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The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

"AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH."

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor.

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Agriculture.

AN AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS. A glance at even a few of the American agricultural papers shows that there is in the United States much mental activity amongst the agricultural class. It is a kind of mental activity of which little is shown in Canada, and displays itself in "Field Meetings" meetings of farmer's clubs and conventions, culminating in a meeting of a National Agricultural Congress. There is such a thing as sampling too much, and advanced and go-ahead as are the United States, their agriculturists are hardly able to carry out with success such a great project as a National Agricultural Congress. The Congress that met a week or so ago, at New Haven, Connecticut, was formed in 1872 by the union of two organizations, "the Cotton States Agricultural and Mechanical" and "the National Agricultural Association" of Georgia and Tennessee. The editor of the Maine Farmer was present and in his issue of last Saturday gives his impressions of it. He met there, we may remark in passing, several writers and editors of well-known agricultural papers. "Friend Thomas of the Country Gentleman," who does more work on that admirable journal than many think—was present, with his faithful crutch by his side. An old man, but young in feelings, and who is always practical in what he says, and says something well worth hearing. Brother Wetherell of the Traveller, with his venerable white beard, though he is a young man yet, was diligent in making notes, and did not seem himself to us, as he took but little part in the discussions. Brother Cheever of the New England Farmer was also present, note book in hand, and his bronzed farmer-like face and bronzed hands showed him to be the honest, practical farmer which he is, as well as a sensible writer on what he knows about farming—which is a good deal. The results of the Congress are thus summed up by him. A three days' convention at which papers were read to very small audiences, and a considerable variety of topics—some of them important, others commonplace—by distinguished gentlemen, which but for the agency of the agricultural press in publishing an account of the same for the benefit of those most interested would exert but little influence upon agricultural thoughts or practices. The idea of such a Congress, in carrying out its work, and being so cumbersome in its management as to fail of accomplishing the object it has in view. He does not think, however, that such a Congress is impossible, but ventures to predict that the day is not far distant "when an association composed of the Secretaries of the various boards, departments, and Societies of Agriculture in the several States, with the Presidents of the State Colleges of Agriculture, will be formed; which shall hold a two weeks' session once in two years, at a time and place to be determined, where ample time shall be given for fully considering measures relating to the prosperity and advancement of all the agencies for the promotion of agricultural knowledge and practices, and where time shall not be taken up with tedious discussions on the results of applying different fertilizers to different soils, and similar matters. And even then we believe the most good must and will continue to be accomplished in a positive way, by our Farmers' Conventions, local club meetings, and the agricultural press; agencies in which we have the most unshaken faith, because we see the results every day, in the different States where these agencies are at work, of what they are accomplishing, gradually, but surely, in behalf of our agriculture."

A National Agricultural Congress, we imagine, will always be more show than practical use. There is no doubt that there is among the farmers of the United States as a body more mental activity and more pride in their calling, than among the farmers of Canada, and more among the latter than among the farmers of New Brunswick. In Ontario there are better means of acquiring a systematic agricultural education than here, though agricultural colleges and experimental farms. Much has to be done to raise the standard of agricultural education in this Province, before the farmers, as a body, take the enlightened interest in their profession that United States farmers very generally seem to do. If there can not be an agricultural college here, why might there not be an agricultural chair in the University, and a regular course of instruction given,

and, for practice, why might there not be experimental farms in different parts of the Province? The necessity of having something of the kind may before long come to be seen.

