

FARM, FIELD AND GARDEN.

SUBJECTS OF PRACTICAL INTEREST TO LARGE AND SMALL FARMERS.

Expressions in Relation to Hauling Out Barn Yard Manure and the Most Profitable Manner of Managing It—One of Many Methods Described.

There appears to be a misunderstanding among many farmers about hauling out manure and the most profitable way of managing it. A Connecticut correspondent of The World thinks that between leaving it to ferment and leach in the barn yard until spring and hauling out in the fall and winter and spreading it on the ground where it is needed, he much prefers the latter practice. A New Jersey farmer, commenting on the above in the same journal, says:

Of two evils we must choose the less. To leave manure in the yards subject to leach or heat away until it burns itself up, or, as it is called, firefanged, is a gross error. The progressive farmer has left these old time ways and hauls out his manure all through the winter and banks it up, mixing the wet with the dry, the produce of the horse stable with that of the cattle, mixes and turns it several times; only allows it to heat moderately; keeps it perfectly under control, and by spring he has a pile of the most valuable manure, well adapted for any crop and capable of yielding a quick return. It is soft and unctuous. The slight fermentation has set free every chemical agent of fertility the manure contained. A little good earth scattered through the pile in turning and mixing prevents the loss of ammonia, stops overheating and increases the quantity of the manure. Of course there is some extra labor in all this, but those who have tried it find it pays where manure is most valuable.

Some people may find it a great saving of labor to haul out manure and spread it over the ground a great many weeks or months before plowing—some light as straw here, some very heavy there, and several bare places in the spring without any manure, and most probably will remain so. That long manure may be utilized by spreading over the ground and turning under for a crop of corn I do admit, but I should leave it there as short a term as possible, for I know it will not gain anything by exposure. However, I would sooner spread it than let it burn up. By why allow this alternative? That manure spread on the ground does some good I also admit, if only as a mulch, for mulching the ground improves its fertility; even a coat of straw put on grass land, whether lawn or meadow, will greatly help the growth of grass. But the most profitable way for the farmer to manage or make the most of his barn yard manure is the question at issue. If he has black muck on his farm he can use it here to very great advantage by mixing and composting it through his manure, and using it instead of the earth as aforesaid; this will greatly enhance the value of his pile.

How Shall We Feed the Cows?

Professor Roberts, of Cornell university, in an essay read before the Herkimer, N. Y., Farmers' institute, on dairy cows, gave expression to the following:

"How shall we feed the cows? Well, how would you feed a man? Would you put indigestible and disgusting food before him? Feed cows with the same brains you use in the preparation of your own food. Give them something that is appetizing, which, nine times out of ten, means digestible food. In figuring the cost of a food you should never forget its value as a fertilizer. A ton of cotton seed meal is worth \$28 as a fertilizer to spread broadcast on your fields. I have just purchased a car load at \$22.50 per ton; if this be fed to milk cows they will take out only 20 per cent. of the fertilizing elements and their excrement will be worth all the food cost.

"There is another point left that I want to emphasize. The milk cow must have an abundance of water, and I hope you will not oblige her to drink it from the ice cold brook. It is cheaper to warm the water with coal in a heater than with hay in a cow. Heat the water to 60 or 80 degs. and give it to your cows in the barns."

Pigs bred Profitt.

Pigs breed enormously faster than do either cows or ewes. They are less liable to injury from accident or disease. They can digest and turn into flesh a larger proportion of food than any other ruminant. For instance, 100 pounds of dry food given to them will produce an increase in live weight in cattle of 9 pounds, in sheep 11 pounds and in pigs 23.8 pounds. In other words, pigs get twice as much nourishment out of food as do sheep, and nearly three times as much as do oxen. As a result, the pig increases in weight much more speedily than either sheep or ox. And there is another consideration. While the value of pork during the past twenty years has not depreciated, the cost of all kinds of artificial food has been lowered, so that if pig keeping ever was profitable it must be more than ever so nowadays.

The New Fertilizer.

More or less excitement prevails in the minds of some persons over the extraordinary reports from the use of sulphate of iron, or the common coppers of commerce, when used in connection with the potash and phosphate fertilizers. The Marquis of Paris, who is also a successful fruit grower and market gardener, has employed it extensively. His practice is, after applying other fertilizers, to sow coppers at the rate of about one ounce to the square yard of surface for all garden crops, and for trees and fruits as well. A scientist of some reputation,

who has experimented with coppers, has also reported successful results. The editor of Rural New Yorker has made four experiments in the use of sulphate of iron on corn and potatoes. The yield was less in every case where the coppers was used.

CLOVER AS A RENOVATOR OF LAND

One Way to Feed Old Worn Out Soil So As to Make It Produce Again.

