

THE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF GRAIN IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.—Some interesting statistics of the production and export of grain throughout the world have recently been published at Berlin by Herr Behm, from which it appears that Prussia produces annually 158,000,000 qr. of grain, and exports 12,000,000 qr. Austria produces from 56,000,000 to 70,000,000 qr., and exports 3,500,000 qr. of grain and 160,000 tons of flour. The production of the Danubian Provinces is from 13,000,000 to 17,000,000 qr., and the exportation from 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 qr. The United States produces annually upwards of 227,000,000 qr., and exports 2,500,000 qr. In Denmark, the production is 10,000,000 qr., and exports 1,750,000 to 2,000,000 qr. The principal countries that import grain are Great Britain and Ireland, the annual production of which is estimated at 45,500,000 qr., and the imports at from 17,000,000 to 20,000,000 qr. Switzerland produces 2,400,000 qr., and imports 1,350,000 qr. In Belgium the production is estimated at 9,200,000 qr., and the imports from 250,000 to 1,000,000 qr. Italy produces 23,750,000 qr., and imports 2,000,000 qr. The Zollverein produces 83,000,000 qr. (chiefly rye.) The production of grain in the Netherlands is estimated at from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 qr.; the imports vary considerably. In France, both the production and imports of grain are exceedingly variable; in 1867, the imports amounted in value to upwards of £10,000,000 sterling.—*Journal of the Society of Arts.*

The Michigan State Relief Committee have contracted for 400 ploughs, to be ready as soon as spring opens, for use among the destitute farmers.

The Farmers' Club of Colorado, at their meeting lately in Denver, concluded that one per cent. of the cost of fencing will pay for herding. They also state that the fences in Illinois cost about ten times as much as the value of all the cattle in that State.

The average production of grain per acre has steadily fallen in the United States, but in England it has increased. In New York, for instance, it has fallen in the last fifty years from twenty to eight bushels per acre, and in California the decrease per acre is somewhat startling. Improved cultivation, and the application of manures as brought up the standard in England, and he will do it in the United States.

The London *Milk Journal*, in commenting on the adulteration of milk, says, of nearly 300 specimens representing the same number of dealers, only twenty-seven were found without adulteration. In speaking of fever poisoning by the milk pail, he further says, "that there is something horrible in the idea of drinking small-pox in our morning milk or eating it in our daily bread, but that we are not free from fatal contingencies of this sort is proved by many instances of undoubted authority; all of which might be avoided if consumers could be supplied direct from country dairies."

Miscellaneous.

A Comparison.

A WELL WORKED FARM THAT PAYS.

| | | | |
|----------|------------|--------------------|---------|
| 20 acres | Wheat .. | 600 bushels..... | \$750 |
| 20 " | Barley .. | 860 bushels..... | 480 |
| 20 " | Oats .. | 1,200 bushels..... | 480 |
| 20 " | Hay .. | 50 tons .. | 500 |
| 20 " | Pasture .. | | .. |
| | | | \$2,210 |

A SLOVENLY WORKED FARM THAT DON'T PAY.

| | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------------|-------|
| 20 acres | Wheat .. | 200 bushels.... | \$300 |
| 20 " | Barley .. | 400 bushels.... | 240 |
| 20 " | Oats .. | 600 bushels.... | 240 |
| 20 " | Hay .. | 15 tons..... | 150 |
| 20 " | Pasture .. | | .. |
| | | | \$930 |

Balance in favour of well worked farm, \$1,280.

We may therefore expend \$1,280 upon the well worked farm, and yet be in as good a pecuniary position as if we spent none. In other words, judicious expenditure of capital for the benefit of nature will yield a full return.

Descent of woman not according to Darwin: In time the mulberry tree becomes a silk gown, and a silk gown becomes a woman.

The *Boston Journal of Chemistry* says:—"The cause of failure in the use of concentrated fertilizers is often due to the manner in which they are applied. It is difficult for those who have been accustomed to use bulky manures to realize that the full fertilizing potency of a bushel of animal excrement may be held in a large table-spoon, and that a handful of one adds to plant structures as decidedly as several shovelfuls of the other." It is only a question of cost in preparation."

Henry Clay once gave expression to the following sentiment:—"No man can be a thorough and intelligent farmer who depends solely upon his own practice, and neglects to avail himself of the knowledge of others, communicated orally or by the press. It is my belief that no farmer of observation and thought can read a good agricultural paper regularly without deriving from it more benefit than many times its cost, and wherever a family is growing up around him, it would be wisdom to subscribe for several."

A gentleman of large experience, and claiming to be as humane as the rest of us, communicates to the *Agriculturist* the fact that he rids his premises of rats by putting potash in their holes and runs. The poor wretches get it over their feet and fur, then they lick it, and don't like the taste of it, it burns them somewhat, and the more they see of it the less they like it; and so they clear out almost as soon as the application is made. To get rid of mice, the same person uses tartar emetic, mingled with any favourite food; they take it, take sick, and take their leave.

INFLUENCE OF FOOD ON THE QUALITY OF PORK.—As the result of experiments in England upon the influence of food upon the quality of pork, it is stated that pigs nourished with milk give the best flavoured meat and the greatest weight; next to which come those fed with grain, maize, barley, oats and peas. Potatoes furnish a loose, light, tasteless flesh, which wastes away very much in cooking; while that of animals fed upon clover is yellow and of a poor flavour. Oil-cakes and oil-seeds produce a loose, fatty flesh, of an unpleasant taste; beans a hard, indigestible, and unsavoury meat; and acorns are but little better.

Mr. Thornton, in the *London Field*, gives a comparison of the strength with which the several leading breeds of cattle turn out at the Shows of the Royal Agricultural Society: "The result of seven years, ending in 1852, was 702 Shorthorns against 211 Herefords and 357 Devons; and for the last ten years the number exhibited have been 1,476 Shorthorns, 574 Herefords, 472 Devons. At the leading markets and fairs, except perhaps in the south-west, they comprise the majority; and it is estimated that there are more Shorthorns bred, fed, and grazed in England, than all the other breeds put together."

FOUR CALVES AT A BIRTH.—A small Ayrshire cow belonging to a Scotch clergyman, Rev. Mr. Myers, of Benholm, about eight years old, lately gave birth to four calves when within a fortnight of her expected time to calve, all perfectly developed and without defect. The first was a bull, the rest heifers; the first, third and fourth were stillborn, and weighed respectively 25, 26 and 30 lbs. The second was lively and vigorous, and promises to live, and the dam was recovering rapidly. She had never before dropped but one calf at a birth. Her present progeny were sired by a Shorthorn bull; and, in common with Mr. Myers' other cows, she had had the range in summer of one of the richest old pasture fields in the county, to which a dressing of bone meal was applied last spring.

LONGEVITY OF THE MULE.—How long can a mule live? A correspondent says that Mr. Daniel Munro, of Elbridge, has a mule reputed to be sixty years old, the evidence of which is considered good: "We interviewed Old Peggy last fall; with her mate, a frisky thing of only twenty or so, she was drawing a steamer weighing 3½ tons. She was getting a little grey about the head. Didn't like going with the steamer at first—brayed against it; but they turned on the steam whistle, and she was silenced. She was claimed to be as strong, hearty and obstinate as ever, and could stand as much sawing on the bit, and pounding over the head, when she didn't wish to back a load. She was also active, as I was assured, with the kind permission to try for myself by tickling her in the flank, and see her 'strike out from the hip' right or left. In fact, her prolonged experience had apparently tended to lessen rather than increase her respect for mankind."