

Next to production in importance, is the question of transportation as involved in navigation. Less than a quarter of the traction is needed to move a ton afloat, that is needed to move it by rail.

Many of the streams constituting Britain's inland navigation are so small as to be spoken of as "brooks" in the Parliamentary acts giving rights to companies to use them. One of these combined canal and river courses takes freight at the southwest of England at the Severn; up historic little Avon; across Wiltshire to the Thames, and up to London. All this will be so improved on that in a few years the speed between steam canal boats and that of the average freight train will be materially reduced. Britain's inland transport lines thus exceed in length her rail lines.

Agriculture does not need sacrifice of trees, to save streams for navigation or manufactures. The identical conditions of rain or dew-fall needed by either is needed for all. Seasons seldom pass in which farmers would not have from one to three fourths added to their yield by a more equal distribution of the rainfall. High culture proves an acre properly watered, may yield as much as seven, or more, treated in the usual ways.

Single trees have been burned in America in log heaps, which, cut into veneers, would sell for more net cash, than the whole farm where it grew. When our forests are as well treated as those of Europe few trees will be cut except by advice of a forest engineer.

GEO. MAY POWELL,
in *Harper Monthly*.

THE FIG.

(American Agriculturist.)

Black or flesh-colored pigs are freest from skin disease in hot climates. The choice is practically between the Essex and Berkshires for males with which to improve the native stock of hardy grubbers of the root-or-die variety. Those who have tried the former have been delighted at first, but after a few years began to recall with longing the lean hams and slim but solid and flavoured bacon of the old race-horse breed. The trouble with the Essex pigs for the south is that they are the eat-and-sleep to sleep-and-wake-to-eat kind, and their grades are, of course, like them. The side fat is superb, and so is the leaf lard, and so far the breed is all that could be desired; but the ham and shoulders are too fat for profit, and the ham is not marbled with fat like the Berkshires. These (the Berks) are much more wide awake, less easily controlled, but good foragers. Their grades are a wonderful improvement upon the original stock, may be made very fat, and yet the proportion between the fat and lean hams, shoulders, and side pork, or bacon, is such as to develop and preserve the excellences of the meat. The hams are large, rich, and juicy, with diffused fat. Berkshires are not quite so easily fattened when penned and systematically fed as the Essex grade, but they will take much better care of themselves in the woods, and when penned, or fastened, for fattening, may be finished off with half the food the original "land pikes" would require.

With many northern and western breeders, the Essex is a more profitable pig than the Berkshire, because his nature leads him to take little exercise, so that all he eats goes to flesh and fat. Respiration, which, if rapid, reduces fat greatly, is with him never accelerated by moving about, and with plenty of food, the sole burden of life is to digest it. This breed is pre-eminent among the black breeds, and excelled by none as fat producers.

POULTRY DEPARTMENT.

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Ground Grain for Poultry.

Observing many Remarks from correspondents about the necessity of having ground oats for poultry feed, and the urgency there is to have them ground *very fine*, I take leave to state, from my own experience, that the contrary does not seem either to affect the appetite of the birds, or to result otherwise that beneficially to their health. Being very fond of poultry, I attend to them personally, and naturally endeavour to preserve them in good condition. Scarcely a book is published, or advice given in our leading journal, that I do not read with care; but it is long since I came to the conclusion that the regimen laid down principally by nearly all was far too strict to be carried out without a vast deal of trouble and expense of time—much more than was actually necessary, and I think has a great tendency to prevent many from indulging in such a healthy and pleasurable pastime.

In the course of my reading I was much taken with the "ground oats" as food, considering when the whole seed was ground up it would be most profitable for a foundation; but how to get this done in small quantities seemed a great difficulty. To order it specially from a mill I should require a much larger quantity than would likely keep sweet for the time required to consume it, so I obtained an ordinary sized cochineal grinding mill, and ground the oats myself. But still I found the difficulty of grinding them so fine as advised; do what I would, the meal when ground was more like chaff. This I was led to believe the fowls would not eat; however, to my surprise, the birds seemed quite delighted with it, and ate all very quickly up. Being mixed in the usual way with water, after a few handfuls of thirds were added to make it into the stiff consistency that fowls prefer their food, after a few days' trial they seem to thrive remarkably well; and when I state that each year I rear from seventy to eighty chickens without scarcely recording a death from natural causes, I am bound to believe that oats and barley ground in this coarse manner are not detrimental to their health. The variety of fowls I keep are Brahmas, Spanish, Houdans, and some Bantams. I generally feed with soft food in the morning about eight o'clock, and whole corn in the evening. These two meals seem to satisfy them well. They have a very small grass run outside their pen, to which each lot gets access about two or three hours daily; besides this, they have generally a cabbage put into each run once or twice a week, which keeps them amused. The sleeping house to each run is 5 feet by 7, dry and comfortable; this opens into a covered run, 5 feet by 9. Into each run I have a small flow of water constantly running. This I think of great importance. The grass plot is about 60 feet by 30, a very small space for so many birds; however, it seems amply sufficient. The trouble in attendance is very little. The fowls look well, the cockerels eat well, and the hens lay well, leaving little to be desired. I do not breed for exhibition myself; but a few of my birds which I have been induced to part with brought me very good prices. I believe in having good stock to begin with, and keeping each class quite distinct and separate; a mixed lot of fowls never look well, however fine each individual specimen may be. I should, perhaps, state that I find the corn grind easier by drying it in the kitchen oven the evening previous to using, and when fresh ground, the meal has a sweet and pleasant flavour. Although it has been stated so frequently to the contrary, I suspect other fowls will relish corn ground in the way I describe as much as my own. I am inclined to think the husk of the corn keeps it more open, and not so apt to lie undigested in the crop. "DEEDS SHOW."

[We have used oats coarsely ground ourselves for old fowls, and found it suit them well.]