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So much has been said in our columns in relation to the advantages of having Co-operative Herds that it is scarcely necessary at present to enter into arguments upon the subject. It is very apparent, however, that we need one in this county. If it is the intention of the people to take steps to bring about an improvement in their horses and cattle, this is an opportune time to begin. They should be immediately gathered up from the range, and taken care of in a co-operative herd, or another year's time and improvement will be lost. Now is the time to take the necessary steps for the formation of such a herd, in order to obtain the full benefit and profit of the care and expense which will be required to carry the business into effect. If stock be left on the range much longer, no idea of the quality of the next crop of calves and colts can be formed, and there is every reason to conclude that such a crop will be very inferior in every way to one produced under the management of a co-operative herd.

At a special meeting of the officers and committees of the Parent Society for the Improvement and Cultivation of Stock, etc., on Wednesday evening, Bro. R. V. Morris was instructed to open books, under the direction of the President and Vice-President of the Society, to receive subscriptions of Stock for the Co-operative Herd. He will enter upon these duties immediately, and it is hoped that our citizens will manifest an active interest in this subject, and come forward and subscribe. When the necessary amount is subscribed to justify further steps, then a meeting will be called of those who have subscribed, a committee will be selected to draft a Constitution and By-laws, a President, Board of Directors and other officers will be elected and everything necessary be done to put the business into immediate operation. Shares will be \$25 each. When horses or cattle are subscribed, and they are brought forward to be delivered to the company, a cash valuation will be placed upon them by a committee of experienced men, who shall have been voted into this position by the subscribers themselves. Thus the whole herd will be organized upon a cash basis, and all animals placed in the herd will be branded with the company's brand. When stock is drawn from the herd, it will be drawn out similarly—at a valuation. The President, Superintendent and other officers will be voted for by the men who place their means in the Herd, so that it will be to the interest of all to have responsible, faithful and judicious men placed in charge. Each stockholder will have as many votes upon all questions as he has shares.

There is a growing necessity for the organization of this herd. Our ranges should be cleared of all loose stock for two reasons; first, to check the depredations of thieves; and, second, to keep the feed in the neighborhood of the city for milk cows, work horses and oxen, so that those who do not have fenced pastures can place their animals in a herd and have grounds to believe that they will not lose flesh every day they are driven out.

#### AGRICULTURAL.

DR. WIGGINS, Inspector, at Providence, has been comparing milk with other foods as to cost, and his results are as follows: "Estimate sirloin steak (reckoning loss from bone) at 35c. per pound as dear as milk at 24c. a quart; round steak at 20c. as dear as milk at 14c.; eggs at 30c. a dozen as dear as milk at 20c. a quart. Many laborers who pay 17c. for corned beef would consider themselves hardly able to pay 10c. for milk, when, in fact, they could as well afford to pay 15c. If the money expended for veal

and pork were expended for milk, I doubt not it would be an advantage both to the stomach and pocket, especially during the warm season. Relatively speaking, then milk at 12c. a quart is the cheapest animal food that can be used."

FROM an article in the *Pacific Rural Press* we obtain a brief outline of the origin and history of the Shorthorn breed of cattle. There is a difference of opinion as to their origin, some thinking that they are of a comparatively recent period; while others take the ground that the Shorthorns existed, so far as the possession of all their essential features are concerned, many centuries ago, and that they originally constituted a race rather than a breed.

"As an evidence of the correctness of the latter proposition, there is to be seen on one side of the tower of the cathedral of Durham, Eng.," the *Rural Press* says, "the sculptured representation, in relief, of a cow, which unmistakably shows the shape and general appearance of the genuine 'Shorthorn.' This tower was finished, with all its ornaments, about the year 1,300; and there is abundant evidence, in addition to this, that this breed of cattle has been kept up in that county and the two adjoining counties of York and Northumberland, from that date to the present time. The fact in the matter undoubtedly is, that when the Danes and other more northern Scandinavians passed over into the north of England, some three hundred years previous to the date above given, they brought with them cattle with short horns, which were natives of the north of Europe, but which had never before been seen in England. They were rough, hardy animals, and not of themselves very superior; but it was soon discovered that crossing them with the native English breeds, generally improved the stock of both. It was in commemoration of this acknowledged and important fact, no doubt, that the effigy of one of the genuine short-horns, was elevated into honored prominence, in the immediate neighborhood, where the great value of the breed was first made known."

