

Wheat and Rye for Hogs.

Professor W. A. Henry, of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment station, gives the following suggestions in regard to the comparative feeding value of rye and wheat for hogs:—

"In all my writing where comparisons are used I wish to be understood as referring to the grains by their actual weight, not by bushel measure. The comparison is, therefore, pound for pound.

"If we were asked to state which was the best food for man—meat, bread or potatoes—it would be impossible to name any one of the three definitely and without qualification. It is reasonable to suppose that though a man might live upon meat only for some time, yet after awhile he would have an intense craving for other food—kinds which probably did not contain so much nourishment, and yet for which he had an intense longing. The chemist may find in the meat all of the elements for nourishing the human body, yet the demands of the stomach would not be satisfied with what the chemist announced. It is much the same with our farm stock, and experience shows that our animals do far better upon two or more kinds of feed than upon a single variety. Here at the West corn is so cheap that we have gradually come to feel that there is little need of feeding anything else. The evil effect of exclusive corn feeding is soon apparent, however, and feeders are forced to drift away from it and furnish variety, or suffer serious loss from disease, small litters of pigs, those with little vitality, etc.

"I have no fault to find with corn. It is our best single feed, and we must always use it for the main part of the ration with hogs; indeed, we cannot make cheap pork without it, but it must be supplemented with other kinds of feed for pigs and shoats up to the time of fattening, when, if necessary, it can be used nearly or quite alone, though even then I believe a little other feed for variety will prove highly profitable. Shorts is one of the best feeds to mix with corn for swine, because it contains much of the protein portion of the wheat grain. When wheat is cheap, as has been the case for some time past, then feed the wheat for variety.

"Rye differs a little from wheat in its chemical composition, being a little poorer in protein. It may be regarded, however, as having about the same value for the feeding of swine as wheat, and should be used in the same way. There have been complaints that rye poisoned hogs, but I cannot see why there is any reason for such a conclusion. Others reported excellent results. Rye is used by millions of people for human food, and has been extensively fed to stock both in this country and abroad. I think the feeder who tries feeding a mixture of rye and corn or wheat and corn against against corn alone will soon see the great advantage in the mixture in both the rate of growth and the better animal frame."

A Run on a Grocery

There was a "run" up at the little town of Cross Creek, Pa., last month that ought to find its way into literature devoted to queer things. Now the ordinary "run" is generally confined to banks, and is associated with a long line of frantic people and a bank president with pallid features, agitated nerves and a forced smile. There was no bank president in this case, no long line of horny-handed depositors and no locking of doors and putting up of an announcement of failure. Your average Pennsylvania Dutchman puts his money in a stocking or in an empty stove and cares not for banks. The "run" in question was on a grocery store belonging to the Pan Handle Coal Company. A "run" on a grocery store is about the funniest thing—for the proprietor—that can happen.

The filer in the machine shop on the morning of the "run," to use a local phrase, "jumped his job," and wanted his cash before pay day,

contrary to the rules and regulations made and provided. The owners, making up their minds to discourage this habit of their men leaving them in a lurch, refused to pay the disconsolate filer until pay day. The filer thereupon filed an attachment on coal of the company, and this caused the "run." Without looking into the situation, local creditors and mill hands commenced a "run" on the company's grocery store, with the object of taking out their wages and debt in lard, dried apples, syrup, tobacco, chow-chow, bacon and other necessities of life.

The clerk, who had been dozing behind the counter, jumped four feet in the air when the door opened and a half dozen brawny, wild-eyed miners appeared. Bringing up the rear was a crowd of laborers, all clamoring for groceries. Soon it became apparent that the clerk could not tie up the packages fast enough, and he told the crowd to help themselves while he checked up the goods.

When Manager Boardman returned in the evening from the city, whither he had gone after some supplies, the clerk was lying exhausted across an empty pickle barrel, and the store had the appearance of the last act of a cyclone. When the clerk recovered he informed Boardman of the "run," and Boardman laughed loud and long. While he was surveying the wreck in came a drummer for a Philadelphia grocery house and mildly inquired if anything was wanted. Boardman looked queerly at the drummer, laughed and pointed to the empty shelves.

The drummer knew his business, and that night he carried the largest order of the month in Philadelphia. Before morning Boardman had discharged all liens and the colliery was started up as usual.

Some persons are mean enough to say that the drummer put up a job on the employees so that he could book an order; it may be so, and the employees are inclined to believe anything just now. If you go to Cross Creek drop in and see Boardman and have him relate the story about the "run." Should you go over to the colliery don't be surprised if you see one of the miners drop his tools and go back of the boiler and kick himself. You will know that he was in the "run," and that he has a house full of dried apples, pickles and canned fruit that he never will get rid of.—Grocery World.

