow Dent corn.

Saller was the proudest boy in Berks county, for he was the winner also of first money, \$2.75, on his prize black and white Minorca hens, and his pretty Pekin ducks and Toulouse geese, and before the little farmer went home that evening he sold both geese and ducks at fancy prices, and they were sent to New York for breeding purposes, and Saller went home with more than \$20 in his pockets.

This little farmer said: "Last year I won a meager second prize in the corn contest, and I went home determined that I would land the first prize this year. I went to work early in the spring on land which father allowed me to have, a plot 50 by 30 feet. This I plowed deep and thoroughly cultivated it. During the winter before I had selected carefully the seed corn, and as soon as I had the ground in condition last spring I planted the corn, dropping one seed at a time, ten inches apart in the row. I learned on the old method, as 'the boy with the hoe,' using nothing else to keep the weeds away. During the drought I carried water to my corn patch every day. This was hard work, but I had to do it, if I wished to win, and the longer the drought continued the harder I worked, yet I felt I would have the greatest success, as the other competitors might not think of the sprinkling pot. The result of my effort was that I raised three bushels of corn, or at the rate of 80 bushels per acre. For fertilizer I used stable manure."

The Girls' Domestic Science club also did remarkable work this year. There was the usual display of bread and cake, and the winners were Maud Ludwig, E. Madeline Bigony and Mary B. Romig. Drawing received particular attention this year and a good many girls used their crayons, paint box and brushes, and the most skillful little worker was Ella Schaffer of Fleetwood, who won first prize. She had five different designs on exhibition and every one was excellent for a 12-year-old girl.

A new feature this year was the study of dairy farming, and great results are expected by the teachers. Every one realizes that this is one of the corner stones of success among Berks county farmers. The girls' knowledge was tested by the good butter made, and the result was that Iva Kolb of Jacksonville, 12 years old, was awarded first prize.

Trio Takes Sea Plunge

Atlantic City, N. J.—Fur-wrapped boardwalk strollers shivered in sympathy with two young men and a young woman who essayed a bath in the surf just at noon. The three dashed pluckily into the breakers, but appeared satisfied with a single plunge and made record time to bath-houses before their identity could be ascertained.

FREES SONG BIRDS

Many of Little Songsters Turned Loose on Pacific Coast.

Wealthy Washington Man Brings Various Species from Foreign Lands and They Find New Homes in the Woods and Fields.

Seattle, Wash.—Dr. Charles McCutcheon, a wealthy retired physician of Tacoma, has maintained for the last five years a large aviary in which he rears song birds from Europe and turns them loose in the fields and woods of the Northwest. Dr. McCutcheon was born in England.

Today English skylarks are singing in the meadows of Puget sound, and linnets, goldfinches, bullfinches, throats and English blackbirds are seen and heard all over the country west of the Cascade mountains. Every day Dr. McCutcheon receives word that some of his birds have been seen, and as far away as fifty miles goldfinches are nesting and rearing their young. The kindly act of Dr. McCutcheon has been appreciated by every man, woman and child in the state and the state legislature went so far as to pass stringent laws protecting the song birds.

Five years ago Dr. McCutcheon brought 50 birds of each variety from Liverpool and established a private aviary at his home. The first winter he lost half of his flock, but when spring came he released the remainder, and soon reports came to him of observations being made to prove his imported birds were nesting. Every year since he has imported more birds, and this spring released 500 birds of seven varieties.

Dr. McCutcheon is positive that the imported birds will thrive along the Pacific slope state and increase in number. They are not birds used to migration and, they must winter close to their nesting place. For this reason he feels that the mild climate of the Pacific coast states is admirably adapted to their propagation.

"There is a lack of singing birds in the Puget Sound country," said Dr. McCutcheon, "and the first thing a stranger notices about the wide stretches of timber land in the west is the absence of singing birds. The great forests of tall trees are as still as a church auditorium and not a jay disturbs the quiet."

"Ever since I was a boy in England I have dreamed of the days when I rolled upon the green and listened to the skylarks and the finches. I always said I would have a cage of these birds in my home, but it is a sin to confine the tender creatures. They will not sing as sweetly as they do in the open, and there is a thing of beauty about a landscape that has its song birds not seen in a stretch of country as still as a tomb."

"The importation of several thousand of these birds has cost me considerable money, but I feel repaid every time I receive a letter from some farmer or resident of a town as he reports having seen or heard one of the famous singers. I am told that the blackbirds have nested as far south as Aberdeen, Wash., and that skylarks have been seen as far north as Bellingham. Bellingham is close to the border line between us and Canada."

