

AGRICULTURE.

News of General Interest.

FALL PASTURING.

A good deal of care is needed in regard to the pastures at this season. It is quite within the truth to say that not a pasture field in a hundred is just what it should be at this period of the year, and that fully one half are noxious to the animals confined, and forced to pick an unwholesome subsistence, in them. The grass has either been eaten down or has been smothered by the growth of coarse weeds. The water is foul and stagnant and charged with injurious vegetation of a low order and with various kinds of decayed matter. The consequence is that the cattle suffer from indigestion and from actual starvation because their bellies are filled with herbage which is not food, if it is not positively unwholesome and the water which is drunk conveys into the blood, the germs of the most fatal disorders. All this happens in so many cases that it is a source of wonder that cattle and other animals escape disease and death as often as they do, rather than some of them fall victims of the unfortunate conditions to which they are subjected. Under these prevailing circumstances therefore we should not be surprised when we hear and read, as we surely shall, in a few weeks, that various fevers and other diseases are ripe here and there and that cattle, sheep, horses and pigs are sick and dying here and there.

The prevalent diseases of the seasons are colic among horses, impaction of the stomach; or dry murrain; black-leg or anthrax fever; splenic fever, and red water among cows; intestinal fever in sheep and the same disease in hogs which is commonly called cholera. There are other manifestations of the same class of intestinal and blood disorder produced from the same causes viz., unwholesome food, and foul water, in poor pastures where weeds of many kinds prevail, in wood lots where hard indigestible woody herbage only is afforded, and where stagnant water only is provided for drinking.

It is easy to point out an evil, but not so easy to suggest an immediate remedy. The evil is wide spread and causes severe losses among farmers who are ill able to bear them. The remedy is obvious, but in most cases wholly beyond immediate reach and remedy. It takes time to change a general system which is bad from the beginning; but it must be done sooner or later and the sooner the better. The first thing to be done is to provide some fodder crops for use at this season and keep the stock out of these objectionable fields. A great many farmers who do this, escape losses, but the evil itself goes unrepaid year after year. The root itself should be attacked. The waste lands and fields should be reclaimed, drained, cleared and seeded with good grasses and clover. This is a work of time, but if it is begun now it will be finished in due course and there is no time like the present for doing this work. A rough piece of land will make good pasture; the rocks that are too large to move may remain; the small ones will make good material for drains. Every kind of ground may be drained and freed from surface water. Hollow basins in which water gathers and becomes stagnant have been drained by means of wells dug down to gravel or sand and filled with stone; leave a heap of stone above them to mark the site. Where there is an outlet for the water of swampy meadows, the water should be led into it by means of open or blind ditches. But the first process of improvement of swamp pastures, which are the most unwholesome of all, is to get rid of the water by drainage. Then follows cutting the brush out of the roots; plowing and thorough breaking, dressing with lime and seeding. All of this work but the last, can be done at this season and through the Winter, after which the land may be made ready for seeding in the Spring.

It is advisable in such a case as this to sow grass seed alone. For the most cases mixed grasses are preferable to any one. A good mixture for a pasture is red top timothy, orchard grass, meadow fescue, tall oat grass, and if the soil is damp, fowl meadow grass should be added. 5 lbs. of each of the above, per acre, well mixed, will make a good sod and will provide a succession of pasture through the season. But no pasture alone will continue to provide good feed all through the Summer, unless it is divided and one portion left to grow until the Fall and so furnish a good bite of succulent young grass. This part of the pasture will be the first used in the Spring and when eaten down in June should be left

to grow up again for the Fall use. It is also necessary that some green fodder crops should be grown for use in August so as to give the pasture a rest. No grass will suffer constant gnawing down to the roots without being destroyed. The constant eating away of the herbage weakens and destroys the roots and the sod is killed the next Winter. So that the grass should have a rest, in the hottest part of the year and some green fodder crops grown for feeding in the meantime. Corn is the best of all fodder crops for this use and may be planted in succession so as to be fit for use from August until the frosts occur.

But something must be done now to avoid the risks and dangers while the remedy is making progress. The stock should be supplied with pure water at least. The foul mud holes should be dug out and cleaned, and the springs gathered into one clean basin which should be fenced in. A large trough outside may be filled daily. The worst of the weeds may be cut down and with the coarse herbage which may be the only provision, some rich food may be given, which will help to digest it and which will afford proper nutriment for the stock, in which the coarse dry food is deficient. The great mischief is that as this coarse fodder is so devoid of nutriment, animals are forced to consume a large quantity of it to satisfy their craving and so overload and gorge the stomachs as to cause the serious mischief. When a small quantity of rich food is given it satisfies the animal's needs and only a small quantity of the coarse herbage is eaten and this can be disposed of without injury. Linseed oil cake meal; or cotton seed meal and bran mixed in equal quantities, or corn meal, will serve this purpose to prevent mischief and avoid disease. Salt should also be given regularly twice a week and 2 ounces for a cow or ox will not be too much. Salt aids digestion, assists the action of the bowels and is antiseptic in its action and so in all these ways is most useful at this season.

