

AGRICULTURAL

Feeding Cattle Loose or Tied.

Now that the current is setting from milk production to beef production, the question of winter feeding assumes an importance which could not be claimed for it during recent years. And when we think of the large quantities of food fed during the finishing period, and of value of the same, it will be at once apparent that the work should be done in a way that will combine economy and effectiveness in a marked degree. We should also aim to keep the labor bill as low as possible, that is, so far as consistent with necessary care and attention. In some sections, more especially in the East, it has been customary to tie beef cattle in the stall and go through the labor from day to day of cleaning out the stables. In other sections, more especially in the West, live stock is fattened in open sheds, or, at least, in sheds that are not half warm enough for their protection. To both systems there are objections which should be duly weighed by those who are engaged in the work of feeding, or who are about to engage in it. The system of tying in the stall involves too much expense, first, providing such accommodation, and second in caring for the cattle. And the system of feeding out of doors or with sheds for shelter which are only half warm enough, will certainly be attended with a most serious waste of food, as much of the food will be used in keeping the animals warm. The true system would seem to be a mean between these, that is to say to provide shed room which would be warm enough to keep the animals in comfort, when in the same and in the coldest days of the year. In this way they would be fed, but they would not be tied. This would mean that they would need to be deborned. Although they were not tied it would be well nevertheless, to have stalls of cheap construction with a manger in front so that they could feed in these without undue crowding, and if water could be furnished within the same, the advantage would be great as compared with having it in some place which would necessitate driving the cattle out of the building when they were to partake of water. The aim in this article is to give only an outline of the system now being considered. The details will vary in some respects, at least with the locality, and these details must of necessity be supplied by the individual who controls the work. But making due allowance for those variations, the following features of construction in the sheds, and of management in handling the cattle would seem to be operative everywhere: First the sheds should be warm. They should be warm enough to keep the thermometer under normal conditions, in the neighborhood of, say fifty degrees. Boards and tar paper can be made to secure such a result without great cost. Second, they should be well lighted to facilitate the work of feeding. In very cold sections it may be well to have two thicknesses of glass with an air space between them. Third, they must be well ventilated. This is easily accomplished by having box ventilators run from the ground up the walls inside and under, the roof to the ridge of the same. Fourth, they should have more or less room for storing the food overhead—more will be much better than less. Fifth, convenience in feeding should be studied. When the sheds are oblong in shape, it is usually convenient for the feeder to be able to run a cart down a passage in the center on each side of which the mangers are placed. The cart may be simply a cart with three wheels, and a box for holding the food. And sixth, there should be an arrangement of the doors which would admit of easy access to team and wagon for the purpose of removing the manure.

Such an arrangement would be labor saving in an eminent degree as compared with stall-feeding. There would be no cleaning of the stables, no tying or untying of the cattle to let them out for exercise or to take water, and no difficulty in keeping them free from an accumulation of filth about the hips, as there is sometimes with animals tied in the stall. But of course, they would need to be plentifully supplied with bedding from day to day. But one of the greatest advantages of feeding cattle thus arises from the fine quality of the manure. The litter, the droppings, and the liquid portions are blended in the most effective manner possible. Nothing is lost. The manure thus made may be drawn to the fields at once whenever desired, for in the sheds it would never freeze, sheds in which manure freezes would be too cold for cattle that were being fattened. Such manure could be applied without a particle of loss in the manurial constituents. Some feeders engage in the work chiefly for the sake of the manure which it furnishes them. They have learned by experience that the fertility thus obtained has rendered great service to them in conducting the ordinary operations of the farm. Of course, it is very desirable to have a profit in addition to the manure, and this can usually be obtained where judgment is used in buying the cattle for feeding and also in feeding them.

Bookkeeping on the Farm.

The keeping of accounts is almost an absolute necessity to a farmer's success. If we should be asked what is the great hinderance to the advancement of the ordinary farmer, we should reply the want of some systematic mode of keeping farm accounts. If we should ask them the cost of raising 50 bushels of corn; or of making 100 lbs. of pork or beef, how many could give an answer based on actual calculation? But few of the farmers can give you the net income of their farms and in reality they don't know whether they are progressing or retrograding.

What would be the future destiny of the business man were he to conduct his affairs in such a shiftless way?

The reason farmers do not more frequently fail is that their business is comparatively limited. The farm sustains the family and the family takes care of the farm.