HOW TO RAISE AN EXTRA ACRE OF CORN OR WHEAT. A correspondent of the Maine Farmer gives his experience on the above subject and it may prove suggestive to some of our readers. As it takes everybody to know every thing I thought I would advance a few ideas on making and saving fertilizers for our farms; and what I am now going to write is from experience. Farming on most of the farms in Maine is unprofitable without manure but with it, it may be very profitable. We will take it for granted then, that dressing is the key note to successful farming. Now how shall we make any more dressing than what our cattle will make? I will tell you how I make it. I have a barn cellar in which I have two wells dug under each end of the stable, four feet deep and six feet wide covered over with stone. Where these shafts wells are it is lower than any place in the cellar or barnyard; consequently every rain we have the water finds its way into these wells carrying with it the liquid dressing from the barnyard and hogyard and privy. In these wells I have a small chain pump that pumps half a barrel a minute, costing only three dollars each. I haul muck and dirt into the barn cellar and every leisure time we have I pump this liquid on to the muck and it is so thick sometimes it almost ropes. The result is, this muck without anything but it gives my best corn and beans. If a farmer has no barn cellar he has a sag in the barnyard, if not he can soon make one. There let him dig a reservoir and begin his compost heap with the dirt he throws out of it. And if he cannot afford a pump it will pay him to bale it out. If he cannot get muck got dirt or sods beside the roads, or any substance that will absorb the liquid. These pumps are very cheap and simple in construction so much so that most any boy can make one after seeking it. Some will say they have no time to haul muck. I say to such to take time just as you do to work out your highway tax. You had better neglect something else, say let that old field go one year longer, or knock around the rocks on a certain piece of land that you would like to haul off one year longer. I claim that any man who keeps a few head of cattle and sheep and a hog, can with a little labor this fall make dressing sufficient for an acre of good corn or wheat provided he will prepare a place to hold the liquids from his yards and manure heaps. It is better to let your compost heap remain till spring as you then will have any amount of liquid to apply to your heap. You can make your heap as broad as you please as you please as you can make broad spots to conduct the liquid all over it. You will find your horse heap will contain hogsheds of this liquid and it keeps it from drying or burning up. You want your pumps high enough with a staging around it to stand on the months of April and May, you can haul on to your dry mowing fields almost continually the very quintessence of a fertilizer; and in being a liquid it finds its way at once to the roots of plants and is leached with rain. A man might as well try to whistle successfully without an under lip as to undertake to raise an extra acre of corn or wheat successfully without some kind of fertilizers—I mean on old run out fields.

A MAN WHO MADE FARMING PAY.—Farming will pay even in these hard times, with industry and perseverance. Seven years ago a party bought a farm in Worcester County, Mass., of 140 acres, for the sum of \$10,000, which he mortgaged to a relative for the whole purchase money retaining his entire capital of \$3,000 for the purchase of stock and tools, also for the building of a \$600 barn. With no assistance except his own, now nineteen years of age, and seven weeks hire of a man annually, to assist in harvesting, the farmer has paid the mortgage, owns his farm, free from debt, besides having one horse, one yoke of oxen, twenty cows, six hogs and quite a quantity of personal property. Is not this a far better record than most merchants and manufacturers can exhibit?—American Cultivator.

EGGS ARE VERY NUTRITIOUS ARTICLES OF FOOD. They contain about as much flesh-forming and meat-giving substance as an equal weight of butcher's meat.

SOWING FALL WHEAT. The following article from the Canadian Farmer will be found, we think, both interesting and seasonable. There are special reasons why farmers should be more than generally cautious about the seeding of their fall wheat this year. The experience of the past season has proved our anticipations of the spread of the Hessian fly to have been correct. We doubt if the crop in a single county in Ontario altogether escaped injury. The unusual vigor of the plant, however, enabled the wheat to recover in a great measure from the injury inflicted. What the situation would have been if the season had only been an average one is more than we can guess. There is no reason why the Hessian fly should be allowed to assume the dimensions of a national plague, as it threatens to do. No insect is so easily annihilated. All that is necessary is late sowing in the districts where it is known to exist. But this late sowing must be done in concert. It will be useless for nineteen farmers to sow late and thereby incur the danger of attacks of rust, if a twentieth obstinate man persists in putting in his wheat early, and thus furnishing young plants on which the Hessianians may lay their eggs. Though the insects are so delicately framed, and in their winged form are so swift-lived as to be incapable of long migrations, still they are easily able to travel a few miles, and it is useless to expect that a wheat field can be concealed from them.

