

But about this question of fallows, Mr. Henry Stewart does not agree with Sir John Lawes; he says that summer-fallowing is of the greatest benefit to land; whereupon a correspondent of the Country Gentleman is anxious to have these opposing views reconciled. The solution of the question seems simple enough: No one would dream of summer-fallowing light land; frequent ploughing and stirring such soil would make it what farmers in my country call dead, i. e., too loose to afford good root-hold to the plants. Besides, there would be necessarily a great loss of profitable time in letting land lie idle that would grow a good crop of roots or of corn. Land too heavy for roots might be sown with fodder-corn, tares, or rape, for sheep-feed or for mowing green for cattle or horses: in fact, do anything rather than fallow land, unless it is so foul that there is no other mode of cleaning it.

The answer to the question by the editor of the C. G., who is always strictly non-committal, is: "This question involves several different considerations, and for this reason causes conflicting opinions with different persons. There are some soils where a mere exposure to light and air may be useful, and others, again, where there would be a positive loss. But the subject has not been sufficiently investigated by accurate experiment to point out what soils would be thus affected, and arbitrary opinion would not be of much value." No, I should think not; but the writer should really know something of what has been going on at Rothamsted for the last forty years, and not the least of Lawes' results has been that unmanured fallows are a waste of time and labour.

Hay making.—I do hope that the farmers of this vicinity are not taken as examples of good haymakers. Most, if not all, of the hay here has been allowed to die on foot, has been mown, and carted without being even once turned—it is as yellow as straw. Hay is, or ought to be, grass dried in the shade; the shade being afforded by the constant exposure of new surfaces to the air acting as a protection to the under parts from the piercing rays of the sun. A dull time with a good breeze makes far better hay than a bright, sunny time and still weather. The subjoined extract, from the Country Gentleman, is correct in every respect, except that it forgets to mention that if the tedder is used at all for clover, it should only be worked with the back action. For myself, I prefer getting clover into "wind-rows" as soon as possible, turning them carefully, and putting them into cock as soon as both sides are wilted a little. Keep the leaf on the stems, whatever you do, and if you have to stack anything out of doors, let it be the clover.

There can be no question as to the value of the hay tedder in the farmer's meadow. It will repay its cost and the labor of using it, and return an ample profit in the better quality of the hay produced. The great trouble is that so many farmers in every State and county either persistently forget, or do not in fact know, that hay is *dried* grass, and from year to year they allow their timothy and other grasses to ripen and die in their meadows before cutting. Very little curing is then needed; cut it down in the morning, and house it in the afternoon. It is dry before it falls, and no tedder can be of any use. Many a farmer will tell you that he waits to cut his grass until he can do this very thing. It saves so much trouble in mowing, and escapes bad weather, he says. His father "allers" did so. You cannot convince him that his hay is inferior, hard, woody, devoid of substance—dead grass instead of dried grass. You cannot make him see that it is not green in color when put in the mow like his neighbor's. He does not notice that it lacks the sweet odor that new-mown hay ought to possess, nor will he admit that his cattle leave much of the hard stalks in the manger; but he often wonders why an immenso load of his hay weighs so

"plaguey" little. You argue with him, and he finally trots out his other reason for cutting late. The timothy seed drops and renews the meadow from year to year, he says. So it is easy to understand why the tedder is not used more universally than it is." C. G.

Above all things, cut your clover in time. There was a remarkably fine piece of new grass close by my house, this year, in which the clover had failed except on one patch of about four acres. On this patch, there was very little timothy visibly, but the clover was grand, and fit to mow on the 16th June. I mentioned this to the farmer, but he replied, "Oh I haven't time to attend to a patch like that;" and it was not till three weeks afterwards that the meadow was cut! What was the consequence? The mower sliced off the heads of the clover and about ten inches of the stalk, the remainder of which, *kneaded down*, was left on the land: the heads, and the stems without a leaf, were all that saw the barn. On the same farm, a piece of timothy, by no means a heavy crop though a fair one, was cut on Saturday, July 23rd—three weeks too late—lay out in those broiling days the 24th and 25th; and was carried, without having turned even once, on Tuesday evening. If this is the way to make hay, I know nothing about it!

Statistics of English prize-farms.—The amount of stock kept on the best managed farms in England will seem astonishing to many of my readers when they see this article. I condense it from the reports of the judges commissioned by the R. A. S. to inspect the farms entered in the annual competitions in the years 1885 and 1886:

Stapleford farm, near Chester—tenant, John Lea; 280 acres, of which 104 are arable.

Stock=91 Shorthorn cows, sales of dairy products=£27 a head=£135.00 x 91=£12,285.00; purchased food—cake, bran, corn-meal, brewers grains=£322/1.00

Arable land; sales=£1,550=£7,750.00.

Rent, tithes, poor-rates=£697=£3,485.00=about \$12 an acre.

Manure bought=19½ tons bonedust; cost £122=£610.00; and a ton of guano=£13. 10=£67 00.

Labour cost £410=\$2,050.00=\$8.00 an acre.

Cheese in the year mentioned, sold for an average of 73s. 6d. per Cheshire cwt.=120 lbs.=14½ cents a pound.

A pretty profitable investment of capital, in spite of the bad times of which we hear so much. The fact is, that farmers in the grass-districts are having a very fair time of it, and Mr. Lea's occupation is *farmed*, and the first prize was duly awarded to him.

Such a lot of implements in the shed: four carts; one liquid manure do; two sets of drag-harrows; one grain-drill; one double-row turnip-do; one clover-seed do; one clod-crasher; flat-roller; 3 two-horse ploughs; 1 one-horse plough; two drill-ploughs; one four-furrow drill coverer; chain-harrows; horse-hoe; mowing-machine; reaper; hay-tedder; and 2 horse-rakes; and three pairs of "very good farm-horses" to work them.

I have to observe that on all the farm-prizes—except one on which Suffolk-Polls are kept—no other breed but the shorthorn is to be found. On the second prize-farm of Mr. Parton, the liquid manure from the cow houses drains into a ditch, whence it is carted over the lower meadow, and as liquid manure is not a perfect dressing, 5 cwt. of bones are given every three years to the land to which the liquid is applied.

Of dairy-farms under 100 acres the one that gained the first-prize is in the occupation of Mr. Ed. G. Hothersall=57 acres, all in permanent grass, of which 39 acres are mown