LIVE STOCK COLUMN.

WHICH PAY BEST, SHEEP OR CATTLE? THAT IS THE QUESTION.

Which Is More Profitable, Meat and Milk, or Mutton and Wool?—How Much Feed and Sheep Take from the Soil and How Much Each Gives to Me.

Can mutton be more cheaply produced than beef? As bearing upon this subject the Scart calls attention to the fact that the sheep is a producer of double products, meat and wool. He infers, too, to the experiments of Sir J. B. Lawes, in reference to the percentage of food utilized or stored up by sheep and cattle, and these experiments presented the sheep in a very favorable light. Of the dry food consumed he found that the sheep stored up increased weight 12 per cent., while cattle only laid on increased weight 8 per cent.; that in, six pounds of dry food increased the live weight of cattle.

So that, relying upon these experiments, sheep must be considered as excellent mixtures of food, as producing as many pounds of mutton, besides the wool, from a given quantity of food, as can be produced of beef; and, as the best mutton brings as high a price as the best beef, it would appear on this basis the sheep would give the farmer as much profit over cattle. If this is not too favorable a view, the sheep on suitable lands must be considered among the most profitable of farm stock. It is true the dairy cow brings her profitable flow of milk to offset that of wool, but the dairy cow does not lay on flesh while producing milk as does the sheep while producing wool.

A fleece of five pounds of wool grown in a year requires only a daily growth of one-fifth of an ounce, which can take but a small portion of food to produce. The mineral matter taken from the soil by the fleece is only 1.8 ounces per year, and if six half mutton sheep represent a cow the whole mineral constituents taken by the six fleeces would only be 9.6 ounces and about 1.9 pounds of nitrogen, while the ordinary cow yielding 4,000 pounds of milk would take 36 pounds of mineral matter or ash and 25 of nitrogen, or 48 times as much mineral matter and 13 times as much nitrogen as the fleeces of the sheep.—Montana Live Stock Journal.

Winter Care of Sheep.

Sheep in the pen will sometimes lose their wool in large quantities and the cause remains a deep mystery to the owner. This comes from various causes, and an investigation of the condition of the sheep will be necessary to ascertain the difficulty. Sometimes if sheep have been in a poor condition and are flitting quickly the change will cause the wool to fall out in quantities. Again, if sheep are infested with vermin, ticks, pelt rot or scab, they will lose their wool rapidly. For pelt rot and scab there are various ointments recommended. If the sheep being wool should be dipped as early as possible a new growth will be encouraged on the bare places, and will perhaps prevent further falling off in other places. Vermin and scab are liable to get on the sheep at this time of the year any way, and a great deal of care is required to prevent such diseases.

Sheep are very peculiar as to their tastes and the kind of food they eat, and they will never eat unsuitable food unless it is the only alternative. If hunger and starvation stare them in the face they will take up with almost anything, but they will never grow rapidly or take on much flesh under such unfavorable conditions. The feeder should cater to their desires, especially during the unpleasant weather of fall and winter, when the sheep cannot select for themselves. The most successful eastern sheep feeders adopt the plan of feeding at least three times a day, and feeding only such food as the sheep will eat up clean.

Too liberal feeding is a mistake in several ways. There is a great deal of waste attendant on it, and the sheep do not profit by an oversubundance. A small rack should be kept near the sheep for hay, and fresh hay should be put in it two or three times during the day. See that the quantity is just enough to satisfy the wants of the sheep until the next feeding hour. Hay in the morning without grain, fodder at noon and some grain and hay for the evening meal is the best diet. Such regularity of feeding, supplemented by regularity of water, will keep a flock in good condition through the winter and prepare them for rapid spring growth.

