

**Stall-feeding Cattle.**

SIR,—I wish you to give in your paper an article on stall-feeding cattle—as to what they are fed on, and how often; whether fed on hay or straw, or both; how often and when fed on turnips, cut or whole; how often on provender, and what quantity and quality, also whether watered; and how much to each animal? These questions are of the greatest importance to us farmers just now, as we look to stall-fed cattle as the mainstay of our prospects, and as furnishing the best means of marketing our wools and rough grains. Our trade with England in cattle is now firmly established, and I think an article on the subject would be a benefit to farmers generally.

R. Y. G., March P. O.

["On what are fattening cattle fed?" The Canadian farmer must rely principally, if not wholly, on the products of his farm for stock feeding and fattening, and herein lies a source of his profit. The English stock-raiser imports food from foreign countries. This he is enabled to do by the brisk demand for meat in the home market. Our distance from the best market, and the lower prices we consequently obtain, make it necessary for us to be more economical. We can, however, raise on our own soil what is needed—hay, straw, grain and roots are at our disposal at first cost, and linseed meal and cake, products of the flax, we can have if we will. Good beef for the English market may be fed on well-saved hay and turnips.—this is the result of our own experience. The better the condition of the animal when taken from the pasture to stall-feeding, so much the less time and food will be required for finishing them. We have always found it profitable to add to their food—during the last few weeks of their fattening—some grain and linseed cake. The quantity of food daily given varies with the size and quality of the animal, and no general rule would be applicable in all cases. Fully as much of fattening, and the profit therefrom, depends on the care of cattle. The feeding-house should be kept dry and warm, their food must be given regularly, and its ingredients changed if the animals do not relish the food given; and it will be found profitable to add to its richness as the animal-fattening draws to a close. It is only a well-bred animal which can make full use of liberal feeding and leave a fair average profit. Fattening cattle, fed liberally on good food, having a moderate proportion of grain, hay or straw, with roots, will on the average consume twelve or thirteen pounds of the dry substance of such mixed food for one hundred pounds live weight during the week, and should give one pound of increase for twelve to thirteen pounds so consumed. An experienced feeder in England had a lot of small cattle fed on 50 pounds of pulped turnips, 2 pounds of rape cake and 20 pounds of cut wheat-straw daily, and they thrived well. It is asked, Does stall-feeding pay? Yes, if the conditions given above be complied with. They pay for the food used and a fair profit; but the great profit is from the increased fertility of the farm produced by the very rich manure made by the fattening cattle.]

**Killing Seed Wheat With Pickle.**

Last spring I had some seed wheat that was foul with seeds, light wheat and oats, and in order to take out the same I made the pickle as strong as I could make it with cold water and salt. I then swam the wheat and left it in the pickle over night, and then took it out and dried with wood ashes. I then left it four days before sowing. I examined it twice to see if it was heating, and thought it strange that there was no sign of heat about it. I then had it sown, and after eight or ten days went to see how it was coming on, and found that there was no sign of it growing, for I had completely killed it with salt and ashes. I write this to let others see what too much salt and ashes did for me.

N. S., St. Croix, N. S.

**"Rinderpest at Washington" a Mistake.**

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to correct a mistake which has crept into the January number of the ADVOCATE? The article in the New York Tribune, for which I must assume all responsibility, does not assert the existence of the Rinderpest around Washington, but an unfortunate play upon the word "Rinderpest," the primary meaning of which is "a cattle plague," has apparently conveyed a wrong impression on a cursory reader. A second reading of the article in question will show you that care was taken to avoid this error. The sufferers around Washington called it the Rinderpest, and Mr. Graves enquired as to the correctness of this designation. The answer was: "This is undoubtedly 'a Rinderpest' (cattle plague), but not 'the Rinderpest' (Russian Cattle Plague)." Then it goes on to state that it is "the Common Bovine Lung Plague of Europe." In other words, it is what is known in Great Britain as the "Contagious Pleuro-Pneumonia of Cattle," which has prevailed in some of our Eastern States unintermittingly since its first importation in 1843. The farmers of Canada need be under no increased apprehensions as to any probable invasion of this disease. At the present time it probably does not exist further north than the environs of New York city, whereas on different occasions during the last thirty-six years it has invaded the New England States, thereby approaching into far closer and more dangerous proximity to the Canadian frontier. At present, therefore, its restriction to a few of the Middle Atlantic States only, gives a better guarantee of immunity than could have been offered on many past occasions, and unless a current of live stock commerce should set in towards Canada from New York and the Atlantic coast southward, the farmers of the Dominion need be under no apprehensions.