Can the average of farmers cause their acres to produce double what they now do, is the question. The habit of "running" the land which is occupied for farming purposes without remunerating the soil is a starving process. The history of very many of the New England farmers at the present time is that their farms have become barren and are offered for sale at greatly reduced prices, the occupants feeling determined, either "for better or for worse," to "go west." These eastern lands have been neglected, and as nature is disposed to clothe the surface soil with something, her invitation is for the worthless moss, hardhack, brakes and unfruitful briars to enter upon it and take full possession.

A New Jersey writer claims that had the grass and pasturing lands been fertilized with a plenty of bone and other commodities, dairying and wool growing would be profitable and the farmer would soon be accommodated with a plethoric purse. And if the farmer should keep a portion of his farm under clover, to be "turned under," and keep up this process yearly, he would soon find himself purchasing lumber for storage purposes and not be under the disagreeable necessity of selling out and leaving (perhaps) a once stately mansion and home of his fathers. We advise all the farmers of the country (with few exceptions) to grow largely of clover to turn under, thereby making every one acre to produce more than two acres with the common practice of farming. Even give the soil a bountiful percentage for its productions, making old land young again by feeding it with anything and everything that will give growth to vegetables and fruits, and, my word for it, that, "young man," you will soon be invited to tarry where you are, or go east in place of "going west."

Judge Buel, the once enterprising editor of The Albany Cultivator, purchased in about the year 1840 a large portion of what was called the "sandy barrens," lying between Schenectady and Albany, and put upon it plenty of ashes, leached and unleached, lime and other ingredients, and brought up from the old sand bed a farm of surprising fertility. Ashes was his "anchor sheet" in his first efforts on his trial farm; afterwards clover was well attended to.

Best Mode of Tying Cattle.

At the New York Farmers' institute held at Delhi, the question was asked: "What is the best mode of tying cattle in Delaware county?" N. M. Blish replied, in stanchions. Mr. Moore said he tied his in stalls. Mr. Powell remarked, if you will pitch your stanchions at the top about six inches, it will help the cattle. Mr. E. Rose puts a piece on the inside, so the cow cannot lie so close to the stanchion. Col. Bowen, of Oneida, asked how much one would gain by this incline. Mr. Powell answered, as the cow gets up, the incline assists her in the movement. Mr. E. Rose said a sill of six inches width will keep the cow back and answer the same purpose. Mr. Rice—Will not the block hinder the cow eating by keeping her back? Mr. Richardson—Would not the wide sill throw the cow too far back? He thought it would. Mr. Powell had seen a movable stanchion, the cow held by a chain, allowing cows to move about back and forth four or five inches. He considers it the best thing he has seen. Mr. Dysart said his stanchions slant, with six inches back instead of front. As to the best flooring for cow stables, one speaker said cement, another plank or cement, others clay under front feet, with hind feet on plank, also plank on top of cement.

How to Select a Horse.

American Agriculturist advises, in selecting a horse, to see that the horse stands squarely on its feet and that it does not toe out behind or toe in forward. Run your hand slowly and carefully down the inside of each leg. If there is a bunch there you will feel it. See that the feet are sound and well spread. A dark hoof, if sound, is always preferable to a white or streaked one. Look sharp at the eye. A bright, full eye denotes spirit; a mild, pleasant eye, with a brownish cast, indicates a pleasant, affectionate disposition, while an eye with a good deal of white denotes temper. There is, perhaps, no other way to judge a horse's disposition so well as by a careful study of his eye, and too much importance cannot well be attached to the necessity of a good disposition.

The Relative Hardness of Wood.

The relative hardness of woods is calculated by the hickory, which is the toughest. Estimating this at 100, we get for pignut hickory 96, white oak 84, white ash 77, dogwood 75, scrub oak 73, white hazel 72, apple tree 70, red oak 69, white beech 65, black walnut 65, hard birch 62, yellow and black oak 60, hard maple 56, white elm 53, red cedar 53, cherry 55, yellow pine 54, chestnut 52, yellow poplar 51, butternut and white birch 43, and white pine 35.

The Farmer's Scrap Basket.

Horses fed largely on other food demand less hay, but hay is useful in distending the stomach, thus assisting digestion. An English veterinarian recommends as seductive to a horse that is too delicate a feeder a little linseed mixed to a jelly and mixed with the

corn. Hay dampened and salted will tempt many animals.

Hens are now getting even (by refusing to produce the much coveted egg) with short sighted owners who neglected to provide warm, dry quarters for the winter. The hen loves to be comfortable.

Cut a good supply of firewood and allow it to be well seasoned, advises American Agriculturist. The woman who can cook with green wood and be pleasant with it must be a little lower than the angels.

"An inch of rain," explains Popular Science Monthly, "means a gallon of water spread over a surface of nearly two square feet, or a fall of about one hundred tons on an acre of ground."

THE WEATHER PROPHECY.

Who is it teels us, when the sun is bright, "Twill positively rain before 'tis night?" And when the night has come, yet minus rain, Who is it up and boldly cries again, "My friends, ere morning dawns, I know We shall be buried deep in snow?" Who is it—would you like to hear? Speak softly—hark! he's often near; That the world over, always just the same, Is weather prophet—Ananias is his name.

