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Notes by the Way.

CONTRIBUTORS.

We regret to say that, of our only two contributors, Mr. Gilbert is too unwell and Professor Penhallow too busy to favour us with any communications this month.

THE FLY PLAGUE.—Among the various lessons that the past summer has afforded to the farmer is the very notable one of the protection of his cattle from the attacks of their insect enemies. Any one who has seen, as we have seen, the poor brutes seeking refuge from the myriads of the new pest, the horn-fly, rubbing themselves backwards and forwards against any over-hanging branches of low-growing trees, until their backs were excoriated and thereby laid still more open to the piercing probosces of their tiny persecutors, must have felt that turning milch-cows to pasturage, during the prevalence of this novel plague at any rate, is a vital blunder.

SOILING-CATTLE.—The best and most profitable way of guarding cattle from the attacks of the fly, it seems to us, is soiling them in a cool cow-house during the hotter months of summer. The expense of doing this is no trifle, but we emphatically believe that it will be fully compensated, in the case of dairy-cows, by the additional yield of milk thereby secured. To quote only one of the opinions expressed by writers in the agricultural papers, Mr King, of Logan County, Ohio, states positively that: "Last season, when the pest made its appearance here, my cows shrank nearly half their mess of milk in a very few days on good pasture.

I put them in the stable, and kept them there during day time, giving them a feed of millet and sweet-corn morning and noon, and turning them into the pasture only at night. They soon gave their usual flow of milk again, and kept it up right along."

WHAT TO GROW FOR SOILING.—Sweet-corn and millet are all very well, but we, in common with almost every farmer who has practised the soiling system, prefer more nitrogenous food. If a few acres of a mixture of pease, oats, and tares are sown, to succeed the first cutting of clover, which, in this part of the province, is generally fit to mow for green-meet by the 10th or 12th of June, the interval between the first and second cut of clover will be fully supplied. There is no great trouble involved in this. The autumn-ploughed manured land should be bro-

ken with the grubber, well harrowed, and the seed—2 bushels of oats, 1 of pease, and one of tares—sown in, or drilled, pretty deep; the land harrowed again, and rolled down soundly. As soon as cut and carried to the stook, plough again, and put in, white turnips, rape, or something at any rate for the sheep to run over. Never trust to a second mowing of tares, etc., coming to anything: what second growth does come is never worth cutting, and besides, the lying idle of the land gives too much chance to the weeds.

WHERE TO SOW SOILING-CROPS.—Most writers in the papers recommend the sowing of these crops on some part of the land near the cow-house. This is an error, for, as the part of the farm on which the soiling-crops are grown must be manured, if anything worth cutting is to be produced, it stands to reason that the piece they are to occupy should be situated in that limb of the rotation devoted to the green-crop. The practice of manuring only the fields close to the farm-buildings is far too prevalent here. The rest of the farm is allowed to "fish for itself," and left almost in a state of nature, full of weeds, and commonly called in the vernacular "pacage." It is high time that this anti-economical practice—we were about to write system—be abandoned, and as this system—and system it is—of soiling will largely increase the provision of dung, it will probably induce many farmers to extend their rotation of crops gradually, until, in the course of time, the whole of their land is brought under a regular course of cultivation.

HOW TO USE SOILING-CROPS.—Mow as soon as the tares are in bloom. This, if the crop is sown the last week of April, or thereby, will happen about the end of June or the first week of July, sometimes earlier, according to the season. For milch cows, in fact for any other stock than horses, the mixture can be used as soon as it is bulky enough; but we have always observed that immature tares are apt to purge horses. Any overplus remaining from the cows will be eagerly devoured by the pigs. Allow the stuff to lie and wilt for six hours or so before giving it to the cattle. One contributor to the "Rural New-Yorker" says he can cut, haul and feed a soiling crop to 20 head of stock in half an hour! Rather a large order, it seems to us, but it is not a very long job, anyhow.

