

Farmers can find much to their profit in a study of the markets, both domestic and foreign. Keep watch of the movements of breadstuffs and stock, and note the fluctuations of prices, and the shrinkages as compared with former years. There is food for reflection here.

KEEPING SHEEP.—In a pasture of not more than twelve acres on the farm, I keep an average of five head of cattle, four head of horses, and sixty to seventy head of sheep. The reason for keeping sheep in cattle and horse pastures is that a great many weeds grow which only sheep will eat. Any patches of weeds or briars may be eradicated in a short time by introducing sheep. In dry seasons, if pastures are short, sheep will clean out corn fields, doing very little damage; and the corn the sheep may eat will not hurt them any.

FEEDING BRAN WITH MEAL.—For winter feeding, where cattle are kept in stalls and heavily fed, there is no better divisor for corn meal than wheat bran. It is also cheap and furnishes what the corn meal lacks. When cattle are fed on corn meal as the principle food for feeding, it is apt to cloy if fed in too large quantities, hence our best feeders are in the habit of using bran as the cheapest and best means for rendering the meal fed more digestible. In this each feeder must use discretion as to the proper quantity to be used. One quarter of the bulk of feed in bran to three quarters of corn meal may be taken as a good general rule, to be varied according to circumstances. For working horses fed on cut-feed, this proportion will also be found to be nearly right. For horses doing fast work, oats fed whole are of course the best possible feed. In winter, for driving horses, about one-quarter the weight of the feed may be good sound corn, mixed with the oats. Where bran is cheap, and it usually is so in the West, it will be found a valuable adjunct for dairy cows in the winter, in connection with corn meal. These will be found as among the most valuable of any used, in proportion to the cost, for making milk in winter.

Stock should have an abundant supply of salt always within reach. No animal will eat more than is good for it when it has plenty.

WHAT SHALL WE FEED?—If we consider stock as machinery for the conversion of substances fed to them into manure, it becomes of great importance what we feed. Let the profit on the stock pay for the food and labor, and the value of the manure made becomes a matter of no small importance. Still it is one not often considered by farmers fitting stock for market, particularly in case they purchase a part of the fodder. The following table exhibits the comparative value of a ton of manure as made by feeding the following substances:—

Table with 3 columns: Substance, Value per Ton, and another column. Includes Rape cake, Limesed cake, Malt-dust, etc.

FATTENING CATTLE.—There is in the present price of beef much to discourage farmers. They may well ask, as they say daily, What profit is there in fattening animals? Beef is very low priced—so low that feeders may doubt if there be anything left after first cost to pay for the labor; but is not every article the farmer has for sale equally low in price? The dairy products, as well as beef and mutton, bring lower prices than they brought for some years and breadstuffs are as cheap in proportion. The English markets rule our prices and the prices of English markets are low, and there is little prospect of their being higher, for this season at least. There is, however, a profit in fattening cattle—not the runts that put on flesh slowly, and even when fattened sell at the lowest figures—but well-bred animals, grades such as pay for their food by putting on flesh in a short time, and, when fed, sell at the highest prices that buyers can afford. To insure profit the farmer ought to turn his attention to the production of manure in connection with the production of beef. The making of manure ought to be one of the chief objects of the farmer in fattening cattle. The most economical food in fattening cattle is roots. When we can raise of turnips, mangolds and beets, 600 to twice 600 bushels to the acre, and by the labor given to them prepare the land for a succeeding grain crop, we must admit that the cost of roots for feeding is not a great deal. Roots and hay will, of themselves, fatten animals, but a richer food given in addition to these will improve the quality of the beef and add fully as much to the value of the manure. It should be borne in mind that the most fertilizing manure is produced by rich food. The manure from excretions of animals that are fed on hay or straw, with roots only, is never so strong and fertilizing as that from animals fed from oil-cake, beans, peas or grain. Of these the pea is especially adapted for Canadian stock-feeders. While it is one of the most valuable articles for giving a superior quality to beef, and to manure as well, it is more than others a Canadian product. And it is (not like some other crops) a fertilizer instead of an impoverisher of the soil. Though beef as well as other farm produce, brings very low prices in the English markets, there is still a good price for a good article. It is always more or less so. The farmer should always endeavor to attain the highest price. It alone is sure to leave a profit. Let us then feed good stock, and feed well. Every year and every season brings its quota of experience. The present year with its low prices should, instead of discouraging us, teach us to persevere in improvement of agriculture in all its branches, and to be prepared for the reverses of low prices and failure of crops, which are sometimes inevitable.

