

classes of cattle, sheep, and hogs run too lean as others run too fat; and it having been proved that when corn is abundant and cheap tallow and corresponding weight is put on cheaper than muscle or flesh, breeds and races of the latter characteristics have been chosen to multiply from in preference to the former. This the consumer appears to have found out, and in the future will demand that his beef, mutton, and pork shall have a due proportion of lean to fat, whether in steak, chop, joint, or roast.

VALUE OF A BARN CELLAR.

W. C. French in *New England Farmer*.

I built a barn cellar four years ago, and have practised ploughing late in the fall all my ground that had been in corn, and applying manure at the rate of twenty-five two-horse loads to the acre, on the snow, and in the spring, as soon as the ground will pulverize nicely, I put on the wheel harrow, lapping it half both ways. Then sow oats, from 2½ to 3 bushels per acre; then use a fine tooth harrow both ways; then sow grass seed and work it in with a smoothing boat or drag, which I made at a small cost, which is as good on land free from stones as a roller that would cost ten times as much. I find I get better oats and a better catch of seed this way than when I draw the manure in the spring, to say nothing about the diminished expense of drawing on a sleigh in winter as compared to on a wagon in spring, when the mud is half way to the hub and cutting the meadow up so badly. I do not think there is any appreciable waste, as when there is a thaw the ground will receive the strength of the manure so it will be ready to be taken up by the growing plants. All farmers ought to have a cellar so as to save all the manure, and by cementing the bottom, and by using absorbents, such as loam, muck, leaves, or sand, they can enlarge the manure pile and grow more crop on the farm. The farmers' motto should be "Make all the manure possible and save all that is made." In a future letter I may give you the plan of my barn, which many say is the best they have seen, also some of my experience in feeding for milk and raising vegetables.

A GOOD WORD FOR THE GURNSEYS.

Thos. M. Harvey in *Chicago Breeders' Gazette*.

I have had Guernsey cattle in use for about twenty-five years. At first they were called Alderneys, but now we know them to trace to the Biddle importation of 1840. I was early convinced of their utility, and have added to my stock until I now have about eighty head. I have some Jerseys and have had Shorthorns, and know something by comparison. In the Guernsey we have nearer the universal cow than any other. Her grade veals are good; the butchers like them; have known them to dress 195 pounds at from six to eight weeks old.

We are eating Guernsey beef this winter. Our local butchers try to serve the best of beef, but they have not been able to give us so tender, juicy, and high-flavored beef as we are having in Guernseys. Many of our cows gross 1,200 to 1,300 pounds, so we can count upon the surplus grade bull calves making or growing into good and sizable beeves.

Then for cows, they come nearer perfection than any other; they are gentle and kind, not nervous and timid; rich mellow skin; usually large and well-developed teats and bag; the milk undisputed for richness, and for rich milk

the quantity is quite satisfactory. Many of the cows give twenty quarts per day when at their best, and they continue to milk well up to calving—some of them difficult to dry off. I cannot say so much of any other cow. But the chiefest merit of this breed, or its greatest utility to our country, will be in using thoroughbred bulls of this stock on the best common cows. This will produce a class of cows for our dairies, for size, hardiness, quantity and quality of produce, that will add greatly to the value of the products of our country.

BLACK POLLED CATTLE IN COLD WEATHER.

