Agriculture, &c.

FATTENING CATTLE.

The age at which cattle can be profitably fattened will depend much upon their breeding and the manner in which they have been reared. Steers or heifers, having from half to three-fourths Shorthorn or Here'ord blood in them, and that have been kept in a thrifty growing condition from calfhood, are usually sufficiently advanced to be put up to fatten when from thirty to thirty six months old. Pure-bred animals of Shorthorn or Hereford blood may be profitable fattened at an earlier age. A cross of one-half to three-quarter Devon blood on common stock makes an animal that can go into the stalls at two years old, if it has been kept in good growing condition. Common native cattle can rarely be profitably fed for the butcher till they are four years old. If cattle are put up to fatten before their growth has sufficiently advanced, so as to bring near their full capacity of laying up substance, much of the food given them, instead of going to make them fat, will be wasted in adding bone and muscle which could have been obtained more cheaply by giving them time to complete their development on ordinary keep. Besides, the effort to fatten an animal when in an immature state can only result in producing meat of a very inferior quality, and commanding a much less price than if the same anima! has been kept on longer until its frame had become solid and well knit together, its muscles developed to their full capacity, and its stomach capable of digesting and assimilating a larger amount of food than is actually required to sustain the ordinary growth and wear and tear of life, without derangement of its vitality.

There are every year great numbers of young cattle sold to the butcher, or slaughtered by farmers, and their carcases brought to market at the close of the grass season, when they are in a state of development that renders their flesh of an intermediate quality between veal and beef, without the tenderness of the one or the rich juiciness of the other, but as flavourless and worthless as any flesh can well be. It is sheer folly to sacrifice such animals for the sake of the paltry saving of a few months' food, when by keeping them over one winter more they would bring nearly double their present value, and be fit to make into beef that is full of rich savoury juices .- Canada

BUILDING LIME.

As it is often of considerable importance to those who may wish to use lime for any of the purposes for which it is available that they should be able to distinguish a good article from that which is of inferior quality, we shall describe briefly a few of the common tests by which good lime may be tinguished from that which is poor. Of pieces of lime about the same size, the heavier will usually be the best. There are a few marked exceptions to this rule, but in general it will afford trustworthy indica-

Good lime is greasy and unctuous to the touch; poor lime is dry and gritty; when good lime slacks in water it falls quickly, causes the water to boil up furiously, and gives out a great quantity of heat. The slacking of poor lime is attended with but a slight boiling of the water, and a small increase of the heat; moreover, the quantity of water required to slack good lime will be nearly one half its bulk. Good lime, when slacked, will swell to twice its original bulk, and if exposed to water continually changed, the lime will all be taken up without leaving any residue. Poor lime, when slacked, will swell to two and a half times its original bulk, and there will always remain a grifty residue, no matter how much water may be run over it .-Am. Engineer.

NEW AND VALUABLE PAINT .- An English journal says that, as a result of five years' experience, a paint is recommended which possesses the advantage of being impervious to water. It is composed of fifty parts of tar, five hundred parts of fine white sand, four parts of linseed oil, one part of the red oxide of copper in its native state, and finally one part of sulphuric acid. In order to manufacture the paint from this multiplicity of materials, the tar, chalk. sand, and oil are first heated in an iron kettle; the oxide and acid are then added with a great deal of caution. The mass is very carefully mixed and applied while hot. When thoroughly dry this paint is as hard as stone.

WHAT tree must the sea-board be made of ?-Beech.

MESSENGER ALMANACK.

November, 1870.

Last Qu	oon,	"	16th, 22nd	3h. 171 4h. 440 9h. 60 6h. 19	n. moi n. afte	ning.
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THE TIDES .- The column of the Moon's Southing gives the time of high water at Parrsboro', Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine 2 hours and 30 minutes later than at Hailfax. At Annapolis, St John, N. B., and Portland Maine, 3 hours and 44 minutes later, and at St. John's, Newfoundland, I 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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A. Mobean, Secretary Dec. 15.

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