

age but one remedy for this :—Let the government offer large premiums for the cultivation of forests.

Those who take pleasure in comparing the condition of different countries may be interested by the following statement of the number of farms throughout the United States, taken from the returns of the late census. Beginning with the smallest, there are 52,642 farms of three acres, and under ten acres; 157,810 of ten acres, and under twenty acres; 612,245 of twenty acres, and under fifty acres; 609,668 of fifty acres, and under one hundred acres; 486,249 of one hundred acres and under five hundred acres, and under one thousand acres, and 5,318 of one thousand acres and upward. The total number of farms is 1,942,241.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says that there can hardly be a greater sign of prosperity in a community than a disposition to help one another to a little lift when a neighbour's wheel gets stuck in the mud. An instance in point is where a man's barn and all his winter stores of hay and grain were consumed in a night; his neighbours all turned out, built him a new barn at once, and offered to assist him in wintering his stock, taking a head or two apiece, and retaining them in the spring. Thus his loss was greatly reduced, and he was assured of the more durable riches of brotherly love and neighbourly good will. No one can compute in money the value of one such example of a noble liberality in a community, especially in its influence upon the young. Where this spirit prevails there is sure to be progress in a place even if all improvements are in their infancy. People will like to come and settle in a place which bears such a good name.

The cultivation of forest trees is a regular business in the Hart Mountains of Germany. To walk through the mountains is said to be like passing through a pine garden. The sowing of the pine seed is done in inclosures, carefully prepared for the purpose, which are surrounded by hurdles to keep out the game. Such a forest garden as it is called, after a while presents an appearance similar to a corn-field the early summer. After two years the young shoots are transplanted into the mountains where the trees have either been hewn or blown down. Five years later, they are called a thickett, because the branches are then so closely interlaced that the hunter cannot get through them, and they afford excellent shelter for game. Ten years later the foresters thin them out, leaving the best stems for future growth. The growth of the tree is slow, the average age of a full-grown tree being 120 years. The sowing, transplanting, thinning, and felling go on as systematically as the seed-time and harvest of the farmer, the only difference being that of time, for which a farmer may reap half a century of harvests, but few foresters live to see their trees grown, and none see them become giants.

Prof. Bolander stated before the last meeting of the California Academy of Sciences, that he had collected 140 specimens of grass on the coast since 1861. Only fourteen had before been observed, owing probably to the rapidity with which observers went over the ground. Among the total number he included several specimens which were cultivated. He had recently found a peculiar grass, distinguished by a remarkable green color, the *Te lucia gracillima* or Slander Escure grass, which he believes to be identical with that found by Dr.

Hooker in the straits of Magellan. It grows abundantly from Cisco to the summit, it is highly prized by stock-raisers, and is to be recommended for lawns. It is also found in Chili. The Professor remarked on the number of grasses common to Chili and this coast. In his remarks, he stated that the structure of "bunch grass" is probably due to the climatic conditions; such grasses being compelled to aggregate so as to concentrate the moisture and guard against dryness.

A Missouri correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says: In regard to "Meadow Fescue" as a standard grass, I can say that I have made it my leading mowing and grazing grass for the last twenty years, and am yearly increasing its culture. It is well adapted to all localities where *Poa pratensis* succeeds, and will succeed in soils too sandy for the latter; it has a fibrous root, and is propagated from seeds, and I think never thickens from creeping roots as Kentucky blue grass always does. As hay, it has no superior, especially for horses and mules, greatly superior to Timothy, never bind the bowels as Timothy is inclined to do. The seed weighs 25 pounds per bushel, and requires about 15 pounds per acre; sown in this latitude in any of the spring months with any of the small grains, it fills the earth immediately with a dense mass of strong deep fibrous roots; and I consider it the best renovator of all the grasses, not even excepting the clover. Such has been my experience after a twenty year's trial, and why is it not generally introduced is strange to me.

The Live Stock.

THE SELECTION OF BREEDING STOCK.

It is somewhat singular that while the country abounds with well-bred animals of every kind, horses, cattle, sheep, and swine there is yet a superabundance of wretched breeds to be met with in every direction. To a certain extent bad land accounts for a portion of this, inducing weediness, even in animals of good blood, and whose form under more favorable conditions would be all that could be desired; the proof being that when removed to kindlier pastures, if done before they become stunted, they rapidly fill up and become useful stock, healthier and hardier, perhaps, than others reared under far more favorable conditions. Those who farm poor land are also more or less indifferent to the necessity of procuring good blood, believing that the common breeds are hardier, and as in the case of milch cows give a greater return on poor pastures, than better bred animals could possibly do. Bad land does not, however, account for all the poor stock to be met with; on the contrary, a considerable proportion of it comes from land of average quality and which is quite capable of carrying animals of much greater height and value than many of those which are found on it.

The great natural law that "like begets like" seems in such cases to be entirely over-looked, animals of both sexes continuing to be bred from stock which are entirely unfit for breeding purposes. A farmer doing this betrays a want of attention and indifference to the furtherance of his own interests, highly reprehensible, and if his stock is extensive, he must, in the long run, suffer severely. Using male animals of mixed blood is a most prolific