

FARMING

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Agricultural News and Comments

A vast number of the farms in Belgium contain only about two acres, but somehow the owners manage to get a living and support large families. They raise fruit, vegetables and grain enough to live on, and have hogs and chickens and eggs to send to market.

No farm machine will pay a farmer so well as a good grinder or feed mill. It does not pay to give toll to get the coarse grains chopped or ground. With a grinder this can be done at odd times at very little cost. A good chopper will pay for itself in a comparatively short time if used to chop and grind grain for stock.

The Maine station finds a satisfactory ration for milch cows in the following: Two pounds each of cornmeal, cottonseed-meal, and gluten-meal, ten pounds corn ensilage and as much timothy hay as they want. This is fed twice a day. It is a rather concentrated ration, and many would like it better with shorts substituted for the cottonseed-meal.

A farm is like a book; you have to study it to know what is in it. It takes time to learn what crops to raise, and where and how to raise them. There are no two farms just alike. Some call themselves good farmers because they can plough or do other mechanical work well. These things are important, but unless each man carefully studies his own book the highest success cannot be gained.

A correspondent writes us from St. John, N.B., on date September 20th, as follows: "Crops of oats are fairly good in New Brunswick, no rust worth mentioning; wheat is much rusted, however. Potatoes, farmers tell me, are a good crop. Hay is an enormous crop, and farmers do not know what to do with it, having no cattle to feed it to. There is a lot of last year's hay in the farmers' hands."

According to reliable statistics the beef production per capita in the United States is decreasing. In 1892 it was estimated to be 981 pounds per head of the population and in 1898 it is estimated to be only 951 pounds per capita. In making this calculation three and a half years was estimated as the time when an animal was brought to maturity in 1892, while in 1898 only two and a half years is allowed for maturing.

There is no portion of the globe in which fruit is more abundant or more extensively used than in Australia. The supply is so ample that during certain seasons of the year pineapples bring one and a half cents a piece, oranges one cent a dozen, and bananas two cents a dozen. Even the ignorant people believe that fruit eaten freely is an aid to health, and as a result the death rate is low, not only among the natives, but in the foreign population as well.

Among the rules of a New York livery stable where the animals of many wealthy men are kept are the following: "No man will be employed who drinks intoxicating liquors. No man shall speak loud to any of the horses, or in the stables where they are. Horses of good blood are nervous, and loud, excited conversation is felt by every horse who hears it, and keeps them all nervous and uneasy. No man shall use profane language in the hearing of horses."

English agriculturists have lost a strong advocate and a staunch friend in the death of the Earl of Winchilsea. He

was associated with everything that was progressive in the agricultural line, and his place will not be easily filled. He was the founder of one of our most valued English exchanges, *The Cable*, and was president of the National Agricultural Union for many years. Like many others who have devoted their energies to the farmer and the farmer's cause, his influence will live after him.

A farmer sent some "fat" steers to market. His orders to the dealer were to sell the steers for beef and then buy for the farmer a lot of lean cattle and send to him to fatten. The alleged fat steers only brought \$3.75 a hundred. The lean steers the dealer bought for the farmer cost \$4 a hundred. When they were sent home, that ruralist found among the lean lot three of the very same alleged fat animals he had just sold at \$3.75 a hundred. That was what he got for sending cattle to market when they were only half fat.

Experience shows that wherever railways have been placed under government control the people have had better service and at a cheaper rate. In Belgium, where the government has assumed the control of the railways, fares and freight rates have been cut down one-half and the wages of employees doubled; but for all that the roads pay a yearly revenue of \$4,000,000. In Hungary, where the roads are state owned, one can ride six miles for a cent. In Australia one can ride 1000 miles across the country for \$5.50 or six miles for two cents. Sixty-eight governments own their telegraph lines. Forty-four governments own their railroads in whole or in part, while only nineteen do not.

The Manitoba Anti-elevator Monopoly Association have issued instructions to the farmers of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories as to the best methods of disposing of this year's wheat crop and how to overcome and avoid the unjust exactions of the elevator monopoly combine, which is said to exist in the West. Included in these instructions is definite advice as to how to proceed when ordering and loading cars, selling, and financing, and shipping through the elevators. The farmers are urged to act independently of the combine and to erect grain warehouses at railway points for receiving and shipping. Such concerted action will doubtless have some effect in remedying grievances.

Does Environment Influence Type in Live Stock?

It is pretty generally admitted that if pure-bred stock be taken from their original home and transferred to a new one where the conditions are quite dissimilar and bred for a number of years their appearance and outward characteristics will undergo a change. This is perhaps more noticeable in cattle than in any other animal. The *London Live Stock Journal*, in a recent issue, gives a couple of striking instances of where the outward characteristics of breeds have been changed by continued breeding amid new surroundings and new conditions. One of these is that of a breeder of Shorthorns in North Wales, who gives this experience: "In the course of many generations, however, he came to the conclusion that locality had much to do with fixing the type or outward characteristics of a cow, and he found that, however purely inbred, at last his