

Economy Upon the Farm.

BY W. H. V.

There is no direction of farm economy more important than economy in fertilizing material; not that it should be spared in its application, but that all should be saved for use. There are so many ways in which loss in this line occurs that many farmers hardly realize it. In case of a family of considerable size, unless proper precautions are taken to prevent, there is considerable loss from a want of care of contents of privies; and while but a part of a load would be made when neglected, if provision is made for the storage and use of a sufficient quantity of dry earth, muck, chip-dirt, or some other efficient absorbent, one or two cart loads of fertilizer of the most excellent quality could be made. The mode of procedure is to use a sufficient quantity of the absorbent to perfectly deodorize the whole and absorb all the liquid portions which would otherwise evaporate, carrying essential salts with the moisture.

In this way a considerable quantity of fertility may be accumulated which is nearly or quite as valuable as guano or superphosphate.

Again, another direction of loss lies in the waste of any animal substance that is contained in animals that sicken and die or are accidentally killed. In all such cases the carcass of the animal should be made to form a compost. Otherwise there is a great loss of nitrogenous matter that should go to form plant structure.

At a meeting of the Columbia, Conn., Farmers' Club, Mr. Royal A. Thompson described his mode of proceeding in such cases: "Having removed some large rocks from his land, he reserved the cavity formed by the removal of one as a sort of pit, and if any animal died or was accidentally killed, the carcass was deposited in the pit, and then covered with earth. If any small animal upon the farm, such as woodchucks, skunks, or any other kind of carcass comes to hand, it is added to the deposit with more earth; during the season the process of putrefaction goes on and all the gases are absorbed by the earth, and by the end of the year everything has decomposed except the bones. The whole is shoveled out, (the bones thrown to one side) and makes an excellent compost material for use upon any crop."

For the further reduction of the bones his practice is to pound them to pieces, and for every one hundred pounds of bone he uses twenty-five pounds of crude potash, putting the bones in an iron kettle and using the potash with water enough to cover the bones; in this way they are so cut and eaten by the potash as to be reduced to the consistency of soft soap, and are dried for use by the use of dry charcoal dust. Mr. Thompson considers the product thus obtained much more valuable than any superphosphate that he can buy in the market.

Every farmer can accumulate more or less bones every year, and by the mode described can make his bone manure by saving the bones which are very generally thrown away.

The cases named are a very few of the many that occur with every farmer, and by the exercise of proper economy may be turned to valuable account in adding to the fertility of the farm and increasing its productiveness.

The invention of self-binding harvesters in the United States has not yet been perfected. It requires improvement before it can be brought into general use. It is found necessary to do away with unannealed wire for tying. It is found that in many instances pieces of the wire bands get eaten by cattle with the straw; nor is this all. Millers complain that small pieces of wire get broken up with the grain. The wire passing through the mill clogs up the stones. In a convention of Illinois millers a resolution was passed recommending the discontinuance of the use of wire binders.

Economy in Feeding Hogs.

The necessity of practising great economy in feeding hogs is shown by the present market price of pork. Farmers complain that there is a dead loss in the sale of every hundred of pork at the ruling prices. The state of the markets is plainly seen in the market note of Chicago, taken from the *Prairie Farmer*, December 7.

HOGS.—Never but once before have the receipts been exceeded in the history of the trade at this point: that was for the week ending Dec. 15, 1877, when the arrivals reached 230,912 head. The total receipts for the past month were about 908,000 head. Business opened actively and continued so throughout the week, with prices showing but slight fluctuations. The weather has been cool and favorable, and packers have stood ready to take the hogs as fast as received; so urgent has been the demand from that source that of the entire receipts barely 15,000 head fell into the hands of shippers. The quality of the hogs was good, showing almost daily improvement.

There is a demand in the market for all the pork offered for sale, though the supply has increased from year to year, till it has become enormous—nearly eight hundred and eighty thousand in Chicago alone in the month of January. For all there has been a demand, but is the price such as to remunerate hog-raisers? There is little prospect of higher prices in the future. The constantly increasing growing of corn in the prairie States is accompanied with an equally great increase in hog-raising, and a glutted market always implies low prices. The State of Iowa alone, it is said, now has four millions of hogs.

