

a blockade. The official inquiries that had been made did not justify the gloomy views of hon. members. While he admitted that the price of corn would rise in time of war, he did not believe that there would be any serious scarcity, unless, indeed, that commodity should be declared contraband of war. But an enemy would be unlikely to make that declaration for fear of incurring the hostility of the United States and possibly that of other countries. Turning to the consideration of the expedients which had been proposed, the right hon. gentleman dismissed protection as not being within the range of practical politics, and declared that the adoption of a policy of national marine insurance would impose so gigantic a burden upon the Government that no Ministers in their senses would ever undertake it. The policy of establishing public granaries he showed was open to the same objection. The amendment was negatived without a division.



AGRICULTURAL NEWS AND COMMENTS.

New York States farmers received last year \$5 per town for sugar beets supplied the factory at Binghamton, N. Y. The average yield for 1898 was about 20 tons per acre, while the percentage of sugar varies from 15 to 13.

To have fowls with lots of stamina avoid continuous in-breeding; use only mature stock for breeding; hatch chickens under the best of conditions; give them plenty of fresh air; provide for abundant exercise; feed sensibly sound healthful food stuffs, and nature will do the rest.

Farmers in many localities in the United States are anxious to begin breeding horses again, but there are no suitable stallions available. It is estimated that there is not more than one pure bred draft or coach stallion to a county to be bought. Importation has begun, but breeders will have to give up the old cheap service and insurance and adopt business principles.

The native sheep of South Africa have tails weighing as much as 20 lbs., and some with tails weighing as much as 30 lbs. have been recorded. The usual weight varies from 6 to 15 lbs. This

curious appendage, which is broad and fat, consists chiefly of fat, which is sometimes used as a substitute for butter. They are a hardy breed of sheep and easy to please in the matter of grazing.

Chapped teats in cows are caused more by wet milking than anything else. The wetting and subsequent drying causes cracks in the skin, and once these harden it is difficult to heal the wounds while the cows are milking. The best remedy is to apply pure vaseline to the teats and soften the skin and the wounds, and milk with great care. After milking the vaseline should be again applied.

It is now clear that the total shipments of apples from America this year will not fall very far short of last year. Up to and including the week ending Dec. 3rd, the shipments from the ports of New York, Portland, Boston, Halifax and St. John, N. B., were 837,620 barrels, as against 571,307 up to the same date last year. The demand for good apples in England is active, and there is no trouble in disposing of large quantities of the right sort.

The cost of producing a pound of butter will depend on the value of the land on which the cows are kept; the value of the cows; the value of the calf; the value of the feed consumed; the cost of labor and the value of manure. Where so many factors have to be considered it is impossible to give a cost that will cover all cases, so much will depend upon the dairyman himself, who has it in his power to lower or increase the power almost at will.

A high authority advances the theory that meat-eaters are less subject to tuberlucosis than vegetarians and reasons, thus: Carnivorous animals are, as a rule, immune to tuberculosis, while, with perhaps, the exception of the horses, sheep, and goat, grammivorous and fungivorous animals are highly susceptible. Arguing from this, it is believed that more deaths from consumption in the human family occur among people whose diet consists of vegetables than among habitual meat-eaters.—*Farming.*