Both men and horses are, the writer adds, better fed than in the German army, each horse receiving in the light cavalry regiments two pounds, and in the cuirassiers and artillery four pounds more forage than in the corresponding arms in the German service; while the French soldier is given a far more substantial ration of meat than the German. He receives, also, half a litre of sound country wine daily, and a sufficient amount of well-baked wheaten bread; every man getting two good hot meals a day, of each of which a thick, palatable soup forms the principal part.

constructed in the form of a small rubber pipe about four feet in length, one end of which is attached to a little pump, while the other is placed in a vessel holding the food, which is in a liquid form. The fowls are put in a large coop or cage, which is separated into compartments holding only one bird each, room enough being allowed for a very little exercise. It is ascertained by experiment just how much food each fowl can comfortably consume.

CUTTINGS.—A method of striking cuttings is practiced by some European horticulturists which is very successful. The method is based on the idea that the rootlets of the cuttings should be developed before the buds begin to appear, and when the latter develop first they appropriate all the substance of the cutting and the rootlets do not develop properly. To accomplish the object, the cuttings are put into the ground, in the fall, in light soil, the lower end of the cuttings being upward and slightly inclined. After placing them all properly, they are covered with a layer of soil four to six inches deep, and at the approach of cold weather, more covering is added, with stable litter, etc., to prevent frost from reaching the cuttings. In the spring the extra covering is removed, leaving but four to six inches as at first. The heat of the sun penetrates to the upper end and develops the rootlets while the buds at the lower end (the upper end of the cutting), remain dormant. The cuttings are then taken up and properly set out, right end up, and a healthy, vigorous plant is the result.

The Cologne Gazette, in the first of a series of articles on the French army in 1877, remarks that one of the most striking changes which has taken place in that force of late years is in the amount of work which is required of, and for the most part cheerfully performed by, officers and men of all ranks. In confirmation of this statement, the writer quotes the daily routine of a company of artillery. The instruction of the men begins at six o'clock in the morning, and the first hour is devoted to teaching the soldiers how to clean, mend and keep in repair and proper order their arms, clothing and equipment. From 7 a. m. to 9 a. m. follow riding, vaulting and gymnastics. During the next two hours, from 9 a. m. to 11 a. m., the men are either exercised on foot or drilled in larger bodies. From 11 a. m. until 2 p. m. the men dine and rest and groom their horses. From 2 p. m. to 5 p. m. the company is exercised in the field or marches out into the country. From 5 p. m. to 7 p. m. the men again rest and eat their supper. This latter is followed by an hour's theoretical instruction, from 7 p. m. to 8 p. m., and at 9 p. m. tattoo is beaten and the barracks are closed. With very few exceptions, all officers and non-commissioned officers have to be present and take part in all the exercises and instruction.

The results of the increased amount of work thus performed are, the German writer continues, already very apparent. The infantry march in a steadier and more orderly manner than of old, and manoeuvres with incomparably greater rapidity and ease. In the cavalry the progress made of late years is equally marked, and the manner in which some of the regiments, especially of heavy cavalry, which the writer has watched at drill, go through their exercises, leaves, he states, nothing to be wished; the movements being executed with a quickness and regularity as great as can be seen on any German drill-ground.

Both men and horses are, the writer adds, better fed than in the German army, each horse receiving in the light cavalry regiments two pounds, and in the cuirassiers and artillery four pounds more forage than in the corresponding arms in the German service; while the French soldier is given a far more substantial ration of meat than the German. He receives, also, half a litre of sound country wine daily, and a sufficient amount of well-baked wheaten bread; every man getting two good hot meals a day, of each of which a thick, palatable soup forms the principal part.

How Oysters are Fattened.

NEW AND SUCCESSFUL METHOD ADOPTED BY BALTIMORE FIRMS.