With prices so much lower than in former years, and little prospect of higher prices, it is a pertinent question if three dollars, the average price in the pork markets, will pay hog-raisers, and what is the most economical system of hog-raising? Feeding with corn or peas during the whole time of their growth, as well as while fattening, is too expensive.

The hog is an omnivorous animal, and lives and thrives on pasture. In some countries hogs are fed almost wholly on clover during the summer. An acre of clover is equal in feeding capacity to 100 bushels of corn. A field or paddock should be sown with clover as early in spring as the state of the ground will permit, and the young pigs turned into it about the first of June. From that time till October they will require of other food very little, if any. On this pasture they will not merely live, they will thrive well and be in good condition to put into the fattening pen by the first of October, and they can be fattened for the market before the very cold weather sets in. The great economy of this early fattening is known to all hog-raisers.

A hogshedd or other large vessel may be sunk in a corner of the hog-pasture and kept partly filled with water, with corn meal mixed, and whey or buttermilk to be supplied daily to the hogs in the troughs. To this let salt be regularly added. Thus liquid food will give the grazers a better appetite, and will add to their growth and good condition. By this means their feeding for five months will cost little.

Not only is clover pasture the best and most economical feeding for store hogs, but there is also another profit in the fertilizing the pasture-lands for succeeding crops. It would be doubly enriched by the hogs' manure and the clover, and if we are to raise very heavy crops of potatoes, it will be on the clover paddock that has been pastured by hogs.

At the present price of pork such a mode of feeding is the only one that would pay any profit. By feeding none but well-bred hogs, that mature early and fatten on little, can Canadian farmers compete in the market with the hog-raisers of the vast prairie lands of the West. Let those who have had no experience of clover for feeding hogs sow a paddock this spring for the purpose. The profit to be reaped from it has been long known in other countries.

Hardy Winter Apples.

That Canada is well adapted for fruit growing has been fully proved by the experience of some years; this is especially so with regard to apples and all hardier varieties of fruit. But we must in selecting fruit trees, bear in mind the extremes of heat and cold to which our country is subject. We are strangers here to the mild, equable temperature of the British Isles; hence the necessity of our selecting the hardier varieties. Fortunately, however, the hardy varieties (ironclad as they are sometimes called) embrace some of the best apples grown. Great efforts are made in the northern United States to procure and introduce for general culture new varieties of hardy winter apples. Professor Budd, of the Iowa Agricultural College, contributes to the college quarterly an interesting article on some of the most promising new varieties of winter apples that are now growing in the experimental nursery there. They are all, he says, free growers; have marked traces of the Russian type of apple in leaf, bud and style of growth, and all of them are well-ripened. Some of the specimens, he adds, have been grown in that State, some of them in Wisconsin, and others in Canada. Such experiments, and the introduction of varieties of fruit trees adapted to a climate so similar to that of Canada, must be of interest to us, scarcely second to that of fruit growers where the experiments are tried. Some apples of Russian origin, and some that have had their origin within our own Dominion, have been favorably known and an addition to them of others as hardy, or perhaps hardier, will be a boon to the growers and purchasers of fruit. Of one Canadian variety Prof. B. says:—

ST. HILAIRE.—This is a Canadian seedling of the Fameuse, and much like it in tree and fruit, except that the fruit is larger and free from tendency to scab. Last winter we kept beautiful specimens until the middle of February. It is certain to prove as hardy as Fameuse.

Notes.

In barley, more than any other grain, there is an extraordinary difference in the prices of the highest and lowest grades. The area adapted to produce barley No. 1 is limited; and not only soil and climate but also a due preparation of the soil, and harvesting when the crop is at the suitable state of maturity are all needed to produce the best sample. In Chicago at a recent date the range for samples on track was from 35c. to 95c. per bushel.

The very great difference in the range of price is on doubt to be attributed partly to the soil on which samples were grown; but still more must be owing to culture and due care. To both these causes the superiority of Canadian barley to that grown in the bordering States must be attributed. In New York, in December, when the trade in barley was reported quiet, two-rowed States was selling at 78c. and ungraded Canadian at \$1.10 per bushel. How much more profitable would it have been for the grower of barley of very low quality to feed it to stock than to sell it for 35c. per bushel.