For the last dozen years there has been an increasing tendency toward early sowing of fall wheat. Many farmers now strive to get their seed in before the end of August, and many more during the first week of September. This is the exact condition necessary for the perpetuation of the Hessian fly. That insect, as it comes from the chrysalis, finds the young wheat above the ground in just the stage of growth to receive eggs, furnish food for the larva, and allow them to get into the chrysalis form again before the advent of severe frost. Now, if the sowing be delayed till after the middle of September, and the normal character, frost will catch either the mature insect or the larva, and in either of those stages is fatal to them. Those eggs which, in the absence of wheat, have been laid upon native grasses allied to the cereals, may be left to furnish food for the parasites which prey upon the Hessianians.

Another but less effectual way of fighting Hessianians is to pasture sheep repeatedly upon the growing wheat, never allowing the surface of the field to remain green for more than a week. Of late years another wheat pest of a somewhat similar nature to the Hessian fly is increasing unpleasantly. It is the joint-worm, (Scorpaena borealis). It is less formidable than the Hessian fly in that it has but one brood in a year. The perfect insect appears in June and lays its eggs in the growing straw near the first or second joint. A tiny footless maggot, about the eight of an inch long, and of a pale yellow colour is the result. This feeds upon the sap of the plant, and deprives the grain of nutriment. Infested stalks may be known by the swollen joints. The insect continues in the larval or grub stage all winter, in which it differs from the Hessian fly. In the spring it goes into the chrysalis form and emerges from it in June, when the egg-laying goes on as before. There is but one remedy against the joint-worm, and that is to burn all the straw of the infested field.

CATTLE FEEDING. Professor Stewart lately informed the American dairymen's association that he once tried an experiment with ten cows, giving each three quarts of corn meal a day, fed alone. This was continued a month. Then three quarts, mixed with a peck of cut and moistened hay, were fed daily to each cow. By weighing the result showed a gain of 25 per cent. in favor of mixing the meal and cut hay. If the meal is fed alone, it is better to feed it dry, as this favors digestion. This food was given raw. If cooked, the fodder is brought back nearly to its original green state. But it will not pay to cook for only five or ten animals, as it requires nearly the same labor to cook for ten as for forty. An experiment was made to ascertain how much an acre of corn was worth. It was fed when in a raw or roasting state to 194 cows in October, and it lasted them four days. This is equal to feeding one cow 46 days. Prof. Stewart recommends as a cheap way to cook corn, running ears and all through the cutting machine, and then passing them to the steam tank mixed with water. This saves husking, shelling and grinding.

FARMERS' WANTS. Enjoying many blessings peculiar to his calling, the farmer is subject also to many needs not felt by those in other walks of life. You need only take up the last newspaper to find some writer (probably not a farmer) indulging in rhapsodies upon the bliss of country life. No doubt a farmer's life is enjoyable and healthful, and we hope that most farmers appreciate these facts and are contented and thankful for the blessings of their lot, but the farmer's life is not without its peculiar wants, and to these we would call attention in the hope of supplying them in such small measure as we can. Chief among the inevitable wants of the farmer is his want of intercourse with his fellow men; he is by necessity a half hermit; his companions, the few hired men he can afford to employ—perhaps foreigners, certainly men of little intellect or culture; with whom he must work day after day, and when his son must work day after day, and when the day's toil is at last ended and the tools cleaned and put away, there is in general little intercourse left to indulge in social intercourse with the neighbors; they are too far away for an easy walk, and the horses perhaps are too tired to drive. So our farmer sits down and goes to sleep almost as soon as his tired limbs are fairly stretched in a comfortable position. Such habits are not conducive to a healthy and happy state of mind. At the busy season of harvest they are not to be indulged in so much as to be difficult to change in the more leisurely seasons of the year. The occasions of social gathering among farmers are less frequent than formerly. We hear our fathers tell with glowing words of the husking bee and the house raising and the apple tree and other festive occasions of rural mirth and jovial merriment. They are not the fashion now and we need something to take their place. The farmer's club is a very useful thing in its season, and we hope most of our readers belong to one and make it useful—but at this season of long days and short nights and heavy toil, the farmer has little opportunity or time for anything in the social way except his newspaper.

