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making new acquaintances among themselves, form, in combination, a weird and remarkable scene. During daylight the scene is scarcely less strange and animated. It is a custom from "time immemorial" in this country of conservative habit, for each regular attendant at the fair to occupy the same place year after year. But this rule is sometimes broken in upon, and an interloper is found sheltered beneath the favorite elms. Then comes a wordy war, a fight, an ejection.

But by noon of the first day, 60,000 sheep often change hands and make their way out of the Park at the "custom gap" in single file without loss, but not without the usual passage of arms with the national "buckthorns," "shillakhs," and sheep-crooks of the Irish shepherds. The second day all the sheep are disposed of. This year 63,739 were offered for sale, and 58,280 changed ownership. In 1871 over 83,000, and in 1866, 85,000 were brought to the Park. As the sheep go out the horses are coming in, and Tuesday is the grand culmination of the fair. This is "lep" over the famous stone wall and to enjoy the discomfort of the hapless riders who come to grief in the soft mud upon the other side. This wall is of loose stone and four feet high.

There are horses everywhere—led and mounted. The streets of the old town are full of them as well as the Park, and many valuable hunters are sold in their stalls at the hotels. Nearly 600 changed owners here this year. Money flows like water, and whiskey flows, too, as well as the "spirits" of the crowd, which led them into all sorts of scrapes, scrimmages, and accidents. This year a valuable horse, the sole property of a poor man was run into and killed by the "car" of another man, as poor as himself, so that the recovery of damages is out of the question.

Friday comes, and with it another change. Horned cattle are now everywhere instead of sheep and horses which have disappeared. Surging masses clear their way through the town towards the Park, and as each drove passes the custom gap from without, another comes up from within, in charge of its new owners, outward bound. Mad-dened bulls and excited oxen are not wanting, neither are equally maddened and excited and many times more drovers, who yield huge strikes in the thick of the struggle. At 3 o'clock this parody of Pandemonium ceases and the business of the day is over; 18,000 cattle were sold and bought, and \$1,000,000 changed hands on this day of the Fair. Saturday is the "Country Fair," and all "the colors of the rainbow," and many more which improve upon the old standard, are seen in the display of hats, and bonnets, feathers, ribbons, and dresses of the country girls. Work is over, and fun, fast and furious, until the new week dawns is the sole occupation. Dinner parties and balls for the aristocratic, and hops upon the green and in the tents for the "plebs," occupy the afternoon and night, and the width of the road homeward, rather than its length trouble the soberest of the revelers.

The Inventors of the Reaping Machine.

To Americans—made us as America is of the peoples of all countries under the sun—it seems strange to listen to the discussion about the native country of distinguished men. In England and Ireland they have been discussing recently whether McCormick and Hussey, the inventors of the reaper and mower, are English, Irish, Scotch or American. An Irish paper has taken the trouble to go to the bottom of the matter, and, after patient labor, triumphantly announces that both these gentlemen were "born Irish;" indeed, are "Irish gentlemen who emigrated to America at an early age." "They gained their reputations as machinists, however, in America."—*Forney's Weekly Press*.

Prize Essays.

In this issue will be seen three prize essays, all of which will be read with interest. The prize essay on soiling will appear in our next issue.

Two prizes are offered this month. One for the best article on the "Destruction of Wild Mustard," the other is offered by a reader of this paper, the subject to be, "Is co-operation beneficial to farmers." The articles not to exceed a column and a half in length, and to be in this office by the 20th of January.

Patrons of Husbandry.

We wish success to any enterprise that we deem of benefit to farmers. New Granges are forming daily, and the old ones are adding scores to their membership. There are now 76 Granges, and probably before another issue of the *Advocate* there will be one hundred. This will make an organization of considerable strength. We have always taken the ground that intelligence was the basis upon which all undertakings must rest, and that our brother farmers should take such steps as would be to their advantage. By farmers organizing, good measures for their benefit may be discussed. The organization, so far as Canada is concerned, is still in an immature and crude state. While the organization is in its infancy, every step should be well considered before it is taken. The Executive Committee at their meetings should consult what will be best for the interests of the country. Some wish to drive the Order rather too fast.

How can we turn this organization to advantage? Some plan must be devised that will give greater returns for the labor expended on the farm, and for the money expended on the Grange. Everyone admits that fact. Every member in the Order should try to answer this question; bring it up at your Grange meeting and discuss it. We must not sit down expecting that our connection with an organization is to lead us on to fortune. There is work for every member. Our plan of establishing an Agricultural Emporium for introducing and testing seed, trying implements, carrying on a farm, a ware-room and a paper for the benefit of farmers, managed and conducted by them, is what we believe to be as good and object to centre our plans on as anything. This petty-fogging grocery trade is, or ought to be, below our sphere of action. General information regarding agricultural plans and interests should absorb our attention. This journal is not tied to party or politics. Agricultural interests is our plank. If any farmer has any good plan to suggest, the pages of this paper are open to him. There has not yet been much good done by our order, but we hope to have account of good suggestions to report soon. We believe much of the formality and expense may with advantage be abandoned. In electing officers we believe an annual change should take place.

There have been losses in some of the Granges in the States through agents, and some publications have failed that espoused their cause, but the losses do not appear to affect them much, as their gains appear greatly in excess of the losses sustained.