"Should some of the English people in British Columbia wake up some morning to hear a skylark or a finch singing they will imagine they are away off in their native country. I believe that the Pacific coast climate is well adapted to the needs and requirements of the songsters and that they will multiply and thrive. The Mongolian pheasants have been a success in the west and they have even been seen in Montana, though the first pair was released in western Oregon. Now thousands of the beautiful game birds are seen and shot every year. I trust every state official, as well as the officials of cities, will protect the English song birds."

SPIDERS PRAISED AS FRIENDS

They Are Great Philanthropists and In Their Slaughter No Good is Done.

London.—Most women will shudder at the statement that spiders make interesting pets.

Henry Hill, who made the assertion in a lecture before the London institution, vigorously defended the spider from its feminine detractors. Of course, he said, spiders were ugly, but it was a curious fact that the ugliest spiders were those found in and around houses. He dare say that if spiders could talk they would say: "It is not our fault; it is due to our environment."

Then it was said that spiders were cruel. Like man, they ate in order to live, but, unlike man, they never killed in order to gratify their own vanity. They were great philanthropists, and in their slaughter did great good and no harm.

To Travel 8,000 Miles to Wed.

Ithaca, N. Y.—To wed her Filipino sweetheart, Carlos Lopez of Jaro Folio, a graduate of Cornell, class of 1909, Miss Marian E. Ferrell of this city, will leave here soon on a 8,000-mile journey alone to the Philippine islands. She received a letter from Lopez the other day informing her that for business reasons he could not hope to get away and he desired her to go to him.

BUZZARDS COME FAR NORTH

New Jersey Sportsmen Report Unusual Incident of Fine Game Year—Appearance Rare.

New York.—Hunters who have been in the hills of northern New Jersey report the presence there of numerous buzzards of the species so familiar in the west and southwest. Their appearance is a rare thing in this part of the country, local students of game say, and it is years since they have been seen before. The abundance of game this season—partridges, deer, rabbits and quail—is thought responsible for their coming to the state from their distant habitat.

It was recalled that in 1885, when game was most plentiful in the Hudson valley, buzzards were seen in the late fall and early winter as near New York city as Yonkers. Old residents of Putnam and Westchester counties doubtless will remember the fine game year 1885 was, and they can testify, without question, to the fact that buzzards were common then.

The natural scavengers are not at all destructive to game, though they do attack living animals and birds if they find them crippled by gunners' poor shooting. They follow the game, however, on this account and because when it is plentiful there is bound to be a bigger percentage of dead in the wilds where the birds and deer resort.

Buzzards never have been common north of Mason and Dixon's line, and it is one of the marvels of the hunters who have watched them how, in their distant places of abode, they could have learned that game was so plentiful in the north this year. In 1885, when their presence caused comment, as now, old-timers of the Hudson valley said buzzards had not been seen in numbers for 50 years.

UNAWARE NECK WAS BROKEN

Man in St. Louis Under the Impression He Had Rheumatism Walks the Streets.

St. Louis, Mo.—Ralph Owens, 24 years old, of Memphis, Tenn., who wandered around town for several days with his face drawn back up where the top of his head should have been, did not know his neck was broken until the doctors told him. He thought he was suffering with rheumatism.

Owens called at Father Dempsey's hotel the other morning and asked for aid. He told Father Dempsey he was suffering from muscular rheumatism, was out of money, save for 20 cents, and had no place to stay. Owens' head was drawn back so far that he could see little save the sky. The man's condition appealed to Father Dempsey, who gave him an overcoat, food and car fare.

"Are you in much pain?" he asked Owens.

"Oh, I have a slight pain in the back of my neck," he answered. Father Dempsey then told him to go to Mullanphy hospital. The doctors examined him and found that he was suffering from a broken neck. He was operated on and after coming from under the influence of the anesthetic he said he was resting easy. He has a chance to recover.

Owens was working in a railroad camp, he said, but got to feeling so badly from the twisted condition of his neck that he had to quit work and decided to come to St. Louis. He stayed a few days at a lodging house on Market street.

RUSS OFFICER HERE TO TOIL

Port Arthur Colonel Who Served in Siege Willing to Take Common Laborer's Job.

New York.—Col. Rudolph Jasenski, who commanded the Fourth battery of Siberian artillery in the Russian army and who served eleven months through the famous siege of Port Arthur and as many months more as a prisoner of war in Japan, has arrived here, seeking any kind of employment he can find, even a day laborer's job.

Col. Jasenski came over in the steamer and told the Ellis Island authorities that if he could not obtain work here he proposed to go to South America.

