

the dead animals, it is in no way superior to burial, and it is certainly more troublesome and costly. Under the usual circumstances of death occurring on a farm, no apprehension need be entertained with regard to the risk of contaminating the soil when burial is immediate and deep, and no mutilations have been practised.

Experimental evidence proves that under certain conditions, easily secured, the carcase of an animal dead of anthrax soon loses its virulence and confirms in a very marked way the opinion that prompt burial of the unopened carcase is a perfectly safe plan to adopt. When a farm is contaminated anthrax is just as likely to appear at the end of six months as the next day after the last outbreak. The incubative period of anthrax rarely exceeds four or five days. Assuming that more than one animal has received the infection at the same time, a period of eight or twelve days is ample to prove it. During this period burial of the carcasses and disinfection of the premises as far as it is found practical is carried out. The present available methods of disinfecting a contaminated pasture are most unsatisfactory. A contaminated field may be thrown out of use for years. Yet anthrax may appear when the products of the field are used as fodder, or the field is again occupied by cattle, although during the long interval every known method of disinfection had been tried.

For the purely veterinarian part of the foregoing I am indebted to an article by Mr. Hickes, Inspector of Cattle for the East Riding of Yorkshire, England, and from which I have drawn deductions, and added experience of others.

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#### FORAGE PLANTS AND SHEEP-RAISING.

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Professor Thomas Shaw, late of the Ontario Agricultural College, at Guelph, now professor of Animal Husbandry in the University of Minnesota, has been addressing the "Farmers' Congress" of the United States on "The Importance of Forage Crops to the Farmer." This Farmers' Congress is a national affair, and is composed of delegates from every State in the Union, the number of delegates being proportionate to the population of the several States. The Congress has just held a three days' convention at St. Paul. Our old friend, ex-Governor Hoard, of Wisconsin, has

been elected president of the Congress for its next convention. Professor Shaw's address aroused great interest among the delegates present in the convention at St. Paul; and he was frequently greeted with applause and constantly plied with questions bearing upon the subject of his address. Among the points brought out by Professor Shaw were the following :

(1) The question of forage crops is the question of all questions to the farmer. Dairymen, growers of meat and wool, and tillers of soil generally, are all alike interested in forage. No country in the world is more favored in the abundance and variety of its forage crops than the United States.

(2) Speaking of the Canadian field pea, which he characterized as an excellent forage plant, Professor Shaw said that there were sections of the United States where two bushels of this pea could be raised to one on the best pea-producing Canadian soil. Within a few days, in Montana, he had counted 192 pea-pods on one vine—a marvelous production.

(3) Rape is the forage plant upon which Professor Shaw laid most stress. A few years ago, when but 600 acres of rape were raised in the United States, he predicted that the time would come when 10,000,000 sheep and lambs would be fattened upon rape in the United States, and he repeated the prediction now. To-day, he said, there are already probably 100,000 acres of rape growing in the United States, and no less than a million of sheep and lambs feeding upon it.

(4) Professor Shaw thus having mentioned sheep then deplored the unadvanced state of the sheep-raising industry in the United States as compared with what it should be. He said that 250,000 Canadian sheep and lambs are being annually imported into the United States, by way of Buffalo, in face of a high duty; and that Canadian mutton was constantly advertised as such in New York. This market, he contended, should be held by United States farmers, and not be suffered to be captured by Canadian enterprise.

(5) Continuing to speak of sheep, Professor Shaw characterized sheep-raising as the "Agricultural Klondike" of the United States. He said that when he came to Minnesota he was told that sheep could not be profitably raised in that State, and the people who made the statement really believed what they said. In reply he would say