

### Stock and Dairy.

#### Three Classes of Horses.

Mr. W. R. Duncan, of Towanda, Ill., in an address before the Indiana State Fair, thus describes three of the more important class of horses, other than those intended especially for draught:—

"The class of horse bred and known in this country as the roadster, is at present a very popular class. They are, for light draught or quick business on the road to a light vehicle, a horse of value; but it becomes a serious question whether he is of such value to justify our agricultural societies (such of them, at least, as are organized for a legitimate purpose), to allow themselves and the entire community to be made horse jockeys of in order that their value to the sporting class may be determined. If their popularity is based upon their value for a useful, practical purpose, then is it not proper that the farmer who breeds them should receive the encouragement from the agricultural societies of the country, rather than the jockey who trains them for the track? This class of horse has been so bred that the blood of the thoroughbred race horse predominates in his veins, many of them containing crosses of the blood of the Canadian pacer, giving them knee action, as it is termed, enabling them to trot with speed and ease to themselves, that being the preferable gait in harness.

"The class known as the saddle horse is being greatly and shamefully neglected by the breeders and agricultural societies of the country. If more of them were bred, there would be less use for buggies, and many of our ladies would enjoy better health, as no exercise conduces more to a lady's health than a horseback ride in the open air. Exercise on the back of a pleasant going horse is always much to be enjoyed, and often the most convenient way of doing business; while the horse possessing the best saddle gait is often as well adapted to general use as any other.

"The general purpose horse, or that class possessing more of the qualities for which the horse is valuable to the entire community, is the horse of the age, the class to which our agricultural societies should offer the most encouragement, for the reason that he is the horse of the poor man as well as the rich. That portion of our people that own not more than one or two horses, must use them for all purposes for which they use horses at all. Such is the case with many people in the country, and with a large majority of those in the city. For this reason the farmers should be encouraged to breed the very best."

#### Sugar Beets for Milch Cows.

Are Sugar Beets good feed for Milch Cows? In reply to this query a correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* writes as follows:—

Just looking over the article in your issue of January 1st, under the head of "Diary of a Ruralist," I find that he complains of the shrinking of at least 50 per cent. in the quantity of his cow's milk, from feeding her sugar beets; and then asks, "Are they good feed for milch cows?"

For myself, I will answer, unhesitatingly, yes, better to produce an abundant flow of rich milk than any roots I ever fed, except parsnips; and especially far superior to turnips, being exactly the reverse of his experiment in feeding. I am satisfied something else is to blame in this, other than the beets; for whenever, for upwards of 30 years past, I have invariably cultivated the sugar beets and fed it largely to all sorts of my domestic animals, with the exception of hard working horses, both raw and cooked, and have ever found it beneficial for them.

No longer ago than last November, our family cow began to shrink somewhat in her milk, when we were feeding hay with an additional mess night and morning of Indian meal and wheat bran half and half, with a point of oil meal. I then directed most of this milk feed to be stopped, and in place of it, ordered a peck of sugar beets for the cow night and morning. On this change of food she began to increase her milk, and in a few days gave the same quantity that she had done previously when on pasture, and before being put up in the stable on hay and milk feed.

Sugar beets must necessarily be superior feed to all domestic animals, and especially to such as are giving milk, for they abound in saccharine juice; and to show their value for feeding purposes as well as for making sugar, I will refer to several analyses recently made of them in England, reported on pages 24 and 25 of the *London Agricultural Gazette*, of January 3rd. These give a trifle over 7 to

14 per cent. of solid matter. In our drier and hotter climate, I should suppose the average percentage of sugar and solid matter would be increased in the best crop; but this would depend much on the size of roots and the soil where grown. To produce roots of the best quality they ought not to be grown in too rich a soil, like that of river bottoms or the most fertile of prairies, nor should they be manured too highly in a poor soil, and what is of still more importance, probably, they ought to be grown standing so closely together in rows as not to exceed 5 or 6 lbs in weight each. I prefer them even less than this, say 4 to 5 lbs on the average. I would not give a dime per bushel for great overgrown roots, weighing 15 to 20 lbs each. I have occasionally grown detached roots of this weight, and for stock feeding found them little better than white oak chips. In fact, neither my pigs, sheep nor cattle would touch them cut up raw and placed before them, so long as they could find anything else decent to eat; while roots of a proper size they would devour them with avidity, and grow fat or give great messes of milk from them.

I would suggest to "A Ruralist" to try sugar beet feeding again to his cow, but in so doing supervise the thing himself, and not trust it to any one else, as I have found that my man John, as well as Jack and Bill occasionally made mistakes in one way or another.—*Cor. Rural New Yorker.*

#### Sheep Husbandry.

The *Farmers' Home Journal* says:—"In many parts of the Southern and Western States, sheep husbandry is an established fact; but those who expect to make of the business a permanent and not a mere temporary success, must know no pause in their career, but on the contrary, it will be necessary for them to continue steadily advancing. That there is much for even our leading sheep-breeders to learn, a moment's reflection will show. It is not enough for a person to be practical at this calling, because the one who is only practical will necessarily remain in the old ruts and never move forward an inch. A progressive sheep husbandry calls for intelligent theorizing—not the wild imaginings of the dreamer, but the speculative aggressiveness of the man of knowledge.