Very few persons who feast on the large and toothsome oysters which are served up at the raw boxes of many of the oyster houses in this city have the remotest idea from what source the luscious bivalves are obtained, or in what manner they are fattened. The oysters obtained from Tangier Sound, Lynnhaven, and what are known as the Braside Oysters, are a rather small oyster enclosed in an immense shell, their native element being salt water. These oysters, when dredged and brought to the Baltimore market, are sold to the packers and others at the rate of about 60 cents a bushel. Recently a plan has been discovered by which these oysters can be not only fattened in a very short time but their value enhanced at least 150 per cent. Two of the largest oyster-packing firms are now engaged in this business, and the manner of procedure is described as follows by one who has watched the operation.

When the oysters are unloaded from the pungs they are transferred to scows over which a deck is built, and on which deck the oysters are placed. Each of these scows will carry a deck-load of about 600 bushels of oysters. The scows are then towed to a point in the Patuxent River, near the Ferry Bar Bridge where the water is quite shallow.

The vacant space in the scow between the deck and the bottom is filled with water by means of a valve and the scow is sunk. There she is left two flood-tides, when the water is pumped from her by means of a small machine provided for the purpose and the scows are then towed up to the city again. The change from the salt to the fresh water and the immersion of the oyster during the flood-tides, it is said, fattens them until what was at first but a comparatively insignificant oyster becomes a plump and luscious bivalve, filling its entire immense shell.

After this operation the oysters which, as stated, cost originally about 60 cents a bushel are placed in the market, and readily command from \$1.50 to \$2.60 a bushel. A short time ago there were seven scow-loads of these oysters immersed, and the firms engaged in the business have twelve scows constantly employed. The whole operation is under the supervision of one man who undertakes the fattening for a consideration of 10 cents a bushel, the firm furnishing all the appliances.—Baltimore News.

LONDON, Jan. 24. The steamships Glen-egle and Wyoming have arrived.

At Close Quarters with a Boa Constrictor.

"Ay, ay, sir; I've had a taste o' things in my time too, and they ain't none so pleasant, neither, not till you gets used to 'em—are they, now? But the queerest scrape o' that sort as ever I got into was just after we fust went out, and this was the way it happened: 'D'rectly we got into Bombay we was packed off up country, part by rail and part on foot, till we got to our new quarters—a little bit of an outlyin' station on the upper Ganges, with a crackjaw name as I can't recollect, and couldn't pronounce if I did. And a sweet place it was, by jingo!—all mud barrin' the trees, all trees barrin' the mud; and all miqutoes together. Then, by way of makin' things nice and comfable, we got there just in the height of the hot season; and, as if that warn't enough, we'd just had new shoes served out to us, and mine was so jolly tight that I felt just like standin' on tiptoes in a teacup."

"Oh, didn't I just wish myself back in old England agin, nineteen times a day! But, d'ye see, if a man wants to have everything cut out smooth and soft for him, he's no call to give the services at all; and if he does, his best game's just to grin and bear it—and so did we."

"But there was one man among us didn't seem to mind it a bit, and that was our commanding officer, Major the Honorable Edward M—, as maybe you've heard on. He got his step in time o' the Sikh war, at Sabraon, where all the senior officers o' the regiment was bowled over all at once; but he didn't get nothin' more nor what he deserved—no, nor half as much, neither. He was a man, if ever there was one, and as good an officer, and as kind-hearted a one, too, as ever stepped in shoe-leather. Why, bless you, it 'ud ha' done your heart good to see him, in the middle of a thunderin' hard day's work, when everything was a-going wrong, and we was all gruntin' and growlin' under our breath, turn round to us with as jolly a face as if he'd been a eatin' of his dinner, and say: 'My lads, he'd say, 'this'll be somethin' to laugh over by-and-by, when it's all done!' And when we'd see him so jolly over it, and pickin' out the very worst o' the work for himself, 'stead o' shovin' it all upon us, like some as I've seen—him as had been reared, so to speak, on the fat o' the land, and fed with a silver spoon, like—we couldn't, for very shame, hang back and make faces over it. My chum Tom Jackson, used to say as the major freshened us up more than a double ration o' liquor all round—and he did, too, and no mistake. For, mark ye, we privates ain't such precious fools as some folks make us out. We can tell what sort o' man we're under, as well as any 'oss with his rider; and when we feels as there's a man over us as can remember that we're flesh and blood like hisself, and treat us like men, and not like dogs, we'll go anywhere and do anything for him—blowed if we won't!"

