

THE ILLUSTRATED
Journal of Agriculture

Montreal, March 1, 1896.

Table of Contents

NOTES BY THE WAY:

Cake 299
Canadian cattle 299
Milk-fever 299
Best food for calves 299
Weaning calves 299
Turning calves out to grass 300
Lime 300
A new churn 300
Lucerne or Alfalfa 300
Kent sheep 300
Hampshire-downs—II 300
Mangels 300
Cotton-cake 300
Price of cheese in England 300
Prof. Shaw on sorghum for sheep 300
Roots 300
Carrots 300
Rape 300
Spring lambs 301
Tasmanian apples 301
Influence of the moon on the weather 301
Top dressing 301
Food and butter 301
The "Block-test" 301
The Smithfield Club Ex 301
Lucerne 301
Shorthorn dairy-cows 302
The new photography—II 302

COMPETITION OF AGRICULTURAL
MERIT:

Judges' report 302

ROUVILLE FARMER'S CLUB:

Dr. Gignon's report 302
Fall ploughing, Macfarlane on 304
"True h-roism", Geo Moore on 304
Feeding cattle twice a day, Geo. Moore
on 305
The West-Shefford creamery's sales '95 305
Does Bee-keeping pay—F. W. Jones on 305
M. Dubord's Henhouse—III 306

BREWERS' GRAINS:

Dr. McEachran on their qualities 305
Dr. Girdwood on do 308
The Editor's opinion and experience on
do 308

THE POULTRY-YARD—A. G. GILBERT:

Selection of breeding stock 309
To obtain fertile eggs 309
FARMERS' SYNDICATES OF P. Q. 309
MARK-LANE AND CATTLE MARKETS 309
Prices of pigs at Calne bacon-factory 309

HOUSEHOLD MATTERS:

Women farmers 309
Recipes 309
Expectation of life 309

SWINE:

Cooking corn for pigs 311

THE HORSES:

The primitive horse, — Auzias-Turenne
on 311
Best way of improving our horses, — Bou-
thiller on 312
The Chilmark Flock of Hampshire-Downs 312

MANURES:

Top-dressings 313
Do—Prof. Shutt on 313

THE FARM:

Hops—(by the editor) 313
Maple-sugar 313

Notes by the Way.

Cake.—Or meal, if it pleases any one to call it so, as we saw in the last number of the Journal has fallen very much in price. So much cheaper is it than it was eight or ten years ago, that the computation of values of cottonseed or linseed-cake published in the reports, &c., of the stations in the United States need correction.

In that useful publication, Stewart's "Feeding animals," the *theoretical value* assigned:

To cottonseed meal is \$2.30 per 100 lbs. or \$46.00 a ton;

To linseed-meal, \$1.81 per 100 lbs. or \$36.02 a ton;

To flaxseed, \$2.47 per 100 lbs. or \$49.40 a ton.

Now we perfectly agree with our friend, Mr. Wm. Ewing, that, in spite of the chemists, "we never could see how it is possible for cottonseed meal to be as digestible as linseed meal"; for every one knows that, owing to its constipating quality, the amount of cottonseed meal given to cattle must be restricted to at most four or five pounds a day per head, while, of linseed meal, 14 lbs. a day used to be the ordinary ration of fattening beasts in the Eastern counties of England, when we were farming there. And however much inclined we may be to stick to our old friend crushed flaxseed, we must confess that, with linseed-cake at \$22.00 a ton, we should prefer using the meal, that requires no preparation, to bothering ourself with crushing and steeping the flaxseed.

Flaxseed.—Of course the seed must have fallen in value proportionately to the fall in the value of the cake or meal. But what an immense price Mr. Stewart puts on flaxseed! Flaxseed, or linseed as we English call it, weighs something like 416 lbs. the imperial quarter, or 52 lbs. a bushel, so, at the price given by Mr. Stewart, the bushel of linseed should be worth \$130. We thought, even as long ago as 1885, plenty of linseed at Sorel for 70 cts. and 80 cts. a bushel.

With linseed-meal to keep up perfect digestion, pease-meal to give firm solid flesh, roots or silage for succulency, and good straw for "roughage"; feeding well-bred stock for the butcher ought to pay even now, in spite of the competition of the Western ranchmen. We grieve to say so, but though our house is supplied by one of the best Montreal West-end butchers, we have not tasted a piece of tender beef for many a day. Old cows and working oxen are not likely to give tender meat.

Canadian cattle.—Monsieur Couture, in a letter to the *Journal d'Agriculture* à propos of an article by M. J. B. Plante, warns people not to imagine that "deep red" is the usual colour of the Canadian Cow.

"On the contrary," says M. Couture, "that colour is an unfailing sign of impurity of blood, and shows that there must be a cross of Ayrshire, Shorthorn, or especially Devon, in the family." He always refuses entry to the herd-book to any so styled Canadian cow if she is deep-red in colour. Mr. Couture mentions another error in M. Plante's essay: that good butter-cows are never white. "The colour has nothing to do with the richness of the milk. There are Jerseys that are quite white, as there are Shorthorns of that colour, and yet, in spite of that, some of them give very rich milk.

"And," he proceeds, "it is by no means wise, by way of causing a higher appreciation of the value of the Canadian cow, to depreciate the qualities of the other breeds of milch-cows; this should be most carefully avoided. The plain truth should be told about them, and it is this: the Canadian cow is of all the breeds that we have in this country the one best suited to the Canadian farmer, because she is the

easiest fed, she has the best health, and gives the most milk from one calving to the other, and this milk is almost as rich as the milk of the best butter-cows.

