

Bowser Is Sentimental But, as Usual, It Is Not Appreciated

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Mr. Bowser took a seat on the front steps the other evening to smoke his cigar.

The cat was with him and she purred peacefully. The crickets in the grass of the front yard sang songs for his pleasure.

The moon rose, and she rose higher than usual, as if to challenge his admiration.

Now and then a whippoorwill called for his mate, and the sound of a puffed



"Boss, have you any umbrellas to be mended?"

His voice shouting "blackberry" came to his ears like a sweet lullaby. Mr. Bowser grew sentimental under all these things. He thought of his boyhood days. He thought how pleasant life was. He thought how good Mrs. Bowser was to him, and how there was not another cat in the town who thought as much of her home.

By and by an umbrella mender opened his gate and walked in and said: "Boss, have you got any umbrellas to be mended?"

"My dear friend," replied Mr. Bowser, "how can you view that glorious moon up there and talk of mending



"There was a sudden fit!"

umbrella! I should think you would make a beautiful canopy has been made over the earth for our benefit!"

"So you have no umbrellas to mend?" asked the man.

"My dear sir, if I had a thousand umbrellas to mend, such a night as this is not the night to pass them out. Think of an umbrella with three ribs broken, and the female mistaking the stars twinkling the way they are, till it is a sacrifice, man—it is a sacrifice!"

Mr. Bowser was still admiring the gorgeous night, when a vegetable peddler came to the gate and called to him in a hoarse voice:

"Say, you! I have got ten cucumbers left, and I want to sell out and get home. What do you say to two cucumbers for them? I have been selling them for four cents all day."

Mr. Bowser heard, but did not answer. Just then he thought he heard the music of a harp down the street, and the strains were in harmony with his feelings.

"I warrant them fresh," continued the man, "and they are not checked full of water like some cucumbers. They are solid all the way through, and are the biggest bargain you have had offered to you in five years."

"How do you ever see a moon like that," finally spoke Mr. Bowser. "Look how she smiles down on the earth. Look—"

Creator for making you such a night; free of expense. How many of those delicious stars can you count?"

"I'm not going to try, but I can count one old change sitting on his front steps with a cat in his lap. Why don't you talk plain English, as all other folks do?"

"The peddler had been gone five or ten minutes when the cobble came over with a piece of paper in his hand. He waited a moment to be addressed, and, as he was not, he said:

"I beg your pardon, Mr. Bowser, but here is something you have forgotten. You had a patch put on a shoe about three months ago and you forgot to hand me the change. It is only a quarter, but I happen to need it. Here is the bill."

"Cobblers—patch—shoes," repeated Mr. Bowser. "Why, man, you should not have come here this evening of all evenings in the year."

"But I thought you had forgotten." "Didn't you see that glorious moon and those bright stars? Didn't you see that I was plunged in thought?"

"I say the moon and stars," replied the peddler, "that I thought you came out here to cool off and it wouldn't do any hurt to speak to you. If you can't pay the bill now—"

"Pay for a patch on a shoe, such a night as this! Don't you hear the crickets warbling their sad notes? Don't you see the setting shadows? Don't you feel this soft and gentle evening breeze?"

"Why, I think I do," replied the peddler, "and you can stop in and pay the bill in the morning. I wouldn't think too much if I were you, for it makes one loose in the head. One time, I sat and looked at the moon for about half an hour, and it made me so sleepy, I couldn't figure two and two, and the doctor warned me that I had better look out."

The peddler went away, and Mr. Bowser returned to his state of equilibrium. The harp struck up again, and this time there was a singer with it. The song was "Buffalo Gals" and the air was meant to be lively.

The moon also seemed to be sad and the stars no longer shone with their former brilliancy. Mr. Bowser felt a tear sadly rolling down his face, and his chin quivered with emotion, when a bristly walk and turned into the gate, and said:

"Perhaps you haven't got a sewing machine yet? I am agent for the best and yet one of the cheapest machines ever brought out. If you have no objections, I should like to speak with your wife?"

"No mind but a sordid and selfish man could ever be around here at this hour of the night and profane the heavens as you are doing. Don't you



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FERTILIZERS COST LESS THAN OF OLD

Investigations by M. A. C. Show It's Greater Economy to Buy Now Than Was in 1914.

PHOSPHATES ARE IN DEMAND

Supply Promises to Be Short—Use of Complete Fertilizers Is Urged in Its Place.

By PROF. A. J. PATTEN, Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—"Buy fertilizers—fertilizers—and prices out of sight! My dear man, do you know—"

"But according to this point, to an intensity of feeling which the peddler did not seem to care for, apparently to determine his moral status."

"You look none enough," he finally conceded, "but I can't say as much for your judgment."

The man whose ire had then been stirred up was a farmer—one of the 12,000,000, 1918 model sort at that—and he was addressing a cult which had been suggested that perhaps, in the midst of the fairly good prices being offered for grain crops, it might be a good move this coming season to apply a little commercial fertilizer to help out production.

