

State of the Wool Interests.

The advance in the price of wool fully proves the correctness of the advice we gave to our readers some months ago. The present prospect is very favourable to sheep feeders, and there is no doubt of the continuance of high prices for wool for some time. The N. Y. Economist writes as follows:

"Our market is excited and higher for all kinds. It is feared that we are approaching a wool famine. Clothing wools are in demand and firmer. Combing wools are in request, and prices are still going up with some demand for America. Carpet wools are in active request, chiefly for home use."

The Economist, in explanation of the situation in England, further says:

"Hundreds of thousands of sheep have died of plague in England, and the Russia-Turkish and English-Affghanistan wars, in Turkey, in Syria, in Persia, and the Indian country, has caused tens of millions of sheep to be killed. In fact wool growing in Turkey, in Russia, in Persia, and all India has been almost given up on account of the war, and the low prices current for the past five years. At no period in the history of the wool trade have we witnessed so excited a market as there lies in one panorama before us to-day, no matter where we turn our gaze. All along this whole line no fine clothing wools can be bought ready for manufacturers' use below \$1 for the scoured pound, and a great deal will cost from \$1.10 to \$1.25 and even \$1.30. Combing and delaines and carpet wools are equally high, and from the present outlook no one can tell where the prices will stop. New York and Boston dealers are buying southern California, heavy, burry, greasy wools in San Francisco, and paying \$1.17½ for the scoured pound.

In Texas nothing can be reached below \$1 to \$1.10 scoured. Nearly all the Kentucky clip has passed out of the farmers' hands. In Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois one quarter of the new clip has been bought on the sheep's back on Eastern account, at 40 to 50 cents for unwashed delivered on board the cars when ready."

The Test of Pedigree.

It is one of the most encouraging signs of the times in the world of stock-breeding that in every direction and in almost all kinds of stock the blind devotion to pedigree that prevailed so extensively a few years ago, to the neglect of every other essential, in selecting breeding animals, has passed away, and in its stead we find a disposition to closely scan the merits of each individual and its immediate ancestry. Not that intelligent breeders have less regard for pedigree than formerly, but they have come to understand that pedigree, to be of any particular value, must be something more than a mere string of names.

Breeders are now getting down to the very marrow of pedigree by enquiring what were the qualities of the ancestry all along the line. If selecting stock from which to breed trotting horses, they look at the records of the winners on the trotting turf, and judge of the merits of the ancestry accordingly. If for the dairy, they search for the butter or milk records of the ancestry; all of which shows that the people have at last been educated up to know just what pedigree means, and have learned how to tell a good pedigree from a bad one. What was once a mystery, full of technicalities that could be understood only by an expert, has now become so plain and simple that any man can understand it. A good pedigree is one which commences with a good animal standing before you, and runs back through an ancestry consisting of good animals only.—[National Live-Stock Journal.

In the Burrawara District, New South Wales, the Messrs. Edols lately got 466 tons of wool from one clip of their 200,000 sheep. The fleeces of the rams averaged 8½ lbs., those of the wethers 6½, and those of the breeding ewes and lambs 4 lbs., making a general average of 5 lbs.

Sheep husbandry in France is declining. At one time the number of sheep in that nation was 40,000,000. It had declined to 30,000,000 in 1870, and still later there was a decline of over 5,500,000 in six years.

Training Heifers.

It is an easy matter to train a heifer to stand quietly to be milked, but it is easier to train them to jump, kick and run. The way to teach them to stand still is to require them always to do so. If there is naught to hinder a wild heifer from running, and if her fears prompt her to run, she can and will run. If she cannot run, in a short time she loses her fear and stands from habit; and habit is one of the most powerful influences in this world for either brute or man. If you want to transform a wild heifer into a well-behaved, well-trained cow, you must be patient and exhibit no temper. Never strike her. She must first of all get acquainted with you and learn that you will not hurt her. She must learn not to fear you. If in winter it is best to milk in the stable; make as little fuss and as few alarming motions as possible; handle her very gently. Be careful not to pinch the teats. This is the great source of trouble. A cow naturally wishes to be rid of her milk. She stands quietly until some careless milker has given a squeeze that hurts, when she kicks and runs. By allowing such a course a few times, the habit will be confirmed. The best way to manage, if you have no stable, is to have a well fenced yard, and teach your heifers to stand for milking in that; or, next best, to tie them, using them very quietly. No man or boy is fit to handle animals unless he can control them, and control himself. Neither is it right to chastise the ignorant.—[E.

What we Expect from a Mild Open Winter.

If we are to form our judgments from the experience of the past, farmers need to prepare in time for a more than ordinary contest with hosts of insects during the coming spring and summer months. A correspondent of the Rural World speaks of a mild winter as a misfortune to the farmer:

"The very mild winter we have had, while it has been a blessing in some respects, is unfortunate in other particulars. Very cold winters are generally better for farmers in this latitude, than unusually warm ones. We have noticed that when we have had open, warm winters, all kinds of noxious insects are much more destructive the following summer to fruits and farm crops. A year ago we had a very severe winter, and it was destructive to a vast throng of injurious insects, and the result was we had the largest crop throughout the west ever raised. There were but few insect depredators to fruits and farm crops the past season, but if the warm weather now continues, the number infesting crops the coming summer we fear will be legion. Already the wheat crop is being seriously injured south of us by a worm similar to the army worm. The chintz bug is much more destructive after warm winters than after severe ones, and so are the curculio and other fruit depredators. The farmer must therefore prepare for efficient, active operations with the expectation that he will have enemies to meet the coming season.