It is true that the milk of the Jersey is, in general, the richest of all milks; that the Ayrshire, particularly in summer, gives a great flow of milk; let us add, if we choose, that cows of both these breeds cost too much for their keep, and do not pay so well for it as the Canadian cow, and we shall be within the bounds of truth: but we must not go beyond that."

Milk-fever.—If a cow is, as she should be, dried off about 6 weeks before calving, care should be taken to watch her dejections, and if any signs of costiveness appear, a mash of bran and linseed meal should be given daily up to the birth of the calf. An occasional dose of Epsom-salts—1 lb.—with some cordial admixture of ginger, carraway seeds, &c., will do no harm, if the cow is in high condition; but, in our experience, the crushed flaxseed has generally; we may almost say invariably; answered every purpose.

If the *placenta*, or afterbirth, does not come away within a few hours after calving, a weight, of about 2 lbs. attached to it will, if it is not rotten, hasten its separation. Why let the cow eat the placenta? Nobody seems to know, and yet a writer in *Hoard* says she ought to be allowed to eat it.

The calf.—As we have often said in this periodical, do not on any account let the cow even see the calf; if she is prevented smelling and sucking it, she will not know its voice; take it away quietly as soon as it leaves the dam; there will be no hollowing or bawling about if you do, and the mother will settle down to her rest and food at once.

Milk the cow as soon as she is quieted; cover up the calf with soft straw in a warm place well away from the cow, and do not trouble yourself to dry it, as that only serves to glue the hairs together; if left to itself the moisture will soon evaporate and the hair be left dry.

In former days, the new-born calf used to be sprinkled with salt and the cow was encouraged to lick it, for the purpose, it was said of giving her appetite for the mash that was always administered. An absurdity, of course, for, if the cow is all right, she will take the mash freely enough, as her labour will be sure to have made her pretty thirsty.

If you want to prevent your cows giving a large flow of milk, let the calves suck them for twelve or fifteen weeks. That is what the Hereford breeders did. We have often seen great big lumps of calves that would weigh from 300 to 350 pounds, running about in the Shropshire meadows tugging away at the cows! There is such a thing as *habit*; if a calf takes eight quarts a day from its dam's udder, that dam is not going to trouble herself to produce twelve quarts; consequently, she will not get into the *habit* of giving more than the calf needs, and the bad habit she will insensibly acquire she will infallibly hand on to her descendants. From all we hear, the *Galloways* have suffer-

ed from the same cause. However, this practice has, we believe, fallen into disuse with every breed, except where pedigreed herds are kept. There, the only use made of the cows being to produce calves, as soon as possible after calving the cow is dried off, and no doubt the calf is all the better for it.

How many days usually intervene between conception and delivery? Lord Spencer's table, a most trustworthy one, runs as follows:

A RECKONING TABLE FOR THE CALVING OF COWS.

When Bull'd.	When calve.	When Bull'd.	When will Calve.
Jan 1.	Oct. 13.	July 16.	April 27.
— 15.	— 27.	— 30.	— 11.
— 29.	— 10.	Aug. 13.	May 25.
Feb. 12.	Nov. 21.	— 27.	— 8.
— 26.	— 8.	Sept. 10.	June 22.
March 12.	Dec. 21.	— 24.	— 6.
— 26.	— 5.	Oct. 8.	July 20.
April 9.	Jan. 19.	— 22.	— 3.
— 23.	— 2.	Nov. 5.	Aug. 17.
May 7.	Feb. 16.	— 19.	— 31.
— 21.	— 2.	Dec. 3.	Sept. 14.
June 4.	— 16.	— 17.	— 28.
— 18.	March 30.	— 31.	Oct. 12.
July 2.	April 13.		

Best Food for Calves.—New milk, 3 times a day, about 8 quarts; for the first ten days or so; then gradually substitute skim milk with a trifle of boiled flaxseed, or what is better, crushed flaxseed steeped in plenty of boiling water. As the calf gets on, say, at 6 weeks old, a little pease-soup, *strained*, may be added, but the crushed flaxseed is the main point. Avoid cottonseed meal for calves as you would avoid poison. Do not tie up calves: let them be kept separate, if you please, but at liberty. Castrate the males at a month or six weeks, taking care that they are not suffering from either too costive or too loose a state of the bowels at the time. Heifers are never spayed in this country, but in England it is a common practice. They thrive amazingly after the operation, and there is no animal fetching so high a price on the London market as a spayed "home-bred" heifer, if well fattened.

Weaning calves.—Calves should, of course be weaned from milk gradually, and not before they are from 3 to 4 months old. We have no experience with *wey* as a calf-food, but with the addition of the flaxseed and pease-meal, it would answer well, if it is sound: we do not fancy any sour food for calves until they are well on to 6 months old. In our own breeding days we used to take great pains to use the skim-milk in a perfectly fresh state; and always warmed it up to some 90° or 95°: more calves are affected by "scour" from cold milk than from any other cause; ground oats unsifted, too, are very apt to produce diarrhoea; the husk of that grain seems to produce a *peristaltic* action of the bowels. The best cure for the complaint is "Dwight's mixture," in doses of from 30 to 50 drops according to age. Mr. Tuck, Messrs. Dawes' farmer, at Lachine, in 1889, found it most useful among their Jersey calves, of which previous to its use, a large proportion died, supposed to be from the too rich milk of their dams; but that is doubtful.