MPROVED PEKINS.

Pekin Ducks are of the Best Type Now Raised on Farms.

Pekin ducks are of the best type now reared at the large duck farms which send immense quantities of ducklings to the best paying eastern markets. These long, deep-keeled ducks have been much improved by these extensive rearers, as they have learned that the very best bodied ducks, that mature the earliest, are the kind that can make the most money for them. There are few who realize the magnitude of the business carried on by these establishments, operated exclusively for the production of ducks for the market, and especially for the rearing of early ducklings, several of them shipping upward of 10,000 ducklings by midsummer, and some of them producing more than 20,000 in the season. The prices realized for the earliest ducklings marketed might seem almost fabulous, but that they are well earned is evident to any one who will visit these farms and see the work and the great care, as well as expense, which these earliest hatched ducklings require. Still these raisers of early ducklings claim that they find the growing of young ducks more profitable than young

Ten or twelve thousand ducklings are often yarded on five acres of ground; however, the most successful farm we know of has an abundance of acreage on which to grow roots and green food for the stock, this being a very important factor for their successful production. An ample supply of green food for the old breeding stock seems necessary to keep them in good condition for early laying. Last season the market opened in the spring with 45 cents per pound for ducklings. This season it was lower, only 37, but prices have kept up longer than they did last year, so this season may perhaps prove quite as profitable on the whole product of the year. The cost of rearing young ducks is put at five cents per pound by these large growers and the ducks are marketed at about nine to eleven weeks, when they weigh about five pounds. The average price of the whole season's product is put at about 20 cents per pound in the market. The Pekin ducks in England have been classed after the Aylesburys and Rouens, but in America they have proven by far the most profitable of all when reared on a large scale, artificially, for the market.

Why You Should Keep Hens.

1. Because you ought by their means to convert a great deal of the waste on the farm into money, in the shape of eggs and chickens for market.

2 Because with intelligent management they ought to be all-year-revenue producers, excepting, perhaps, about two months, during molting season.

3. Because poultry will yield him a quicker return for his capital invested than any of the other departments of agriculture.

4. Because the manure from the poultry house will make a valuable compost fr use in either vegetable garden or orchard. The birds themselves if allowed to run in the orchard will destroy many injurious insects.

5. Because while cereals and fruits can only be successfully grown in certain sections, poultry can be raised for table use or to lay eggs, in all parts of the country.

6. Because poultry raising is an employment in which the farmer's wife and daughter can engage and leave him free to attend to other departments.

7. Because it will bring the best returns, in the shape of new laid eggs—during the winter season—when the farmer has most time on his hands.

8. Because to start poultry raising on the farm requires little or no management, poultry can be made, with little cost, a valuable adjunct to the farm.

Best Fruit Tree for Shade.

The denizens of towns find the pear one of the most satisfactory fruit trees for shade. It is deep rooting, and many other things may be successfully grown right up to their trunks. Insects trouble them little. They grow rather fast, but it is many years before they get an objectionably large size. The apple makes a spreading head, and there is soon shade under its branches, and besides, the beauty of its blossoms in spring makes the tree appreciated fully equal to a mere ornamental one. It is not a very serious robber of the soil. The cherry makes a desirable shade, but birds make too free with the fruit, and there is the temptation to break branches. The sour, or pie cherries are, however, not relished by birds. European walnut trees grow rather slowly. It is usually ten years before they produce nuts in any quantity, but after this they are regarded as treasures with which their owners would not willingly part. For utility and grateful shade combined, few trees can rival them.

He—I flatter myself I have a well stored mind.

She—Do you ever take it out of storage?

SIWASH SANDOWS.

The Heavy Loads Alaskan Indians Pack Over Chilkoot Pass.

The ability of the Thlinket Indians to pack tremendous loads has been conceded by all who have ever had occasion to secure the Siwashes for such service. With the fall rush to the Yukon and the exorbitant prices demanded and paid for packing over the Chilcoot pass, the Indians have fairly outdone themselves, so far as carrying heavy loads over the summit is concerned. Of this Jesse Evans spoke at Portland a few days ago.