On the other hand, the existence of such a disease, even in the Eastern States, is a constant threat to the great stock interests of the west, and the United States are called upon by every consideration of self-interest and foresight to root out such a baneful possession, and not bequeath to future times a legacy which cannot fail to become increasingly disastrous and ruinous. As for Canada, she is not in the line of any cattle traffic from the infested districts, and can only be endangered by the importation of high class cattle from the area of contagion. By a careful avoidance of such imports the Dominion will safely protect her herds until the contagion reaches our Western States. Should the United States Government prove so shortsighted as to permit of such an extension, it will then be imperative on your Administration to close the frontier against all United States cattle and whatever may have been in contact with them. Until then you have only to avoid a narrow strip of our Eastern seaboard from New York city south—a district from which nothing but high-class breeding cattle would be drawn to Canada. Yours, etc., JAMES LAW, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

[See reply in editorial column.—Ed.]

SIR,—In looking over the January number of your journal I saw an enquiry about a sick cow. I have cured three cows affected in the same way by giving them about two pails of fresh churned buttermilk pretty warm, as soon as possible after it was churned. Old buttermilk is of no use. Fresh churned buttermilk causes fermentation at once and carries off the trouble.

I recommended it to a neighbor who had a cow sick for ten days, she would not eat a mouthful or chew her cud; they had no hopes of saving her, but tried this remedy, and before 24 hours she was all right. I think if Mr. W. B. had tried it he would have saved his cow. I think with you that enemas of strong soap-suds would assist, and could not injure.

I cured a young foal by using enemas of very strong soap-suds (it had not had a passage for a week). After a veterinary surgeon had tried his skill and failed, he said he thought there was some obstruction.

I often think simple remedies succeed the best, and are not so likely to injure afterwards.

C. W., Binbrook, Ont.

[Many thanks to our fair correspondent for her communication. We will be glad to hear from her at any time. Her remedy is simple, practical and easy of application.]

**Scabby Stock.**

I bought a high-bred Shorthorn bull two years ago, and nine of my calves are very scabby around the neck and head, some scabs being as large as a penny. There were some on the bull, but they are dry and scaly. If you know of anything to cure them please inform me in your next issue.

J. H.

[Your calves are troubled with a disease of a scrofulous nature. It has been transmitted from your bull, and can be cured by the following preparation: Take one ounce of corrosive sublimate and dissolve in twelve ounces of alcohol; dress the part affected once a day with a piece of sponge for about a week; use a salve on the part once a day made of sulphur one part and lard six parts. You will give the calves some laxative medicine, and be careful in regard to their food—not giving them any of a heating nature.]

**Ground Rye for Feed.**

SIR,—Please give me your opinion of ground rye as feed for colts. I have been feeding my yearling and two-year-old colts on ground rye and cut cornstalks dry, and they seem to be doing well. I have been told by some parties that it would ruin them. By answering the above in your next number you will greatly oblige.

Mountain View, Ont.

[We would not advise you to continue to feed ground rye alone with cut cornstalks. We would give a change of some other kind of food; one feed of ground rye a day would be advisable, as it has a tendency to make fat, but we think it too heating a food to continue with young horses.]

**"Side Bone."**

SIR,—Can you tell me the best means to cure a side bone on a horse's foot? Can the extra growth be taken off or not?

Varna P.O., Co. Huron.

[Side bone is a conversion into osseous or bony structure of the cartilages attached to the wings of the coffin-bone. It is a disease very common to heavy horses, and frequently causes lameness. The enlargement cannot be removed; it may be reduced some by a course of blistering, or in old cases it might be well to have recourse to the firing-iron and blister afterwards. Ossified cartilage is incurable. No drugs can force nature to restore the cartilage once ossified into that soft and pliable form that nature made it.]

SIR,—Being a new subscriber to your paper, I want to know what is the first cause of smut in wheat, that is, when we sow good clean seed, what causes smut in the following crop? My opinion is that it is caused by a kind of fungus in the land, that attaches itself to the wheat when sprouting to grow. Others are of a different opinion. Please state what is the best preventative and also the cause.

[Smut is of the genus of parasitic fungi that contains some of the most deleterious parasites which affect especially those grasses which are cultivated for the nutriment of man and domestic animals. Those species which affect cereals are all of a dingy tint and of very simple structure. Smut is a parasite that fastens upon the grain in the ear just after the bloom is past, and it changes the filling ear into a mass of blackish dust. This parasite is produced from very small seeds or spores that adhere to the seed grain, and in some unaccountable way ascends to the heads of grain (wheat, barley, oats or corn) and there grows and consumes the vitality of the immature grain. The most important question for farmers is how to destroy this pest. Immersion in a solution of blue vitriol, arsenic and corrosive sublimate are recommended for this purpose. But a simpler, safer, and equally efficacious remedy is common salt. It is well known that salt is a destroyer of all fungoid life, and that by steeping seed for a short time in strong brine the vitality of the spores is destroyed. Prepare a strong brine, steep the seed grain in it for twenty or thirty minutes, then throw it on the barn floor and mix it with air-slaked lime. The lime will dry the seed for sowing, and also preserve it from diseases and cutworms and invigorate its growth. A couple of days on the floor will dry it and prepare it for the sower.]

S. J., Ravenna, Ont.