Let us then try as best we can, and as we always have to make this a social paper; it is thus that it serves to bring together in a measure the distant workers of the farm for a social chat, without the inconvenience or expense of a long journey. We cordially invite you to write anything in your daily experience that you think of daily interest to other farmers, and invite you also to ask for any information you may need in regard to any period of farm management. The communications of practical farmers are always the most valuable matter in any paper; they deal with practical details, familiar to the man who comes face to face with difficulties and overcomes them. The editor can select such items of news or general interest as he thinks will be interesting and useful, but to build up a truly useful and practical paper he must rely very largely upon the assistance of practical men. We are well aware that such men very often find a difficulty in expressing themselves clearly and correctly in writing. But if they really have anything worth saying they need not be prevented by any difficulty in education or by want of practice in writing—say what you have to say simply as if talking to a neighbor, and if too tired or busy to write yourself get some other member of the family to write for you, but write by all means if you have anything to say. Write as a duty to your fellow workers who may be helped and cheered by what you can tell them. Write as a pleasant recreation after the monotonous routine of daily life on the farm.—Patron's Helper.

LARGE VS. SMALL BREEDS. A writer in the Rural New Yorker has the following very sensible remarks on the effect of large breeds in deteriorating a farm: Few farmers take into consideration the weight of bones, when deciding whether to raise large or small breeds of swine. Yet there is no element of a virgin soil so completely exhausted from what we call worn out lands, as is the bone-forming material, neither is there an element so difficult to restore. In the face of the fact that the continual drain of bone material from the soil, is slowly but steadily telling upon its productiveness, we must, first, make the demands upon the soil for bone material as small as possible; second, restore all the fertilizers of this nature that are available. In order to lighten the demands upon the soil, I would advise breeding with two points constantly in view: First, small bones of fine texture, such as

that found in Berkshire, Essex, Jersey Red, and some other breeds; second, early maturity. These points must of course be in addition to those all good breeders endeavor to obtain. Small breeds have the reputation among some breeders and shippers of breaking down and becoming helpless when fat. That is because the small breeds put on flesh more rapidly when young, and carry much more flesh in proportion to the weight of bone than larger, slower-maturing breeds. Every farmer knows that when following the sow with slogs and grass, pigs can be made to weigh from one hundred and fifty to two hundred pounds, with but little corn, by good management. My experience is, that the limit of profitable feeding is reached at about two hundred pounds weight with early maturing breeds. It costs the feeder at least ten times as much to grow the same weight of meat. The growing prejudice against the use of swine's flesh for food would soon be removed by using the small, early maturing breeds for family use, as with proper variety of other meats and well-fatted pork there would be no argument for a Christian to base production on. My plan is to raise as much meat and as little bone as I can, hurry my pigs into market at an early age as possible, and winter no hogs except my breeding sows.

OATS AS CORN FOR LIVE STOCK.—Concerning this subject, Dr. James, the Commissioner of Agriculture of Georgia, writes as follows: Taking into consideration the cost of production, the chemical analysis and the comparative freedom from stealage, oats are cheaper as stock food than corn. One bushel, or 56 pounds of corn costs 58 cents, while one bushel or 32 pounds of oats cost 29 cents, making a difference of 13 cents in the cost of 100 pounds of the two. Chemical analysis show that oats contain 12 per cent. of albuminoids, or flesh and muscle producing principle, while corn contains 10 per cent. It will thus be seen that for work animals, oats are more valuable than corn as food when equal weights are used. Consider, now, that 100 pounds of oats cost 13 cents less than 100 pounds of corn, and the case stands decidedly in favor of oats for work stock.