How are we to decide what crops pay better to raise if we keep no account of their expenses? Many are the farmers that

do not believe in experimenting, for they have fallen into the old rut of their ancestors and refuse to get out. But the time is near at hand when they will be compelled to adopt new ways and different plans or fall behind the more enterprising.

With some it is a great task to write down in the evening the results of the day. They can tell in the field for twelve hours, but half an hour with the pen is not to be thought of. Possibly some of the younger members of the family would be willing to undertake the work if the father would encourage them. At all events, an account-book should be kept, in which the farm is charged with all its expenses and credited with all its receipts. And a minute record should be kept of each crop, showing cost of labor, fertilizer, seed, etc., and crediting it with all the returns, whether disposed of in the market or fed on the farm.

The same attention should be given the live stock, so as to decide by actual calculation, not by mere guesswork, which breed is the most profitable to raise. The question that is at present agitating the minds of the farmers in this locality is, will it pay better to feed wheat to hogs than to market it? How are they to decide it unless by experimenting and keeping an account?

Some of the more thoughtful ones have "taken time by the forelock," and have fully convinced themselves as to the profits, so with them this year it is no experiment or guesswork, but actual facts based upon careful experiments in the past. They have kept a record of expenditures and receipts, and know just what to do and nearly what the results will be. To them farming is a pleasure and not a drudgery, for they proceed in a business-like manner and not in a happy-go-lucky way.

Farmers, turn over a new leaf and instill new energy into your farming system. Teach your children that there is ample room for a business education upon the farm. It is not necessary to know double entry. All you want is a simple account book.

DREADFUL RAVAGES BY LOCUSTS.

Insects Destroy Crops and Cause Famine and Death in Africa.

A letter from Mandera Mission, in German East Africa, gives a distressing account of the ravages of a swarm of locusts. "The maize, intarna, and bean field," says the writer, "which yesterday were so luxuriant, are now a terrible scene of desolation. At 2 o'clock the sun was darkened. A rather strong breeze was blowing. Suddenly, over the hills of Wanisa and the rocky banks of the Wami, appeared a small cloud. It approached and grew larger. I was in the field with the boys of the mission. All at once there was a cry of 'Locusts! Locusts!' Spades and rakes fell to the ground. Every one exclaimed: 'If only they would pass! But this hope was not realized. The first swarm indeed passed over, but the next settled on the mission ground, and then in the valley fields. Like a dark overwhelming flood the swarm spread over the plantations. Women ran wringing their hands over their fields, trying to frighten the locusts away, but in vain. Everything fell a prey to the terrible invasion of the insects. And the country was already in great distress. Many people die of hunger. In a place near Mpwapwa forty-six out of fifty inhabitants died of famine. Two weeks ago I was in a village where nine grown-up people out of seventeen had died of hunger in a single week. Hunger is the cry throughout the land. Till now I could dispense some nourishment, but our provisions are almost exhausted, and what shall we then do with our 100 mission children?"

Debt.

A Japanese proverb says that a friend at hand is better than all your relations at a distance; so a little money in your pocket is better than all the credit in the world. It is astonishing sometimes how much a little money will buy, and equally surprising how quickly a bill reaches a hundred, and yet we may have little to show for it. One purchasing on credit buys rashly and generously; he does not think of pay day, which seems far off; certain, like death, but as remote and intangible. It is so easy to buy things in this way, one hardly stops to count the cost; by this method it almost seems as if all of the things we covet grew on trees, and all we had to do was to put out our hands; we seem to be fed and clothed as if by a miracle, and it is surely a miracle if we pay the bills in due season. To contract a bill is to contract an obligation, to give another the advantage. We believe that half the forgeries and embezzlements in the country are the direct result of debt. Half the paralysis and heart disease which end men's lives in their heyday may be traced to the worry consequent upon debt; worry kills more people than work, or love, or any disease. It writes wrinkles in the face, it discolors the skin, makes the hair fall out, and encourages dyspepsia.

New Position for Sleepers.

Another iconoclast! The rampant reformer of the day has now invaded bedrooms. The orthodox fashion in making up the beds so as to gently slope toward the feet and having a good-sized pillow or two under the head is all wrong. A prominent French doctor, M. Vilhelm Fischer, is responsible for this statement. He asserts that after a long series of experiments he has proved conclusively that to sleep in a bed prepared in the old-fashioned way is simply to induce ailments of all kinds. He advocates a complete reversal of things. You must have your head on a level with or lower than your feet. If pillows are used they must be under your feet instead of under the head. The result, he claims, will be amazing, being a sure cure for insomnia, as well as a preventive for the nightmare. Dr. Fischer says further that sleep in this new position "will always be intellectual, because more profound, the entire nervous system ameliorated; while people inclined to lung and kidney trouble will be vastly benefited by sleeping in this position." To prevent any inconvenience by too sudden a change he pillows should be gradually reduced and finally placed under the feet.