Prevention of Smut and Bunt.

For the prevention of both these diseases various chemical dressings have been recommended and more or less used. Several of them when used in sufficient quantities to kill the spores of the fungi also kill or greatly injure and weaken the grain. The substance most in favor in England and indeed in most countries is sulphate of copper or blue vitrol. Different methods of application are advocated, but that found to answer best is as follows: Use 1 lb of blue vitrol (crystallized copper sulphate) to each sack (4 bushels) of seed corn. The blue vitrol should be powdered and dissolved in about 1½ or 2 gallons of water (this may be warmed to hasten the solution, or part of it may be treated and the vitrol dissolved in this and the solution then diluted with the remaining cold water). The solution is thrown over the seed corn in heaps and the corn turned over with a wooden shovel till every grain is equally moistened. The grain is then spread on a floor and turned occasionally to facilitate drying. The drying may be hastened by sprinkling the grain after treatment with the copper sulphate solution with dry lime (about 1 or 2 lbs to the sack) and then turning over. If the copper sulphate solution is used too strong, or if the grain is soaked in it, it destroys the vitality of some of the seeds and retards the germination in others; lime seems to tend to counteract this harmful effect.

Jansen finds that with barley and oats a sulphate of copper dressing is only a very partial preventative of smut, though it is a perfect preventative of bunt in wheat. But Jansen

finds that the application of heat to the seed corn may be used so as to destroy the spores of smut and of bunt without injury to the seeds of the cereal. Dipping in hot water at a temperature of 127° Fr to 133° Fr for five minutes will accomplish this. In the case of barley this must be soaked for half a day first in cold water so as to soften the husk and allow the hot water to act, but after this preliminary soaking in cold water the barley should be steeped in water at 127° Fr. (not higher) for five minutes. The grain may be dipped in this way. A shallow cylindrical basket lined with coarse canvas and provided with a canvas cover is used to contain the grain whilst dipping, the basket is to hold about ½ bushels of grain and this to be not more than 8 inches deep. Any ordinary boiler will do as the supply of hot water. Near this have two vessels, A and B, big enough to hold the basket immersed in them and holding say about 40 gallons each. Boil a supply of water in each, A and B, put about 12 gallons of boiling water and 12 gallons of cold water, they will then contain each about 24 gallons of at near 132° Fr., adjust the temperature to this either with hot or cold water. Now dip the basket into A and move it slowly four times, take about a minute, this will reduce the temperature 8 or 9 degrees; dip the basket then 5 or 6 times rapidly into B, take about a minute, then dip slowly 3 times, in three minutes, into B, total time five minutes. Now cool the grain by pouring cold water over it in the basket and emptying on the floor spreading and turning to dry it. The water used in cooling the barley will be warmed and may be returned to the boiler to economise heat. Keep the temperature up to the mark by the constant use of the thermometer and the addition of warm water. At each dipping the basket should be completely immersed and then lifted quite out of the water and drained for five seconds before dipping again.

Jensen concludes: "Dressing cereals with sulphate of copper in the usual way against smut and bunt, causes, as a rule, a waste of seed corn. It is injurious to plants and unnecessary. Treating the seed corn with water heated to a temperature of 127° Fr. for five minutes prevents these diseases equally well and protects barley much better, while it has the advantage of not injuring the seed corn or the resulting crop."

Opening of Parliament.

The two principal items in the speech at the opening of the Dominion Parliament were the following:—

At an early date a measure will be laid before you, having for its object a revision of the duties of customs, with a view to meet the changes which time has effected in business operations of all kind throughout the Dominion. While my ministers do not propose to change the principles on which the existing enactments on this subject are based, the amendments which will be offered for your consideration are designed to simplify the operation of the tariff and to lessen, as far as can be done consistently with those principles and the requirements of the treasury, the imposts which are now in force.

There will also be laid before you a measure on the subject of bankruptcy and insolvency which will, it is hoped, make more adequate provision than now exists on that subject, for the increasing trade and commerce of the country and for the greatly expanded trade between the several provinces of Canada.

The following from a London journal is interesting, as showing what Englishmen will pay for a fancy article: "At the auctions of Ceylon tea there was sold a single box, about one pound net, of golden tips, from the Mount Vernon estate, at the remarkably high price of £5 10s. The tea was considered the finest that had ever been imported from Ceylon, and the highest bid was at £5 5s."