In fat producing properties, corn has 7 per cent. oats 6 per cent. It will be seen, therefore, that when equal weights only are compared, corn has the advantage as a fat producer. But taking the cost in consideration, there is no choice in this respect. Another decided advantage of oats for our climate, and especially for summer use, is that while they supply more muscle, they are less heating and debilitating to the work animal consuming them. Still another advantage is freedom from rotten grains and weevil, which frequently causes corn to injure stock.

WORKING BUTTER.—Do not work too much or too fast. Work slowly until all the salt is thoroughly and evenly absorbed. Otherwise the butter will not be of uniform color. Working it too fast will destroy the grain, and the butter becomes salty and lard-like in its texture. Let it stand or put it away in the tray for twenty-four hours. Then work it enough to remove all the buttermilk or surplus brine, so that the butter may become dry or like a piece of cheese. Mould into rolls, and set these away for twenty-four hours or until they become hard and firm. The cloth should now be put on, so as to cover one end, while the other is left open for the stamp. The cloth should be cut in pieces of exact size and dipped in brine, and the butter rolled when the cloth is dripping wet. Butter should never come in contact with the bare hand. When in bulk it can be easily handled with a ladle and a flat paddle.—Exchange.

SALT AND WATER IN PASTURES.—If animals while pasturing can drink whenever they wish, they will do so often but never take much at a time or three a day, they will frequently swallow enormous quantities, a thing that cannot be healthy. The same is true with regard to salt. If salt is always within reach, animals will lick it once or twice a day or once every couple of days, just as other system may need it, whereas, if they are given salt only occasionally, they should not be allowed all they are inclined to take. Both salt and water should be always within reach of cattle, and where this is impossible, they should be watered at least three or four times a day, especially in warm weather.

CORN LOSS.—One-fifth by drying, so it is as profitable to sell it now in the fall for 80 cents as in the spring for \$1.00, to say nothing of risk from vermin and fire.

CHEESE MAKING.

A Professor Arnold on "Cheese Making," says:— For making cheese under any circumstances a few things are absolutely necessary. One must have a vessel large enough to hold the milk. It may be any clean tub, boiler or kettle. A wooden tub is best, because it will lose the least heat while standing. There must be means for warming, which can be supplied by a cook stove. Rennet for coagulating the milk must be provided and soaked beforehand. A strong hoop for pressing the curd, with a capacity of at least six cubic inches for every quart of milk used, and power for pressing equal to at least the weight of a ton. These being provided, warm the milk in any convenient way, without burning, to about eighty-four degrees and add rennet enough to have it begin to curdle in fifteen minutes and cover the milk to keep it from cooling. The quantity of rennet to use must be found by trial. A good rennet, well soaked and rubbed, in time will curdle about two thousand quarts of milk, but there is so much variation in their strength that only an approximation to the quantity required can be made. When the curd has become so hard as to cleave before the finger when passed through it, it should be cut with a blade that will reach to the bottom of the vessel into columns an inch or so square, and then covered again to let the whey separate. After it has stood fifteen or twenty minutes the whey which can be conveniently removed may be dipped off and the curd carefully broken with the hands into pieces of the size of chestnuts or even finer.

When this is done the whey which has been dipped off, or what is better an equal bulk of water heated to 100 degrees, may be turned into the curd and stirred enough to make all parts of the curd warm up alike. The curd should again be covered to prevent cooling, and left standing fifteen or twenty minutes, or as long as it can be without sticking firmly together, when the whey may again be dipped off, the curd broken up fine again, and more hot whey or water turned on and mixed evenly with the curd by gently stirring, so as not to riddle the whey and waste the richness of the curd. Cover the curd again and repeat the operation until the mass is raised to a blood heat. The stirring should be repeated often enough to prevent the pieces of curd from adhering, and the whole covered and left standing for the curd to harden. When it has stood so long as to become hard enough to squeak between the teeth or spring apart readily when pressed in the hand, or what is better, to respond to the hot iron test, the whey may at once be dipped off and the curd strained on a strainer cloth, laid over something which will allow the whey to run away steadily, like a large sieve or a basket. When the curd has been stirred 'till it is freed from whey and becomes a little cool and the large lumps broken up fine so it will receive salt about alike, salt at the rate of one ounce for each ten quarts of milk. Mix the salt thoroughly through the curd and then put to press.

