

The Katonah Times

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FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1909.

A FOOLISH SLUR AT OUR TOWN BOARD.

WE ARE SORRY TO SEE, in the editorial comment of a White Plains newspaper, the following:

"The town police act is proving a good thing for the up-country Supervisors. It gives them some good jobs to hand out."

This is an instance of the common tendency to prejudge a case, without considering the facts.

The Town of Bedford, in which the whole plan originated, is the first to take definite action under the Law's provisions and it is a reasonable inference that the above remarks were meant to apply to our local officers.

The truth is that so far from wishing to make of the Town Police Law a means for the distribution of patronage, our Town Board has seriously considered appointing the men entirely from outside sources. If this plan is not carried through, it will be merely because the additional living expenses incurred by outsiders and the extra inducement needed to bring men from a distance, would add uselessly to the salary fund required.

What is being done now by Messrs. Barrett and Baldwin (the Committee in charge) is the careful selection of a form of examination to determine the qualifications of all applicants. Civil Service methods will be combined with the special tests of fitness applied to such bodies as the Pennsylvania Constabulary and the Police of New York and other cities. Every applicant for an appointment to the local Constabulary will be subjected to an examination in competition with all others, and only after passing creditably will a man be eligible to serve.

This cry of "patronage" is therefore utterly unfounded and one obvious proof of it is the willingness of the Bedford-Newcastle Association to put into the hands of the Town Board \$1500 of their own funds toward the expenses of the plan. The Association believes, as do the majority of our residents, in the view of the personnel of our Town Board, its members are to be implicitly trusted to carry out the intent of the measure for the good of the community at large.

WHAT WILL TAFT DO ABOUT IT?

ONE THING NOTABLE in the present Tariff crisis is the keen interest of men and women of all classes in the progress of the fight. Never before has discussion of such dry matters as ad valorem or specific schedules been followed with so close a degree of attention.

It is one result of the education we have received during the past few years in trust methods and the consequent widespread belief in ordinary high protection fostered by the Sugar Trust, with its infamous weighing machines, and the Oil Trust, with its cheap rate for foreign buyers and high rate for people at home; the Beef Trust, the revelations of the Roosevelt administration; have stirred the popular indignation to a point where all begin to appreciate the need for a better adjustment of our industrial relations.

Added to this is the new political situation developed by the attitude of courageous Senators like La Follette and Dooliver, in opposition to the powerful element that follows Taft. And in the centre of the stage is the figure of President Taft, standing silent at this moment, yet watched from all quarters with the keenest expectation.

"What is Taft going to do about it?" is the question on all lips. The people at large—the consumers—are disposed to regard him as their champion in the battle against corporation greed. He is classed with Roosevelt and Hughes as a man intent upon securing needed reforms for the people. And now the issues are drawn and he must soon render a decision that will have tremendous effect on the future of the party and of the nation.

For the plattitudinizing twaddlers in Congress who have been making themselves conspicuous in the effort to "film-film" the consumers and break the party pledges there is growing disgust. And if that type of legislator palls on the taste of the people, what shall be said of the Democratic humbugs who cried out loudly in their platform for revision and now vote for still higher duties to rob the nation for the benefit of some little section of their constituency?

Concerning the letter of Mr. F. J. La Farr in the last week's 'Times' it is only fair to Mr. Kisco's policemen to state that the "hold-up" of Mr. Brown occurred at a point some distance outside the Village limits.

The police are employed by Mt. Kisco's trustees to patrol the streets and are not required to act outside their own territory. If they keep order within the Village limits that is enough to ask of them.

The need for protection of the outlying districts has been long apparent and this bold daylight attempt is only another case in point. It is for the Town police to deal with such crimes. The Town Board is organizing its force at this moment and they promise to have uniformed men patrolling the unfrequented roads, within a few weeks.

As one Village officer remarks apropos of the Brown case:

"I believe the present board of

trustees of the Village of Mount Kisco would go to almost any expense to apprehend a gang of blackhanders for a crime committed or attempted within the Village limits. But if they are expected and allowed to spend the taxpayers' money for policing the outside territory, why the necessity of any town police bill?"