HOW INDIANS GO A-WOOLING

VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH LO DOES HIS COURTING.

The Blanket is an Important Factor—Girl Makes the Overtures—Interesting Description of How the Navajos Settle the Mother-in-Law Question.

Courtship varies somewhat in different Indian tribes, but in every case is quite at variance with civilized ways. Plains Indians do most of their courting in a standing position. A lover waits near the lodge of his inamorata, or beside the path along which the girls of the village must pass for water. While so waiting he will have his blanket entirely over his head, only a small opening being left for the eye. In this way his identity is concealed, and he escapes the gazing of his fellows. When the favored one appears he approaches and throws his blanket over her head, too. If she reciprocates this attention they will stand for hours with the blanket closely wrapped around their heads and shoulders. If she is not favorably inclined to her lover's attentions he must at once desist.

Among the Zunis it is the girl who first makes overtures. Her parents or relatives inform those of the young man as to the state of things, and if everything goes smoothly she becomes "his to be."

HE MAKES HER TROUSSEAU.

After that the betrothed couple may often be seen together. In Summer she will sit combing his hair on the terraces, while in Winter he will sit by her fire-side sewing on her trousseau. When the latter is finished, including the necessary pair of white moccasins made from a whole deer-skin, the two are pronounced man and wife.

With some of the Pueblo tribes young people are given two ears of corn just before marriage, the young man a blue ear and the maiden a white one. The kernels are very hard, and they must prove their devotion by eating them every one. Then they must run a footrace in the presence of the head men of the pueblo. If the girl comes out ahead she is ever afterward "boss." If the man comes out ahead he is boss. If the race is a draw the match is declared off, for this result is considered a bad omen. It may safely be inferred that such an untoward accident seldom happens with true lovers.

Mr. Dunbar, in speaking of the Pawnees, gives an interesting account of the marriage among them. The girls may marry at 13, and the young men at 16 or 18. The qualities most desired in a wife are that she should be of good family and well skilled in domestic duties. Personal beauty is of secondary importance, though not without weight. The girls have most regard for personal bravery, rising influence, skill in hunting and a fine physique.

PETS ON HIS ROBE.

When a Pawnee brave has chosen a suitable maiden for a wife he puts on his robe with the hair side out, draws it over his head so as to entirely conceal his face, and, entering the lodge of the fair one, sits down. No one pays the slightest attention, nor does he speak himself. His object is sufficiently understood without words. At the end of a few days the visit is repeated in precisely the same way. If on this occasion he finds a robe or other seat of honor prepared for his reception he uses it and uncovers his face, for this is a sign that his intentions are acceptable. If no preparation has been made for him he retires and the wooing is ended.

In the former case the maiden soon appears and takes a seat beside her lover. The father also makes it convenient to be present. Between the two men the matter is fully discussed and then referred to the family relations. By the latter the subject is very thoroughly investigated, the last point to be settled being the price that shall be paid. This is a very important item, and is never omitted. With the Pawnees a bride is considered to be worth from one to twenty ponies according to her qualifications.

The marriage ceremony is very simple, if there may be considered to be any at all. It consists of the bride-elect going to the lodge of her husband, the event being followed perhaps by a feast given by her parents.

EIGHT PONIES FOR A WIFE.

Among the Navajos eight ponies is considered an average price for a wife, and twelve is high. A pony is worth about \$10. The wife is the property of the husband, and when he wants to he sells her. Such a transfer makes no breach in the friendly feeling between the two. A traveller relates that on a long ride through the Navajo Reservation he had as guide a very intelligent Indian, with whom he conversed for hours. One night when they could find no water, for which their horses were suffering, the guide said: "If we go a few miles further we will find a Navajo house where we will be comfortable. The man is my friend and his wife is a good cook. She was my wife last year, but I sold her to him."

On arrival at the house, which was simply a rude wall of stones built around a cavern, the family appeared. The man was a villainous-looking, elderly Indian. The woman was fat and forty without being fair. The meeting was cordial all around, and between the guide and his former wife there was much pleasant badinage. The new husband placidly smoked cigarettes.

