

bad shoeing and hard roading it will endure with impunity. As a rule it may be said the horse should never stand with its forefeet in the stable upon a wooden floor; nor should he stand upon earth so saturated with water as to keep his feet damp and soft. He should stand upon brick or stone, either of which under almost all circumstances, and especially if a little moistened, will be cooler to the foot and will protect it against being dried up to brittleness and contraction. The forefoot of every horse worked in cities or on the road, and everywhere except upon the common labor of the farm, should be cleaned every morning properly; not with a flood of cold water, but with a wet cloth or sponge, and with this treatment there should be applied a mixture of tar and honey and lard. Thus treated, there is no doubt whatever that the horse's foot will endure the wear and tear of many years, and will also endure that bad shoeing for which almost every nation on earth seems to be distinguished.

Corn Fodder.

The opinion we have often expressed and desire to repeat is, that there was not that attention paid to the curing and saving of the corn fodder that its value demanded. Every good farmer must know that cattle eat it greedily through the winter, and if cut and steamed it is as good for them as the best hay, and really more milk-producing. Where then is the necessity of allowing it to remain in shocks until the middle or end of November, and even sometimes running into December? Corn should not be cut down until the stalks are dying and the grain is pretty hardy, and then it should remain no longer in the field than is absolutely necessary for the drying of the grain. It should be husked as early as possible, and the fodder tied up in bundles and either carefully stacked near the cattle-stables or put under shelter in sheds.

It is well-known, too, that horses prefer it to the best hay; also, that the blades are especially sought for to feed racing animals, strengthening their wind and bottom beyond any other food. It is besides wholesome provender and helps most beneficially in making the winter supply of hay hold out till late in the spring, with the addition of roots, which every farmer, who shrewdly looks to the main chance, ought to cultivate for feeding in the early part.—[German town Telegraph.]

Stock Raising on Small Farms.

The owners of small farms, or farmers engaged in a system of mixed husbandry, often over-estimate the advantages for stock raising possessed by those with large farms and who make this a specialty. The latter do possess important advantages, but there are some compensations to the stockman on a small scale.

The man with a thousand acres, a herd of hundreds, etc., can have men employed who will give their whole attention to one branch of the work, and learn to do this better than the average laborer. The large farmer has advantages in selling. He can make up one to a dozen car-loads of stock ready for the market; can sort them to make them sell to the best advantage; can have buyers come to his place, or can ship as he chooses. Full use at home is found for one or more stallions, bulls, etc., and the cost of keeping them counts as a little matter. But the small farmer—he with one hundred acres, for instance—has also his advantages. He can rear and feed a few colts, steers, pigs or lambs with almost no outlay for extra labor and very little perceptible cost in food. He needs horses for his farm work. Often brood mares serve his purpose equally well, and the one, two or three colts dropped each year cost comparatively little to rear. Cows for a home supply of milk and butter, of course, will be kept, and often there is abundance of grass in the pasture for a few "young things," and in the winter the stalk-fields, the straw stacks, the soft corn, etc., can be eaten by these, when it might otherwise be mainly wasted. In the winter the large stock grower must have men whose main business it is to feed and care for the stock. The small farmer can add the little additional work as a part of the necessary "chores" and scarcely notice the extra time or labor. Of two farmers of the class we are speaking of, the one "with a little extra stock" will usually do as much and as good work during the summer in the fields as his neighbor who "only keeps a cow or two, and enough hogs for his own meat." In the winter the fact that some extra labor is provided for each day is often a positive advantage.

The small farmer has another advantage.

seems to be a law of animal life that the fewer of any sort of animals that are kept within a given area, the more healthy they are. We once asked a large and very successful swine breeder this question: What is the greatest number of hogs that can be kept together with the highest percentage of profit on each? To this he promptly answered, "One. The profit on each hog decreases in proportion as you increase the number." His idea was that the health and thrift of the herd decreased in proportion as the numbers were augmented. The greater economy of feeding and management which the large farmer or feeder may practice may possibly more than compensate for this loss of health and thrift, but the illustration serves to show that the advantages are not all on one side.

It is not necessary to money making and deserved success in fine stock breeding that there should be a large herd or flock. On the islands of Jersey and Gurnsey nearly all the herds are quite small. In horse breeding, there is no reason why the man with three or four mares may not take a high rank as a breeder.

Even for the "renter," if he can secure a lease of the land for three or five years, a fair degree of attention to stock growing will be much better than the exclusive grain growing, which is so often the rule with this class. We have known instances in which two renters each seemed "to just about make a living;" but at the end of five years one would have a lot of live stock worth a few hundreds of dollars; the other have less than when he commenced.—[Breeder's Gazette.]

Chicago Horse Fair.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

A purely horse show in the States is rather a novelty, but judging from the auspicious opening of the Chicago Horse Fair, held from September 16th to 23rd, such exhibitions may be expected to grow in popular favor. The affair is the outgrowth of the Chicago Fair, which was held last year, and which was to have been held regularly every year thereafter. However, the leading lights or projectors of the enterprise being more in sympathy with horses and horsemen than the general agriculturist, resolved to have an extensive horse exhibit. It may be added that both the Fair and Horse Show were the outcome of the Fat Stock Show, as the managers of the first named enterprises were unable to get their thumbs into the Fat Stock plum pie as much as they desired. Being dissatisfied with the policy pursued by the Illinois Board of Agriculture in regard to the annual fat stock exhibit of Chicago, of course they had the privilege of starting an issue of their own, which they are at perfect liberty to run as they see fit, and as has been stated, their choice is to "run" the horses.