WE see it stated by Mr. Klippart, Secretary of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, in an address on Dairy Husbandry, that "at the Ohio State Fairs where the competition in the class of milk cows is left open to all breeds or no breed at all, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the premium in every instance has been awarded to the Shorthorn breed. There certainly can be no charge made to the effect that the awarding committee was prejudiced in favor of the Shorthorns, for the reason that the State Board requires a full statement of the amount of milk produced in a given time, and the number of pounds of butter made. All these statements to be sworn to before a magistrate and attested by the parties who did the milking and butter making. Furthermore, the butter itself must also be on exhibition. In the class of dairy cattle no other breed has competed with the Shorthorns at the State Fairs."

RESPECTING the claim that small cows are more profitable than large ones for the dairy, he disposes of it by quoting from experiments made in Germany with different breeds, which show that the larger ones, other things being equal, are the most profitable. Experiments with two groups of the same breed—the heavy ones forming one group and the lighter ones forming another—prove also that heavy cows of the same breed consume relatively less food than the lighter ones, and at the same time yield a greater return of milk for it.

ONE cow that will make two pounds of butter a day is more economical than to keep two and get only three pounds; yet how few who keep cows act as if they believed such to be the case.

CHEESE manufacture in New York State is growing to stupendous proportions; 1,200 factories are already in operation.

In the process of churning it is often noticed that the cream foams up and over the churn, and will not come to butter. A dairyman in Champaigne, Ill., remedies this evil as follows: Put a kettle of water on the fire and heat the water to one hundred degrees, Fahrenheit. Then set your crock of cream in the water and let it remain until it has a temperature of sixty degrees, stirring it constantly while warming. Then put it in the churn and churn it,

and you will not fail to get good butter.

THE *Germantown Telegraph*, a good authority, vouches for the following receipt for making brine, and says, if properly tried, it will never be abandoned: "To one gallon of water add one and a half pounds of salt, half a pound of sugar, half an ounce of saltpetre, half an ounce of potash. In this ratio the pickle to be increased to any quantity desired. Let these be boiled together until all the dirt from the sugar rises to the top and is skimmed off. Then throw it into a tub to cool, and when cold, pour it over your beef or pork, to remain the usual time, say four or five weeks. The meat must be well covered with pickle, and should not be put down for at least two days after killing, during which time it should be slightly sprinkled with powdered saltpetre, which removes all the surface blood, etc., leaving the meat fresh and clean. Some omit boiling the pickle, and find it to answer well; though the operation of boiling purifies it by throwing off the dirt always to be found in salt and sugar."

WE find some excellent remarks in the *Country Gentleman* in relation to the labor which can be performed by farmers and gardeners towards helping on the work that will flood them in the Spring. The writer says: "Many pleasant days will shine out through the face of old winter, and during such times fences can be repaired; buildings altered and fixed up; the manure and compost heap added to; trees, vines and plants trimmed, mulched and cleaned out generally; stakes for vines and raspberries got out and hauled and painted and put under shelter. In fact, the farmer and gardener need hardly be idle a single day; and the long nights are sufficient for reading and recreation. Every farmer and gardener should have a workshop with a stove in it, and a loft overhead where he can put timber to season, which is suitable to make swivel and double trees, hoe, rake, spade and fork handles, axle trees, bolsters, sliders, tongues, etc., etc. He should have a tool chest with the ordinary tools for such work, such as drawing knife, hatchet, chisels, augers, brace and bits, saws, mallet, etc., and have a supply of bolts and taps, nails and other things which may be needed from time to time on a farm. Such a workshop would afford a comfortable and inviting retreat for the farmer and gardener and their boys; and no matter how cold or wet, no matter how fiercely the storm rages without, all would be snug and safe, and much could be done towards helping on the press of work when active operations come on in the busy days of spring."

"Besides this it would afford pleasant as well as useful recreation to the male members of the family, and thus many a dollar would be saved, to say nothing of the loss of time consequent upon running to have trifling little jobs of work done."

THE history of the settlement of the island of Pitcairn, in the Pacific Ocean, and of the healthy and beautiful race residing there, whose food for a long period consisted chiefly of fruit and vegetables, has been published in newspapers and by tract societies innumerable, in the languages of nearly every civilized land. A letter said to be from the settlers of that island, is now going the rounds of the western press, and Pitcairn *redivivus* is the latest morsel furnished by the newspapers to the lovers of sensation stories.

