

Mature Plants for Feeding

The summary which Mr. Wallace gives in another column of Dr. Hubber's experiments furnishes another striking illustration of the importance of having plants well matured before feeding them. A plant never attains its full feeding value for animals until it is fully developed, or in other words has ceased to grow. The fallacy of cutting



An English rural scene, Skimblecott House, Shropshire, England; referred to by Mr. Frank Wallis, in another column.

fodder when in the milk stage and expecting to get good feeding value from it is clearly borne out by these experiments. In the case of phosphoric acid we find that when the oat plant was ripe 14.25 grains of phosphoric acid had been taken into the plant as compared with the milk stage when only 10.30 grs. in all had been taken up. In the same way the total amount of nitrogen absorbed at the milk stage was 32 grains as compared with 55.5 grains when the plant was ripe.

What will apply to the oat plant will apply in the same way to any other plant cut for feeding purposes. In this country, perhaps, the corn plant has been subject to cutting in an immature state more than any other plant. Many farmers have had the idea that to cut it when in a watery condition such as it would be in the milk stage was the correct thing in order to get the best feeding value from it. But in this they have been greatly mistaken and have wondered many times why they were not getting the results from corn feeding they should. With the exception, perhaps, of cutting green fodder during the dry weather to supplement the pastures it always pays to have all fodder well-matured before cutting.

The British Army Demand for Horses

Though the prospect of war in South Africa has as yet brought no orders to Canada for horses for use in the British army, still there is a possibility of a big demand from that quarter should hostilities break out. The placing of large orders in the American horse markets by the British Government during the past few weeks has, however, caused a firmer feeling here in horse circles, as intimated in last week's market report. The demand for good, heavy horses has been active for some time past and if any orders should be sent to Canada by the British army authorities prices may advance with a bound.

The Canadian Secretary of State has recently cabled to Great Britain to the effect that Canada is in a position to supply artillery horses for South Africa. Some doubt this statement and refer to the fact that a few years ago an Imperial officer who visited Canada could not obtain a sufficient supply of horses for remounts for the cavalry. When the American Civil War was in progress Canada supplied a great many horses for use in the army. But since then horse breeding has greatly deteriorated in

this country and instead of having a supply of really good horses suitable for army or artillery purposes, many of our farmers are overstocked with a lot of inferior animals for which there is no regular or active demand. An improvement has, however, been made in this direction during the past year or two. The recent importation of a number of good stallions and the greater attention that is now being given to breeding on the part of our farmers will in a few years greatly improve the quality of the horses to be found in the country. But this will take time, and in the meantime our farmers may lose this fine opportunity of making a good profit by supplying this war demand.

But while the supply of good horses in this country is undoubtedly very much smaller than it was twenty-five years ago, there are some who believe that there is still throughout the country a number of horses suitable for army purposes and that if orders were received here and good prices paid there would be no difficulty in filling them. The difficulty would be, however, to get these horses together on short notice. One of the reasons why army orders for horses are sent to Chicago and other points in the west to be filled is that a large number of good horses can be picked up very quickly. But in this country under present conditions it is different, and should an order come for a few thousand army horses it would take some time to fill it, and as we have already indicated it is somewhat doubtful if it could be filled at all in reasonable time. But there are some in the trade of the opinion that it could be done, and among them a leading horse dealer in this city who stated a few days ago that if an order for army horses were received here and the fact were made public throughout the country there would be no difficulty whatever in filling it in a very short time. We trust that this would prove to be the case, but from a more or less close study of this question for the past year or two we are inclined to the opposite view. We would, notwithstanding, like to see an order come this way. The horses required for the British market are heavy, well-built animals of the kind favored in London for cab and draught purposes. They are valued at from \$1.25 to \$1.50 each, and stand on an average about 16 hands high.

Farmers' National Congress

The Farmer and the Teacher

At the Farmers' National Congress, which met in Boston last week, President W. D. Hoard, of Wisconsin, in his annual address among other good things said:

The principal drawback and hindrance to agricultural thought, profit, and progress is a lack of union and sympathy between scientific theory and the every-day practice of the farm. As yet there is a wide gulf between the



Pasturage at Skimblecott Farm in the dry season.

teacher of agricultural science and the working farmer, and our farmers are especially lacking in appreciation of the great value to them of the scientific teacher. A moment's study of the situation will disclose a reason for this. The