The always flippancy N. Y. Sun has been jesting lately at the expense of our Bedford Station neighbor, Mr. Seth Low. Its merry theme is that New York's former Mayor has passed into the realm of myths. But anyone who has seen the activity at Broad Brook Farm recently will testify that Mr. Low is as much alive as when he won the great Fusion victory. He has been translated, that is all, and from the chrysalis state of a City man has emerged into the butterfly existence of a Westchester County farmer.

THE GAMBLERS

YOU CALLED "Enough!" and tossed aside the cards, care-free, as when the pretty play began.

But I, who also played in jest at first, still cling to the deserted board and con The Loser's Lament—"Had I but played Or thus or so, I might have won!"

Ah, well,

Another day your luck may fail, but I have staked my all, and lost—and I have not The wherewithal to play again.

And so

Throughout the long, long night I sit among The scattered cards, and rave with my eyes Your empty chair.

W. G. Katonah, June 15th.

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN BY FETRIGG REGISTER, ROCKFORD, ILL.

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



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CO-OPERATIVE BREEDING.

Professor H. H. Shaw, of the Michigan Agricultural college is the originator of a plan for co-operative breeding in dairy cattle that gives promise of being of real value to those sections where it is followed. The plan in brief is as follows: A community controlling about 120 cows is organized into a co-operative breeding association. This number of cows are divided as nearly as possible into three groups of equal number, it being immaterial just how many cows the individual farmer may have. A breed is then selected which is mostly in favor in the neighborhood and three registered sires purchased, one being placed with each block of forty cows. The first cost as well as the cost of keeping the bulls is divided among the members of the association on the basis of the number of cows owned by each. At the end of the two year period, in order to avoid inbreeding, the bulls are transferred to other blocks and at the end of the second period transferred again, an arrangement which makes it possible to keep three bulls in the neighborhood six years without inbreeding. This arrangement makes it possible to keep a sire of known merit during his best years, a plan that is seldom carried out under the present system of entire individual management. Besides this, the new plan tends to create a community interest in a single breed, and gives a much better market for buyers who wish to purchase dairy cows of a single breed in considerable numbers. While the plan has not been worked out as yet for a full six years, its advantages are so apparent that it might well be adopted in any dairy section.

THE ROSE BED.

May is a good month in which to start the rose bed. Roses like rich and rather firm soil. The best soil is a mixture of one part of good soil, one part of sand and one part of rotted barnyard manure. The bed in making should be dug up to a depth of about eight to ten inches and the soil thoroughly mixed. Roses are fond of sun and the bed should be located so that it will get a good lot of it. Much of the damage to leaves and blossoms can be prevented if the bushes are given a daily shower bath with water under good pressure. Blight they are attacked, powdered hellbore or common road dust will fix the green spots, and spraying with a solution of tobacco water will knock the red spiders and green lice. The bed should be hoed frequently to keep the soil loose and watered often enough to keep it moist. As to varieties, there are many. The island of Jersey, located in the Florida Straits and about five miles in length, supports a population of 60,000 people. Dairying and the raising of early vegetables, which products are marketed largely in London and France, constitute the chief occupations of the inhabitants. There are 12,000 head of pure bred Jerseys on the island, the importation of other breeds having been stopped a century and a half ago. The farms vary in size from ten to twenty acres and, as one would suppose, are worked on an intensive plan.

A COSTLY EXPERIENCE.

By way of showing that hawks and owls are in reality friends and not enemies of the farmer a recent magazine article cites an experience which the state of Pennsylvania had a score of years ago. In the year 1885 the state legislature passed what was known as the scalp act which authorized the payment of a bounty of 50 cents a head on all hawks and owls killed in the state. Under this act bounties were paid on 100,000 birds, which was accepted by the farmers as pretty good proof that the chicken killers were exterminated. But this was not the end of their troubles. Within a period of two years gophers, field mice and noxious insects appeared in such numbers that the farmers were powerless to cope with them, and the losses which they suffered from this source as the direct result of the indiscriminate hawk and owl slaughter were placed at \$4,000,000. A Washington authority has found that 80 per cent of the food of the red shouldered hawk, usually known as the "ben hawk," consists of injurious mammals and insects, while 200 droppings of the barn owl were found to contain the skulls of 454 small mammals, 225 of this number being of the destructive field or meadow mouse.