"Now I should tell you, sir, as one o' the major's ways was gettin' up as early as early could be and goin' all over the place afore sun-up; and no matter how late he might ha' been the night afore—when there was a jollification at mess or anything o' that sort—as sure as mornin' came there he was, as fresh as a cricket and never missin' a bit of his round. For, d'ye see, he was that sort o' a chap that he'd never be satisfied without he'd seen with his very own two eyes as how everything was a goin' as it should be; and I wish there was more of his sort about, I do."

"Well, one mornin' when the sun was just a-peepin' over the tree-tops and everything still cool and pleasant, I sees the major a comin' back from his walk; but, 'stead o' goin' at a good, steady pace, like he gen'ly did, he was a-spantin' along like any post-man. And in he comes among us, hot foot, and sings out:—

"My lads, I've got a job for you. Six of you take your arms and come with me. 'We all on us came for'ard at once, for we knewed as he wouldn't send us nowhere where he didn't mean to go himself; and when men once know that you can lead 'em anywhere."

"He picks out me and Tom Jackson, and four more, and away we goes with sloped arms, like on parade, and him a-leadin' on us. 'As he hadn't said nothin' 'bout what work he wanted us for, I warn't quite sure if it 'ud be right to ax him; but he'd spoken to me several times already, off and on, and I knowed him for one as 'ud always give a civil answer to a civil question; so, when we'd tramped a spell without a word spoken anywhere, I says:—

"'Axin' your honor's pardon,' says I to him, 'what is this 'ere job as we're bound on, if I may make so bold?' says I. 'Well, my man,' says he, 'it's nothing very glorious,' he says, 'but there'll be some fighting in it, for all that. The fact is, I've spotted a big snake close by here, and I don't choose to have him loafing about the place, and perhaps snapping some of you up when you're not thinking of it; so I just mean to settle him at once. He was asleep when I saw him, so if we can finish him before he gets his nap out, so much the better.' 'At that we all grinned like anything, thinking it no end of a spree; for you see, after stickin' in this out-o'-the-way hole so long without a bit of fun, anything in the way of a lark was reg-lar nuts to us."

"So for'ard we went, briskly enough, all round the cantonments, because the scrub had been cleared away, and we had plain ground to walk on. But when we got to the edge of the jungle, where there was a path out, as it might be, 'bout the breadth o' that 'ere little table by the window yonder, the major pulls up for a minute, and says to us, says he:—

"Now, my men, you must be as quiet as you can; for if we can pin this beggar before he wakes up, we shall have an easier bargain of him.' 'Well, of course, when the major give the word we all closed our talking-traps and began to force our way through the bush. If you've ever been out there, you don't need me to tell you what an Indian jungle is. We were all pretty well used to the work, and made our way through with no more noise than we could help."

"The major, as he always did when there was any danger afoot, went on first. We had to think there wasn't any snake there, when all of a sudden we heard a sharp hiss, and the next moment an immense boa-constrictor made a spring for the major. The major was too quick for him, however, and jumped aside, giving the serpent a blow with the butt-end of his rifle. I have seen some pretty large specimens of the serpent tribe in the course of my travels, but I can tell you that one beat them all. He must have been over fourteen or fifteen feet long, and his

shining, speckled body was thicker than a man's thigh.

"We were all pretty well roared, I must say; but of course we weren't going to go back on the major."

"After the serpent got that blow on his head, his eyes seemed to light up as if they'd borrowed some of Old Nick's fire. Coiling himself up like a wheel, and hissing in a way that showed he meant business, Mr. Boa-constrictor made ready for another spring."

"The major knew his tactics too well to wait for the second attack. Grasping his rifle, with nerves as strong as the steel of a bayonet, he made one jump forward, run pinned him to the ground."

"Perhaps there wasn't any hissing and equirring—oh, no! But it wasn't any use, for the major held him there, and before he could equire himself loose we were atop of him, clubbing him right and left. We had a pretty hard job of it, but we fixed him at last, and you may be sure we weren't sorry when we saw him give his last squirm."

