

something to fill his stomach, and as the hay may be worthless, your oats will answer for hay and grain too. Your horse will now soon eat as much as he wants—he will soon lie down to rest and to sleep; and before morning his grain will all be converted into good chyle and will nourish his blood.

The next morning your horse will be ready to start before you wake up. Instead of waiting for him to eat a new mess of grain, and then to let it digest, you find him plump and good natured and asking for nothing but your company.

It is well known that horses are often ruined by eating grain at improper times. Farmers have fancied that eating it while the animal is hot with exercise is the principle cause of injury from grain; but it is not so. We have known many horses to die suddenly on eating grain, but never on account of eating it soon after stopping. It is rapid driving—violent exercise—soon after eating the most hearty kinds of food, that is destructive to travelling horses. There is no more danger in giving a horse the most hearty food in ten minutes after he stops, than in giving a man his most hearty meal as soon as he quits mowing in a hot day.

Let any one consult his own feelings and he may rid himself of the delusion that eating after violent exercise injures him more than at any other times. It is violent exercise immediately after eating, before the food has had time to change, that deranges the whole system and causes death. If any traveller objects to the cost of feeding on grain while on a journey, we answer that you pay no more for half a bushel of oats than for half a peck—for if you order half a bushel you buy at wholesale, and your landlord will charge you nothing for the hay. Suppose you pay double the wholesale price for oats, your horse keeping is then but fifty cents, in any country town in New England. And if you call for a half peck of oats with hay, you will find your bill not far short of that sum.

Stage Horses.

These may be kept in a different manner from those that are on long journeys. They are always kept at home, and their tender have leisure enough to prepare their food for them.

Grain is the principal food of stage horses, but it is found economical to mix up cheap substances with it to distend the stomach, and to keep the horse in health. Cut straw, or cheap hay, mixed with Indian meal, is found to be excellent food for hard laboring horses; and as drivers have leisure enough to prepare it, this has now become the common food of such teams.

Thirty years ago it was the practice of drivers to give their horses meal and water on stopping for a few minutes to take breath. In hot weather it was no uncommon case to see a horse drop suddenly dead in the street. On opening the stomach raw meal was found in cakes. The violent exercise to which these horses are subject, gives no time for the rich food to change. The horse cannot vomit as a man and some other animals can, and he dies with a load on his stomach which he has no means to remove.

Show us one case where a horse has been injured by eating while warm, and we will show you a hundred where he has died in consequence of travelling immediately after eating grain. You have all eat hearty meals immediately after labor, and while in a state of perspiration, without injury, and you have all felt pain, on using violent exercise immediately after eating. Judge of the horse as of yourself, and you will judge rightly.

(From the Boston Cultivator of January 18, 1845.)

SECOND AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

Subject—

THE POTATO DISEASE.

Hon. Levi Lincoln in the chair, Mr. Teschemacher, of Boston, opened the discussion. He first read from a pamphlet published in Germany a few years ago, on this disease, which prevailed there to an alarming extent. There were many conjectures as to the cause of the disease, such as the manure, soil, &c. Where the seed was cut the injury was greater, an affection of the tuber commencing at the cut part.

He had made numerous examinations on diseased potatoes. The smell was like diseased fungus, and he was inclined to the opinion that this was the cause of the disease. Fungi are very fine particles of vegetable matter that float about in the atmosphere, imperceptible to the naked eye. He had examined many potatoes with a view to learn the cause of this disease. He inspected some potatoes in which the disease had just commenced. On cutting them open length-wise, he discovered small white worms, about one-fourth of an inch from the skin. At that stage the disease had not affected the starch. From the depositions of these worms the cells became thickened, which gave to the potato its peculiar appearance in this disease. He tried to propagate the disorder by placing diseased halves of potatoes in contact with other halves that were sound. In five or six days no effect was produced, but in two weeks the sound parts had become contaminated; and in six weeks they had decayed.

Mr. Buckminster, of the *Ploughman*, remarked we had in September about two weeks hotter weather than had been before for 50 years, and this might, in part, be the cause of the disease. As it were more common when manure was in the hill, it shows the heat is a cause, as heat is produced by the fermentation of the manure.

Mr. A. W. Dodge, of Hamilton, said that he had one kind of potato, the Blue, four-fifths of which were diseased. He had raised these on his place for several years, and they had not been affected before. He furnished some of his neighbors with the same seed, and their crops were not injured.

He planted Chenangoes, and they were cut, but not affected with this disease. The disease could not be owing to heat, as Long Reds were never better. He was feeding swine with his diseased potatoes, and they had not been injured. It was not owing to the seed running out, for the Long Reds had been long among us. As salt prevents smut in wheat, and as potatoes have not been so much affected on the sea-board, where sea-weed and salt are used, salt may be a preventive.

Mr. Abel Gleason, of Wayland, planted 3 or 4 acres of potatoes on greensward. Some were rotten. He gave one or two bushels to nine hogs and they ate them. Next morning one could not rise. He gave her half a pound of salts in new milk, and next morning she was well. He manured in the hill. A neighbour planted potatoes adjoining him, only a fence between, and manured in the hill, and he had not one rotten one. The Veto potatoes rotted most. He thinks the kind of manure had some effect—where he used peat manure the disease was least.

Mr. Peter Fay, of Southboro, observed that the first he heard of the disease was in the first week of September. His vines were then green, but soon they were diseased, and in 48 hours the tubers