"Sheep husbandry demands devotion, and in science and art devotion is genius, and it is difficult to see why it is not the same thing in any of the various other paths of duty. A person who is really and truly in love with his work, will hardly fail to do that work well; on the other hand, when the head and heart do not fully co-operate, there is a serious jar, the forces of the individual are not concentrated, and what is done is accomplished mechanically, but yet without the redeeming circumstance of mechanical accuracy. In States where sheep husbandry is fast becoming firmly established, soon the relation of the sheep to a higher agriculture will make itself felt, and will surely give rise to very important results. And thus in the way here hinted at, the Cotswold and the Southdown will become great instructors. At first, when the farm is overrun with weeds, and the land is becoming poorer and poorer year by year, the sheep has to be put forward as an implement of husbandry—as a mowing machine! After a time, when the sheep's claims in this respect have been made good, and when in addition it has quietly and with small honor converted barren lands into fertile ones, it becomes necessary to advance to higher ground, for, as already intimated, there is no halting place—the order is either backward or forward!"

#### The Kerry Cows as Milkers.

The Kerry cow is a remarkably grateful feeder, or, in other words, will live on the commonest and scantiest diet, and when her lot falls into pleasant places, will yield a bountiful lacteal return for the generous keep. Everywhere and under all circumstances she has the reputation of being an excellent milker. "The average yield of milk produced by the Kerry cows belonging to a gentleman who has for many years paid great attention to his breeds," says R. O. Pringle, in his review of Irish Agriculture, "is twelve quarts daily, and the average yield of butter from six to seven pounds per week. Some of the cows have produced more, but the quantities stated have been above the average." Pringle considers this to be a large yield, considering the size of the animal and the small amount they consume. A Kerry cow was known to have been kept for five years in a stable in Dublin, which had only two calves during the period, yet was scarcely ever dry, and kept up a full supply of milk for a large family.—*London Live Stock Journal.*

#### American Beef in England.

I can give your correspondent no more authentic information respecting the importation of American beef into Liverpool, than he can gather from your columns. The process by which putrefaction is arrested is described in p. 237 of the current series. Your own report of its quality after dining upon "steaks and roast joint," will be found in p. 249, and the market reports of last week state that "we continue to receive American consignments of excellent quality;" "American supplies continue about the same with regard to quantity, condition and demand." As regards the value of beef in New York, or the charges of transmission, I can give no information; as a consumer, and not a producer of meat, my anxiety as to the success of the experiment is at an end. The week ending Aug. 19 was remarkable for great heat, the mean temperature exceeding the average for the same week by no less than 10 degrees, and we have no complaints of the condition of the foreign meat that appeared at the metropolitan market. Every obstacle appears to be removed, the home trade monopoly broken through, and meat from the Far West exhibited on the Newgate market shambles during the tropical heat of this summer as perfect in condition as meat sent up from Leicester or York; in fact in finer condition, ripened by having been slaughtered 14 days—tender and ready for the table. This marvellous triumph of art over nature bursts upon the consumer by surprise. The rapid development of the trade is astonishing. The first trial cargo arrived at Liverpool at Christmas, and proved so successful that the flow of meat is checked only by the difficulty in preparing the holds of the vessels for the reception, and necessary engineering arrangements. It is impossible to measure the effect that this opening of the meat market will have upon British agriculture. It is beyond controversy that a large portion of the native meat exhibited on the butchers' stalls is of inferior quality. The artificially fed meat is disproportioned as regards the lean flesh and fat, owing to the injudicious use of oleaginous substances, greatly to its deterioration. Meat so prepared will not be able to compete with the beef from American grass-fed bullocks. The fine Aberdeen beef grazed upon the produce of the land with just the McCombie "dip" will hold its own against all intruders; but the oily beef will not be able to command a price beyond its value in a free market.—*English Agricultural Gazette.*

#### Horses and their Drivers.

Very many years ago, I made up my mind that when there was a quarrel between a man and a horse, in nine cases out of ten the man was in the wrong. Continued observation has only served to confirm this belief.

The radical error into which drivers fall, is, that the horse knows perfectly what is wanted of him, and will not do it. Then the driver proceeds to show that he is the master, and, in the vast majority of cases, the horse is punished without the slightest idea why he is so treated.

For a horse to understand instantly what his driver desires, there must exist a pleasant feeling between them. The horse must feel a confidence in his driver, and with one driver a horse will show himself fearless of locomotives, and with another he will dread them. One man will drive a horse fifteen miles with no more fatigue to the animal than another will produce in driving him ten.

Nothing tends more to cruelty to animals than does cowardice. The man who has a lurking fear of his beast, is the one who treats him the most harshly. The man who is afraid of no horses, is just the man who treats all kindly. He is perfectly aware that there is always danger with horses; but he also knows that this does not depend upon the horse, but mostly comes from some extraneous source, the bad driving of others whom he meets on the road, or accident of some sort. He has a friendly feeling towards his beast, as being a willing and useful servant and companion, ready to do his whole duty, and more than his duty. So there springs up a pleasant feeling on both sides, the horse is encouraged and cheerful, and gets through his work easily and well. Such a driver gets vastly more from his horses than does a cruel one. They come in fresh, they feed and sleep well, and begin the next day's work under favorable conditions. Age tells but slowly on them; at fifteen and sixteen years, such horses still show speed and endurance, and are still gay and free goers, with years of usefulness before them, whereas the cruel man's horse is used up long before this.

There should be kindness simply from kind feeling, but it does not the less certainly bring its material reward.—*Our Dumb Animals.*