

The Profits of Soiling Cattle.

In advocating the soiling of cattle we are not bringing forward something new, nor writing in favor of a mere theory. The system has been long tried and found to be attended with great profits. Nor do we merely speak from the experience of others. We speak from our own experience, an experience of many years. And yet soiling is so little known here as a system, that when, talking lately of the advantages of more thorough culture of the soil and more liberal manuring, we spoke of soiling cattle as a means of increasing the manure heap, we were asked what is meant by soiling cattle. We had to explain the rudiments of the system, as the feeding in the house or yard with green crops raised and cut for the purpose, instead of leaving them to graze on the roads and commons, or, at best, on the pasture of the fields, without any additional food.

Soiling cattle necessarily involves additional labor, and consequently additional expense. This is the objection made to it by those who are not practically acquainted with the profits, or who have not given it due consideration. If, by stating what has been our experience in soiling, and pointing out its practicability and its advantages, we induce some to make a trial of it even partially, much will have been done towards its more general introduction.

One of the greatest benefits of soiling is that in order to carry it out effectually there must be an entire change in the cropping of the farm. It will be necessary to do away with that exhaustive method of sowing after grain in uninterrupted succession, till every element of fertility essential to the growth of cereals having been drawn from the soil, it is left to rest. In the soiling system there is a regular rotation of crops, such as instead of impoverishing, will enrich the soil. The system adopted, may be a four course, a five course, or a six course system, as the farmer deems most judicious under the circumstances, but to farm well there must be some system. In some counties in Ireland the produce of the soil was surprising, from following the four course system, but it is perhaps best adapted to small farms. I for many years followed the six course rotation; having one-sixth of the farm under well manured root crops, one-sixth clover and rye grass for soiling and hay, one-sixth pasture, one-sixth other crops for soiling, and two-sixths cereals. This may be described as a mixed system, partly pasture, and partly soiling. Horned stock were fed some hours every day in the yard; horses altogether in the stable; swine on vetches, clover, cabbages, &c., till the time came for finishing them off for the butcher.

Another advantage of soiling is that there will be a large increase of manure. Instead of being scattered over the roads or commons, or lying in the pasture fields, wasting to fertilizing elements by exposure to the atmosphere, it will be in the manure heap, with the refuse from the racks, the weeds, &c. Abundance of manure is one of the elements of successful farming. There is truth in the old Scotch saying, "Where there is muck there is luck."

A third advantage of soiling is:—The cattle will be in better condition than if fed on ordinary pasture. Having a sufficiency of the best and most suitable food given to them they will be always in better order than if left to pick up short and often coarse, unsuitable herbage and weeds as best they can. Add to this that the supply of good and abundant food will produce more milk, butter and cheese.

One of the greatest profits from soiling is in the economy of the land. One-half acre of land per head will produce a sufficiency of food for cows. This we know from experience. Our farmers will be able to estimate what area of ordinary pasture land per head is required for cows to gather their subsistence from, and thus, comparing one system with the other, ascertain what will be the economy of land. The query naturally arises; What crops

are we to sow for soiling if we adopt this system? This query I now proceed to answer, first observing the greatest difficulty has always been in having green food for soiling early enough in the season, and in this climate the difficulty must be greater than where the winters are shorter, and vegetation not retarded to so late a period. But this obstacle can be surmounted. The first crop ready for soiling in the milder climates is winter vetches or tares. Here we cannot expect them. For your earliest crop for soiling sow fall rye in August or September. We have had it mown for soiling in good time to be succeeded by a crop of potatoes. In Britain our rotation for soiling was tares, spring vetches, clover and ryegrass, annual or perennial, oats and peas, cabbages and rape. Then followed the root crop.