"After we had got through the morning's work we carried the body to the camp, and you ought to have seen the men open their eyes when they say it! The doctor took his hide off and stuffed it, and the major hung him up in his quarters, where he didn't make such a very bad ornament, especially to them as had anything to do with the killing."

THE CHURCH.

Rev. Thomas Mitchell, of New York, affirms that Henry Ward Beecher is "in deadly conflict with Christ, Paul, Peter, Juda, John and all the Apostles, and of the Holy Ghost and God Almighty."

Cardinal Manning read in the Roman Catholic chapels of London a pastoral asking the faithful not to partake of intoxicating drinks on Christmas or the day after.

A Bible written on palm leaves is preserved in the University of Gottingen. It contains 5,376 leaves. Another Bible, of the same material, is at Copenhagen.

Nothing remains of the new Second Baptist Church in St. Louis, which was burned, but the walls. The congregation had just raised \$40,000 to clear it of debt. The loss is \$200,000, one-half insured.

Boston has a new religious idea. An immense non-denominational church is to be built. It is to be open to all, and free from sectarianism. The costs will be \$200,000, which amount is to be raised by \$500 subscriptions.

While a popular clergyman of Philadelphia was in the midst of his sermon the other night, he was startled to find his notes in a blaze, having taken fire from a gas jet conveniently arranged to throw light on the pulpit. Every page was nearly half consumed before he could put out the fire, but he kept on and rounded out his discourse with good effect without referring to his elaborately prepared manuscript. At the close his audience declared that they never saw so much light thrown upon the subject.

The Rev. Paul Schwan, pastor of a Lutheran Church of Cleveland, O., and Miss Hempy, daughter of a prominent citizen, had been engaged for some months, and the young lady had the consent of her parents until a few weeks ago, when they flatly refused, the father claiming that Schwan had a previous love affair which would entail a breach of promise suit. A bitter strife ensued, the girl adhered to her lover, and on Sunday night last Mr. Schwan's father, who is also a clergyman, called his son's congregation together, and after explaining the nature of the transactions and giving the other side a chance to be heard the two were married. Mr. Hempy makes threats, but the young couple are backed by hosts of friends who believe in Schwan's integrity.

The Wesleyans of England have set on foot a movement to build in various parts of the country 100 chapels a year for the next ten years. Towards this scheme two wealthy laymen—Sir Francis Lyett and Mr. William Mewburn—have each promised £10,000. A grant of £45,000 is also to be made in aid of the movement from the Wesleyan Thanksgiving Fund. The Wesleyans have chapels or preaching rooms in 5,000 places in England and Wales, and provide accommodation for religious worship for one in thirteen of the entire population, but it is calculated that there are more than 9,000 places, with a population of 5,000,000 of people, where no Wesleyan services are held.

Table with 2 columns: Religious body and Estimated value. Includes Church of England, Wesleyan Methodists, Congregationalists, Baptists, etc.

There is also given a statement of the number of the clergymen of these denominations, as follows:—

Church of England—Parochial clergy, 19,067; unattached clergy, 3,893; church dignitaries, fellows, inspectors, teachers, etc., 1,771. Wesleyan Methodists (including 241 supernumeraries), 1,823. Congregationalists (558 without charge), 2,581. Baptists (355 without charge), 2,064. Other religious bodies, 2,650. Total, 12,931,400.

The Stable.

HORSE MEDICINE.—Frequently more are given to a horse in the form of much more troublesome affair, and, in all cases, more or less of the dose is. Sometimes, however, a liquid medicine is preferred, as in colic or belly-ache, the urgent nature of the symptoms, and an active acting remedy, which a ball requiring time to dissolve, is not besides this, a ball cannot contain the spirituous cordials. The best instrument for giving a horse a drench is the of an ox, cut obliquely, so as to a spout. Bottles are frequently used, their fragile nature always rendering dangerous. On giving a drench the is held the same as for the delivery of not pulling it out to its full extent, dangerous, on account of choking; it should be elevated, but only horizontally. The drench is then poured into the small draughts, after which the tongue go, but the head still kept up till swallowed. The horse cannot swallow the tongue is held out, neither can it swallow if the head is held too high up, and it is apt to enter the windpipe and the Allowance should be made for some giving a drench.