PROFIT ON POULTRY.

With a daily demand for 45,000,000 in the United States, and an importation of over 50,000 dozen from Europe each week, says an exchange, while eggs brought into our large cities by farmers who have a reputation for having them strictly fresh every week are readily sold for about half a dollar a dozen, it will certainly pay to give the poultry a little extra care. Every one knows what a hen house should be—so warm that it will never freeze inside, clean, and with plenty of sunlight; but how few provide such quarters for them. There has been great improvements in the treatment of fowls within a few years past, and the time may come when the farmer who allows his hens to be out in the cold and stormy weather, and to eat snow to quench their thirst will be considered as barbarous as he who should treat his young stock in the same way, and a flock of lousy hens will be considered as disgraceful to the owner as a herd of lousy calves. Old farmers can recollect when young cattle were wintered in open sheds and fed at the straw or bog hay stock, and when the common excuse for their unthriftiness was the vermin that were on them. It was thought grand treatment enough for calves and colts, and to give them better care was pampering and spoiling their constitutions. As this has changed for the better, it may be possible to improve the condition of the poultry house, and get better treatment for their inmates.

Agricultural Notes.

The best hay and the most of it is made with clover just when it is in full bloom. Salt cures hay placed in the stack too green, principally by obstructing moisture during the process of liquefaction. If, upon weaning a calf or other young animal it is so far separated from the dam that one cannot be heard by the other, from one to three days will suffice to render them quiet. Whatever the stock, and whether breeding or feeding, the owner should remember that grass hay, and grain, liberally but not unduly allowed, must ever be the basis from which real profits are reached. A Michigan farmer tells how he manages to conquer Canadian thistles by the help of his two hundred sheep. He puts a small handful of salt on each thistle at the root. The sheep eat the thistle off close to the ground. The salting is repeated as often as may be necessary, and the thistle seldom appears the second year. To destroy vermin on fowls, take a sponge or soft rag moisten with kerosene and rub it gently over the back of neck and throat and a little under the wings and that fowl will be rid of them. Then rub the same mixture over the perches, pretty well rubbed in once a week, and they will take possession of the chicken-house. The whey that is left after making cheese is not a sufficient food by itself for pigs or calves but its deficiencies may be

supplied by the addition of some bran or shipstuffs; it is then a passable good food for pigs or swine.

An unbeliever in shoeing horses says: 'Quit shoeing your horses. A boy who goes barefoot from Spring until Fall never wears his feet out, but he would wear a pair of shoes out every four weeks. They don't shoe cows; they don't shoe dogs; still they both have good feet, as long as they live.'

Whatever may be the more profitable method to be decided each case by the market-grower, the experiment of trying the matter run and the hill system by any one who raises strawberries for family use will probably end in the adoption of plants in stools without runners. All that is necessary in the latter case is to keep the runners down during the season of growth and the next year large berries of fairly uniform size will be the result if good cultivation and rich land has been given. Begin cutting off the runners at once. Moderately matted beds often give large yields. But strawberry clumps kept free from runners, give large, luscious berries, and plenty of them.

The Mexican Government has made a contract with Mr. Oscar A. Droege to plant 2,000,000 trees in the valley of Mexico within four years. The contractor pledges himself to 80,000 ash, 35,000 willows, 120,000 poplars, 60,000 eucalytus trees, 60,000 troenosejapones, 60,000 mountain cypress cedars, 60,000 acacias, and 120,000 of miscellaneous varieties. The trees must be in plantations of from 50,000 to 100,000 each.

To protect squash vines against the root-borer, dissolve an ounce of saltpetre in gallon of water. Pour this freely on the young plants until the earth is thoroughly wet. Probably about three times will be often enough. This will make the vines grow very rapidly, and if it is supplemented with an ashes and kerosene mixture it will be almost certain to save the vines from the borers and bugs.

WANDERING WHIMSICALITIES.

The hair of a young lady in Sheffield turned white in a single night. She fell into a flower barrel.

A Paragraph in one of the daily papers headed 'Nine Lives Lost,' would indicate that somebody's cat has been killed.

