

middle of May, in order to avoid the attacks of the midge, and the results have been generally successful. Some districts last year produced from 25 to 30 bushels per acre. Potatoes in collars or pits should be carefully examined, if not done before, and the healthiest-looking tubers selected for seed.

Live stock still require attention, and such as have a good supply of turnips and mangels left will now be able to comprehend their value. Mangels, if properly preserved, will continue fresh and palatable to cattle through the greater part of next month, and they are excellent for milch cows. Horses will require richer and more ample food as spring work increases; a few carrots or other roots in connection with an increased supply of oats, will keep them fully up to their work, and greatly promote their health and sleek appearance. On no account, if it can possibly be avoided, should animals be turned on pastures till the grass has fairly started and covered the ground. Meadows or pastures too closely eaten in spring never recover their wonted energy, and will produce but a comparatively small supply of hay or feed, during the rest of the year.

**Horse and Cattle Foods.**

We have had occasion in previous numbers of this journal to speak of the preparations now so common in Europe for feeding cattle, some of which even have been offered for sale in the larger towns of this province. Various stimulating substances are mixed with ordinary cattle food, and sold at exorbitant prices. They are thus made extremely palatable to the animal, which naturally enough thrives upon the good things provided for him. We will not now stop to inquire how far they themselves may be beneficial, even admitting the temporary advantage; our object is simply to show that it will not pay, and must involve the purchaser in pecuniary loss. For our facts we are indebted to an article on this subject in *The Field*, an ably conducted English paper, devoted to rural matters.

If the price of oil-cake, ranging at about £10 sterling a ton, forms the limit from which any ordinary return can be expected, how can an article, sold at a price realising from 300 to 400

per cent. on the cost price of the materials of which it is composed, ever bring any return at all? Such savoury condiments, dished up at from £40 to £50 a ton, have no more fattening powers than the ordinary cakes and meal, of which, indeed, their bulk is principally composed. Locust beans, the different oil cakes, and Indian corn, form the basis of these cattle foods so often paraded before the public, with which sundry stimulants, making a kind of curry-powder concoction, are mixed up. This, though it may be highly agreeable, yet, at the price above stated, forms a most costly addition to the ordinary outlay for feeding, and an animal once pampered on such material can hardly fall back on ordinary food; hence the price of fattening is greatly enhanced, but without any increase of the saleable carcass, for there is a natural limit in this direction. A compound at £40 a ton will make no more flesh than oil-cake at £10 but if the farmer approves of and will have the compound, let him simply mix the material himself. There is no secret in the composition for the test is at hand in a simple analysis. The following is an ordinary formula:—

**TO MAKE ONE TON OF MEAL.**

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.
Locust bean, finely ground, at £6 a ton, . . . . .	6	0	0	1	15
Indian Corn, at £7 a ton . . . . .	9	0	0	3	3
Best linseed cake at £10 a ton . . . . .	3	0	0	1	19
Powdered turmeric, at 8d a lb. . . . .	0	0	40	1	6
Sulphur, at 2d a lb. . . . .	0	0	40	0	8
Saltpetre, at 5d a lb. . . . .	0	0	20	0	8
Liquorice, at 1s a lb. . . . .	0	0	27	1	7
Ginger, at 6d a lb. . . . .	0	0	3	0	1
Anti-ced, at 9d a lb. . . . .	0	0	4	0	3
Coriander, at 9d a lb. . . . .	0	0	10	0	7
Gentian at 8d a lb. . . . .	0	0	10	0	8
Cream of Tartar at 1s 8d a lb. . . . .	0	0	2	0	3
Carbonate of Soda, at 4d a lb. . . . .	0	0	6	0	2
Levigated Antimony, at 6d a lb. . . . .	0	0	6	0	3
Common Salt, at ½d a lb. . . . .	0	0	30	0	1
Peruvian Bark, at 4s a lb. . . . .	0	0	4	0	15
Fenugreek, at 9d a lb. . . . .	0	0	22	0	15
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£13</b>	<b>7</b>

Looking at this composition, it will be evident at a glance that the chief ingredients are ordinary commercial locust bean, Indian corn and oil cakes. These form its bulk, and constitute nine-tenths of the whole; the remainder being made up of condiments and stimulants, the sulphur and antimony being intended to upon the skin in the production of a fine coat, and the fenugreek forming a kind of mucilage, prevent any ill effects that might arise from the stimulating character of the food. T.