"They are not in it with a white man, when the overcoming of severe obstacles and the facing of danger is to be done," said Evans, "but give them a fairly clear trail, in the ascent of which there is nothing to fear, and they will outpack the average white man two to one. Aside from the desire to make money—and it came to them by the handful at eight cents per pound for packing—the Siwashes showed a pride in their ability to outpack the white men. Time and again I've seen a row of panting, breathless whites, ranged along some windfall on the trail, resting the fifty-pound sacks of flour strapped to their backs, while by them would go a procession of Siwashes, consisting of bucks, squaws and children, every one of whom was carrying from seventy-five to 200 pounds. If the resting white men could have understood some of the remarks sent at them by the Siwashes, as they tramped past, there would have been a general discarding of packs and a thumping bee instituted, but they were in the main 'chee-chockos' and Chinook was as Greek to them.

"A Thlinket Indian figures that he can pack his own weight. Thus, a man weighing 200 pounds believes he should be able to 'lola' 200 pounds on his back across the summit. In the same ratio a mite of a girl weighing eighty pounds is given seventy-five pounds to pack. This latter phase of the packing was pitiable and a number of times we were obliged to stand up some old buck and force him to lighten the load of a half-fainting child.

"The money the Chilkoot, Chilcat, Takou and Auk tribes have made this season in packing over the Dyea pass is beyond correct computation, but it does not fall a cent less than $500,000. Where, in years gone by, the charge for packing was 10 cents per pound, and considered high at that, with the rush this summer the price swept up to 48 cents per pound. Taking as a conservative estimate that 4,000 men, each having 800 pounds of an outfit, attempted to make the interior and engaged packers at 20 cents per pound, and you have over $600,000 spent among these Siwashes, not counting the innumerable dollars paid for canoe hire, etc.

"The Christmas holiday season is a great time with these people. Not that they are cognizant whatever of the 'peace on earth, good will toward men' feeling of the occasion, but that at Victoria, Juneau, Sitka and other places they have seen the whites enjoy themselves in Christmas festivities, and what the whites do the Thlinke Siwash usually follows. Christmas day, or rather night, is the one great revelry. A grand dance is given in the 'madhouse,' as the dance hall is termed in Alaskan towns, at which only the 'kleutchmen' are present, the bucks being sent back to their 'illohes' on the beach sharp at 9 p. m. At these 'Clismus' dances the squaws vie one with the other as to who shall be the most richly appareled. Silks, satins and velvets, with immense quantities of gold-plated jewelry, go to form the toilets, some of the rigs costing hundreds of dollars. Well, if the 'madhouse' dance at Juneau next Christmas, with the money the squaws will have to spend for raiment, won't be a sight worth traveling to see, I am badly mistaken."

Boring the Bore.

"Come in and see how I get rid of bores. You've often asked my recipe, and I'm about to deal with one of the most virulent of his type." It was an old banker speaking, and he showed his guest into the private office.

"Hello, Orgey," began the bore, at sight, "just dropped in to have a talk about poor Lipsey. I suppose——"

"Yes, of course, neglected his business, gambled away enormous sums of money, fell a victim to the terrible curse of intemperance, dissipated his fortune and even lost his home. Too bad!"

"Awful! But did you hear——"

"Certainly. Tried to drown his sorrows in deeper potations than ever, lost his trial situation in a commercial house, was branded a bad egg and left to his own resources. Drifted away into a great city, family suffered, he braced up, found honest employment, won friends, and was doing well, everything considered."

"That's right, but——"

"So I heard. Back with us again. He has a fine position, looks like his old self and everybody happy."

"Do you think he'll——"

"I know he will. A few old calamityites think otherwise, but he's all right. We have him for dinner to-morrow night. Goes to the Uppies next night."

"No? I hope——"

"That's all right. So do the rest of us."

"Well, good day. Pretty busy times these."

"There you have it," laughed the banker, as he closed the door. "You persist in doing the talking, and a bore will run every time."