Another peculiar thing about the Navajo marriages is that after the event the mother-in-law and son-in-law must never look each other in the face again. Thus these ignorant savages have solved a problem which has bothered civilization for ages.

Death as Read in the Face.

A rather curious discovery has been made with reference to soldiers killed in battle. On the authority of several English army surgeons it can be stated that the cause of death is clearly shown in the expression of the face of a corpse on the battlefield. Those who have been killed by sword thrusts have a look of repose. If it was a bullet that brought the soldier to earth pain, often of the most frightful nature, is clearly depicted

IN DEEP DESPAIR.

A Montrealer Relates His Wonderful Experience.

He Had Tried Foreign and Local Physicians and was Operated Upon Without Success—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Cured When All Other Medicines Failed.

From the Montreal Herald. Instances of marvellous cures by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are numerous, but the one related below is of special interest, owing to the peculiarity of the illness, and also to the fact that in the present instance the gentleman is well known in Montreal. Mr. Charles Frank, inspector of the mechanical department of the Bell Telephone Co., at 371 Aqueduct street, and who resides at 54 Argyle Ave., in an interview with a Herald reporter, related the following wonderful cure by the use of Pink Pills. Mr. Frank, who is 25 years of age, is a Russian by birth, exceedingly intelligent, speaks several languages fluently, and is now apparently in good health. "My illness came about in a peculiar way," said Mr. Frank. "Up to three years ago I was in the best of health. About that time while in Glasgow, Scotland, where I was employed as a clerk in a hotel, and while scouling on the Clyde, a storm came up, and I had a pretty rough time of it for a while. I evidently must have injured myself internally, although I felt nothing wrong at the time. On my way home, however, I fell helpless on the street and had to be conveyed home in a cab, as my legs were utterly unable to hold me up. I was confined to bed for several days in the same helpless condition, when I rallied, but found that my urine was of a strange reddish hue. I called in



CAUGHT IN A STORM ON THE CLYDE.

a physician, who prescribed, but did me no good. I then called on Sir George McLeod, M. D., who also prescribed and advised me to go to the hospital. I was averse to doing this, and he advised me then to try a change of climate, telling me that my bladder was affected. I acted on his suggestion as to change and came to Montreal. I did not do anything for about a year as I wished to get cured. All this time my urine was tainted with blood, although I was suffering no pain, but this abnormal condition was a source of continual anxiety. I finally went to the General Hospital, where the physician in charge advised me to stay, which I did. After remaining there for five weeks with no benefit, a consultation of physicians was held and an operation suggested, to which I this time agreed. After the operation was performed I was no better, my condition remaining absolutely unchanged. From this out I was continually trying medicines and physicians but derived no benefit from anything or anyone. I was in despair, as the physicians who had operated on me could not decide as to my trouble. I visited the hospital once more, and they said they would operate again; but I did not care to undergo a second and perhaps equally unsuccessful operation. Some physicians thought my trouble was consumption of the bladder, others that it was Bright's disease, but nothing could cure that strange bloody condition of my urine.

"Finally I went to work for the Bell Telephone Co., some two years ago, where I worked myself up to my present position. But I was in a state of constant anxiety, as I felt myself getting weaker all the time, and was listless and sleepy and weak in the legs. I was also pale and ill-looking, no doubt owing to the loss of blood. From a naturally cheerful man I became morose, and gave up all hopes of ultimate recovery. One Saturday, some months ago, while walking along Bleury street, having seen the advertisement of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in the Montreal Herald, I stopped at John T. Lyons' drug store, and bought a box. I had tried so many medicines that I said to myself, 'If they don't cure me I can't be any worse off than before.' After taking the first box I felt stronger and more cheerful, although there was no change in the bloody condition of my urine. But I felt encouraged and got three more boxes, determined to make a thorough trial of Pink Pills. After I had finished the second box I found my urine was getting clearer, so I continued the use of the pills, taking two after each meal. When I had finished the third box my urine was quite clear, for the first time in three years. I was delighted, and continued taking the pills until I had finished six boxes. I am strong now and have had no recurrence of the trouble, and as you can see, the flush of health shows itself in my face. To think that I was cured by the use of \$3.00 worth of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills after trying a number of physicians and undergoing an operation in vain is a puzzle to me, and I am sorry that I didn't know about this grand medicine before. I would have willingly given \$200 or \$300 to have been guaranteed a cure by anyone."

