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The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH.

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor.

VOL. 1.

FREDERICTON, N. B., JANUARY 18, 1879.

NO. 41.

Varieties.

Night and Morning.

I pause beside the darkening pane, With homestead heart and weary hand. To watch the fair day die again. And evening with its shadowy train Creep slow along the lossome land.

The Joys of the Future.

Let me sing of the joys of the future, The hour that bringeth its bliss, Though the past may be burdened with sorrow.

He who spends all he gets is on the road to beggary.

An exchange puts the following pointed conundrum: "Why is a newspaper like a tooth brush?" Because everybody should have one of his own, and not borrow his neighbour's.

"Over the Hills to the Poorhouse"

was the title of a new play to be produced in Battle Creek, Mich., by a travelling theatre company. The leading actor got so drunk that he could not perform, creditors seized the baggage, and one of the unpaid employees actually did go over the hills to the poorhouse.

A learned clergyman in the State of Maine

was accosted in the following manner by an illiterate preacher who despised education: "Sir, you have been to college, I suppose?" "Yes, sir," was the reply. "I am thankful," rejoined the former, "that the Lord has opened my mouth to preach without any learning?" "A similar event," replied the clergyman, "took place in Balaam's time, but such things are of rare occurrence in the present day."

CANNIBAL IN LONDON

The latest novelty in London is a Tonga Islander, one Mr. Mpopoh-ba-ba. He is nearly 50 years of age, of mild and prepossessing appearance, remarkably intelligent, and a practical Christian. The captain who abducted him had him instructed, and so remarkably docile and gifted was he that he is now lecturing. His lectures are accounts of savage life in his native land, and are said to be highly interesting. One great personal attraction about him is that he admits that in 1860, when he was a cannibal of cannibals, he and his family ate a New York missionary. He offered part of his earnings as lecturer as compensation for this unbecoming banquet, but no relative has as yet come forward to claim the dividend.

Agriculture.

Cattle Feeding.

We see it stated in the papers that there are 200,000 cattle, and 500,000 sheep feeding in Ontario this season, intended for the English market. This is a very large number, and we think must be over-estimated, but there is no doubt this trade is assuming vast proportions, and a great deal of money is brought into the country by it. Now what are we doing in New Brunswick? Standing idly by and grumbling that farming does not pay, or that we have no market. Is it not our own fault that we have no market, and that beef is now selling at from 3 to 5 cents per lb. and much of it cannot be sold at any price. And no wonder, for we would be surprised if some beef we have sent brought into the city lately could find a purchaser. Poor, miserable stuff, not fit for any one to eat! Do our farmers think that those who are engaged in shipping beef to Great Britain would come here to buy while we have only such wretched animals to sell. We have over and over again pointed out the necessity of improving the stock in order to have a market. If we had ten thousand head of the right quality to sell, we would find purchasers at good prices, and there would be no grumbling at dull times in this line; and while so much is said about raising beets to make sugar from, and building a factory for the purpose, we are confident quite as much money could be made by growing beets, mangels, turnips and carrots, and feeding them to improved stock, without waiting until a large capital is obtained to build a factory. We have some good stock in the Province if they were properly fed, but any number can be raised in a short time if the farmers would only look at this matter as their own interests demand. That many tell us they would rather have the native stock than any imported, and many act up to their opinions, for they will not trouble to get others, or if a fine animal is brought into their district they will not take the trouble to benefit by the opportunity. So long as they adopt this course just so long will they complain of the want of a market. They must not expect purchasers will come and leave their money in the Province until we can give them the animals they want, and whatever we may think of our native stock that goes for very little while the buyer wants another kind. It is a fact that the only cattle that will ship abroad are the improved breeds or their crosses, and of all those the Short Horns take the lead, and will continue to do so for some time yet, and the sooner our farmers make up their minds to furnish the market with the article wanted the better for themselves. Again, we say, get the breeds the purchaser wants and feed them properly and then there will be no trouble about a market, but so long as we only offer our native breed, half fed, just so long will buyers give us a wide berth.

Winter Feeding.