G. B. Allen, writing in the *Kansas Cowboy*, says:—"Many are watching with great interest the steady onward march of those noble bovines of color. I believe the Missouri gentlemen was correct when he said, 'The black cattle will take the country as the black hogs have.' Fifteen years ago black hogs were being introduced into Kansas, and now no other kind has hardly been seen for more than five years. The progress of the cattle must necessarily be much slower, they not being so prolific as the hog. I sincerely hope, however, that the colored man will not make such successful progress. Black cattle, black hogs, and black men would darken the prospects of the country they clouded. Let us stop with cattle and hogs. I rejoice to see the black muleys adorned with the many blue ribbons which they have been receiving of late and which they so well deserve. The sweepstakes prize won at the Kansas City Fat Stock Show last November by the Aberdeen-Angus heifer (Bride) for best dressed carcass, and the sweepstakes prizes won recently at the World's Fair at New Orleans by the three-year-old Galloway steer, when we consider their competitors, was a grand victory for the muleys. Happier, more contented, independent, devil-may-care sort of beings never lived. Twenty degrees below zero don't freeze them. They take on fat as readily as the slow and easy fat and greasy happy-go-lucky sort of people who laugh and grow fat. No one ever saw a black muley look sad; not even when he was being separated from his kin folks to be taken miles away never to see them again. Being without weapons, nothing fears him. Judging others as harmless as himself, he fears nothing. Further I would say that the black muley is the most cheerful, substantial, good-natured, contented, companionable bovine that your correspondent has ever had the fortune to form an acquaintance with, and I would rather feed one of them than a thousand long-horns."

SWISS COWS.

A correspondent of the (English) *Live Stock Journal* writes:—

"I notice that one or two of your readers have asked questions with regard to the value of Swiss cows, and that in the issue of February 13th 'Young Farmer' asked if they are imported weekly into England, and, if so, at what ports, or if they are exhibited in the markets for sale? In the first place it may be stated that, as France, Germany, Holland, and Belgium are included in the Contagious Diseases Act, no cattle can be imported from any one of those countries, through one of which at least Swiss cattle would, of course, have to pass. I have bred Swiss cattle for several years, and have made one large importation during that time. I may add, that permission is sometimes given by the Government for the importation of cattle for exhibition, in which case it is necessary for them to undergo quarantine.

"I have found these cattle very deep milkers, and at the present moment I have one which, with her first calf, gave 22 quarts of milk daily, and made 1 lb. of butter to 10 quarts. Several others gave with their first calf from 14 to 18 quarts daily, and some were equally good butter-makers; but, as a rule, the Swiss are not better for butter than the Shorthorn. They are big beasts, with the hardest possible constitution, and will eat the coarsest herbage. In Switzerland they seldom get anything but grass and hay, roots being almost unknown, and meal or cake feed quite out of the question with the Swiss farmer. I have seen hundreds of cows in Switzerland who gave over 20 quarts of milk per day, and very many which approached 30; in fact, deep milkers are quite common. I know of no other Swiss cattle in the country besides those of the Duchess of Marlborough, which were recently sold by auction, the majority going to a noble relative of the Duchess. Among these were two or three which gave 28 quarts daily, and one was second for the milking prize at the Birmingham Dairy Show, where she gave something like this quantity of milk. The Swiss are splendid feeders, and are grand beef-making beasts.

"I hope to get permission to make another importation this summer, and should be happy if either of your correspondents would join me."

FARM HORSES AND WINTER LEISURE.

From the (Chicago) *National Live Stock Journal*.

Farmers seem to regard the winter as an important season of rest for their teams. They think the leisure of winter adds to the health and years of endurance of their horses. Is this opinion well founded? If they gave any regular exercise every day, no matter how light, the exemption from hard work might well be considered as beneficial, but a change from labor to inactivity is anything but promotive of health. Horses regularly and properly fed, with regular, but not excessive work, will hold the most uniform health and capacity for work.

It is nothing unusual for farmers to keep horses in the stable for weeks without any exercise whatever, except walking a few rods to water. It was formerly surprising to us to find so large a proportion of farm teams unsound in some particular, although their labor had been comparatively light. It could not be laid to overfeeding—this is an error seldom committed, as they are most frequently put upon a hay and straw diet, and they come through the winter in so thin a condition that a few weeks of grain feeding is required before spring work begins. It would be much better for their teams if they had a reasonably nutritious diet and steady, moderate, work in winter. Few farmers properly estimate the cost of their teams remaining idle fully half the year to secure the labor of the other half. How would they like to board their men for a year and get their labor only six months? They would probably appreciate the point in this case, but they do not seem to see any want of economy in that practice with horses. But this is one of the great wastes on the farm, and when properly examined will be found to be bad for the horses, as well as bad economy. Horses should be so wintered as to be ready for vigorous work in spring.

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