"I am willing," said Mr. Frank, in conclusion, "to see anyone who wishes to verify this interview, as I consider it my duty to my fellow-men and a matter of gratitude to the marvellous cure their medicine has effected. I have come to the conclusion that Pink Pills are the best blood builders in existence, and I think everyone should try them."

A Small Demand.

Lady—If I were a big healthy man like you, I'd be ashamed to beg! Why don't you go to work?

Weary Wagglies—I would work, lady, but I can't get anything to do at my trade.

Lady—Well, that is hard, poor fellow! What is your trade?

Weary Wagglies—I'm a bank president, lady.

WORDS OF WISDOM FOR RACHELORS.

The Solitary Man Resent by Countless Worries Will Find It Worth While to Learn and Remember:—

That it is possible to be happy though single.

That it is wise to pay bills as soon as possible.

That a bicycle should not be kept in a bedroom.

That tooth-brushes should be renewed frequently.

That a straw hat can be whitened with lemon juice.

That good clothes are the cheapest in the long run.

That orderliness and cleanliness are about the same thing.

That a loaded revolver is not a desirable article of furniture.

That it is a mistake to stay in bed late on Sunday mornings.

That a bathtub should be enamelled for the sake of cleanliness.

That one can dress well with little money and badly with much.

That the shoes with very pointed toes seen nowadays are unsightly.

That clothes should be brushed once a week to keep moths out of them.

That it is the peculiar privilege of an unmarried man to be well dressed.

That a coat should never be hung up for any length of time by the hanger.

That hard exercise and cold water are the best promoters of health and virtue.

That a bicycle is a good thing, but not the only sporting appliance in existence.

That empty bottles give neither a refined nor a hospitable air to one's apartments.

That every man who needs shaving should do it himself, and that every morning.

That dyed clothing is rotted in the process, and that no wear can be expected from it.

That the feelings of others should be considered when a man makes his nocturnal entry.

That every man should learn the art of keeping a razor in good condition by means of a strap.

That a lot of worthless moths can ruin hundreds of dollars' worth of clothes in a few weeks.

That the best way to keep cool in hot weather is to preserve one's health and eat and drink sparingly.

That it is expensive to keep cigars in boxes, because a few friends will make them disappear in a jiffy.

That bills and receipts should be preserved, and that, even when small, the items should be examined closely.

That an air of extreme neatness and comfort about a man's room indicates that he is likely to remain a bachelor.

That the best way to remove fresh paint from a garment is to rub the fabric briskly against itself. It never fails.

That it is conducive to happiness, comfort and good digestion to rise early and take ample time for breakfast.

That it is cheaper to have many suits of clothes and use them in turn than to have a few and wear them out quickly.

That the presence of liquor in a room is a temptation to early morn dram-drinking, a most baneful form of indulgence.

That a little common baking soda taken in ice water will remove most headaches. A dime's worth will last a long time.

That it is not necessary, in order to be well dressed, to wear always what are called in the stores the latest styles.

That the furniture of rooms should be as plain and simple as possible, in order that they may be the more easily kept clean.

That the second sole on a shoe will in nine cases out of ten outwear the original sole, if the shoes are sent to the cobbler in time.

That a spirit lamp, a French coffee-pot and a can of ground Java is a good thing to have in the room, especially in the winter.

That several pairs of trousers carefully folded and laid in a pile on the shelf will get pressed and creased without the aid of a tailor.

That newspapers should not be allowed to accumulate in great quantities, because they will occupy valuable space and hide dust and dirt.

That every barber will tell you that your hair is getting thin; that he will suggest a valuable remedy, and that it will not be of much value.

That an ounce of alcohol rubbed over the skin after the bath will prevent that itching, biting, tingling sensation that affects so many people.

That hair-brushes should be kept clean by washing and scraping, and that when they are at last spoiled by washing they should be replaced by new ones.

That a bath sponge that has grown foul can be made sweet and white by boiling in a weak solution of sulphuric acid, and afterwards washing thoroughly.

That the frayed edges of a four-in-hand necktie will be much improved in appearance if neatly and quickly stowed in the flame of a small wax candle.

That vaseline, freely applied and briskly rubbed with a flannel rag, is the best possible thing for freshening russet shoes. It is a decided improvement upon the rosin-weighted varnishes.

That it is better to smoke a good tobacco in a pipe than poor cigars. Pipes should be cleaned regularly, so that with long practice the habit becomes a pleasure and an amusement. Alcohol is of great use in pipe cleaning, but expensive.

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