At this season of the year there is nothing we suppose, that so much engages the attention of the farmer as that of the care of his cattle—"winter feeding." We have more than once lately had articles on the subject. The following from the Maine Farmer, is the most practical and the best suited to this latitude that we have seen.—

When confined to the barns in winter,

Though this may not be actually correct, yet it conforms with the experience of most farmers we presume to say that cattle are thought to be doing well when they "hold their own" through the period of winter feeding—indeed "spring poor" is a term a great many farmers know the meaning of. Now winter feeding of all the domestic animals should be such as to provide so far as possible, the nearest approach to the good pasture of early summer which it is possible to do; or in other words, a forage of the best, early cut, well cured hay, with roots to supply moisture and to keep the system in good condition, and provender as an extra force to sustain the strain upon the system consequent upon milk production, hard work, or the processes of reproduction. But instead of a great effort being made on the part of the farmer to secure these conditions for winter feeding, what are, too often, the real means at hand for getting the domestic animals through the long winters? Dry, late cut hay, damaged by rain, or by being all burnt up with the sun, very likely put into the mow wet, and in consequence musty, and plenty of cold water—this is about all. Cattle, and sheep and colts will not starve on such food to be sure, but they will not thrive. It is an utter impossibility for such food to yield the nourishment necessary to give increase of flesh, or production of milk, or growth of wool. If it furnishes bare subsistence it is all that can be expected.

How to raise ducks.

The first month of winter, more than any subsequent period, determines the success of the flock through the feeding season. The maximum quantity of food should be reached by gradual increase from a beginning, extending back into the grazing season, and maintained at the point where it is thoroughly consumed. The poor economy of under feeding has often been deprecated in these columns. Indefensible under any normal condition, it is doubly so when the cereals are as cheap as at the present time, in the agricultural sections. Corn is selling at a majority of the stations within 200 miles of Chicago at less than 25 cents per bushel. In view of this fact, the flockmaster who permits his sheep to pass through the winter in any condition short of No. 1. makes a mistake, which next spring will bring home to his appreciation with an intensity that will not allow it to be forgotten.

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With all young poultry, the natural mother is the best calculated by nature to take charge of her own offspring, inasmuch as there are many requirements which instinct teaches them, and which are equally adapted to both mother and progeny, when both are of the same kind. A hen is not a suitable mother for young ducks. Ducks are considered by the majority of people as hardy birds and easily reared, and so they are when their natural mother, but with a hen mother it is a different thing. A hen is an uneasy, restless creature, ever on the move in the daytime; whereas the duck mother is quiet, and her movements are slow and cautious when with her young ones, seldom treading on them, while the hen frequently tramples on her brood—but when of her own kind, they soon learn to keep out of reach of her outspread toes. With cries of her own offspring

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We are not of those who believe that our winters are too long and too severe for feeding to be carried on profitably, because we have seen too many instances to the contrary to disprove it. In our visits among farmers we have seen numerous cases where, with suitable conditions, the farm animals have not only been kept growing, but yielded a constant profit;—this has been true of milk cows, young cattle, colts and sheep. These conditions are warm quarters, good feed in sufficient quantity not only for support, but for production of care and attention. The last included bedding, ventilation and cleanliness, and a particular oversight of all the animals so far as individual characteristics are concerned, to see that none fatter, and that all thrive and gain. But winter feeding is a matter that can hardly be improved upon at this season with the means ordinarily at the command of the farmer, unless provision has been made for it earlier in the season. It is in summer that the farmer must be making efforts for carrying his stock through the coming winter at a profit. In spring the root crop must have attention, or there will be no roots to give variety to the winter feed; the early cutting and careful curing of the grass, that it may not be burnt up and worthless, but come as near dried grass as possible, must also be looked after, that the winter feeding of the animals may be such as will keep them glancing rather than losing.

These brief hints will show how important a matter the artificial feeding of domestic animals is, as a part of the farm economy; and how provisions for it reach backward and forward through all the operations of the year, and enter into all the plans and labors of the farmer. If the calling attention to this matter now serves to impress upon the mind the deficiencies in the present winter feed in any particular, and stimulates to plans for its improvement another winter, which may be carried out during the intervening season, the object in giving them will have been secured.