Home-Made Guano.

Spread a layer of dried muck or road dirt, finely pulverized, on a corner of your barn floor. Over this spread your fowl manure, beat into a fine powder with a spade or any other suitable instrument, and then sprinkle with plaster, in the proportion of one quart of plaster to two bushels of the mixture. Pour over this all the strong soap-suds, urine and other waste water you have, but not in such quantity as to soak through the heap. The soap-suds, by a combination of the fat acids contained, along with the vegetable acids in the muck, prevents the escape of ammonia, as well as assisting in the decomposition of the heap. The dampness also is an absorbent of ammonia, and it should never be allowed to get dry nor too wet. You will find the manure, when you begin to use it, well rotted, and as black as tar. Applied to beans, corn or potatoes, at the rate of a handfull to the hill, well mixed with the soil before dropping the seed, it will be found to be the best substitute for guano known.

Statistics of pork packing in Cincinnati for the season beginning Nov. 1 and ending March 1, show that there was a decrease of 89,025 head as compared with the previous year.

GLEANINGS.

Twelve hundred analyses of fertilizers, feeding stuffs, etc., were made during the past year in the laboratory of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

Potash is absolutely necessary to successful potato growing. The easiest and best mode of supplying it is in the form of wood ashes. It is furnished also in soft coal ashes and well rotted yard or stable manure.

Continuously, though slowly, are the natural resources of the Dominion being developed. In 1879 the value of Canadian coal sold in Ottawa was \$33,000. In the previous year Canadian coal was unknown in that market.

In some places rats have become a great pest in farm houses and barns. Copperas is the dread of rats. In every crevice on every hole where a rat treads, scatter the grains of copperas and the result is a stampede of rats and mice. But look out for poison.

How just and generous treatment civilizes the Indians! The warlike Sioux of the Little Saskatchewan section are rapidly becoming civilized, bands of whom may be seen coming out of their reserve with ponies and sleighs loaded with wheat to be gisted at Balkwill's mill.

The ox-eyed daisy has become a great pest in some sections of the country. Those who are troubled with this weed should bear in mind that it is propagated by seed, and not by the root, and to rid themselves of it they have only to mow before the seed is ripe. It may require two seasons to rid a field entirely of the innocent looking flower.

The lily of the valley is one of the most fragrant of flowers, and yet we seldom see it in its perfection. Every one knows that it grows and blooms year after year, although overgrown with weeds, and shaded close by trees; yet those who have never seen it as it can be grown will be surprised at the results that can be produced by a little care and culture, from a good bed rightly prepared.

American Beet Sugar Crop for 1879.

Mr. C. K. W., of New Haven, writes as follows:

"We are now feeding a carload of pulp every ten days to cows and steers. The milk is showing a larger percentage of cream than from any other feed we have ever used, and the steers, of which we put in twenty-four for the purpose of giving the pulp a fair trial, are doing finely, gaining at the rate of over a hundred pounds per pair a month, on pulp and corn-stalks and straw, without a particle of hay or any other feed. Seven calves also in one pen, from three to six months old, we feed entirely on pulp and rowen. We have never had a lot do any better; their hair is glossy, they are fat, bright and all right. You know that the raising of stock is one of our specialties, and that we feed high always, believing that the only way to get a good cow is to feed for this from a calf up; and when I see stock growing and looking as well as these all do on beet pulp, it is conclusive evidence to my mind that it is going to be the feed for farmers to use, that are situated so they can procure it."

A farmer of Vermont writes to the American Cultivator as follows:—I ploughed an acre in the fall of 1878, covered with a heavy coat of manure, re-ploughed in spring, harrowed, ridged, planted with a machine, hoed, chopped out the surplus to "a stand," and gathered a crop of 1,200 bushels.

The New York Tribune says:—The summary from Portland, Maine, shows that during the 70 working days of the season 9,000 tons of beets were used, yielding 8 per cent., or 1,440,000 pounds of crude sugar, which sold for 8½ cents per pound, or \$122,000, and was refined in Boston at a cost of 1 cent per pound. It will be easy to average an equivalent of two hogsheds per acre instead of one and a half.

At Oswego, N. Y., it was stated that Mr. Kingsford had grown 22.2 tons per acre on common soil, and that he thought he could raise 30 on land in high tilth. Mr. Strever reported a yield of 18 tons from three-fourths of an acre in good condition, planted with a machine in rows three feet apart and worked freely though with less labor than is required for a crop of corn. Among results of experience related in the use of sugar beets for stock-feeding, Mr. Buckhout remarked that he had fattened pork on them, and it was sweeter than corn-fed.