In the island of San Domingo there is a salt mountain estimated to contain nearly 90,000,000 tons.

ABOUT THE HOUSE.

THE EMERGENCY SHELF.

It is Now a Fixture in Almost Every Well-Regulated Household.

The "emergency shelf" is now a fixture in almost every well-regulated household. Guests are nearly always expected and provided for; so it might be better to speak of them as unheralded, rather than unexpected.

With the clean and palatable preparations of every kind now on the market, company need have no terrors for any woman who is not unduly disturbed or abnormally nervous. At the same time, the occasions are rare when a visitor is unable to notify the hostess beforehand. That he or she so often neglects to do so, is matter for regret, in the opinion of the one who writes this article. Nobleness should constrain in this respect as in many others.

Nevertheless, as people will come unannounced, and as husbands will bring home chums without telegraphing, the remedy for flurry and worry is simple: Have on your emergency shelf a few cans of peas and tomatoes—best brand—beef extract for bouillon, sweet corn, some jars of tomatoes canned whole for salads, a few bottles of salad dressing, a package of self-raising flour, cans of salmon, corned beef, codfish, the best brands of canned soup, preserves, jellies, dried fruits and nuts, olives, pickles, and, in quite cold weather, the delicious little cream cheeses in tin-foil coverings. Of course, the housewife will understand that it is wise not to have more than two or three of the latter on hand at once.

Then there are such toothsome preparations of plum pudding, minced ham and tongue, boned turkey and chicken, etc., that one scarcely knows where to draw the line. Condensed milk, of course, should have a place. Crystallized figs and sweet chocolate are always acceptable to fill a pretty little bonbon dish.

Meat and cheese wafers are convenient, and also all kinds of fancy crackers.

Fresh meat, of course, cannot be kept in any great quantity, but one or two extra chops or cutlets will never come amiss.

The main thing to remember is, to keep the stock fully replenished, replacing each article promptly the very day after it is used.

THE WRONG TUNE.

Funny Scene in a Philadelphia Church and the Choirmaster Came to Grief.

A prominent church in West Philadelphia was the scene of a funny incident on a recent Sunday that has caused many a laugh since, while at the same time it led to the dismissal of the choir master, who was the unintentional funmaker, says the Philadelphia Record. The church in question has for some time boasted a full orchestra, and the really fine music rendered has proven a drawing card, the church being crowded each Sunday. The players are mostly professional musicians, and their leader, who plays violin, is also orchestra leader at one of the theatres in the city. Now, the church orchestra rehearses on Friday afternoon, and a brilliant programme had been prepared for the Sunday in question. Sunday morning our leader arose late, and was horrified to find he had but a few minutes to reach the church. He hurriedly dressed and grabbed his music portfolio, not noticing that he had taken by mistake the one in which he carried his theatrical music, and rushed to the church. The entire orchestra was waiting for him, it being already late for the opening number, and the leader quickly opened the portfolio and took out the different parts from where he remembered having put the proper music at the rehearsal. One minute later, instead of "The Holy City," there floated out on the saintly atmosphere the carnal strains of the "Hoochee Koochee." There was a breathless silence, and it was fully a minute before the players fully realized the fatal mistake. Then there was an uproar, and the result was the dismissal of the unfortunate leader.

Crates for Apples.

It would be well to make at the first opportunity a lot of crates for handling apples and potatoes. Bushel size is most convenient. Make ends and bottoms of inch stuff nailed with 10d nails, sides of plastering lath or cheap boxes split into strips and nailed on with 6d nails. Nail block on each end to lift crate by. Cheaper crates may often be secured by making them entirely from discarded store boxes.

DIOCESAN NEWS.

What Our Friends in the Surrounding Parishes are Doing.

From Our Special Correspondents.

Honeoye.

Mr. D. C. Ryan of Rochester, is conducting a dancing school here.

The young ladies are working hard for the festival that is to be held here on the 12th of February.

Mrs. Thomas Costello is visiting her sister Mrs Abbey, in Buffalo.

M. H. Blackmere is very ill. Recovery is doubtful.

Herbine Concert Company closed a three week's engagement here last week.