This letter is addressed to "the publisher of any newspaper," and runs as follows:

"PITCAIRN'S ISLAND, Oct. 6, 1870.

Mr. Editor:—As many ships pass this island on the route to and from San Francisco, but at too great a distance to board them in our canoe, it is our opinion that they do not know the island to be inhabited. There are no dangers of rocks or shoals, and if they come within a mile, they would most always get a supply of fruit, etc. We number sixty or seventy persons, and we always like to show hospitality to strangers, and to hear the news. This is the third day we have seen ships pass, and this day one is standing in, by which we sent this.

If dear sir you would have the kindness to give this a place in your valuable paper, you would greatly oblige your humble servants.

COMMUNITY ON PITCAIRN'S ISLAND."

It was delivered by the Pitcairners to Captain Purdy, of the ship *Whittington*, which touched at the island during a recent trip from San Francisco to Liverpool, and was forwarded to the Pacific

coast by the Captain who, in an accompanying letter, says that the settlers on the island number about seventy, and they are moral and healthy. He obtained several hundred limes and oranges from them in exchange for medicine, and clothing, they, especially the female portion of them, being much in need of the latter. With food they are well provided, having abundance of oranges, limes and other tropical fruit, and large numbers of goats and wild pigs.

As the publication of this letter is sure to re-awaken a portion of the interest once felt by the public in the inhabitants of Pitcairn's Island, it may not be uninteresting to give a very brief sketch of its history and settlement.

The island is a little over two miles long, and one in breadth. It was discovered in 1767 by Admiral Carteret, and named after one of his officers, by whom it was first seen. Its temperature ranges from 59° to 90°, and its climate is remarkably healthy. Nearly all English speaking people, have read or heard of the mutiny on board the English ship *Bounty*; it was this event which led to the settlement of Pitcairn's Island. This vessel was sent by the British government in 1789, to convey plants of the breadfruit tree, from Tahiti to the West Indies in order to attempt their propagation there. The *Bounty* arriving at Tahiti at the wrong season for transplanting had to stay there six months, and during this time an intimacy was formed between the sailors and some of the natives. A few days after leaving Tahiti, the crew mutinied, and putting the Captain and those who remained true to him aboard a boat, they returned to Tahiti, and induced several of the natives, male and female, to come aboard, and again bore away to sea. The *Bounty* was not heard of until 1808, when an American whaler, Captain Folger of Nantucket, discovered the whilom mutineers and their descendants, by the Tahitian women, dwelling on Pitcairn's Island. On their arrival there, the mutineers had made wives of the women and slaves of the men. They had built good houses, and tilled the ground and made it productive. The slaves mutinied a short time after their arrival and were killed by the mutineers. All the latter were dead but one, named Adams, at the time of Captain Folger's visit. This man drew up a code of simple laws, to which the islanders paid, and still pay, great respect.

In 1856 benevolent people in England and Australia had the islanders removed from Pitcairn to Norfolk's Island, but they were dissatisfied with the change; and, three years after, seventeen of them returned to their old home. Those seventeen have now increased to near seventy, about the number in 1808, when Captain Folger found them.

The island lies in latitude 25° 3' S., long. 130° 8' W., and being out of the way of traffic it is very rarely visited; and as the islanders are few in number, and have no facilities for manufacturing, their destitution of clothing is easily accounted for. But the appeal now made through the letter delivered by Captain Purdy, is not likely to remain long unanswered, for the sympathies of the benevolent of Christendom are more easily and more intensely enlisted on behalf of objects of charity when at a distance than when close at hand.

THE *Sacramento Union* of last Saturday contained a statement to the effect, that the business manager of the *Sacramento Record* had approached a gentleman in the telegraph office in that city, with a bribe of forty dollars per week if he would furnish the latter paper with a daily duplicate of the *Union's* dispatches. The *Record* took up this statement, and, in reply, said, that if any man affirmed what the *Union* had stated, he stood a self-convicted falsifier, and it challenged him to confirm what the *Union* had said, if he could. If such a one could be found, it would then undertake to prove him to be as reckless a liar as the journal which had quoted his statement.

This article has called forth a statement from the Manager of the Telegraph Office, in which he repeats substantially and with some details, the substance of the *Union's* charges, and makes affidavit to its truth. The *Record* has now the opportunity of doing what it threatened—prove the Manager a "reckless liar."

A Dubuque wife cannot hear any one say rats without fainting. Whenever her husband wants a quiet evening, he yells "rats!" and she's off.