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### RURAL NOTES.

ONE of the frequent causes of abortion in cows, mares and ewes is the use of ice-cold water.

AN Ontario farmer, John Rutherford, of Roseville, swept the board with his exhibit of sheep at the Chicago Fat Stock Show. With twenty-five heads he took twenty-four prizes, the cash value of which was \$500.

We shall have the Fat Stock Show in a few days. This show is now becoming an institution of the Province, and it is fortunate that we have a sufficient number of enterprising breeders and feeders to make it thoroughly successful.

To milk a cow before the calf comes is to disturb the natural habit, and bad consequences may follow. When it is necessary to relieve the cow only a very little should be drawn, and the secretion of milk should be discouraged by the use of dry food.

THE better way to salt stock is to buy a few lumps of rock salt, put them under cover and allow stock to them as they wish. A dollar's worth of rock placed under cover will last as long as a barrel of salt given in the usual way, with the advantage of the stock getting salt as they need it.

SOME potato growers who have been investigating the subject of rot for the purpose of finding a remedy, incline to the belief that gathering and burning or burying deeply in the ground all the diseased vines and tubers will have a tendency to check its ravages, by preventing the production of spores, which takes place when the tops and diseased potatoes are left to decay upon the ground.

HEMLOCK is less expensive than pine lumber, and for grain barns it has the decided advantage in being less liable to be eaten by rats and mice. The splinters in hemlock boards are very annoying to vermin in making their way through, while a pine board is scarcely any obstacle to their progress. Hemlock plank will last tolerably well as flooring for horse stables, and when it decays the expense is not large for procuring more.

CHEESE and butter makers were in a disconsolate mood owing to the low prices for their products which prevailed during the greater part of the season; but a marked improvement took place toward the close, and their hopes have revived again. One thing they can depend on, and that is that the demand for cheese and butter will continue for a few years yet to come; also that the best article will always bring the best price.

MANY Western farmers find the expense of keeping up fences entirely too great in these times, and are substituting hedges in their place; but the hedge business may be easily overdone. It requires a great deal of labour in pruning, and with its roots on either side occupies as much land as a crooked rail fence. It is also a difficult fence to get rid of, and should only be planted where it is certain that a permanent fence will be needed.

MANY farmers are prone to neglect making ditches where they are needed, and some of them fail to give them proper attention. The open ditches become clogged up and filled with rubbish every little while, and should be carefully cleaned out at least twice a year—in the spring and again in the fall. See that the matter is attended to this fall. It will not pay to neglect this, and thus allow the drains to fill up and force the water over the land to destroy crops, etc. "A stitch in time" remember.

THE black-faced sheep of the Highlands of Scotland have been tried on the prairies of Illinois, and have turned out a complete failure there. Nothing else could have been expected as a result of such experiment, and we are surprised that any man in his wits should have ventured to make it. In Haliburton, Muskoka, Parry Sound or Nipissing, in our own Province, this breed might be tried with some confidence of success, for the district of country is not unlike its proper habitat. And we may add that if this experiment were successfully made it would be a fortunate one for the farmers; for the mutton of the Highland sheep is the sweetest that reaches the London markets, and it also fetches the highest price.

THE Board of Agriculture for the State of Illinois is authority for the statement that a large number of so-called creameries in that country "use the product of the beef and the hog in the manufacture of a product which they sell upon the market as and for genuine butter." The National Butter, Cheese and Egg Association are calling for the proofs of this bold allegation, and the question is not settled yet; but report says that some of the principal manufacturers of oleo-butters in Chicago are in a position to produce the proofs. In the interest of consumers it is of great importance that the Illinois Board should meet the challenge promptly, as otherwise the creameries of the Western States must rest under a stigma.

THE manufacture of sugar from the sorghum cane has received a new impetus as the result of recent experiments in the chemical division of the United States Department of Agriculture. One of the new processes consists in cutting the canes into chips and then extracting the sugar by means of warm water. Another is known as the process of carbonation in clarifying the juice, which is found to yield results in every respect superior to those furnished by the old methods, and also saves the time and labour of scumming. An idea of the importance of the first of these discoveries may be formed when it is stated that by the application of it the sugar produced in the country can be increased fully thirty per cent. without increasing the area under cultivation.

IN the performance of the duties of his office, in its various divisions, the United States Commissioner of Agriculture has now a working force of nearly four hundred persons—specialists, clerks, labourers and other employes. There are altogether eight divisions, each one of which is directed by a responsible head, namely: (1) the seed division, (2) the entomological division, (3) the horticultural, pomological and

propagating division, (4) the botanical division, (5) the microscopical division, (6) the statistical division, (7) the forestry division, and (8) the veterinary division. In the statistical division sixty-four clerks are employed under the statistician, and over 7,000 persons act as regular correspondents throughout the Union, being an average of four for each county.

IT is possible that in the earnest desire to aid the Canadian Pacific Railway in procuring traffic, our Government may make a serious mistake, in so far as the interests of farmers are concerned. A few weeks ago it appears that an arrangement was entered into for sending cattle from the Dakota and Montana ranches to the Chicago markets by way of the Canadian Pacific and the St. Paul and Manitoba lines—the cattle being driven from the ranches northward to one of the C. P. R. stations. Now it is well known that there are some herds in the Western States infected with pleuro-pneumonia, and any day it may be carried into our North-West. Let this occur, and Canada will be scheduled in Great Britain as well as the United States. The risk is obvious, and we trust that the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa will not fail to consider it.

THE cattle growers of the United States met in convention in Chicago two weeks ago, and among the subjects they discussed was the restriction placed on the American cattle trade by foreign countries. It was shown that, while Canada's exports to Great Britain have been increasing, those of the United States have been decreasing; and the reason is apparent. American cattle have to be slaughtered at the point of debarkation in Great Britain, while Canadian cattle can be sent to any interior market of the country—rigid inspection of cargoes arriving from both countries showing that in the case of American cattle disease was found to exist, and in the case of Canadian cattle there was an entire absence of disease. A clean bill of health is what our neighbours want to establish, and cattle-men are organizing to accomplish that object. They thoroughly appreciate the maxim that "prevention is better than cure," and heretofore Canada has acted on that maxim.

ACORNS, chestnuts, oilnuts and walnuts should be planted where the trees from them are to grow. If the ground is covered with a grass sod, cut out a round piece, say two feet in diameter, dig the earth in the hole, and then replace the sod, grass side down. On this place three or four of the acorns or nuts, cover them with three or four inches of leaves, and on the leaves place a large flat stone, or a piece of board, to keep them from the ravages of mice or squirrels. Early next spring, when the nuts cracked by the frost have begun to sprout, remove the rock or board, and as the tree plants appear keep them free from weeds. The first summer they should be hoed and mulched, the second year thin out to two plants, and the third year only leave one. In this way you can have nuts in twelve or fifteen years after planting, perhaps earlier. I am aware that nurserymen say there is no trouble in transplanting oak or nut trees, but I don't believe that one out of ten sold by them lives.