

The Farm.

Culture of Hemp and Jute in the United States.

The demand during the last two years for information regarding the best practices for the successful growth of hemp and jute has caused the Department of Agriculture to issue "A Report on the Culture of Hemp and Jute in the United States, with Statements Concerning the Practice Employed in Foreign Countries, the Preparation of the Fibre for Market, and Remarks on the Machine Question," by Charles Richards Dodge, special agent. (Report No. 8, Fibre Investigations, pp. 43, pls. III, figs. 4.)

Formerly the hemp-growing industry of this country was of considerable importance, large areas were devoted to the cultivation of the plant, and as much as 75,000 tons of the fibre were produced in one year, but last year hardly more than 5,000 tons were reported for the whole country. The bulletin treats of the history of hemp and the range of its culture, statistics, and production in the United States, soil selection, fertility and preparation, the necessity for good seed, harvesting and retting the crop, extracting the fiber, recent experiments in California and the South, and the use to which the fibre is put. The extension of the already established culture of hemp might supply a substitute for the jute in many of the coarse jute manufactures now produced in this country, and thus re-establish one of the decreasing products of American farms. The present large demand for India jute encourages the attempt to produce that fiber in this country. For the fiscal year 1894-95 at least 160,000 tons of the fiber and butts were imported into this country for manufacture, yet it is perfectly adaptable to culture in the Southern portion of the United States, and the samples produced from American-grown jute have been proved at least equal to the India product.

The second part of this bulletin gives a history of this industry, and discusses the different kinds of jute, the fibre and its uses, culture in India and the United States, the extraction of the fibre as practised in each country, and the value of the crop. The bulletin is not for general free distribution, but can be secured for 10 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Union Building, Washington, D. C.

Some Insects Injurious to Stored Grain.

In publishing the bulletin entitled "Some Insects Injurious to Stored Grain," by F. H. Chittenden, Assistant Entomologist (Farmers' Bulletin No. 45), the Department of Agriculture has provided a popular account of some of the pests which destroy large amounts of valuable farm products, with suggestions as to the best means of preventing their access to granaries, mills, etc., and of destroying those which have already found shelter within the grain, flour or meal.

The most important of the upward of two score of species which occur commonly in granaries are treated: their life history, habits and food are described, and they are presented as larva or "worm," pupa, and adult, in eighteen figures, so that one unacquainted with entomology might easily recognize them.

The grain weevils, grain moths, flour and meal moths, flour beetles, meal worms, grain beetles, and cadelle are main headings of the subject, under which the granary weevil and the rice weevil, the Angoumois grain moth and the wolf moth, the Mediterranean flour moth, the Indian-meal moth, meal snout moth, the confused flour beetle, the rust-red flour beetle, the slender-horned flour beetle and the small-eyed flour beetle; the yellow meal worm and dark meal worm, the saw-toothed grain beetle, the red or square-necked grain beetle, and the foreign grain beetle are

respectively considered.

The parasitic and other natural enemies of these grain destroyers are noted, and under "Methods of Control" both preventive and insecticidal measures are recommended and described.

Among the first early harvesting and threshing are recommended, and as a remedy the bisulphide of carbon treatment is stated to be the simplest, most effective and least expensive remedy for all insects that affect stored cereals. This bulletin can be secured by addressing a request for it to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or to a member of Congress.

How Soiling Saves Land.

I have tried soiling in combination with pasturing, and find it economical of land, but the time and expensive of cultivating the soiling crops must be taken into consideration. There is a great saving of manure, and this, of course, adds to the productiveness of the land. Have kept four cows on three acres of New-England rocky pasture, with the aid of half an acre of alfalfa cut three and sometimes four times in the season; half-acre of oats and one acre of cornfodder, fed during the latter part of October, and during November an area of turnips. Considering the extra number of cows that can be kept and the increased pile of manure, notwithstanding the extra work, it is more economical than pasturing. The best succession is first a piece of alfalfa, that can be cut here early in May; then oats, to be cut in July, sown at intervals also, so that they can be cut green in succession; third cornfodder, to be used during August and the autumn months. The alfalfa can be cut over at intervals of four to five weeks, from June to October, and later on cabbages and turnips and other root crops. Rye is poor stuff.—(C. H. Vedder, in Dairy World.)

Avoid Bones With Fat Adhering.

While cut green bone is perhaps the best food that can be used for laying hens, and also the cheapest, yet there is a way to feed it. There are different kinds of bone, some being better adapted to the use of poultry than others. It is a mistake to use fat and marrow with the bone. It is true that it is not an easy matter to get rid of such adhering materials, but it would be well to always endeavor to secure bones with lean meat adhering. Avoid fat as much as possible, as the fat is not only undesirable, but often injurious when the hens are in high condition. Bones are intended as nitrogenous and not carbonaceous matter. Grain will supply all the carbonaceous matter needed, and bones should contain as little as possible. Bones supply mineral matter and are digestible. They are largely composed of lime (being phosphate of lime), and are far superior to oyster shells, because the bone serves as food, which is not the case with shells. One pound of cut green bone for sixteen hens once a day will be sufficient, and the more lean meat on them the better will be the results obtained.—(Farm and Fireside.)

Keep in The Lead.

The right use of the plough, the sub-soiler, the roller, the drag and the harrow is one of the fine problems of the farm. Intelligent practice upon all these points must vary according to locality and season. And after all we do not mean to convey the idea that it is ever possible for the farmer to know absolutely the right thing to do, but a keen and intelligent observation will tell him about what is right nine times out of ten, and that is quite a leverage upon ordinary farm practice. The farmer ought always to keep this fact in view, that sure prosperity is ever awaiting the man who is a notch ahead of the rank and file of his fellows in his everyday practice. Don't be discouraged because Nature has seemed to turn her hands to aid in the production of one of the biggest crops on record last year, causing prices to dwindle down to almost nothing. It may not be so another year. Perhaps you will have to work for every ear of corn you get. Try to be prepared for any conditions, favorable, or unfavorable, and make the most of them.—(Nebraska Farmer.)

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