

Stock Department.

Stock Feeding in Canada.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—No doubt our annual four months of snow and frost, during which all vegetation ceases, form a great drawback to the wintering of a large quantity of stock.

I cannot but think that, by a different system of management than that generally adopted—by a greater economy and diversity of food—our stock may be kept in good order, and profitably fattened during the winter. And here let me enter my protest against the shameful waste and great cruelty of allowing stock of any description to run exposed to a straw stack, even if it be placed in the warmest and most sheltered situation.

Warmth, cover, and regular feeding, are universally allowed the three essentials to the health of all animals.

Now, in giving my ideas on this subject, I would say that our farming resources are not yet sufficiently ripe to enable us generally to feed stock in the same superior style as is practised in England; but the methods of housing and feeding that I propose are within reach of the humblest of our farmers.

We should aim to make both meat and manure of our stock in winter. Every farmer has his own peculiar ideas on the subject of stock feeding—fluctuating between the extremes of folly and wisdom. Every straw stack should, by means of rails or other protection, be guarded, the stock having at no time free access. All young cattle—such as we call rough stock (generally they are very rough)—running at large in the barn yard, should be accommodated with a warm open shed, in which to seek shelter from the pitiless winds and blinding storms.

They should be fed in those sheds, in racks, to which their straw, either long or cut, may be conveyed at feeding times. If sheds are not already made, the CANADA FARMER, October 1st, 1867, gives a handy method of extemporising them by means of rails and straw; and rough racks may also be made with ease.

In such shelter, the animal can lie down in comfort and chew its cud, with a full belly and warm dry loins.

That which they would throw down in tearing to pieces and undermining a stack, may be carried to these sheds, and will form a comfortable bed besides making very superior manure. It is an allowed axiom, that immediately a young animal ceases to grow it also ceases to be profitable; and can we expect an animal to thrive when, standing with its fore legs on the side of a stack, it is vainly trying to reach its necessary food in a howling wind, with a sleet storm or cold rain trickling down its back and loins, striking a chill home to its vitals?

Turnips are, when given in moderate proportions, great economizers of straw, and very fertile agents in the manure pile.

If, however, cattle be overdosed with roots, they become too dainty to look at straw; but if given, say a bushel basket of cut roots between four head, twice a day, they will eat dry straw heartily. Let our object be to keep the belly full, and be sure we shall keep the cold out.

Milk cows, fattening heifers and calves, should be confined at night and in rough weather, and be liberally fed.

To milk cows, a mixture of chopped hay and straw (two parts straw to one part of hay), with about twenty lbs. chopped roots (mangolds are the best) should be fed three times a day. All milking animals require free access to water; therefore cows should be allowed to run out in the yard for a few hours, more or less, according to the weather.

Calves should be fed on the best of sweet hay and a few turnips.

I have beefed cattle very successfully on chopped hay and straw, half and half, and about a bushel of turnips apiece per day; with also from four to five lbs. of chopped meal at every feed. The grain is a very essential point in making tender and solid beef.

Sheep will do well, both ewes in lamb and others, on sweet pea straw and turnips. After lambing I give my sheep good clover hay and roots, with a little chopped oats. Last year, from my small flock of thirteen ewes, I raised twenty-two lambs, under this treatment.

But, Sir, the grand secret is *regularity*, both in the time of feeding and in the quantity. One or two meals missed, do more harm than can be retrieved by a week's feeding. One cold sleet storm takes many pounds of flesh off an animal.

"An animal well wintered is half summered," is as true as the reverse axiom. Some of your readers may say: "This is too much trouble to take with our roughstock." Try it. See your milk cows making their five, six and seven lbs. of butter per week; the butchers vying with one another for the purchase of your beef; your young cattle doubling their fall weight; your ewes surrounded by healthy lambs, and your sheds full of excellent manure; and if you then say it is too much trouble, you had better sell out lock, stock and barrel, and turn your hands to something else.

OLD COUNTRYMAN.

Paris, Ont., 16th Dec., 1867.

How to Produce the Sexes at will.

A CORRESPONDENT has obligingly sent us the following communication, being the substance of an article in the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Report*:

Many plans have been suggested, and perhaps some of them have not received the attention they merit. Some physiologists have supposed that one ovary produces males, and the other females. A more plausible theory is that of M. Thury, professor in the Academy of Geneva. He observed that the queen-bee lays female eggs at first, and male eggs afterwards; that with hens the first laid eggs give female, the last, male product; that young bulls, who meet the female at the first signs of heat, generate heifers more frequently than old bulls, who are exhausted and do service later; that mares, shown the stallion late in their period, drop horse colts rather than fillies. He formulated, therefore, this law for stock raisers: "If you wish to produce females, give the male at the first signs of heat; if you wish males, give him at the end of the heat."