A word or two may be said about roots for sheep. A good fattening fodder for sheep must not be too watery, and hence a too liberal supply of roots is not beneficial. A small quantity of roots is good for the sheep, and especially potatoes, which furnish a better effect between water and dry matter than otherwise to be obtained. Roots are not only very watery, but cooling also, and too much of either one is not very good for the sheep. Yet to Hungarian hay or oat straw an important part in making manure. It is not often, however, that one sees the Hungarian hay or oat blend a ton of roots for food, but in the vicinity they are not fed enough roots. The best advice is to use judgment in using roots and ensilage, and be sure that the ration between such watery food and the more solid kinds of grain and hay is kept up.—E. P. Smith in American Cultivator.

Meat by Way of New Orleans.

The beef raisers of the southwest are to make the experiment of shipping their product to England by way of New Orleans, instead of waiting it overland to Chicago, New York and Boston. A dressed beef company at Fort Worth, Tex., has arranged with an ice company at New Orleans and a leading steamship line in London for the refrigerators and equipment in large steamships to England of 400 tons of dressed beef each monthly. The saving in freight to New Orleans, in comparison with the cheapest rates of 2,000 miles, will be 50 per ton.—Field and Farm.

Once more permit me to remark: Keep clean, dry shade for your hogs to retire to when the rain and snow transform their stamping grounds into swamps that threaten to choke them with mud, and when the icy blasts whistle around corners and penetrate even a hog's thick hide. Huge feet have comfortable quarters do not require so much food.

HORSE SENSE.

Lessons the Average Farmer May Draw from the Horse Show.

The Rural New Yorker has this to say about the horse fair that was held in New York city:

It was for the "fun," that is to say, it appealed more powerfully to the fashionable people. Who dressed showy and spoke amiable, and are prepared to pay almost any price for them. The horses to be marketed by the average farmer at such a show are few, but the lessons of the hot importation. Those fashionable horses go to the market in price, and when they are good are as staple articles of merchandise as wheat or pork. A serviceable carriage or saddle horse of good style and value will never go begging for a purchaser.

The average farmer cannot turn to breed Nelson or Aldrich that would be such money, and must be left to the wealthy breeders, who have every facility for breeding and training the best, and who can afford to give every one pure horses for the pride of breeding the one first class animal. But the farmer can afford to raise good roadsters or carriage horses just as well as he can afford to raise nondescript animals that normally look three ways for the same cars, with the certainty of hardly being driven from that work by the electric motor.

The breeders who exhibited at this show all agree that the business of breeding and training fine horses grows better with each year. Sales of trotting stock for breeding purposes are largely determined by "records." As our family or stable increases the number of its members in the "2:30 class," or under the demand for that "blood" increases. Just now, for example, Nelson's great performances has attracted attention to his breeding and ancestors, and it will doubtless change the plans of many breeders, and create a demand for animals which otherwise would hardly be noticed by the "superior." All this is the most necessary sort of business for the breeder, and while of less importance to the farmer it is, nevertheless, important that he should know what he is breeding his mares to. A study of progress and performances will help him just as a knowledge of the good qualities of several bulls will be of service to him in breeding up a herd of good cows.

Special attention, the breeders said, should be given to the mare, and unless she is large, strong and solid they would seek for vigor and strength rather than speed in the stallion. In fact, endurance, good nature and a popular color will prove more valuable than great speed without any of those qualities. There is a great demand for good hunters and jumping horses. So long as rich people will organize so called "hunts" after foxes or enlarged frogs there will be a demand for good saddle horses that can clear a fence or brook with ease. Who is better qualified to meet this demand than the farmer whose pastures are on hillsides, and whose rough land will not provide a living for slow moving, heavy horses?

Hackney horses are also in good demand. Those "showy" and fashionable animals are wanted by the idiots who like to show themselves off in the parks. Many good hackney stallions are being sent to this country from England. If there is one in your neighborhood, and you have a sound, active, "blocky" mare, it will pay you to breed her to him. There is every chance that the colt will be salable at a good price.

