

mence to turn brown, and cured so it will not char on the one hand or turn to dust and bits on the other, makes a cattle food so nearly perfect, that it is scarcely worth while to try to improve it by silo or otherwise. I am a warm friend to the silo, but it is simply because I cannot obtain enough nicely cured clover hay for dairy purposes. Corn fodder is a coarser, poorer article, which can be raised in greater quantity, but cannot be cured and fed conveniently, as clover hay. By the silo we can take it in its best condition, preserve in its most convenient state for mixing with feed, and thus make it nearly equal to clover hay at less cost.—*Robert K. Tomlinson, in Country Gentleman.*

The American beef supply was the subject of an important paper presented by Commissioner Colman, of the Agricultural Bureau, for the consideration of the Cattle Growers' Association at their meeting in Chicago. Mr. Colman showed that in 1850, when the first accurate statistics in regard to cattle-growing were taken, there was a population of 23,151,867 and 11,778,907 head of cattle or 766 cattle to each thousand of inhabitants. In 1860 there were 815 head of cattle to each thousand of population, but in 1880 only 716. The beef-eaters increase in number faster than the source of supply. During the period from 1860 to 1880 there was a prodigious increase in the herds, owing to the development of cattle-growing in the grazing districts of the Western plains. Grazing sections in the far West are now pretty well stocked, from the Rio Grande to the Canadian line, and it is found that when the herds are increased and the grass eaten too close it fails to seed and becomes unproductive, supporting thereafter fewer cattle. The best districts are all taken up, and the cattle on them cannot be materially increased. Cattle-growing west of the Mississippi cannot be increased in the next decade as it has been in the last, and the prospect is that, from this time on, population will grow much faster than the beef supply. In all probability it will not be a great many years before the beef supply will only serve to meet the American consumption, and there will be nothing left for export to Europe. In connection with Mr. Colman's views as to the future of Cattle Grazing in the western plains, we would cite the following recent telegrams from the *Toronto Globe*. It is very well for enterprising young men to go west. But, if there is as good pasturage in Nova Scotia as in the far-off west, we would rather have them stay at home:

GALVESTON, Texas, Jan. 12.—A despatch from Corpus Christi says the extreme cold weather continues there, with indications of a heavy fall of snow and sleet. The cattle

in that vicinity are dying in large numbers. Greenville, in the north of Texas, reports all the streams in that vicinity frozen to a depth of five inches and stock suffering from the lack of water. The Brazos and Concho Rivers are frozen.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Jan. 12.—The weather continues unprecedentedly cold here. Many water pipes are frozen. There is good skating on the flats. Overdue steamers from northern ports report unusually rough weather. Advice from the southern parts of the States report extremely cold weather and great damage to fruit trees and vegetables.

DODGE CITY, Kansas, Jan. 12.—The heavy snow and bitter north winds of the past ten days have caused most serious apprehensions among cattlemen as to their probable losses. Within a few miles of here five hundred head have drifted to the river, where they perished in attempting to cross, or drifted up to the fences where they remained till frozen to death. A man from a rancho south reports seeing on his way up cattle frozen that were standing on their feet. The water holes are frozen over. The grass is snowed under and the weather is cold, with even a prospect of more snow. The loss of live stock will be very heavy on the Arkansas River.

A BEAUTIFUL silver vase was presented to Dr. Aea Gray, the veteran American Botanist, on November 18th, his 75th birthday, by 180 American botanists. The ornamentation of the vase consisted of designs from some of the more conspicuous American plants connected with Dr. Gray's name and writings. Some one sent 75 roses, one for each of his years. Mr. Lowell's tribute was the following:—

Just fate prolong his life, well spent,
Whose indefatigable hours
Have been as gaily innocent,
And fragrant, as his flowers.

EXPERIMENTS at Chiswick show that whole potato sets usually give a much greater produce than cut sets. In corroboration of these experiments we have the result of planting a palmate potato. The Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society of London report that this palmate or composite (fingered) potato, which weighed 15 ounces, yielded, when planted in 1885, 8 lbs. of produce.

DR. MASTERS' reports to the Royal Agricultural Society, in regard to points in potato culture as follows:—

1. Earthing up produces a more uniform crop, and of superior quality, even if less in quantity.
2. Bending the vines occasions a diminished yield.
3. A larger aggregate produce is derived from planting whole tubers than is derived from cut sets.

It is alleged that at the recent Birmingham Cattle Show prizes were awarded to samples of potatoes that were artificially colored.

AT the recent Annual Convention of the Eastern Dairyman's Association of Ontario, Prof. Berre, of the Guelph Experimental Farm, gave an interesting address on "the dairy cows." He said the farmers of Ontario were too careless as to the sire of their herds. All experts on this subject held they should have a fineness resembling the female cow. Their milk-producing qualities should be the first thing considered. Among these breeds he mentioned the Galways, leaving the Jersey's, Ayrshires, and Holsteins in the field. While the Jerseys were famous for large yields, they were not dairy cows. The Ayrshires had a good record, yet they were not the cows for Ontario. The Holstein were better known as belonging to the Dutch cattle. He said this race are renowned as deep milkers, and would give between 6,000 and 12,000 lbs. of milk. The question was, could the Holstein be adapted to this country? The Shorthorn grade were found to be a very good cow, in fact the preference, he thought, was between the Holstein and Shorthorn grades. The Shorthorns would become the average farmer's cow in Ontario. Farmers should cull the best herd—that was the only way to make dairying cows. Good milk cows had marks which were seldom misleading. They had mild dispositions, and a good, regular appetite. The digestive organs should be healthy, and the skin should be soft and elastic, the size depending upon the breed. The best milk cows are seldom fleshy. The body should be large and broad, and the age between four and five years. As yet, he said, experiments at the Guelph Farm were not conclusive as to which was the dairy cow.

MR. BOWICK writes from Harpenden, England, the following description of the most famous Experimental Farm in the world, that of Sir John Lawes:—

Every State of the Union has sent its sons, at different times in the past half century, to see something of the experiments which have rendered Rothamsted famous throughout the world. It is a pleasant place to come to, and a hospitable one within. True science welcomes inquirers, and does not lord it over them at arms length. Still a few of your readers have not been on this side the water, and they may like a short pen-and-ink sketch of things here—the more so as Sir John is also an honored contributor to these columns.

Situated half an hour north of London, on the Midland railway—the favorite line for American travelers from Liverpool—the place is easy of access. A little way from the station, the park gates are reached, and the visitor has a beautiful drive of nearly a mile with the rich sward—rarely to be equalled for its velvety character in America—stretching on either side. Rothamsted Hall is an old family mansion, with a predominant Elizabethan character, and