We have before us the certificate of a Swiss stock grower, son of the President of the Swiss Agricultural Society, Canton de Vaud, signed in February of the present year, 1867, which says, speaking of the accuracy of this law:

"In the first place, on twenty-two successive occasions, I desired to have heifers. My cows were of Schwitz breed, and my bull a pure Durham. I succeeded in these cases. Having bought a pure Durham cow, it was very important for me to have a new bull, to supersede the one I had bought at a great expense, without leaving to chance the production of a male. So I followed, accordingly, the direction of Professor Thury, and the success has proved once more the truth of the law. I have obtained from my Durham bull, six more bulls (Schwitz-Durham cross) for field work; and, having chosen cows of the same color and height, I obtained perfect matches of oxen. My herd amounted to forty cows of every age.

"In short, I have made in all twenty-nine experiments after the new method, and in every one I succeeded in the production of what I was looking for—male or female. I had not one single failure. All the experiments have been made by myself, without any other person's intervention; consequently, I do declare that I consider as real, and certainly perfect, the method of Professor Thury."

In August, 1863, M. Thury submitted his plan to the Academy of Science at Paris. It was tried on the recommendation of that body, on the Emperor's farms, with, it is alleged, the most unvarying success.

Management of Horses.

In the management of a horse, one should never get in a passion; but what is undertaken, or required of a horse, he should be made to do; yet nothing unreasonable, or what he does not know how, and is unable to do, should be required of him. When you have taught a horse that you are his friend and master, you have laid the foundation of complete success in his management.

If you are afraid of a horse, do not go near him, and have nothing to do with him personally, till you make him fear you. A horse knows when his driver is afraid of him, and he will have his own way accordingly; but no horse should be expected to do what has never been taught him to do. You might as well require a child to solve a question in algebra, who had never learned to count beyond ten, as to demand of a horse to do what no one has ever taught him how to do.

For instance, a young horse that has never been "set" in a gully, with a load before, is whipped by his owner, or driver, because he does not draw the load out. The animal is willing to do what he can, but he does not know how to draw out the load. He tries, and finds that it does not move, not knowing that a *steadier* and *stronger* pull would do it, and when the lash comes down upon him, and he hears the yells (that is the right word too often) of his driver, he is frightened, and jumps and rears, through fear, rather than ugliness, or baulkiness. No better way could possibly be devised to make a horse baulky, than to beat him under such circumstances. You might as well attempt to make a horse move a three story building, and draw it off, as to get out of a slough, with a heavy load, when the animal has never been taught, by degrees, to draw a load out of such places.

It is true, that it is bad policy to unhitch a horse from a load, under such circumstances; but it is far worse to beat him an hour, and then have to do it. Our way of teaching colts is as follows:—We put on light loads, after they are well broke to a harness, and go into bad places, where it requires hard pulling by degrees; and the animal learns how to draw the load out. He reasons as a man does thus:—"I've been here before and got out, and I can do it again," and out he goes. We add to the load one or two hundred pounds, and go through the same process, then wait a day or two and try him again, taking care that we require nothing to be done that he has not done before, except with a little lighter load. This is teaching a horse to have confidence in himself, which is the basis of all good draught horses.

A truckman of Boston got into a deep snow bank, last winter, with a load of two tons. He was "set." Did he bawl, or yell at, and beat his horses? Not at all; "Charley," said he, addressing one of his horses, "we are in a bad fix here, and I want you to do your best." And when he gave the word go, they did go, exerting themselves to the utmost, and the truck went on to its destination. These horses were rational animals, and knew what it was to be encouraged; and so it should be in all cases. A gentleman who witnessed the truckman's operation, stopped him, and handed him \$5. "Take that," said he; "it is the first time that I have seen a truckman treat his horses, under such circumstances, in a proper manner."—*Rural American*.

How to Treat Baulky Horses.

If you have baulky horses, it is your own fault, and not the horses', for if they do not pull true, there is some cause for it, and if you will remove the cause, the effect will cease. When your horse baulks he is excited, and does not know what you want him to do. When he gets a little excited, stop him five or ten minutes; let him become calm; go to the baulky horse, pat him, and speak gently to him; and as soon as he is over his excitement, he will, in nine cases out of ten, pull at the word. Whipping and slashing and swearing only make the matter worse. After you have gentled him awhile, and his excitement has cooled down, take him by the bit; turn him each way, a few minutes, as far as you can; pull out the tongue; gentle him a little; unrein him; then step before the baulky horse, and let the other start first; then you can take them anywhere you wish. A baulky horse is always high spirited and starts quick; half the pull is out before the other starts; by standing before him the other starts first. By close application to this rule, you can make any baulky horse pull. If a horse has been badly spoiled, you should hitch him to the empty wagon, and pull it around a while on level ground; then put on a little load, and increase it gradually, as before, and in a short time you can have a good work horse.—*American Farmer*.