

Agriculture.

THE STRAW QUESTION.

Much discussion has been going on about straw, whether it should be sold, consumed, or trodden under foot. On all these points I have long since come to decided conclusions, and, I think, sound ones, for they rest on scientific as well as practical bases. These conclusions are:—

- 1. That all straw returns the greatest profit when consumed.
2. The next best alternative is to sell it, provided it will return not less than 32s. per ton.
3. That the least profitable mode is that of treading it down for manure.

Mr. Horsfall's papers (Vols. 17 and 18, Royal Agricultural Society's Journal) give conclusive evidence as to its feeding value. Mr. Lawes tells us it is worth very little as manure. If I could have my own way I would consume every particle of my straw, and I do consume a great deal; but then I should have to largely increase my capital invested in live stock and purchased food, which I cannot afford. But I fancy I hear a crowd of farmers exclaiming, "Where will you find bedding for your cattle?"

At present I have only a portion of my cattle on sparred floors, and the remainder in covered and enclosed yards with paved floors—the latter only requiring one fourth as much straw as the open yards; but if I could afford to have more cattle I would put them all on sparred floors, for 20 years' experience has proved it to be a profitable system. As bedding for our horses we should always have enough Rivett Wheat straw, which is less desirable for cutting up. Mr. Young a livery-stable keeper in Leeds, always kept his horses on boarded floors, with intermediate openings, and found it a great economy of straw. Much of my straw in a fine season is sold for paper-making, being free of weeds. By-the-by, beware how you buy your straw. I once bought of a farmer a straw stack at a very reasonable price. It stocked my farm with weeds, especially Docks, which cost me three or four years to eradicate. I shall be very shy of buying straw in future. Do we not have abundant supply of weeds in town stable manure? I consume an immense quantity of straw cut into fine chaff, and mixed with other food. Probably to every ton of straw so consumed fully 5 cwt. of cake and corn are added. All my bean-straw is consumed; the long hard stems cut by the chaff-cutter, and afterwards moistened and softened by hot water, become mucilaginous, and are nearly two-thirds the value of hay; very few farmers are aware of its value as food. Our folks would as soon think of treading good hay under foot as to use the strong bean stems for litter. Many farmers are not aware that a strong standing crop of green beans (pods, stalks, and leaves) passed through the chaff-cutter, forms the very best of food for sheep and cattle, but is apt to gripe horses; and also do not know that bean crops are regularly fed off by sheep.—J. J. Mechi, July 4.

SALTING CABBAGE PLANTS.—A writer in the American Agriculturist thinks that salt is an excellent fertilizer for cabbage in places remote from the sea. He sprinkles a pinch of salt on the centre of each plant when they are wet with the rain or dew, a few days after they have been set out. When the plants begin to form heads, he sprinkles another pinch of salt upon them, using in the whole a quart of salt to five hundred plants. He thinks that it improves their vigour, and promotes their heading.

TREES CONDUCIVE TO HEALTH.—By absorbing or emitting electricity, according as it is deficient or in excess, they (the trees) maintain a natural electrical state of the atmosphere around them, and we all know how intimately atmospheric electricity is connected with disease. Without trees there is always a deficiency of electricity, consequently a deficiency of ozone, and the air is not in its naturally healthy state. They act in like manner as regards heat, cooling the atmosphere at eventide during the hot summer months by rapid radiation into space, while streets and squares without trees remain hot and close.—Scientific Review.

TO KEEP LEMONS.—Housekeepers know how quickly lemons lose their flavor and rot. A simple and inexpensive remedy is to place them in a jar filled with water, the water to be renewed every day or two. By this means the fruit can be kept fresh and sound for several weeks.

MESSENGER ALMANACK.

September, 1870.

First Quarter, September 2nd, 9h. 43m. morning. Full Moon, " 9th, 5h. 57m. afternoon. Last Quarter, " 17th, 9h. 15m. afternoon. New Moon, " 25th, 2h. 20m. morning.

Table with columns for Day, Sun, Moon, High Tide, and Low Tide. Rows list days from 1st to 30th of September with corresponding times and phases.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southern gives the time of high water at Parrsboro', Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine 2 hours and 30 minutes later than at Halifax. At Annapolis, St. John, N. B., and Portland Maine, 3 hours and 44 minutes later, and at St. John's, Newfoundland, 1 hour earlier, than at Halifax.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY.—Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

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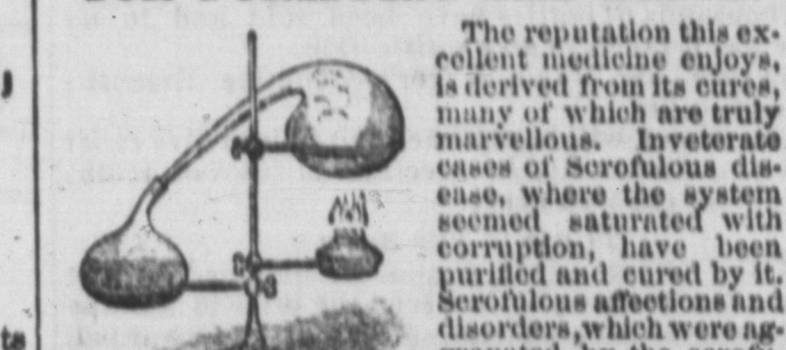
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