Several people from this place attended the theatre at Rochester Wednesday evening, taking the advantage of the low rates on the Lehigh.

State Fish and Game Protector was in town last Saturday and Sunday.

Lima.

Mr. M. L. Hughes of Rochester, was in town calling on old friends last Thursday.

Our annual financial statement which was read in church last Sunday, showed us to be in unusually good condition. A balance of about $3,800 is still due on the school building. Of this amount $3,000 is pledged by subscribers. The amount realized from entertainments was about $1,450. This includes the fair receipts. All together, the entire congregation has reason to congratulate itself on the condition of the church affairs, as the statement shows us to be in an almost better condition than could be expected

Corning.

O dear to my heart, and to other hearts also,
When fainting with hunger or shiv'ring with cold,
Is the cozy lunch wagon that stands near the depot,
With its coffee that's hot and its sandwiches cold.

The gay-colored wagon,
The picturesque wagon,
The wagon that stands there by night and by day.

The above touching little ditty (with apologies to the "Old Oaken Bucket,") has been prompted by attacks, rumored or actual, having been made upon the vehicle of comfort presided over by that genial gentleman, Mr. Joseph Connors. Some people, it appears, have tried, figuratively speaking, to jump upon the wagon and crush it out of existence. That they failed in their attempt, is as much a source of gratification at their success would have been a source of wrath to all men young and old, who, without being gluttonous, are yet possessed of appetites healthy enough to appreciate keenly the delight of the sandwich and the toothsome pie, accompanied by a cup of steaming hot coffee—appetites like yours, gentle reader, and mine. It is possible to get coffee steaming on fiercely, but not to get fiercely "steaming" on coffee. This interesting fact may account for the objections of some people to the lunch wagon. It is a sort of Temperance Aid Resort. But as Catholics, as well-wishers to the youth of the town, as men of sense, let us not lift up our hands or our voices against the lunch wagon, at any time or any place, in season or out of them.

John S. Kennedy was in Buffalo during the past week.

John Gill has secured a position with the Corning Gas Company and entered its office during the past week.

Mr. Herman, of THE JOURNAL, has been in town for the past few days and intends to remain here for a week or two. He is meeting with much success in securing subscribers for the paper and expects to increase the Corning list greatly before leaving.

Miss Catherine O'Hare, of Skaneateles, is the guest of Miss Bridget May.

The VanOtten Comedy Company, during the past week broke all records in the history of the opera house. "Standing room only," was displayed at no less than four of the performances and each night the house was packed to the doors. This company carries an orchestra composed entirely of ladies and this may perhaps account partially for their success. Certainly, if was worth the price of admission to see the dainty, timid creatures manipulate large horns and brassy, blaring instruments and noisy, shocking drums. Some of the ladies, I am told, produced their knitting between times, and so occupied their time fully, but this I am unable to vouch for, as I did not see it.

James MacGivern, Jr., is seriously ill of typhoid fever at his father's residence on West First street.

Miss Clara Kelly of West Erie avenue, entertains a number of her friends Thursday evening of this week.

On Monday morning of this week, at St. Mary's church, P. J. Carney of Susquehanna, Pa., and Miss Maria Sullivan were united in marriage by Rev. Father Lee. Mr. Kelly of Susquehanna, was best man and Miss Elizabeth Sullivan of Corning, was bridesmaid. The bride is a sister of Mrs. Edward Kelly, West Fourth street. Mr. and Mrs. Carney will reside at Susquehanna.

Shortsville.

Miss Mame Maltby of Palmyra, was the guest of Miss Florence McQuillian the last of the week.

The fair which was held last week at Manchester by the band, was a grand success both successfully and financially. The contestants for the watch were Misses Anna McNally and Anna O'Neil, Miss Anna McNally being the winner.

Miss Libbie Hanaute of Clifton Springs, visited Miss Emma Phipps the last of the week.

Mrs. Julia Manaute of Clifton Springs, spent the latter part of last week with her mother, Mrs. D. Phipps.

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