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Agriculture.

THE CROPS IN STANLEY.

Very encouraging accounts come from Stanley regarding the crops; they are reported as "looking extra well for the season." Though the weather has been rather against hay-making, the yield will be over an average. Wheat promises very well; rye, however, is appearing on some wet spots. Oats will be a heavy crop. Potatoes are good. Tomatoes are not forward having suffered a good deal from "the fly," but they are rather behind, as they have a long time for growth they may yet make up for their backwardness at first. Buckwheat is looking very well. On new land the crops are rather late, but they will be good unless afflicted by early frost.

The farmers of Stanley are, we hear, preparing for the Provincial Exhibition. If they do, as they have done in the past they will make a creditable appearance at it. At the Annual Show held by the Stanley Agricultural Society, October 1st, they will make the exhibition for the Exhibition. "On Stanley on."

We have received the August number of the Scientific Farmer, Magazine published by the Scientific Farmer Company, Boston. It contains a variety of articles on matters connected directly or indirectly with farming. Under the Chemical Department there is an article by Prof. G. C. Caldwell, of Cornell University, against the use of "Silicated Fertilizers," the gist of which appears to be contained in the statement that, "no proof whatever has yet been published, either by experiment or experience, to show that the supply of Filica accessible to vegetation in every arable soil is not amply sufficient for the needs of any agricultural crop." The article "Rotamsted," notices the field experiments of that distinguished agriculturalist John Bennet Lawes, Esq., at Rothamsted, Hertfordshire, England. For nearly fifty years Mr. Lawes has been experimenting "to determine the actual relations of the various crops grown on farms to the soil, and the various manures or fertilizers used to promote their growth; and to do this on a scale of such magnitude, both for area and time, as would settle upon a strong and safe basis the fundamental principles of agricultural practice." So great an enthusiast is Mr. Lawes that he has, it is said, set apart \$100,000, (nearly \$50,000) in order that the researches may be carried on after his death. Under the head "stock" there is an article "Deception a Fine Art" which we will re-produce next week. In another article the question is asked, "Is it possible, nay, does it not look probable, that, judging from the results of the Paris Exhibition, the Shorthorn, hitherto regarded as the royal herd, the unapproachable breed, may not have to acknowledge the equal merit, at least, of the Angus, a breed which only yesterday had the advantages of a herd book? And it is answered affirmatively on the strength of the splendid show made by Mr. McCombie, of Tillyfour, (to whom was adjudged the £100 prize for the best group of cattle, bred by exhibitor, and reared out of France, and the £100 prize for the best lot of beef-making animals bred by exhibitor, and fed in any country; and a number of ordinary prizes besides. The farmer who reads this magazine is sure of coming across something instructive or interesting.

We have also received "Wallace's Monthly Magazine," that is devoted to domesticated animal nature." The founder and editor Mr. J. H. Wallace, being abroad, his friends have induced the acting editor to play "a little joke" upon him, and publish his biography, with a portrait. Mr. Wallace is author of the "American Stock Book" and compiler of the "American Trotting Register," a work that cost him enormous labor. His portrait gives one the impression of a man of indomitable energy and will. Among the contents, is the history of George M. Patchen, described as the best trotting stallion of his day and one of the greatest progenitors which have contributed to the turf of America. This magazine is, we should think, indispensable to "horsey" men. Published 212 Broadway, New York.

The farmer of New Brunswick sometimes may grumble at his lot, which is not extraordinary, for it is human to grumble. He may envy the lot of fellow tillers of the soil, who in other countries cultivate more richly yielding lands—but he at least stands a freeman on his own acres. In Scotland (in some parts of which farming is carried to the greatest perfection) for instance, farmers are groaning under many burdens, and

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

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

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

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

VOL. 1.

FREDERICTON, N. B., AUGUST 10, 1878.

NO. 18.

HEAD STAGGERS.

A correspondent of the Weekly Globe and Canadian Farmer, having a horse which showed symptoms of head staggers, asked the editor what was the best treatment in such a case. The editor answered:—

When you think an attack of staggers is coming on, if the animal is in full condition, bleed him, and give him gentle aperient medicines, such as two ounces of sulphate of soda. This may stave off the attack.

Sometimes head staggers is due to a disordered liver. This may be known by the yellowness of the lining membranes of the mouth and the corners of the eyes, irregular habits, starting coat, and usually constipation. A half-drachm dose of colomel should be given one day, and about two drachms Barbadoes aloes the next for a week, and this will usually prevent the rash of blood to the brain which causes the trouble.

Often, however, the trouble is due to organic disease of the brain or nervous system. In such a case the animal cannot be trusted for a moment. He must never be incited to over exert himself, to pull up hill, or work in a tight collar. When the attack comes, take of the harness, and sponge the horse's mouth and nostrils with cold water, and dash cold water on the head. Often the attack becomes more frequent until the animal has to be destroyed.

BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF COWS.

Who is to grow the calves for the future beef and dairies of the country, is likely to become an important question. Probably it can be done at the West and Southwest. Even here the improved stock can be grown profitably; but with our ordinary native cattle this cannot be done. It costs more to keep an ordinary calf till it is one, two or three years old than the animal is worth at either age. If the calf is a heifer, and of good milking strain, it will usually sell for more at two years old with a calf than a steer at the same age. But this does not make a profitable business, even with the best of success in breeding. If the cow should prove a failure for milk or butter, as natives from the best strains often do, there is the loss of another year's keeping before the animal can be fit for the butcher.

The principal loss in keeping the calf till it is a year old. Very often a fat calf at six or seven weeks will sell for about as much as the same animal kept a year longer. It is a mistake to suppose that calves can be kept cheaply in good thrifty condition. A good deal may be done with oatmeal made into porridge as a substitute for milk; but if we count the labor and time lost in feeding, the calf will be a dear one at a year of such keeping. If not fed well, the first year, the calf will soon become unthrifty, and can never be made a good animal.

Milkmen never raise their own cows, and the same used to be true of butter and cheese dairymen. The increasing difficulty of buying the choicest dairy cows has forced some good dairymen to raise them; but they all consider the method a costly one, more costly than they could afford if they had any other alternative. For a good milch cow, known to be a deep and continuous milker, shrewd dairymen will offer what may seem to many farmers an almost fabulous price. They can well afford to do so. The cheapest native cow I ever knew were two which my father bought years and years ago, paying seemingly the extortionate price of \$99 for one, and \$100 for the other. One was four and the other five years old. They proved to be really remarkable milkers, holding to their milk through the year. One time one of the cows was (by mistake) milked till the day she calved. Usually a rest of three to five weeks was given without milking. The heifer calves of these cows were all good milkers, and most of them kept up the supply of milk till nearly calving. Of such cows, I need hardly say that the calves should all be raised, unless very evidently inferior.

It costs little more to keep a good milking cow than a poor one. The difference in product is sometimes enough in a single year to pay the price of a good cow, rather than to accept a poor milker as a gift. The time that a cow will go dry is often a matter of great importance. Some cows which yield a fair mess at first will net milk more than six or seven months per year. Such a cow is scarcely worth owning, except to fatten for beef. The length of time a cow may be milked depends much on previous management. If a heifer is milked after her first calf as long as possible, and has good milk-producing food to stimulate the flow of milk, she will retain in this habit through life. More care should be taken in feeding and milking heifers on this account. Give them roots, and milk as long as a drop can be got. I like

to have heifers come in the first time when not over two years old, and a little younger if possible. Then let them go farrow several months, so that the heifer may get greater size, and also to let the milk secretion run on as long as possible, unchecked by a new pregnancy. In this way if the heifer is naturally a good milker, she has the best chance to test her capacity, and also to increase it.

Much depends on the way a cow has been kept. Cows accustomed to a great variety of food are invariably good eaters and almost always heavy milkers. Thus, the best cows in a neighborhood are usually those of poor men when one cow is made a pet of, and has all sorts of food. Such cows are usually a good bargain at almost any price, though they will rarely do as when taken from their own old homes and turned in with the less varied fare accorded to larger herds. Milkmen have learned that it is important to give cows a variety of food. Hence their purchases of brain, meal, roots and oil-cake. It may not pay farmers to take so much pains, but they can promote the thrift of their herds, and their own profits by changing the animal's food as often as possible.—Cor. Country Gentleman.

THE GOOD FARMER.

TWELVE INFALLIBLE TESTS.

1. He considers a field and buyeth it. He looketh well to the title, that his children may not become outcasts.

2. He fences it around with a strong wall. His flocks and herds do not trespass upon the domain of his neighbor, but increase and fatten within his own bounds.

3. He ploweth deep. He harrows liberally and manures abundantly. He feeds the earth with rich food. At the harvest he respecteth much grain.

4. He does his land with fruit trees. His apples fill his chambers, and his vineyards run over with pure wine.

5. He riseth with the lark. The morning sun finds him at labor. He cometh from his fields when evening shadows gather, but he resteth from his labors in the heat of the day.

6. He buildeth barns and store-houses. His cattle increase in numbers, and his purse is filled with plenty. Whatever he doeth prospers, for his labor is directed by the wisdom of experience.

7. He pays cash for his necessities. His name is not found on the ledger of the merchant. His name is not a familiar one in the courts of justice.

8. He pays tithes without grumbling. He bears his share of the public burdens. He casts his ballot as a free man and seeks no office.

9. His home is a paradise of beauty. Flowers and vines, in great abundance please the senses, educate the taste and purify the soul.