Oh, for Ananias soon will come a time When I predict he'll suffer for his crime In that unfathomable pit I dare not name, Where temperature is always just the same He'll sit and wait—alas! in vain For signs of sunshine, snow or rain, And while he's studying barometers below, How happy we shall be above to know That for a time, at least, we're free From one false prophet and his—potpourri.—Humbaba.

The National museum has secured Col. James Stevenson's private collection of Indian relics, entirely Pueblo. It contains several hundred pieces, among them an example of pottery for which Tiffany offered \$250.

Senator Morrill, of Vermont, has been in public life longer than any American now living. He entered the house of representatives thirty-four years ago.

Ayrshires and Jerseys.

One who has carefully investigated the matter says that among the New England creameries the Ayrshires and Jerseys and their grades largely predominate. In Wisconsin and other western sections the same authority gives the Jerseys and Guernseys as making the most profit for farmers selling stock to creameries.

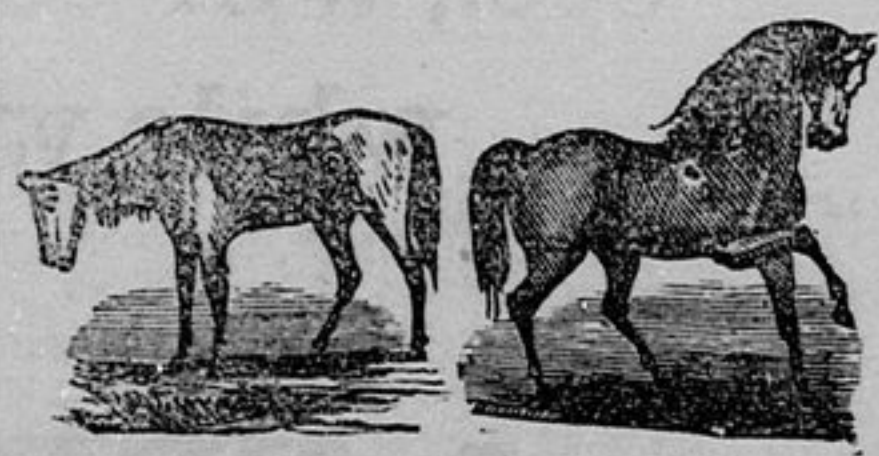
Two Kinds of Consciences.

Let us take the case of a man of very meager culture and education, whose ancestors for generations have been oppressed and their lot one of bare survival. Has he a true conscience in reference to a large range of moral questions? To be sure he knows it is wrong to steal, and he probably could be trusted not to steal money; but how about pilfering? On the contrary, if your man of culture steals it will only be large amounts, for he despises and would feel disgraced by pilfering. Here you have the two extremes of society, with a common conscience about stealing; but it is a weak conscience at opposite ends.

This high born fellow will not pocket a slice of ham, but he will default in the handling of an estate or bank deposits. The one is feeble in moral judgment just where the other is strong. These two men have also a common moral law against murder. Neither one dissents from the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," but one of them, who is fond of society and dislikes the burdens of a large family, does not hesitate to commit feticide; the other would recoil in horror at such a crime, but he is ready at a moment for a shindy in which he is liable to kill some one or to be killed himself. In neither case does conscience speak loudly or condemn keenly. Your conscience is your power of morally seeing things. It is your inherited and acquired ability to judge when an act is wrong. It is far more easy to have a poor conscience than it is to have a good one.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Story of Carlyle.

I met Carlyle once—the man who enriched the language by the word "gig-manity." He was strolling along Cheyne walk, where his home was in Chelsea, and a small boy running across the pavement before him tripped and fell, crying, in the philosopher's way. Instead of taking compassion upon the poor little fellow, Carlyle struck him with his stick. At that I, who had been doing a bit of quiet hero worship, could not contain myself, and burst out: "Sir, I have read your 'Tailor Retailed' and was about to begin on your 'French Revolution,' but no man who can find it in his heart to cane an unoffending child can write books that it's worth my while to read." Carlyle didn't care, I suppose, but there was a certain amount of satisfaction to me in freeing my mind.—San Francisco Weekly.



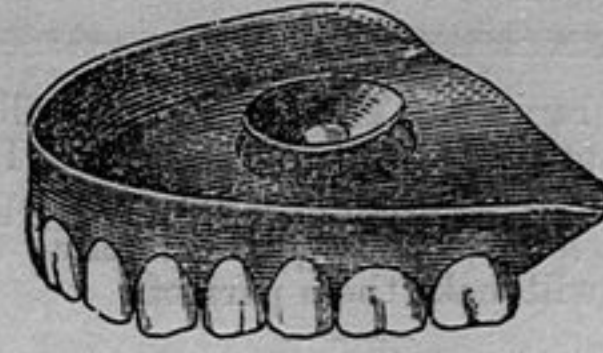
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