"I served all through the war with Japan and was wounded twice in the left leg during the siege of Port Arthur and once in my right arm," said the colonel. "When the surrender was made, the battery I commanded had only 12 soldiers left and one sub-lieutenant."

"The 11 months I spent in Japan as a prisoner of war, with all the hardships, made me resolve, that I would emigrate and seek my fortune in a free land, and I will not return to Russia no matter what happens. I speak French, and, of course, my native language, but I can not speak English, although I can read and write it, an accomplishment I acquired in the military college at St. Petersburg."

"Before leaving Russia, I resigned my command, and I told the government that I should not return."

Oil Well in Post Hole.

Bayou Sara, La.—What may be the most valuable post hole in the country has been opened at a trifling cost. When a laborer named his price for excavating holes for posts to be placed near here the owner of the property said that he thought it was a little too high. Finally, however, a compromise was reached.

The spade of the laborer unearthed a flow of oil that was promptly put into barrels, and the plans to build a fence have been abandoned.

MEAT IS CHEAPER IN LONDON

How Prices of Various Cuts in London Compare with Those in the United States.

London.—London's beef, apart from what is home-grown, comes from America, Canada, Argentina and New Zealand, and in very small quantities from Australia and Denmark. The retail prices depend upon the quality, where it comes from and the neighborhood in which it is sold, prices in the West end, the fashionable section, being often higher than in the East end and the poorer districts.

The price of loin starts with Argentine frozen beef at ten cents. Argentine chilled beef comes next at 15 cents. Then comes North American chilled at 15 to 19 cents, while North American town chilled fetches from 21 to 28 cents and English home-grown from 24 to 28 cents a pound.

Ribs cost from 10 to 18 cents a pound. Chuck ranges from 12 to 16 cents and round from 16 to 20.

Recently there was a slight shortage from the United States, but dealers say they can get all they want.

Here is a table of comparative rates, showing comparative retail prices of beef in London and New York:

In London—Loin, 15 to 19 cents; round, 16 to 20 cents; chuck, 12 to 16 cents.

In New York—Loin, 23 to 28 cents; round, 20 to 24 cents; chuck, 14 to 18 cents.

The cuts here given are those known in the retail shops only. In the wholesale shops beef is sold in quarters and in wholes mostly; sometimes in halves. For whole beefes the price is from eight to ten cents per pound, according to quality and whether the beef is corn-fed or range-fed.

FARMERS WILL BE EDUCATED

Arrangements Closed for Expert Methods to Be Demonstrated to Minnesota Agriculturists.

St. Paul, Minn.—Arrangements have been closed by which for the first time the expert instruction of the Minnesota state agricultural college will be carried this season direct to the farmers on the farms, through the establishment under the supervision of the Minnesota Federation of Commercial Clubs of 12 demonstration farms serving 12 general districts. Plans are being completed for the establishment of six additional farms, making a total of 20 on which during the entire coming season the farmers will be instructed in the latest and most modern methods of cropping the tracts set aside.

Each of the demonstration farms will be 80 acres in extent, and the entire farming operations of the year will be handled by experts who will in addition to demonstrating proper methods of plowing, cultivating, caring for the crop and harvesting, introduce a complete system of farm accounts by means of which the balance sheet for each farm will show in the fall to a cent what profits have been made. The crops to be put in on the various farms will be such as will best serve the needs of the localities where the farms are located. Where corn culture is neglected or insufficiently understood, corn will be planted. Where grain farming is not up to standard the tracts will be planted to grain. The general rule of giving the farmers instruction along the lines where they are weakest will be followed, and the demonstration farms will be used in a general campaign to raise the standards of farm methods and production.

EXPORTS OF FARM PRODUCTS

Government Shows Growth of Trade Since 1851—Less Beef Sent Abroad Than in '05.

Washington.—Exports of farm products from the United States increased from an average of \$150,000,000 a year in the five years of 1851-1855 to more than \$1,000,000,000 in 1908, according to statistics of the department of agriculture. The percentage of increase in exports was greater than that in the increase of population.

In 1851-55 the value per capita of agricultural exports was \$5.85; in 1901-1905 it was \$10.88, and since 1905 it has been still greater.

The chief products exported during the last half-century were cotton, grain and grain products and packing house products. The value of cotton-seed products exported averaged in recent years between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000 a year.

Grain exports in 1908 were valued at \$215,000,000, an increase from \$25,000,000 in 1851. Packing house products increased from \$10,000,000 in the 1851-55 period to \$196,000,000 in 1908, the principal items being pork, beef and oleo oil. Since 1905 there has been a decline in the exports of beef.