10. His sons and his daughters are known in the land. They dispense his charities. The poor, the sick and the afflicted are sought out and receive comfort, sympathy, relief.

11. He storeth the chambers of his brain with exact knowledge. His head and his hands are co-laborers. He reads the papers and profits by their teachings.

12. He gives from his fountain of knowledge all who ask. He is not puffed up with vanity or filled with self-conceit and arrogance.—Our Home Journal.

WHAT TO DO WITH PLANTS IN SUMMER.

The lovers of flowers are always troubled more or less about getting them through the winter seasons of our northern climate.

They are in danger not only from the cold but some kinds need but little heat, and others cannot stand much heat at their season of rest. Insects too, constantly annoy the grower of house plants, from December to May. In summer time there are less difficulties to contend with, yet nearly all have their trials.

As a rule, very few plants in our climate do well in the house during hot weather. They need plenty of light and air, together with moisture in the way of dew and rain. So that persons who have no yard in which to plant out things in summer cannot be really successful the year round, although they may have splendid flowers in midwinter.

The general practice with amateur florists is to plant things in the open ground, but in this case much difficulty is experienced when taken up in the approach of cold weather. If put in large pots and then set into the ground on a level with the surface, and watered occasionally in dry weather one may have a fine show in the house during fall and winter. They will be prepared to exhibit good specimens at the fairs in pots, which is no small consideration with many florists. Geraniums, achanias, heliotropes,

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.—To farm profitably one must think correctly; and correct thought comes from reflection and training. It is the veriest folly to expect from the recent graduate a trained experience; but we should ask for a trained mind which can quickly receive the teachings of experience, and fit for profitable uses. We do not ask, for our part, for our colleges to graduate practical farmers; we but ask that they graduate men educated to act from principles, and to think correctly, and in whom the charms of a country life and the possibilities of a farming career have taken root. When farming, practical farming, has the sympathies of an educated class of men, there is everything to be hoped. When men trained to think, and whose thought is trained to take expression in action, enter upon the arena of a farming life, the possibilities of our soil and location are more developed to an extent little realized. A class of educated farmers, means greater opportunities for the common farmer whose education has been derived from toil—some experience and the conflict of trials. It means better and more practical lectures, more useful agricultural societies, a higher toned agricultural press, the exclusion of dead-beats from agricultural influence, and a healthier tone in agriculture generally. Education brings self-respect, and self-respect draws to itself the respect of others. This is our agricultural politics in a nutshell.—Scientific Farmer.

A MIDSUMMER REFLECTION.

The following "midsummer reflection" will suit our latitude as well that of Maine. In consequence of the extremely warm weather often experienced in September, midsummer really often comes with the beginning of August, although according to the calendar August is the last of the summer months. During this month the mercury frequently registers as high as at any time for the summer, notwithstanding the nights are generally more comfortable than in July. The summer weather seems to attain its climax in August. There is a stifled and "sticky" condition of the atmosphere there is oppressive, and almost always we have a period of great drought during this month. The fields and pastures present a brown and dried appearance, and the winds of the month contain little moisture. The leaves of many kinds of trees begin to turn yellow, and the early grain fields are white for the harvest, and there are unmistakable evidences of the near ripening of all the crops, and the speedy approach of the cooler days and longer evening of early autumn.

In this climate how brief the period of our door beauty and enjoyment; how short the season in which the important labors of the farmer are to be performed! We sow the seeds, put on the tender flowering plants in the front border, water them a few times, pull a few weeds, cut a few baguettes; and—then comes the harvest, the plants must be removed in-doors, or an early frost kills the tender things of beauty. What is done has surely to be done quickly, and it oftentimes seems a singular provision that the period of earliest manual labor to secure the crops of the year—those crops upon which depend not only the farmer's flock and herds during the winter, but the farmer's family as well—comes at the period of greatest heat and oppression, or the period when to labor out of doors one must experience the greatest personal discomfort, and even the highest personal risk—that of life itself. During these mid-summer days farmers are called to labor harder than at any other time for the year, they perform their labor out of doors, under a terribly hot sun, and in a heated, enervating atmosphere—and that they do it, and cases of death from sunstroke are not more frequent among them, than among men in cities or among those classes who work partially in the shade.