Let your crops for soiling be in succession, as follows: 1. Fall Rye, sown in September. 2. Oats, sown early in April. 3. Oats, sown later in the same month. 4. Oats and peas mixed, sown early in May. 5. Corn sown in drills about the middle of the same month. 6. Corn sown towards the end of the same month. 7. Another sowing of corn the first week in June. 8 and 9. Two sowings of barley, one in the middle of June, the other the first week in July. For some of these you may substitute millet or Hungarian grass, and you may use in addition some of your clover crop green. This succession of crops will bring you on until you begin to use the tops of your mangolds, turnips, carrots and sugar beets. The roots, with hay, straw, &c., will bring your farm stock well through the winter.

As soon as your early soiling crops are used, let there be no delay in manuring and ploughing the ground on which they grew, and sow other crops in their stead; so you will raise two crops instead of one; and your land will be free from weeds and in good condition. As we take it for granted that you have made no preparations in autumn for soiling, we would say commence with the second crop in the above rotation, sowing for the purpose oats as early in April as you can. You may pursue, as I have done, a mixed course, making soiling an auxiliary to our pasture. You will find its profits in the condition of your farm stock, in your dairy, in the increased fertility of your farm.

This is the season when good farmers lay their plans for the culture of their farms for the ensuing year. Resolve to make trial of a systematic rotation of crops, and of, at least in part, soiling your cattle. Let this be included in your plan of farming for 1873.—ASST ED.

Free Trade.

In another part of our paper will be seen a communication from Dr. Brown.—The doctor's aim appears to be free trade, and it would be good enough if we could obtain it, but our legislators have but little power when treating on this subject. The Americans have the power in their hands.

Perhaps some plan might be brought forward that would answer both countries. We might pay them a certain sum and submit to the same external duties that they impose. Almost any plan would be preferable to the numerous pilfering and expensive custom officers that have to be maintained on both sides of the lines.

The doctor's opinion in regard to the agriculturist being unrepresented by the press, we think too true. The two political parties strive for power; money has power, and, undoubtedly, farmers have not as much of that commodity as railway men, manufacturers, brewers, distillers, lumbermen and stock brokers. The time is fast approaching, however, when the interests of the farmer will be more closely looked after.

We hope the doctor and numerous other farmers (for the doctor is a farmer) will unite and join the company as soon as the prospectus is before the country, and make

the FARMER'S ADVOCATE a weekly paper, and of such interest and importance as will not put our Canadian farmers under the necessity of taking so many American agricultural publications, or at least have a paper equal to any on the other side.

The doctor has thrown out two or three valuable hints. We hope others will express themselves should they differ with the doctor. His aim and desire appears to be for the interest of the farmer. Answer his question; who will speak next?

Prizes at Agricultural Exhibitions.

We all believe that we live in the most advanced age of improvement. Progress is rapidly made in mechanism, arts and sciences.

Let us farmers ask ourselves what advancement has been made during the past ten years in our public agricultural affairs. It appears to us that the grand progressive schemes have been brought about by our ancestors, and we are merely resting in the track already laid down by them.—We should be progressive and not content to stand still; we must either be retrograding or advancing.

Just look over the Prize Lists of our Exhibitions, whether stock, seed, art exhibition, or ploughing match, and where are our improvements? True, there are improvements in implements, stock and arts, but what about seeds? and what is more important? Nothing, except it be agricultural information.

One of our most enterprising subscribers called at our office and said he had gained many money prizes at exhibitions, but he would much rather have a library of agricultural books, useful ornaments, instruments of science, or works of art. He had gold medals which he thought much more about than the money, as he could keep and bequeath them to his descendants as trophies of honor, while the money would only be expended. He considered that by the distribution of agricultural books and publications much useful and valuable information would be circulated throughout the country that would, perhaps, do as much good as the exhibitions themselves, thus doubling the utility of the exhibitions. He would suggest the division of the prize money, and the payment of the prizes part in cash and part in publications.

It is our impression that this suggestion should be considered by the several Boards of Agriculture both in Ontario and Quebec.

Information Wanted.