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EXECUTED ON MODERATE TERMS

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Ordinary advertisements, line, first insertion, \$1.00

Each subsequent insertion, 50 cts.

BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENTS

inserted for 6 months or 1 year on moderate terms.

The number of weeks an advertisement to be inserted should be clearly stated. When this is not done it will be continued until ordered out, and charged the full time it has been inserted.

bulk from under the building, and put it in like manner on an adjoining strip of same size and quality. All was sowed with wheat of the same kind and at the same time. The crop from those two lands was not measured, but every one who examined the crop before cutting decided there was about twice the quantity on the land manured by the covered manure.

THE TILLYFOUR CATTLE AT THE LONDON CHRISTMAS MARKET.

The Agricultural Gazette speaks very highly of the Scotch cattle which appeared at the London Christmas market, and pays the great compliment to Mr. William McCombie of Tillyfour of placing him at the top of the list as regards the quality of his stock. Scotland was never better, or perhaps we should say Aberdeenshire, the leading county—the southern counties of Scotland being the source of a corn growing character. The alphas of Mr. George Dickson and Mr. Gibblet merit special notice for the large percentage from Aberdeenshire. There is also a large number of very nice Scotch polled beasts that have been fatened out in England. Mr. Dickson's large scale of 450 lbs contains more crosses than pure pairs; early maturity, weight, and quality being the obvious object of Aberdeenshire farmers in crossing with short horns. In this they illustrate the most successful example of fattening in the market, both sides of the alley presenting a very uniform degree of successful breeding and fattening highly creditable to the north. In Mr. Gibblet's alley, the fifty Scotch polled beasts consigned by the celebrated breeder, Mr. McCombie, are considered the toppers of the market. We do not recollect reporting such a fine lot of a single producer of this breed, the whole appearing as if cast in the same mould.

NEW MIXTURE FOR WOOLLEN GOODS.

—A new effect may be produced in all kinds of woollen goods by mixing china grass with them. The object is to profit by a property possessed by the grass of not taking the same dye as the wool, consequently when the latter is dying the vegetable fibre retains its whiteness and gloss. It is best to mix the two fibres before the spinning, say in the carding engine or the mangle, and to take the china grass a little longer than the wool, to enhance its effect; the best proportion is ten to twenty per cent. of the former to ninety or eighty per cent. of the latter. The yarn thus spun is used for warp as well as for weft. The wool employed may be carded or combed wool. The cloth can be raised and milled as usual and woven in any desirable manner. The drawback to the use of china grass for textile manufacture—namely, its liability to retain creases—is thus reduced to a minimum by the great elasticity of the wool.—Textile Manufacturer.

COUNTRY LADS—Boys who are fortunate enough to be born in the country have unmistakable advantage over city lads.

The place of all others to be born in. The associations of youth of home of school, winter, and the farm work and play mixed together in a delightful tangle, are never repeated out, but grow deeper into the character and become dearer to the being while life passes and the revolving years hold out. It is worth more than a university education to have been born and brought up on a farm, of well-to-do parents. That supplies what no learning from the books ever can. That is a resource that stands by. It is something to feed upon. And if the boy is a man engaged in business or a profession, he has a stock of health and a sound constitution to draw upon that will carry him triumphantly through when the city boys are giving way all along the road. Morally a boy physically, he has by far the best of it.

EXTRAORDINARY DAIRY COW—Mr. E. T. Tannicillif's "Duchess Stit"

is an extraordinary dairy cow. A few weeks ago the whole of her milk for seven days, always milked by one man, was kept apart from that of any other cow, skimmed also, and churned separately, under special superintendance. The butter made from those seven days' produce weighed eighteen pounds but for two ounces. Besides this, I think her, Mr. Tannicillif remarks, "the finest flesh-grower I ever saw." Mr. Tannicillif further informs us that his cows when in full milk in the summer made an average of over ten pounds per cow, weighing good eighteen ounces to the pound.—Bull's Weekly Messenger.

Scaly legs in fowls are caused by a parasitic mite which burrows under the skin of the shank and feet.

They may be destroyed by applying a mixture of lard and kerosene oil.