

angels is called a host, and a host of porpoises is called a shoal, and a shoal of buffaloes is called a herd, and a herd of children is called a troop, and a troop of partridges is called a covey, and a covey of beauties is called a galaxy, and a galaxy of ruffians is called a horde, and a horde of rubbish is called a heap, and a heap of oxen is called a drove, and a drove of blackguards is called a mob, and a mob of whales is called a school, and a school of worshippers is called a congregation, and a congregation of engineers is called a corps, and a corps of robbers is called a band, and a band of bees is called a swarm, and a swarm of people is called a crowd.

ANIMALS AND BIRDS AND TELEGRAPH POLES

When telegraph poles were first set up they had a most disquieting effect upon various species of animals. In Norway, for instance, at the time of the introduction of these useful articles, the bears were much perplexed to determine their purpose.

The Norwegian bear, hearing the moaning of the wind in the wires, such a buzzing as he had somewhere heard before, proceeded in the ursine fashion to 'put two and two together.' Such a buzzing must mean the presence of a sweet morsel; the poles must be gigantic hives; so the bear set to work to root the poles out of the ground.

The strange humming attracted the attention of the woodpeckers, which concluded that innumerable insects were concealed in these tall poles. Therefore the birds went to work to find the treasure, burrowing holes to attract the insects.

In time, however, they all became wiser, and the telegraph poles or wire came to be used by more than one species of bird as a safe place for its nest. There is a small bird of Natal that used to build its cradle-shaped nest in the branches of trees, but as soon as the telegraph wires were set up it changed the location of its housekeeping and built on the wires so that snakes could not molest its treasures.

The new position was found so secure that the bird added a second door to the nest, which had hitherto possessed only a small opening on the side farthest from the overhanging branch.

THE PARROT SCOLDED

If parrots seem ill-natured it is not always their fault. They say ill-natured things, but they say nothing that has not been taught to them. So Mrs. Watkins' parrot must not be blamed for speaking ill-naturedly to the burglar. The burglar got in Mrs. Watkins' house and was trying to steal something or other that Mrs. Watkins would have preferred to keep, and in looking around the house he woke up the parrot. You know how grumpy you feel if you are awakened before you have had enough sleep. It was just the same with the parrot, and she scolded the burglar. She told him that he was a bad man and that he must get out, and the burglar, who did not know that it was a bird that was talking to him, got out as quickly as he could. He probably thought that he had been visiting a ghost.

FAMILY FUN

An Interesting Experiment.—Spread out a cloth or napkin on the table. Place a sixpence on the cloth and over it put a glass turned upside down. You can draw the coin from beneath the glass without touching the glass or slipping anything under it. Simply scratch the cloth near the glass with the nail of the forefinger, and the elasticity of the material communicates the motion to the sixpence, which will move slowly in the direction of the finger, and finally come out entirely from beneath the glass.

The subscriptions to the Home Rule in Queensland stand at £4341, of which the sum of £4000 has been remitted to the leader of the Irish Party.

On the Land

At Addington last week there were moderate entries of stock and a good attendance. Store sheep values were firmly maintained. Fat lambs and fat sheep sold at advanced rates, and fat cattle were easier. There was practically no change in pigs, and store cattle met with an improved demand. There was also a small mixed yarding of fat sheep, the quality being mostly medium. The market opened rather firm, and prices showed an advance of fully 1s per head. The range of prices was:—Prime wethers, 17s 6d to 22s 3d; lighter, 15s to 17s; woolly ewes, 15s 10d to 18s 9d; prime shorn ewes, 16s to 20s 3d. There were 520 fat lambs penned, and they were of good quality. Owing to the small yarding there was good competition, and prices were firmer than previous week by 1s per head. There was no business done for export. The bulk of the lambs made 15s to 18s, and smaller 11s to 14s 9d. There were 250 head of fat cattle penned, of which a large portion were from the North Island. The tone of the market was easier, values ranging from 25s to 33s per 100lb. Steers made £8 17s 6d to £12 12s 6d; heifers, £5 15s to £9 7s 6d. A medium entry of fat pigs sold at about the previous week's rates, porkers if anything selling rather better. Choppers made 50s to £4 18s, large baconers, 60s to 72s; lighter, 50s to 57s 6d (equal to 5½d per lb), large porkers, 37s 6d to 47s; lighter, 30s to 35s (equal to 6d per lb).

Grease is a very common skin affection of horses, which attacks the heels and fetlocks, especially of the hind feet. It is usually due to neglect, in not keeping the feet and legs clean of mud, urine, watery dung, or leaving them to dry themselves after washing. In many cases, however, it is constitutional, and horses of a soft, sluggish temperament are predisposed to it. Old age is a contributing factor, as is also want of exercise. Exciting causes are, sudden changes of diet, improper food, too much grain food without exercise, etc. The removal of the cause, with a dose of physic, such as aloes, will usually prove effectual in this case. The inflammation of the skin is followed by an exudation of a greasy and foetid nature. By washing with soft soap, and applying an ointment of zinc sulphate and vaseline, this can usually be overcome. Sometimes the disease is so severe as to crack open the flesh, and blood oozes out. A crust then forms, and becomes painful and disagreeable. In this case a poultice of bran, or linseed, changed two or three times a day, will remove the scurvy part. At each change of poultice the part should be washed with warm water and carbolic acid. After poulticing, an ointment of four tablespoonfuls of oxide of zinc and eight tablespoonfuls of vaseline should be applied. A saturated solution of bluestone—i.e., as much bluestone as the water will take up, is a good application for indolent grease.

At the Burnside stock sales last week 272 head of cattle were yarded, this being the largest number for some considerable time past. There were no extra prime animals penned, the yarding being one of medium quality. Best quality bullocks brought up to £14 per head. The sale (says the *Otago Daily Times*) opened with prices showing a reduction of 10s per head as compared with previous sale, and as the sale progressed values receded to the extent of £1 per head. This was due to the large yarding and the fact that several of the local butchers had purchased their requirements outside, and were not operating. A total of 1692 sheep were yarded, and at the commencement of the sale there was a sharp rise of from 1s 6d to 2s per head on the previous week's prices, but the sale weakened somewhat toward the close. The bulk of the sheep were shorn. Unshorn wethers made up to 24s, shorn wethers up to 21s, and shorn ewes up to 22s. There was a yarding of 350 lambs, of fair quality, and they made up to 17s 6d per head, and although for the greater part of the sale prices showed an advance equal to 1s per head on previous sale they receded towards the close. In consequence of a small yarding, pigs brought high prices, porkers making equal to over 6d per lb.