A letter was received from Yorkville P. O., containing \$1, but no name was sent. Another letter containing money has been received from G. Featherstone, but no post office address is to be found on the letter or in it. Another letter containing \$1, has been received, but neither name or place to be found. We have also received a paid letter from Montreal, containing a carefully folded piece of brown paper and nothing more.

In writing please always be careful and give the correct P. O. to which your paper is mailed.

Copy of Resolution Adopted Nov. 8th, 1872.

"It was moved by Mr. Denison, seconded by Hon. O. Blake, and resolved, That it is with feelings of unfeigned regret this Board has learned of the death of one of its members, John Snel, Esq., who died at his residence, Willow Lodge, near Brampton, on Friday, the 1st of November, 1872.

"Mr. Snel's name was quite a household word with Canadian farmers, and, indeed, he was well known throughout this Continent as a breeder and importer of thorough-bred Durhams and Galway cattle, Leicester and Cotswold sheep, and improved Berkshire pigs. Few men have done more for their brother farmers than Mr. Snel, who laid the foundation of his fortune by his own strong arm and willing heart.

"And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to his family."

Turnips.

A FIVE DOLLAR PRIZE.

A real, practical, energetic farmer has placed at our disposal the sum of \$5, to be awarded to the person who will send in the best essay on the Cultivation of the Turnip, the letters to be published in this paper.

The donor does not wish his name published, but it will be made known to the successful writer. The article to be written plainly and pointedly; unintelligible expressions are to be avoided, in fact, it is to be the plain practice that every farmer can understand.

We will allow a column and a half, if required, although the length need not exceed half a column; and if the writer can condense more information into it than another can in a column and a half, all the better for him. Should the article require more than a column and a half, it will be continued in the following issue. The article must be original. Young men, try and get this prize.

Communication.

We are in receipt of a letter signed "A Practical Farmer," dated E. Gwillembury, and bearing the post-mark Kingston. We for once break our rule not to notice any anonymous communication.

The writer complains of our opposing the Ontario Government's measure to import improved farm stock. This argument is based on the ungrounded assumption that the "importers and breeders have formed a regular monopoly so that it is beyond the means of the poorer class of farmers to become possessors of well-bred stock." There is not, nor can there be, in this business a monopoly. Everything connected with it—the purchasing—the selling by open, unrestricted sale—renders a monopoly in it impossible. American breeders find it to be their interest to make heavy purchases at the stock sales of Canadian importers and breeders. American writers admit that in Canada improved stock can be purchased on most advantageous terms.

The charge of monopoly is not only without foundation, it is unjust to the stock importers and stock breeders of the Dominion—men who have done so much for the prosperity of the country.

As from the nature of the business and its attendant circumstances there can be no monopoly; then the argument of the writer falls to the ground, a baseless fiction. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is not conducted in the "interests of a few breeders," or of any class, but of the farmers, and of the country at large. We write not in opposition to those in power, nor in slavish advocacy of them. Our is a less ambitious aim—to promote the interests of agriculture, and the prosperity of the country.—ASST ED.

The "Ontario Teacher."

We take pleasure in announcing that Messrs. Ross & McColl, of Strathroy, are about to issue a publication under the above heading; the prospectus is before us. From the staff of contributors and from the known ability of Mr. Ross as a School Inspector, and Mr. McColl as a writer, we feel satisfied that the work will be a valuable and useful one, particularly for teachers. They should send for a specimen copy.

SHROPSHIRE SHEEP.

A correspondent of the Irish Farmer's Gazette says of the Shropshire breed of sheep: "I beg to give the results of my experience. 1st, they will rear two and sometimes three lambs better than a new Leicester; 2nd, their lambs are much harder; 3rd, when fat, the mutton is worth 1d. per lb. more than the Leicesters, as there is always plenty of lean of a superior quality with the fat; and my rams cut from 9 to 11½ lbs. wool each. I put 90 Shropshire ewes to the ram last season. 8 of which brought me 3 lambs each, 4 brought 4 each, and one brought me five lambs; all live, healthy lambs; very few brought single lambs."