The noted Kentucky racehorse Spend purchased by Mr. Bathgate, of New York, for \$15,000, has fifteen running engagements for this season, including the Kenner Derby, the St. Leger, the Dixie, the Whitney, the Belmont, 1 1/2 miles; the Lord 1 3/8 miles, at Jerome Park. He is entered in the Travers, 1 1/2 miles, at Kenner stakes, 2 miles, at Saratoga, was the best two-year-old last year, and he the crack three-year-old this year.

HINTS ABOUT HORSE-BITS.—A writer in a German contemporary strongly commends horse-owners who value the health of their cattle to banish from their harness-room bits but straight ones of the simplest construction. Through a long series of years he found, from practical experience, that powerful young horses frequently off in condition without any appreciable of their food being plentiful and of the quality, and no symptoms of general health being apparent. On searching carefully for the cause of this state of affairs, he found in nearly every instance that horses' tongues had been more or less injured in consequence of the employment of curved, hinged or otherwise complicated bits. The sore and tender condition of so many an organ as the tongue necessarily prevents the animals doing justice to their food; short rations, with the usual amount of naturally led them to a loss of condition. Unfortunately the mischief generally goes on until it is tolerably far advanced.

REFUSED TO OFFICIATE.—The St. Catharines Journal says—"We understand that Episcopal clergymen of this city refused to officiate at the funeral of the late Mr. Keller, the gentleman who a day or two ago committed suicide in Buffalo. Mr. Keller was a well-known in this community, and was a liberal, liberal-minded man. His sad fate was no doubt attributable to insanity, brought about by business troubles. Deceased was a member of the Episcopal Church, and of course his many friends will feel grieved at the loss of the clergy of that body. Such a law or canon may have answered a good purpose years back, but in the growing intelligence of-day, it seems a travesty on the doctrine of Him who said, 'Come unto me, all ye labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.' The dead cannot be disturbed by this act, but the feelings of the living are unnecessarily lacerated."

TENNISON'S WAY OF WRITING.—The writers who think that thought should appear into the mind fully armed and equipped, who consider it beneath their dignity to correct and erase, should see Tennyson at work, or rather printing them, for the poet rarely uses a pen. He keeps printing press, and has his poems set in line by line. Imagine what a nice, leisurely time the poet must have strolling about his lawn smoking cigars, with that eccentric Texan hat of his slouched over moody by composing a verse a day! Perhaps if so of our prolific American poets would try verse-a-day plan they might get something like the prices the poet laureate receives Exchange.

THROUGH RAILROAD FREIGHT.—The Railroad managers have had an important conference in New York, at which nearly the principal companies were represented, though the Grand Trunk of Canada is not included in the list. The report of a subcommittee was adopted which recommended uniform rates on all through freight from West to Europe from each of the seaboard ports; the rates to be based upon the inland rate to New York, plus the ocean rate such rate to be the same via all the other ports. Mr. Broughton, of the Great Western of Canada, was present, and a party to the arrangement, which, it may be feared, will not be conducive to Canadian interests. Journal of Commerce.

TERRIBLE PREDICTION.—The fact that many fish are dying off the coast of Florida calls to mind the awful prediction of Professor Knapp. From the juxtaposition of certain planets to our earth, he predicts that one-half of the population of the world, including man and all kind of animals, and even vegetable life, will perish before or during the year 1880. In a lecture delivered several years ago, he said that this desolation would commence by the fishes of the sea dying and pestilence and famine occurring in the Southern latitudes. The famine in Ohio, and now the fearful pestilence among the fishes in Southern waters, are so many steps in fulfillment of Professor Knapp's prophecies.—East Florida Banner.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SHOT.—An empty stomach is not a very desirable possession except to take exercise upon, but it saved the life of Auditor Thomas Hanlon at New Albany, Ind., the other day. An assassin shot him in the abdomen, the ball passing directly through his body, between the stomach and diaphragm, and lodging under the skin in the back. He has recovered, however, and the doctors say that he owes his life to the fact that he had eaten neither dinner nor supper that day, so that the bullet was able to cut through him without a jury. "Ex a general thing," said John Quincey last evening, "I am down on puns, but upon my word, I've allus considered a blacksmith a horse sure." "What makes you spend your time so freely, Jack?"—Because it's the only thing that I have to spend.