WEIGHT OF EGGS.

A quite extensive test which has recently been made in determining the weight of eggs shows that they vary in weight from fifteen to twenty-five ounces per dozen. The average weight being about twenty-two ounces. Such figures as these would seem to justify the selling of eggs by the pound and not by the dozen, especially in a season when they have ranged from 25 to 40 cents per dozen regardless of size.

With eggs at 20 to 25 cents a dozen may be calculated to superinduce melancholy forebodings in the minds of the consumer to contemplate the peg the price will be hanging on next Christmas.

As showing the wealth producing capacity of Pacific coast states, crop reports for 1908 place the value of the agricultural and horticultural products of San Joaquin county, Cal., alone at \$16,854,447.

The most extensive rice farmer in the United States lives near Dallas, Tex. Last year he had 10,000 acres in this cereal, the crop totaling 400,000 bushels and being valued at \$350,000. It took eighteen steam thrashing outfits four weeks to separate the grain from the straw.

Fifteen hundred carloads of high quality cantaloupes, valued at \$1,000,000, were shipped from Imperial valley, in southern California, last year by the gardeners of that section. Water supplied by irrigation is all that was needed to make this desert one of the most productive garden spots in the whole country.

The farm owner should take such a measure of pride in his premises as will lead him to give the homestead a name, painted on a neat signboard, with his own beneath. When he has his place properly labeled in this manner he should have some noteheads and envelopes printed, also giving the name of the farm, to be used in the family and business correspondence.

One of the sights which will greet the eyes of visitors at the Alaska-Yukon exposition at Seattle will be an artistically arranged bed containing 200,000 tufted English pansies. Another feature that will interest the floriculturist and horticulturist will be a display of all the plant creations of Luther Burbank, including the spineless cactus, plumcot and other interesting forms of new plant life.

A large part of the ugliness of bulls and stallions is due to the fact that they are usually given pretty hearty rations and have little or nothing to do. Many horse breeders make a business of working their stallions, and not only are they gentler, but their condition is better and they get more vigorous. The working of the bull is not so easy a matter, but some breeders do so with like satisfactory results.

Some very large claims are made for the productive capacity of the new spineless cactus. It is said that, under favorable conditions, the plants will produce 300 tons of cactus fodder per acre and from ten to twenty tons of fruit of as fine quality as the banana. If the above figures are anywhere near the truth there may be a lot of fellows east of the meridian 100 who may say they had stakes set in the great American desert.

The Argentine ant is a new insect pest that bids fair to do much damage to agricultural and horticultural interests on the Pacific coast, where it has recently made its appearance. In the respect mentioned it seems to be the most destructive species of the 'ant' tribe, while a factor that causes its appearance to be viewed with alarm is the claim that its bite is fatal to infants. Already scientists of the Pacific coast are studying its habits and trying to devise methods for its extermination.

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The law of growth, everywhere recognized, and given forceful expression in the phrase "To him that hath shall be given," has its tragic as well as its beneficent aspect. This appears in the handicap which the tree labors under which is overshadowed and outtopped by its more thrifty neighbor, in inability to disease in one who lacks physical strength and in the proneness to evil of the person lacking moral fiber and backbone. A majority of the agencies which are today at work in the uplift of life are directed to a counteracting of the harmful effects of this wise and usually beneficent law of development.

London shipping experts have recently hit upon the plan of equipping refrigerator cars with mechanical refrigerating plants, which consist of ammonia compressors and condensers placed on top of the cars. Evaporators are placed inside the cars to keep the temperature down when the cars are not in motion. The compressor is driven with power secured from one of the axles. The present system of ice refrigeration of cars is one which involves immense trouble and expense in the transportation of fresh meats and perishable fruits and vegetables. The new system of cooling is looked upon with much favor by Pacific coast shippers, who are investigating its merits and will very likely adopt it.

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