Another chance for making money is in breeding Shetland ponies. There is a great demand for those little fellows. Try to buy one and see how difficult it is to get what you want. They are tough and hardy, easier to keep than mules and will do more farm work in proportion to their size than any other farm animals. There are several stock farms in the country where they are kept exclusively, doing all the farm work, from plowing to hoeing, and doing it well. There is three times the money in breeding two good ponies that there is in breeding one ear horse, and the cost is about the same. The Exmore ponies are also in good demand. They are somewhat larger than the Shetlands, but are strong, active and hardy.

Mixed Farming.

One small colony of eight Michigan farmers near Ypsilanti went to Dakota eight years ago with not over three or four head of cows among them. They can now count up over 400 head of cattle and horses which they have raised and which figure as profit. They have lived through the toughest of the prairie privations, and now see the way out to the yearly increase in the docks of sheep cattle and horses.—Exchange.

Points of Interest.

Secretary Rusk proposes to give particular attention to the poultry industry of the country. For the present there will be placed in special charge of the dairy division of the department of agriculture.

The judges at the poultry show in New York city in February next will be appointed with great care. The most capable experts in each breed of poultry are brought to the exhibit and asked for a report upon the merits of each lot of their special breeds. The points will be noted by the expert on a book. Then the best specimens of each breed will be selected and all of them together carefully compared, according to the points the expert has set down in his book. This seems the nearest to accuracy of any method yet devised.

If southern farmers would put more attention to poultry raising they would have an active market for their products and good prices, while poultry and eggs in the north would not be so a luxury as they are now, and would be a little almost out of reach of ordinary people to buy or keep. It would be better for poor people in the north to winter fowls in summer and the other of eggs now into the southern markets. It would be better to have a standard supply of eggs the year around in this country of varied climates. Will not southern agriculturists see their absolute necessity to egg and poultry?

Massachusetts.

The name "Massachusetts Bay" appeared in print on maps, on the occasion of New England in 1616. In his narrative he states the first when he sees the place but now it when he enters to the inhabitants. The best authorities on the subject say that the name means "a hill in the form of an arrow's head."—St. Louis Republic.

AMERICAN MEAT IN ENGLAND.

Policy of the British Government to Be Guided by It.

Mr. Chaplin, British minister of agriculture, has announced that in making the restrictions on the importation of live cattle from the United States he has been actuated by no other than a desire to protect British stock from imported disease. For a quick which he made at a meeting of Tory farmers and others in Driffield, in Yorkshire, every clearly indicates that he entertains feelings carrying far more good toward the United States government, and that if he could be sure it would justifiably protect altogether the importation of American cattle. He professed anxiety being compelled to restrict importations from friendly countries like Holland and Germany, but in regard to the United States he did not trouble himself even to feign regret. Amid the approving cheers and laughter of his audience he predicted a good time coming when British farmers would cease to receive cows stock from America.

American exporters have been repeatedly warned against expecting any favor or consideration from Mr. Chaplin, and they may as well understand now that, so far as America is concerned, the policy of the British board of agriculture will become more of a protectionist nature. The only chance of a change to a more friendly state of things for many years to come is a Liberal victory at the next general election. Should Mr. Gladstone return to power the consumers, who are complaining of high prices, would soon receive consideration, and the fiction that every foreign country was infected with cattle diseases would be quickly exposed and denounced. Meanwhile British farmers, who are Tories and supporters of the present government, should to a man, are filling their own pockets.

In less than a year their cattle have increased by 265,000, their sheep and lambs by 1,189,000, and their pigs by 267,000. Chaplin promises still greater benefits in the immediate future, and the various agricultural societies, emboldened by their success in the past, will support him heartily in any further steps which he may venture to take against foreign countries in general and America in particular. These bodies are just now conducting a strong agitation in favor of the proposal that foreign meat sold in British markets should be labeled as such, the object, of course, being to depreciate the imported article and send up the price of home produce.