Exports of tobacco, unmanufactured, have averaged more than 300,000,000 pounds a year since 1895, with a yearly valuation of more than \$30,000,000.

Gets Fortune for Changing Name.

London.—Under the will of Mal Francis Hood-Gregory of Styvebale hall, near Coventry, his whole fortune, sworn at \$614,300 gross, with \$130,000 net personality, passes to his cousin, Hon. Alexander Frederick Hood of Alrmyr hall, Goole, York shire, on condition of his adopting and using the surname of Gregory only within 12 months of his successor and assuming the arms of Gregory as borne by the testator.

BIG CATTLE HERDS

Days of Cowboys and Barons on Prairies Are Numbered.

Settlers Fast Driving Them Away and Prediction is Made That Ten Years Will See the End of Immense Droves in Western Country.

Lincoln, Neb.—"Ten years from now will see the practical extinction of the big cattle herds from the ranges of the west. The sheep herders will linger a few years longer, but eventually they also must go." This is the prediction of Soran Munk, who raises thousands of sheep on the ranges of South Dakota and Montana, who is visiting in Nebraska, where he formerly lived. The cattle men, whose herds not very long ago roamed at will over more than half of western Nebraska, have been driven across the border to make room for the small stock raiser and the farmer. In turn they will have halted in eastern South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, but year by year they have been driven farther west and north, and it is only a question of a short time, in the opinion of the herders themselves, when their domination will end. Wyoming will probably be the stamping ground longer than any of her sister states, because the topography there is more natural for grazing and the profits larger, but the stay will be limited.

One of the things that works against the cattle men, even in Wyoming, is the frequency of feuds between them and the sheep men. Cattle men, as a rule, it is asserted, have been the aggressors in these outbreaks and have forfeited sympathy. Dozens of flock masters have been killed in the clashes between the opposing forces and thousands of sheep wantonly slaughtered. The cattle men have their defenders in those who say they were the first on the ground and the sheep men are interlopers. Sheep, it is asserted, will live and thrive where cattle would starve, and there can be no peace where the two attempt to live in the same community. Stock men from the range country, who spend part of the winter months in Nebraska cities and towns, say the recent trial and conviction of the five cattle men charged with the killing of three sheep herders, the slaughter of the sheep and burning of the camp, probably marks the beginning of the end of these feuds of years' standing. The five cattle men were sentenced to long terms in the penitentiary following an exciting trial at the town of Basin, and the battles which have put a bluish on the Big Horn country are regarded as a thing of the past.

The trial at Basin also served to show that the sheep men are not wholly without blame, and its effect has been to hasten the day when the stock raising industry must play a second part, with its gradual extinction as a natural sequence.

Mr. Munk says it is the natural rapid settlement of the country which is driving the big stockmen out of business. Already, he says, the cattle growers are going by the score, and it will be but a short time until the sheep raisers will be compelled to follow. The cattle men have been forced by the onward march of actual settlers to give up possession of the fertile valleys, and have only the uplands to graze on. This has compelled them to buy immense quantities of hay from the ranchmen at a price they declare to be prohibitive to feed during the winter months. Many, Mr. Munk says, complain they have made no money out of the business in the last half dozen years, even in the face of higher prices for beef.

"It takes three or four years to grow a steer, and when feed is bought and shipment to market at high expense is made the cost kills the profit. It is different with sheep, and they would be profitable for a long time on the range if the raisers were not forced off by the homesteaders. The ranchmen were once content to take up claims in the valleys, but now they have taken farms on the hills and high table lands, and even in the mountains. Sheep men are still making money, because they have not been compelled to buy feed for their herds. A sheep will eat anything that grows, and will thrive on forage which would starve a steer."

Mr. Maunck said that in Wyoming and Montana, when a blizzard struck the country, it was always possible to get the stock down to a creek bottom or sheltered timber land, and as soon as they were out of the driving wind they were all right.

"There are two sources of revenue from the sheep," he continued, "the wool and mutton. After they have been kept two or three years for the fleeces they may be fattened and sent to market. At the present time I have a comparatively small herd, 5,000, but I have had as many as 18,000 grazing."

"In a few years I figure there will be little open country for sheep in Montana and South Dakota, and I will go out of the business. Many others will follow or precede me. There have been great opportunities for young men to make money out on the sheep and cattle ranges in the past, but they must move farther west or south or go out of business. The day of the cattle baron and his picturesque cowboys and the flockmaster and his herders is soon to pass."

There are some people in every community who do more for the devil in the church than they do for the Lord outside.