As soon as the curd is well staked together, so it can be handled safely, remove it from the press; put on a new prescloth, turn the under side up, fold the cloth evenly over and press again till the press is wanted for the next day's cheese. Upon taking it from the press let it stand an hour or two till it becomes dry, then rub it over with some soft grease and turn and rub daily till it is cuped, which will be from thirty to sixty days. On small cheese, for home use, no bandage will be required. The surface must be greased often enough to keep it from drying and cracking. In making small cheese for home use, the press, though desirable, is not an absolute necessity. If a curd is properly made it will form itself into a cheese of good texture by its own weight. In moulding a cheese without pressing, the hoop should be made of perforated tin, so the whey can readily escape, and should have a cover of the same material for its top and bottom, shutting over and out side of the tin like the cover of a pill box, and should be only just about large enough to hold the curd to be moulded. A cover is placed upon the lower end of the hoop, the warm curd filled in, and the cover put on the upper end, and set on a level foundation. After standing a few minutes the hoop is turned quickly upon the other end, the curd slides down and strikes a smooth surface on what was at first the upper end. By turning the hoop a few times while warm, both ends get an even surface, and then, by standing still, the curd will permanently adhere and remain firm when taken from the hoop. To succeed well in moulding cheese without

pressing, the curd should be taken from the whey a little sooner than otherwise, and be quickly drained and salted and put into the hoop quite warm. Cold curd will not adhere without pressing.

WHAT FARMERS SUCCEED.—That farmer will succeed who makes up his mind that the whole secret of success is in himself; that it is the man and not the business that tells. He will succeed if he brings to bear the same amount of skill, forethought and energy, economy and judgment that any other branch of business requires. He will succeed if he sticks as close to his farm as the mechanic does to his shop, and not expect to work three or four months and then take his ease the rest of the year. That farmer will succeed who takes the papers, and digests what he reads, and is not afraid of new ideas and new methods of industry. He will succeed if it is his intention that whatever he sends to market shall be the very best, and so made and put up that when seen it will be captivating for its freshness, cleanliness and purity, and will be unhesitatingly taken on account of its well known character for honesty of weight, measure and count. Those who have farms may think themselves fortunate for although they will not fortunately find sudden roads to wealth, they will certainly prove that persistent farm labor will bring a sure reward. It is worthy of notice, that the adventurer and speculator, with blasted hopes and shattered health and fortune, have in the end to come back to the farm for health and safety. Agriculture is the basis of national strength and wealth, and a most certain and liberal support of all who follow it intelligently.—Exchange.

CATTLE WITHOUT HORNS.—The editor of the New England Farmer writes as follows of one object he has in view with his own herd of dairy cattle: We are trying to breed off the horns from our stock, because we believe that the domestic cow has no need for such appendages. Like pistols in boy's pockets, they are dangerous to those who carry them as well as to others. Cattle that are to be transported in freight cars or that are to be kept in close quarters, as when fed by the soiling system, have no need of horns, and they are certainly very unbecoming in the way both of their comrades and their attendants.

We venture to suggest that a rapid stride towards the accomplishment of the desired end, might be obtained by the use of a Norfolk Polled bull. This breed has an excellent reputation in producing good milkers, in quantity, in continuance and quality; it is claimed to be of hardy constitution, but responding kindly to good care and feed, and turning out well when fed for beef.

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