Mr. Chaplin has received an official notification from the department of agriculture at Washington to the effect that the meat bill and the new orders and regulations for inspection of cattle and sheep intended for slaughter at Kansas City, Chicago, Buffalo, Pittsburg, Boston, Charlestown, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Northfield and Newport News. Doubtless Mr. Chaplin was in possession of this information when he went to Yorkshire to speak. It is therefore important to know exactly what he said respecting the meat bill. Here is a curtailed report of that part of his speech:

"You will have seen that power has been given to the president of the United States absolutely to prohibit the importation of goods from any country which, in accordance with his idea, might be acting unfairly to the United States. Well, the Americans considered themselves aggrieved that the English minister of agriculture should continue to meet that cattle from that country should be slaughtered at the port of debarkation, and it was hinted that in retaliation the president might absolutely prohibit the importation of Manchester, Birmingham and other British goods into America. I do not think I am likely to be less elaborate in the future because of this threat that I have been in the past, because the information of the board of agriculture is that, in spite of all the efforts made in America to eradicate pleuro-pneumonia, that disease still exists there. This being so, I consider it is the duty of the English minister of agriculture to continue to pursue precisely the same policy as he would have thought it right to pursue had this meat bill never been heard of at all."—Foreign Cor. New York Sun.

Points of Interest.

Remember it is mixed farming—live stock, grain, fruit and vegetables—that "goes" in these days, and nothing else will.

The poultry and exercise in winter if confined in a yard. One way to give it to them is to be a cockerel or a sheaf of wheat just out of their reach, so they will be obliged to jump for it. Another way is to have a good sized part of their yard fitted with boxes. Distribute corn or other grain food in them by throwing it over the yard, and they will be obliged to scratch to get the grain.

The ancient Egyptians so hatched the artificial hatching of eggs probably has been thoroughly tried of late, as well as been that by their process their degenerate descendants in Egypt to-day may 12,000,000 chickens for market annually. Colonel Cardwell of Cuba says no. A well regulated hotbed for hens and other live stock has been invented. It thrives on the free, to the man adversely and prevents waste.

New Mexico has 3,000,000 head of sheep and goats.

The western counties of Colorado contain twice as many sheep as they did three years ago.

Be sure and have a generous feed bale for the poultry in winter. One is a whole opinion has the dust a crowded of fowls to be kept in good health.

The Southern States keep up to the country very popular in the eastern and middle sections of the Union, to some extent supplanting other foods.

Sell your old and inferior cows off for what you can get. Never breed from them.

Telegraph Offices and Messages.

There are two telegraph offices to every 10,000 of the population in Great Britain; in Tasmania there are eleven telegraph offices to each 10,000 of the population. In Great Britain there are 251 miles of wire to every 1,000 square miles of area; in Denmark there are 222 miles of wire to each 1,000 square miles of area. In Great Britain there are 149 messages per head per year of the people; in West Australia there are 7.2 messages per head.—New York Telegram.

THE EARLIEST AMERICAN COINAGE.

The Famous Pine Tree Money Succeeds Wampum, Market Bills and Tobacco.

The earliest coinage for America was that made in 1652 for the Virginia company at the Bermuda islands, now called Bermudas. The coin was of brass, with the legend, "Sonnes Island," and a hogge on one side. In memory of the abundance of hogges which were found on their first landing." This was the famous "hog money."

The earliest colonial coinage was in Massachusetts in 1652, a "mint house" being established at Boston, and the "shilling" being a shilling, sixpence and threepence piece. Before this the currency of the colonies was a very mixed one. Market bills passed for change at a farthing apiece, and were legal tender for sums under a shilling.

Tobacco and tobacco receipts were legal tender sum and beaver and "reddills were also recognized. Wampum, however, was the commonest currency of all. It was the shell bead money of the Indians, and was soon accepted by the colonists as a convenient token.

