

stop during the winter. The high profits on that kind of feeding lately have had the effect of attracting a good deal of attention to it, and it may be that the matter will be somewhat overdone, as it is now tolerably certain that there will be a very large number of cattle made fat on corn.

Mule raising is one of the most profitable kinds of stock raising engaged in in many parts of the South and West. Mules mature earlier, live longer, eat less, are hardier, and stronger, and sell for more money than horses. These are some of the well founded claims set forth by those who advocate mule breeding. All that is necessary to commence in the business is to secure a thoroughbred jack and a few common mares. The light mares of the southwest are a good deal used for the purpose, but it pays best to have good sized mares, because there is a much stronger demand for large than for small mules.

The dressed meat system is gaining on the old mode of live stock shipments very rapidly. Not only is the trade increasing so far as cattle are concerned, but also in the sheep line. Chicago dressed mutton is now going out in nearly all directions in rapidly increasing volume. If this has the desired effect of improving the character of our mutton sheep and causing the attention of flockmasters to be at least divided between the wool and mutton production of sheep, it will be well. New Zealand promises to flood the British markets with cheap frozen mutton, but as yet this continent has not been able to produce enough good mutton for home consumption. There is a great demand for choice mutton sheep.

Taxing "Scrubs."

BY MARSHFIELD.

One of the stock-raiser's organs has discussed the propriety of taxing "scrub" bulls. It means to do the slow farmer a kindness by cracking the taxation lash over his head. There is an affair of "conscience" involved, which he is "violating" every moment of his life, and his "lust reigns supreme." This mild impeachment must insinuate that he is deliberately ruining his own pecuniary interests.

The motives which prompted such a suggestion cannot be overlooked by any thinking farmer. Farmers' interests are diversified. One interest grows into prominence; it gains a leader, organizes, establishes an organ, forming the nucleus for a boom. How providential it is that farmers are hard to move! If it were not so, those overtaken by the first breeze of the fruit growers' boom would directly turn their farms into gardens and orchards, and live on fruits; those stung by the busy-bee boom would have their acres beclouded by swarming bees, and live on honey; those flapped or chuckled into the poultry boom would convert their fields into poultry yards, and live on fowl; in the same manner the dairy boomers would set us a table of butter and cheese, and the plumed knights of the live-stock quill would prescribe an exclusive diet of adipose.

If the grain and grass growing and the machinery interests were now organized and possessed an organ, and each farmer took a paper representing each of all these different industries, then there would be a fair warfare terminating in the survival of the fittest. So

long as the system of mixed husbandry prevails, and the back-bone of the farming body remains unorganized, these reflections must point out the necessity of every farmer taking a fearless and independent paper that not only represents all his diversified interests, but one that also gives each interest such a prominence as bears its proper relation to the natural adaptabilities of the country. This is the only means by which overdoing and overbooming can be prevented. Nothing but a perverted "conscience" and the basest "lust" for pelf could move stockmen to open markets for their goods by laying down the principle that the farmer is to be taxed for his poverty, ignorance, or his neglect of his own private business affairs. Where would the application of the principle end? How many government officials would be required to enforce the observance of such a series of laws?

But I most respectfully join issue with the organ as to inaction or negligence on our part in live stock matters. Many of us in dairy districts do not want to raise calves, and we have discovered that a native cow will give as much milk when put to a "scrub" bull as when put to an imported one, and many of us have also discovered that by skillful selection and management we can improve our native stock more cheaply and rapidly than by the introduction of pedigreed blood; we have found them to be extremely susceptible of improvement by selection and responsive to generous treatment. They are true to their kind, and best adapted to our present conditions in most localities. Besides, those of us who advocate improvement by the infusion of foreign blood are waiting patiently for the time to come when a new breed will be discovered that will cast all known breeds into the shade. This day cannot be far distant, for all the breeds we have heard of had their boom. Why didn't the organ tell us what bulls were to be substituted for our defunct "scrubs?" Because it dare not, for this would be showing partiality to a particular breed, and the organ's existence depends upon its neutrality. If we are to judge this for ourselves, then let us be our own judges all round.

From my experience of taxation, stock, and agricultural papers, I am convinced that the tax is on the wrong poll. There is something else that has greater need of weeding out than "scrub" bulls. I refer to scrub editors. It has been said that the man who fails in every other pursuit is still good enough for a farmer. This truth is but half told; for if he then fails as a farmer, he can still get a license to be an agricultural editor. I don't care whether my proposed tax is put on the editor's head or on the head of the farmer who takes his paper. I will submit to be taxed myself for at least a half a dozen of the agricultural papers which I take. I'll not take them any longer. I now feel more keenly than ever that I am "violating" my "conscience" by doing so, and that my "lust" for the ridiculous "reigns supreme."

In order to increase the size of common fowls, the cock selected should be a light Brahma, which will give heavy feathering, compact size, and small comb. Such a cross will lay earlier than the pure Brahma, and make better nurses for chicks.

Poultry.

Providing a Supply of Green Food.

The Farm and Garden says:—"One of the greatest difficulties in the way of keeping fowls in the winter is that of procuring a plentiful supply of green food. As November is a month during which many of the crops are put up for winter, it is an excellent time for making provision for the poultry also. One of the best vegetables to use is cabbage, but in order to reach it conveniently for use, some better method than burying the heads under ground must be adopted, and this may be done by placing them close together, with the roots under ground and the cabbage covered with straw and corn-stalks, which may be moved whenever a supply is desired. As poultry are not partial to frozen cabbage, they may be chopped and left over night in cold water. In fact, by placing turnips in cold water to thaw, they may be chopped and fed raw also. A portion of raw vegetables at times is highly relished by the fowls, though a mess of cooked food is also excellent.

We can cut rye this month for green food. The rye will not be very tall, but so much the better. When cut, let it be dried enough to prevent fermentation, or place it loosely in the barn. It may wilt; but it will be tender when moistened with warm water. It requires but very little labor to chop a few handfuls into short lengths once a day, and if fed in connection with cabbage, a good dish of green food may be supplied. We might recommend spinach, lettuce and turnip tops, but the rye and cabbage may be more easily procured, and also fed with less labor. We are not stating what should be fed, but what may be done in November. Of course, if one has lettuce in cold frames it may be fed, but lettuce is too valuable at this season, while cabbage is always cheap, especially as a single head furnishes quite a large meal for a flock. The hay from the second growth of clover may be cut up in winter also, and a portion should be placed aside now for that purpose, while the small white potatoes may be used advantageously, when boiled and mixed with soft food. Green food need not be fed every day, as a rule, but if allowed three times a week will be found very beneficial."

When the chickens are afflicted with diarrhea, one of the best remedies is boiled milk, thickened with corn meal while boiling. Let it remain until nearly cold, but should be fed warm. A pinch of red pepper will improve it.

Ducks should be allowed as much liberty as possible, as they are not partial to confinement like chickens. When they are kept in the poultry yard with hens they become quarrelsome, and do more damage than they are worth, and for that reason should be kept separate.

Oats should always be ground, if possible, and mixed with the soft food. Sometimes the hens will reject the whole grains, and when this is the case, they may be soaked over night in hot water, when they will be eaten readily, as well as being more digestible.