Saturday, September 16th, the first Chicago Horse Fair was informally opened, and the entries of traveling, running, and draft stock were large. On the first day there were some preliminary races, but the fair proper began on the following Monday with a large attendance, and a tolerably good prospect for a successful week. For thoroughbreds and roadsters there were twelve rings, and the animals shown made a creditable display.

Racing occupied most of the time, and some good time was made considering the strong, unfavorable wind which prevailed. Purses were liberal, and some promising young things from the best Kentucky and Illinois stables were displayed.

Probably the most substantial feature of the show was the splendid array of draft animals. There were numerous entries of Clydesdale, Norman, and English draft or Shire-bred horses, including a large number of the latter, recently imported.

During the past few years there has been developing a very strong demand for heavy draft horses, and that particular branch of the horse trade has enjoyed about as great activity as the Polled breeds have in cattle circles. Farmers are realizing the value of breeding improved stallions on light and medium weight mares of the common breed. This country does not lack in number of horses, but in quality. The Fishers, of Goderich, Ont., and other Canadians, can testify to the growth of the demand for improved horseflesh in the West.

It is reported that when Mr. Bemis, of Chicago, was in London, he went to the house of James Nelson & Sons, the celebrated cattle salesmen, and told them to purchase for him four of the finest draft horses in England. They told Mr. Bemis that they would have to charge him 20 per cent. commission, and he told them he would pay 50 per cent. if necessary on any figure they may pay, but he wanted the best in the land. Some time after Mr. Bemis received a letter from the firm, of which the following is an extract:—"I attended the show at Peterboro', Thursday last, and secured for you the first prize winners. The cost is 240 guineas. These horses took first honors in what I called the best show of cart horses I ever saw. They are bays, 6 years old, and have worked together since 3 years old up to two days prior to coming to Peterboro'. They weigh about a ton each, and are not fat. They of course match in color and height, and, last but not least, are as well worth 400 guineas as 240 guineas. If you enter a Chicago show for geldings you are sure to win." Subsequently the firm purchased another team fully as good as the first, and Mr. Bemis shipped the four to Chicago, they costing him \$4,000 here. They are to be shown on the track driven four-in-hand. Their names are Bemis, McAvoy, McGarigle, and Bullwinkle.

The entries were decidedly the largest ever made in this country, there being 401 horses in the exhibition rings, and 120 in the speed rings.

Stall-Feeding Cattle.

It is related of the ancient philosopher Cato that on being asked which was the most certain profit arising out of agriculture he replied: "To feed stock well." If we should ask any agricultural expert at the present day the same question, we should certainly receive the same answer, for it not only "stands to reason" that two profits are greater than one profit, but it is the universal experience with the best farmers that to feed the produce of the farm to stock and sell only the ultimate and most concentrated form of these products is not only the most indispensable means of maintaining the fertility of the farm, but that it is the method by which the most money is made out of the soil. In agriculture, as in other industries, it is found that the greatest profit is in making from the raw material the most finished products, and so putting this raw material through several processes to secure not only the relative profit made upon each, but also to gain the advantages which must necessarily result from the saving of expense by reason of combining several operations in one, and avoiding freights and other charges incidental to every change. As agriculture is the first of all our industries, that it should be carried on in the most economical manner is the most desirable for all concerned; because it gives the farmer the most profit while it gives the consumer his meal at the lowest price.

It is everywhere admitted by stockmen that the profit gained in rearing cattle for the market is rarely ever less than 40 per cent. yearly, and figures are often given to show that 75 per cent is frequently realized. And this is the result of feeding cattle from birth to maturity. But it is a well known fact that there is still greater profit in feeding a thin steer costing 5 cents a pound alive until it is worth 7 cents a pound, because there is not only the gain by the increase in weight, let us say 200 to 300 pounds in three months' feeding, at 7 cents a pound, but the 2 cents a pound upon the whole weight of 1,000 pounds or more. This, on the whole, is equivalent to a much greater profit than could be gained from the sale of the crops that are fed.

A regular system of feeding a number of cattle or sheep upon farms, as a part of the farm work, of course necessitates the growing of suitable crops for their support. To feed hay and corn would not certainly be found very profitable, because these are the most costly crops that can be grown upon long cultivated soil, and they are very saleable and bring high prices. But they cannot be produced under the ordinary system of farming with sufficient profit unless under exceptional circumstances, and this is the burden of the complaints made by farmers everywhere. Indeed, Eastern farmers find it so costly to grow wheat and corn that they are not even producing enough in the great States of New York and Pennsylvania, not to mention all the lesser States adjacent to them, to supply the home consumption of flour. Nor will these costly and valuable crops be produced under any other system than one of stall-feeding cattle and growing