Pelham Grange, No. 17, has re-elected S. W. Hill, Master, and W. Pemberton Page, Secretary, for the year 1875. The Grange is in a prosperous condition, numbers sixty members, and an experience of six months has added much to our faith in the Order. The principles upon which the Grange is founded are good, and supplies a long felt want among us farmers for the interchange of ideas.

W. PEMBERTON PAGE, Sec.

Union Grange, No. 34, re-elected David Peterson, Master, and M. C. L. Kitchen, Secretary. The Grange now numbers 50 members.

OFFICERS OF DOMINION GRANGE.

Master—S. W. Hill, Ridgeville, Ontario.
Secretary—T. W. Dyas, Toronto, Ontario.

The Use of Salt for the Feeding of Cattle.

TRANSLATED FROM LE JOURNAL D'AGRICULTURE PRATIQUE, FOR THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

Much has been written on this subject and much advice given, without having, in my opinion, resolved the question in a practical point of view. First—I cannot admit that we can determine a ration, a certain quantity of salt to be given each day, or at each repast, to an animal of such or such a breed, because it is evident that that ration ought to vary in accordance with a number of circumstances. For example, the size of the animal, its age, its condition of fatness or leanness, of health or disease, the medium on which it lives, the season in which we find it—warm and dry, or cold and moist, the tonic or debilitating nature of the food it receives, &c., &c. Experience has proved, and many farmers have acknowledged that to enforce salt upon animals is to commit a fault of which we have often reason to regret the effects. In our establishment, without reckoning milk cows and young stock, we keep eighteen or twenty draught oxen, accustomed in all seasons to rough work, and who receive of necessity an abundance of food,

sufficient to repair the force expended, and which, after a time, are rapidly fattened. These animals, I may say, experience afterwards those gastric disorders so common amongst oxen which we harness almost immediately they have finished their meal, and whose rumination ought to be going on at the same time they are making the necessary efforts for the accomplishment of their work, a condition we know is most unfavorable to the functions of digestion. It is necessary, therefore, to introduce in the feeding of our cattle a condiment favorable to their digestion without exposing them to the more injurious effect (which is not generally believed) of the immoderate use of salt in giving it under improper conditions. In the distribution of salt we leave the cattle to themselves and their own judgment as to quantity, and they have never deceived us.

We simply place in the manger and at the door of each of them a lump of rock salt, which contains, mixed with common kitchen salt, in suitable proportions, sulphate of soda (Glauber's salt) and sulphate of magnesia (Epsom salt), substances digestive and slightly laxative, and very favorable to the functions of the stomach, and very important for ruminants. When an animal feels the effects of indigestion painful, he licks at discretion his morsel of salt, and recurs to this means of relief every time he feels the need of it. I have very often seen animals whose digestion operated painfully, rise, lick the salt for a time, longer or shorter, according to the need they feel, and, surely guided by their instinct, then lie down, and again rise, lick the salt again, and so continue till the rumination takes place again, and thus administer themselves the remedy for the disorder.

The good effects of this mode of distributing salt to animals have been proved to us many years ago in a manner which has led us to attach still more importance to it. In consequence of the inundation of the mines from whence the salt is procured that we make use of, they have been deprived of it for some time; and every week we have had to treat some of them for disordered digestions, of which the least consequences were the loss of labor of the oxen, of milk of the cows, and their falling away in condition. But as soon as we have been enabled to give them this condiment, the indigestion has been removed. In absence of rock salt we could always incorporate with the rock salt employed sulphate of soda crystallized (Glauber's salt), which is sold at low price, and which all salts contain in the proportion of from 3 to 4 per cent. We consider it to be the best reactive, and perhaps the only one against the inconvenience of an excessive consumption of salt.

The farmers act upon routine (I hope they will excuse me for speaking the truth), and because they profit largely from the advantages it presents, it is necessary that the administration of the indirect contributions should facilitate the means of application, by authorizing in all the communes depots of salt for the use of cattle, in order that the cultivator may be able to procure it as readily, without loss of time, and in proportion with his wants and resources, so that destined for his own consumption, and in order that there will soon be in France not a single head of cattle deprived of salt; then we shall no longer, in this respect, have to envy other countries in which the beauty of the farm animals is almost always in proportion to the low price of salt.

The employment of salt in cattle feeding, when even it is subject to the duty, and still more when that is remitted, does not involve an expense without compensation; for by its action upon the digestive organs it produces a better and stronger assimilation of the food, and consequently a saving, the nutrition being not in proportion with the quantity consumed, but rather of that digested; a part also is found in the dung, which will acquire an extra value by it; the milk also being of a better quality, and it imparts to the butcher's meat a very appreciable flavor. That of sheep said to be pre-salted has no other cause.

In a few words, do not force the salt upon the cattle, but place it within their reach; they will then consume it in quantities varying with their real wants, which their instincts will teach them to know much better than we can, and they will never abuse it.

We may congratulate the Canadian farmers that they have an abundant supply of the commodity, so invaluable for the fertilization of their fields and for their stock. We append a brief account of the salt beds in Huron and Bruce—sufficient to furnish an inexhaustible supply for all purposes.