PRICE OF HAY IN ENGLAND.—Very interesting are the variations of the price of hay, both meadow and clover, in England between March 13th and October 16th of this year.

March 13th.

HAY AND STRAW.

LONDON (CUMBERLAND,) THURSDAY.—Prime picked meadow hay, 95s. to 110s.; good do, 80s. to 95s.; inferior do., 60s. to 80s.; prime clover, 100s. to 110s.; useful do., 85s. to 100s.; inferior, 60s. to 85s.; straw, 30s. to 43s. per load.—Dumbelton and Sons and J. Baker.

WHITECHAPEL, SATURDAY.—Superior picked hay, 108s. to 112s.; good hay, 100s. to 105s.; inferior, 75s. to 90s.; best clover, 108s. to 112s.; good clover, 100s. to 105s.; inferior, 80s. to 90s.;

straw, 33s. to 44s. Good hay in short supply.—J. Gingell, Son, and Cruickshank.

October, 16th.

HAY AND STRAW.

LONDON (CUMBERLAND), THURSDAY. Prime picked meadow hay, 160s. to 170s.; good do., 140s. to 160s.; useful do., 135s. to 140s.; prime clover 135s. to 145s.; useful do., 105s. to 140s.; inferior 90s. to 105s.; straw, 36s. to 52s. per load. Canadian hay, 120s. to 130s. per ton.—Dumbelton and Sons. (load = 2,016 lbs.); ton = 2,240 lbs.

WHITECHAPEL, SATURDAY.—Superior picked hay, 160s. to 170s.; good hay, 140s. to 150s.; inferior 120s. to 130s.; best old clover, 150s. to 160.; good clover, 140s. to 145s.; inferior, 120s. to 135s.; straw, 44s. to 56s.—Gingell Son, and Cruickshank.

It will be observed in the above reports from two of the principal hay-brokers of the London markets: that the price of meadow-hay rose from 110s. a load of 2016 lbs., in March, to 170s. in October; and the price of clover-hay from 110s., in March, to 145s. in October: and that straw rose in price from 43s. a load of 1296 lbs., to 56s. a load. One very remarkable thing is that, whereas the best clover-hay in the London market is, in ordinary years, worth about 20s. a load more than the best meadow hay, on the 16th October meadow hay of the finest picked quality was worth 25s. a load more than the best picked clover-hay! A thing utterly unknown during the last fifty years. Straw, with the exception of a few trusses cut up with clover-hay, to be mixed with the horses' oats and beans, is used in London entirely for litter and must be quite unbroken. As our English threshing machine average about 5 feet to 5 feet 6 inches in the mouth, and consist of a simple drum and concave, without beaters; the straw is fed in sideways and comes out as whole as it went in. A pretty sight, indeed, is a London stable when the straw-plait is laid down after the horses have had their morning toilet performed.

STRAW.—Many leases and agreements, in England, forbid the sale of straw off the farm, the tenant being obliged to expend it on the land, and if, at the expiration of his term of occupation, any remain, it must be handed over to the incoming tenant. This, however, in consequence of the sad losses incurred by the farmers in general, is not often insisted upon by the more liberal class of landowners. This year, more straw will be utilised as food for cattle than ever before, it being no exaggeration to say that the hay-crop was an utter failure. With a mixture of linseed, crushed, and molasses of the coarsest description, meal of some kind,—bean or pease-meal for choice—and straw-chaff, cattle can be kept in an improving condition all the winter at a comparatively trifling cost. What roots there are, which owing to the frequent interruptions of their growth are not of much quality, will be given to the sheep. They have a hard struggle before them, have our English brothers, with wheat at 78 cents a bushel, as the average, though the finest qualities such as Talavera, Chidham, &c., of the white sorts, are worth, in the markets of Canterbury, Reading, &c., i. e., in the neighbourhood of the chalk nearly \$1.05.