"Why," the farmer had finally concluded, "it would bankrupt me. Yes, it would bankrupt me to attempt to buy fertilizers with prices as they are."

The incident is related as somewhat whimsical, but rather because it is so common that it represents what the tendency seems to be to indulge only by millionaire farmers."

Never, however, has popular opinion been so far wide of the mark. It will surprise some men to know that fertilizers today are being sold actually when considered in the light of what they will return, than they have been in any year.

Some highly enlightening figures relating to this subject have been compiled by the chemistry division of the U. S. experiment station. When prices were at their 1914 levels one bushel of corn would buy only 88 pounds of 14 per cent acid phosphate, or 62 pounds of 18-2 fertilizer. In 1917, however, this same bushel of corn would have purchased 157 pounds of 14 per cent acid phosphate, or 103 pounds of 18-2 fertilizer.

Interpreted in this way, the figures show that crops this year really cost only about one-half as much as they did in 1914. What has been found to be true of fertilizers used on corn, has been discovered to apply equally as well to almost all farm crops.

As a word of caution, this showing should not induce farmers to rush headlong into the use of fertilizers without having stock of their own requirements and determining the kinds of fertilizers that will most nearly fit their needs.

It would, of course, be foolhardy to attempt to buy down any hard and fast rule that will apply for every farm. It can be said, however, that the best results from fertilizers will be obtained from soils well drained, in which there is lack of drainage and the acidity of the soil are the factors which keep down yields on a given farm. It would be hopeless to attempt to overcome them with fertilizers alone.

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TELLS BEST FOWL TO FATTEN

M. A. C. Poultryman Outlines Method for Economical Grate Feeding.

By C. H. BURGESS, Department of Poultry Husbandry, Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—It has always been more or less of a bone of contention among Michigan poultrymen as to what breeds and classes of fowls are best suited for fattening under Michigan conditions. Wyandottes have had their champions; other men have stood firm for Plymouth Rocks, and still others have taken oath to the superiority of Rhode Island Reds and Orpingtons. What experiments have proved is that the honors lie not with one, but with all. Birds of all sorts of these breeds, it has been found, can be fattened more rapidly and at a less cost per pound than is possible with any of the others.

It has been demonstrated beyond question also that pure-bred fowls possess the ability to lay on flesh more rapidly and economically than do cross-bred fowls.

One of the right breeds of birds, the problem confronting the poultryman is that of what to feed. In this connection, the best method is to fasten his fowls for market. Cockers and hens, when fattened as they should be, will bring the most money, and the hens will take on weight more quickly than will the cockers. Both should be in full feather when placed in crates or cages.

Where the quickest possible production of fat and flesh is aimed at, two methods are in general use. The first of these consists in confining the fowls in crates, allowing about one square foot of space per fowl. The crates can either be made at home or purchased from dealers in poultry supplies.

If a home-made crate is desired, it should be built 2 feet wide, 2 feet long, and 20 inches high. These sections can be constructed separately, or they can be joined in one long, continuous crate. Lumber 1 inch by 1 inch should be used for the slats on the bottom, top and sides. The continuous crates may be made 10 feet long, 24 inches wide and 20 inches high. If divided into five compartments, placing four fowls in each, they will hold 20 chickens each. If the crate is then set upon a couple of sawhorses and a trough is attached on the outside, so that the fowls can be fed from a trough 20 inches long, the system is complete. Batteries can be purchased, however, which will hold from 60 to 80 chickens.

By use of this method a pound of grain can be put upon a fowl at cost of from 6 to 8 cents.

In the second method the fowls are placed in a small room which can be lighted or darkened at the pleasure of the operators. The chickens should be fed regularly twice a day what they will clean up in about 20 minutes. After feeding, the room should be kept darkened so that the fowls will be quiet. Lack of exercise softens the muscles—exercise hardens them.

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Horticultural Points

MANURE GOOD FOR ORCHARDS

No Other Fertility That Will Stimulate Growth on Trees as Much as Manure

After fruit trees bear a few years, if the soil was originally thin, a dressing of barnyard manure may be needed to keep the trees in growing condition and to insure the formation of fruit buds. It will be required that the trees grow every year in order that they may form fruit buds. Since growth is necessary, nitrogen in the soil will be necessary also. Warm soil may lack available nitrogen, hence the need of barnyard manure or commercial nitrogen.

Old orchard soil may need organic matter. This may be supplied by manure also supply. There is no other fertility that will stimulate growth in trees better than barnyard manure, for it affords both organic matter and nitrogen.

In applying manure to large trees do not make the mistake of applying the manure close to the tree, around the trunk. The young roots where the plant food is to be obtained for old trees may be considerable distance from the trunk of the tree. It is a good practice to spread the manure as far away from the trunk as the branches extend, possibly farther. This will provide that the manure is above many of the roots that are to absorb plant food.

Where the quickest possible production of fat and flesh is aimed at, two methods are in general use. The first of these consists in confining the fowls in crates, allowing about one square foot of space per fowl. The crates can either be made at home or purchased from dealers in poultry supplies.

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