

The Farm.

Experiments in Cattle-Feeding.

In a bullock-feeding experiment carried out by The Royal Agricultural Society at Woburn last season, as described by Dr. Voelcker in the journal of the society, the object was to test the comparative advantages of dried grains and good meadow hay as food for cattle, in addition to roots and cake. According to analysis, there was a great superiority in favor of the dried grains, weight for weight. Still, although the eight bullocks fed on grains and the eight fed on hay had all they chose to consume, with equal quantities of other food, the former, in forty days, increased in live weight only 678 pounds, as compared with a gain of 938 pounds made by the hay-fed beasts. Valuing the 52 cwt. of hay chaff at £3 5s. a ton (5s. being allowed for chaffing), and the 37 1/2 cwt. of dried grains at their cost, including carriage to the farm, at £4 8s. 3d. a ton, the hay-fed bullocks had cost 6s. 6d. more than the others, and the value of the extra meat made by them was £3 16s.

Thus it was clearly not advantageous to substitute dried grains entirely for hay. But when a ration of half hay and half dried grains was tried against hay alone, other foods being equal, the advantage was slightly in favor of the mixture, though only to the extent of about 1s. per beast. Another experiment was carried out with sheep to test the comparative feeding values of meadow hay chaff, oat-straw chaff, the two mixed equally, and dried grains. In respect of gain in live weight the sheep fed partly on hay and straw chaff did best, those on hay chaff being second, those on grains third and those on straw chaff last. The same order was shown in the financial reckoning, without allowing for manurial values of food consumed. With this allowance the hay and straw came first, grains second, hay third and straw last.—London Chronicle.

The Holsteins Threatened.

Unless the friends and breeders of Holstein cattle interpose some satisfactory objection, this meritorious breed will soon be eliminated from the herds of milk producers wherever the New York Condensed Milk Company has a factory.

This company has declared Holsteins to be deficient in butter fats, and is determined to weed them out of their herds. Any milk producer whose herd is composed largely of these cows is certain to be crossed from its list in the near future. This decision has not been reached hastily. For several years there has been the low rumble of discontent, with an occasional note of individual warning. Within three months a number of herds of large milking Holsteins have been thrown out of the Brewster factory without preliminary notice, and their owners have had to seek a market in New-York City. In the face of numberless tests inaugurated by the breeders, showing large and satisfactory secretions of butter fats, the milk producers are aggrieved at the arbitrary action taken, and are also led to doubt the sincerity of the company's discrimination.

But after due consideration, the doubt is bound to shift to the breeders and testers, and they will need to bestir themselves to prevent the substitution of thousands from other breeds where the Holsteins are now established. How the breeders shall act is for their determination, although they are certain to have the aid and sympathy of the milk producers. Let it be understood that the State test and factory test are not, or may not be, the same. The company is not bound by any statutory test, having a test suited to its own idea of what the standard should be.

It might be wise for the breeders to visit each factory and examine the tests there made of Holstein herds. In that way they will be able to ascertain the standard to which they must bring their breed, or yield to the inevitable in having their "dreams in black and white" swept from a thousand fields in this State alone. The action of the New-York Condensed

Milk Company is likely to be followed by other milk companies, for this company sets the pace, and the Holsteins will be relegated to the shambles, or to the beef sections of the West, where they will be outclassed by breeds already on the ground.—Brook Farm, in Country Gentleman.

The Bacon Hog.

On the bacon question the writer has had no two opinions for a long season. It has been my settled conviction for years past that the transformation of the lard hog into the bacon hog was only a question of time, even in the corn belt. This conviction is based on experience. Our American breeders deserve great credit for evolving several breeds of hogs of great excellence, so far as easy keeping qualities are concerned, but in an overanxiety to get these easy feeding qualities they have so far overstepped the mark that they have impaired stamina and also the breeding qualities of their favorites, and to so great a degree have they done this that the profits from swine husbandry are becoming much less than they would otherwise be. These waning properties must be restored, and in restoring them the evolution found necessary will result in the production of the bacon hog. The American farmer will further be compelled to grow this animal because of the sensible growing demand for leaner meat.

In my experience in growing the bacon hog I have found both the Tamworth and the Improved Yorkshire breeds possessed of a high adaptation for the same. All-in all, I have obtained the most satisfactory results from the Improved Yorkshire, but the number of these experimented with has been larger. Bacon hogs, however, may be grown in good form from Berkshire, Cheshire, Chester White, Duroc-Jersey and even from Poland China blood, through a proper system of breeding and feeding, but this cannot in all instances be done with some of those breeds just at once. Some time must elapse before the resultant change would be made. A quick way of making it would be to secure Yorkshire and Tamworth sires, if they could be got, and to cross them upon the sows of the grades of those breeds. If the farmers of the corn belt only knew what they would gain by this cross they would never again say an unkind word about Improved Yorkshire and Tamworth swine.—Professor Thomas Shaw in Nebraska Farmer.

There are circumstances in which the common verdict of mankind would be one of stern judgment upon a man who simply—did nothing. A building is on fire. A passer-by discovers a volume of black smoke or a tongue of flame bursting through a window. He knows that the upper stories of the building are tenanted, and that there are probably men and women asleep in it, all unconscious of their peril. He gives no alarm. He makes no effort to save either the property or the sleeping inmates. He simply keeps on his way. Does not society justly hold up such a man for reprobation? It condemns him for—doing nothing. And what shall we say of Christian people who, living in a world where moral and spiritual need appeals to them on every hand, and men around them are in direst peril, sound no alarm and offer no relief? There will surely be sore judgment at the last day for the "do-nothings." Inasmuch as ye did it not.—Baptist Union.

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