There were two kinds of wampum—wampumpeag, which was white and made from the shells of the periwinkle, and sucksuhock, which was dark purple and made from the hard shell clam. The purple was worth twice as much as the white. The shell was broken in pieces, rubbed smooth on a stone till about the thickness of a pipestem, then pierced with a drill and strung into necklaces, bracelets and belts.

The English, French and Dutch settlers all used wampum, the value being fixed in 1640 as six beads for a penny. The strings were called fathoms, and varied in value from five to ten shillings. Shell money has played quite an important part in the world's commerce. The small bead shell known as the cowry is still used in India, the Indian islands and Africa in the place of subsidiary coin.

In 1831 more than 1,000 tons of these shells were brought from India to Liverpool, to be exported to the coast of Africa in exchange for palm oil. In Bengal they are worth 22,000 in the rupee (forty cents cash) or about seventy to the cent. The cowry is a gastropod mollusk, is beautifully marked, and is strung on a tough grass string for convenience of transportation.

The British Columbia Indians still use a variety of wampum made of human shell. These they string up and use as an ornamental border to dresses, their currency value being one string for a beaver's skin.

Looking back to the pre-wampum days, it is known that of the aboriginal money of the American continent, the wampum and adjoining the valley of the Mississippi have produced specimens of tipsin, coal, bone, corn cobs, mica, pearl, carnelian, chalcedony, agate, jasper, gold, silver, copper, lead and iron, which were fashioned into horses evincing considerable skill and art. According to Prescott, the money of the Aztecs did the customs in the modeled of quills filled with gold dust and bags of chocolate grains. Chocolate is still used in the interior of South America for the same purpose, as are cocoanuts and eggs.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Floating Disinfectant.

A floating disinfectant which has come into use appears to possess the three very essential advantages of efficiency, simplicity of application and uniform solution. A mixture of carbolic acid and other disinfectants in a solid form, is so prepared that it will float in water. This melts slowly in the water, and is always visible and accessible. The uniform rate of solution adapts it specially for use in sewers. All that is necessary is to place a block of it in the sewer, where, supplying the sheets. All danger of blocking up the pipes is avoided, as the disinfectant is always on the top of the water.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

The Navy of Turkey.

Turkey has apparently become reconciled to her fate. She no longer makes any effort to match her great rival, Russia, upon the water, while ambitious Greece hungers for a slice of the "Sick Man's" territory and is strengthening her fleet for the struggle. The old crescent with which Turkey made such a brave stand against Russia are now rapidly becoming obsolete, and there is no infusion of new material to make up for the growing weakness.—New York Herald.

The Growth of English.

The English language is the national tongue of about 170,000,000 people, including the inhabitants of the United States. About 90,000,000 persons speak the Russian, 70,000,000 the German, 50,000,000 the French, 40,000,000 the Spanish, 30,000,000 the Italian and 12,000,000 the Portuguese. In English the growth in the past fifty or seventy-five years has been far greater than in any other European language.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Her Fifteen Sixteenth.

Hubb—Clarice dear, don't you think I look particularly well in this feather trimmed hat?

Helium Young Husband—Assuredly, my darling. Feathers are the natural adornment of angels, and I hope your image will be of the right shade.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

It is usually said that there are but seven-teen letters commonly used in the English language, viz.: Scoundrel, unmerited, unmasked, unmoaned, unrobed, unpolished and unanchored.

Drinking Her Weakness.

Hoopski—That new doctor you introduced me to, Blake, is a great sympathetic—great student of human nature.

Tootle—Suits you, does he?

Hoopski—To a dot. Had him in not night to treat my wife for a cold, and she didn't need any medicine, but that she must be particular, shows all things to keep her mouth shut and breathe through her nose.—Boston Courier.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT AILS YOU? You feel tired—you don't know what it means? You are nervous—Why? You cough in the morning—Do you realize the cause? Your appetite is poor—What makes it so? You seem like a changed person to your friends—Do you know what is the matter, or has the change been so gradual it has escaped your notice?

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