A Lady asked a minister if she might pay attention to dress and fashion without being proud: 'Madam,' replied the minister, 'whenever you see the tail of a fox out of a hole, you may be sure the fire is there also.'

Magistrate.—'Why this is the tenth time you have been here since I have sat in this court?' Prisoner.—'Yes, your worship. I have the courage of my convictions.'

Judge.—'What sort of a man, now, was it whom you saw commit the assault?' Constable.—'Shure, yer honor, he was a small, insignificant creature—about your own size, yer honor?'

'Aw, my good man, what kind of residence do you think would suit me? I asked an exquisite of a house agent. After taking him in, eyeglass an all, the agent replied, 'Something like a flat, I should think, would be the most appropriate.'

'Here's your money, doll, and now tell me why your rascally master wrote me eighteen letters about that contemptible sum?' 'I'm sure I can't tell; but if you'll excuse me, sir, I guess it was because seventeen didn't fetch it.'

Tom Jones, a noted fiddler, had been engaged to play at a ball in a certain town in Maine. The day before the affair was to come off his wife died, and the managers took the liberty to secure the services of another; but Jones was on hand at the time appointed, and when they expressed surprise at seeing him there under the circumstances, he excused himself by saying: 'Waal, I thought the matter all over, and cum to the conclusion that, seeing as how Sally was no blood relation of mine, I might just as well cum and fiddle for ye.'

'My son,' he said, as he laid his hand on the head of his eldest born, 'you have now arrived at manhood's age, and it is time you mingled in the whirl of business. Here are \$20,000. Go out and make your start in life, and lay the foundations for a competence.' The son bowed his humble head and skipped with the cash. He was just in time to bet it on the presidential election, and when the result had been announced he went home to his father and said: 'Father, I have mingled with the whirl.'

'Good boy! And—' 'And I have been whirled out of every dollar of the bundle you put up for me! The mingling business doesn't suit me. Let me hang around home and learn to be a burglar.'

The Ideal Heroine.—Young author.—'My dear, I want a heroine for my new novel. She must be very talented and somewhat unconventional—in fact, very original. Can you give me an idea?' Husband.—'Certainly, love. You wish her to possess a composition of traits never before dreamed of I suppose!' 'That's it, that's it. But it must be a combination calculated to make a man love her to distraction.' 'I see. Well, in the first place, she should be literary. Of course.' 'The author of a book? Just the thing; but how shall I make her entirely different from other literary ladies? Have her look over her husband's wardrobe and sew on buttons before starting any new novels!'

Etiquette in Mexico.—Native Mexican gentleman: I deeply regret to be obliged to inform you, my dear friend, that your actions last night in the presence of that charming senorita were very rude. American visitor: You shook me. What did I do? I assure you that you that I tried my best to make a favor-

able impression on that lovely girl. In fact I am in love with her, and would not offend her for the world. Mexican; I fear you have dashed your hopes, then. She now considers you an ignorant boor, too beastly selfish to be trusted with any woman's happiness. American: Oh! it cannot be; it cannot be. What have I done? Mexican: You lit a cigar in her presence—American: But she assured me that she did not object to it. Mexican: And you smoked it to the end without—American: Without what? Tell me quickly. Mexican: Without offering her one.

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The College of St. Boniface, incorporated by an Act of Parliament, and affiliated to the University of Manitoba, is, since the 15th of August, 1885, directed by the Fathers of the Society of Jesus, under the high patronage of His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface. Its course of studies comprises the Greek, Latin, French and English languages and literature; History, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, higher Mathematics, mental Philosophy, Natural Sciences and Theology. Although chiefly intended to prepare young men for the study of the liberal professions and divinity, it is also calculated to fit them for commercial pursuits. Its large and spacious grounds, secluded from the city, offers all the advantages of a country site, and are so near the cities of St. Boniface and Winnipeg as to secure all the advantages of a town residence.

The College can accommodate a hundred students, of whom eighty may be boarders. The terms have been made as easy as possible. \$15 a month for boarding, and \$2 a month for those who take their meals in town and sleep in the college, beside a small additional fee for a few dormitory articles, of \$2 a year; the whole to be paid half yearly in advance. The uniform consists of a frock coat, with trousers, necktie and felt hat, all black. Each student is to be sufficiently provided with other articles of clothing. The discipline of the College, strict in point of morality, is, as far as possible, paternal in character. The scholastic year opens on the third Wednesday of August and ends about the 20th of June.

ST. BONIFACE, AUGUST 29TH, 1885.

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