Now it must be admitted by even the most superficial thinker that there is some physical cause for this; some obscure and perhaps not well understood reason why men are enabled to labor harder with a greater waste of the vital tissues, and a midsummer sun, without experiencing from so doing an undue loss of vitality, or the capacity for long continued and trying bodily exertion. What this cause is it is not easy to determine. "The sleep of the laboring man is sweet," and sleep is a wonderful restorer of the wastes of the body caused by excessive work. But may it not be that to that chemical quality of the atmosphere known as ozone, and concerning the nature and particular office of which studies are only quite recent and results somewhat contradictory—is to be attributed much of that influence or power which enables men to perform a great amount of hard labor under the excessive heat of an August sun? We know that sunshine bears most important relations to health—so much has long been acknowledged, but why it is beneficial is not so easy to explain. May it not yet be ascertained that the reason why men are enabled to perform so hard work in terribly hot weather is due to the fact of the generating of a vast amount of ozone, which has so great an influence for good upon animal life? Ozone, as chemists inform us, is found everywhere in air that rests upon the earth's surface, where the sun's rays have direct play—but seldom in densely populated cities, and during hot weather there is more ozone in the atmosphere by day than by night, although for the greater part of the year this condition is reversed, and there is more by night than by day, being in inverse ratio to the temperature, as the temperature falls the ozone increases; except, as just stated, during the prevalence in very hot weather. Moreover, although we judge chemists have much yet to discover concerning the properties of ozone, it seems to be admitted that it belongs the property of converting the deadly carbonic oxide, into the comparatively innocent carbonic acid—a fact of the highest importance in connection with its use in maintaining the purity of our atmosphere. It is known also to be a powerful disinfectant, and it is so readily distinguished by the smell. But we must admit there are some opposite prop-

erties to this subtle allotrop from those named, and hence the question as to the important part it plays. It will speedily cause death, if present in a very concentrated form, by which is ordinarily termed congestion of the lungs—and it has an irritating influence on the mucous surfaces of the respiratory passages, diminishing the number of respirations per minute, and lowering the temperature of the body. But in the very reason of these conflicting properties, is to be found an argument for the constant and patient examination of this matter, till truth is eliminated and all its known values ascertained. Earnest workers are now solving these points, and in time its full importance will be well understood. When it is, we feel confident something will have been gained towards solving what now seems a mysterious problem—why farmers can work harder out of doors in the terribly hot weather of summer, without any greater personal injury, than in seasons of the year which seem far more advantageous for such labor.—Maine Farmer.

AN ENGLISH CURE FOR POTATOE DISEASE.—Is it too early yet to predict, with any approach to certainty, whether this autumn's potatoe crop will be generally diseased like those of the last two years. There are, however, many indications pointing to this conclusion, for it seems beyond doubt that the disease has already made its appearance here and there in some parts of the country. Farmers would do well, therefore, to experiment with the simple specific recommended by Mr. Sargeant in the *Lancet*. The method of cure was adopted by this gentleman for several years past—and always with perfect success—was to sow on one whole of the bottom the moment the disease shows in any part. The operation may be performed either with a sharp scythe or a reaping hook, and when it is completed the sown tubers should be immediately covered away. By these simple means, Mr. Sargeant claims that the disease absolutely stopped, and although the potatoes do not subsequently increase in size, what there is of them at the time of the operation remains perfectly good in the ground until due. Perhaps it may be said that the cure would be almost as bad as the disease, inasmuch as it would stop growth altogether and delay ripening. These demerits must be admitted, but they are not of much consequence if the theory be true that a patch of potatoes once attacked by disease never increases in size or quality. On the other hand, the suggested process has the great advantage over immediate digging—the plan is generally followed by gardeners—that it is immeasurably more speedy in execution. A smart man, armed with a scythe or a hook, could cut down the haulms of a potatoe field in much less time than he could dig the tubers themselves. This is a very important consideration, as the disease generally makes its appearance about harvest time when all available labor is engaged in getting in the crops. As Mr. Sargeant has himself proved the efficiency of his specific to a certain extent, the experiment is not altogether untried. It might therefore come in very useful this autumn should the disease appear, as there seems some reason to fear, in the middle of harvesting operations.

INFLUENCE OF CULTIVATION.—The effect of selection on the character of plants and on the flavor of the fruit is well indicated by the history of cultivated plants. The wild cabbage is the source of our many varieties of cabbages, cauliflowers, broccolis, etc. From the seeds taken from a single umbel of highly manured rod cowslip, Mr. Herbert—the experimenter afterwards being confirmed by Professor Henslow—raised a primrose, a cowslip, oxlips of the usual and other colors, a black polyanthus, a hose-in-hose cowslip, and a natural primrose, bearing its flower on a polyanthus stalk. The wild crab of the fields has been transformed into the apple; the sloe modified into a plum; the peach has been changed into the apricot, etc. We thus must conclude that what gardeners call "sporting" is part of the scheme of nature, and that man's intelligence is able to fix variation through the effect of the power of selection.

GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE AHEAD.—A sad-disaster has befallen the agriculturists of various parts of the kingdom of Italy by the invasion of two huge armies of grasshoppers. One of these has thrown itself upon the western coasts of Sicily, whence detachments have found their way to Sardinia; and the other, pursuing its march through Calabria, Apulia, and Benevento, has already extended its advanced guard as far as the Roman States.—London Farmer.

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