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"Truth, Justice, Freedom, here shall find a home."



### AGRICULTURE.

#### FARM WORK FOR DECEMBER.

With this month, we close the Agricultural labours of the year. We do not, however, wish to be understood, by any means, as saying that nothing further remains to be done by the farmer. On the contrary, the economical agriculturist will find enough to occupy his attention in the management of his stock, the supervision of his domestic concerns, and the many details involved in the practical routine of the art in which he is engaged.

He can now, with infinitely less trouble than at other seasons, attend to getting up his fuel, which should be cut and hauled into the yard before the roads become bad. Fencing materials should also be accumulated. Provide abundantly and see that no deficiency exist as to stakes, boards, posts and rails. Examine all your lines, and see that the articles requisite for placing them in a state of repair, be provided before Christmas.

Your young animals, calves, colts, lambs, pigs, &c. &c., should also receive some special attention, and be carefully sheltered and regularly fed.

Working oxen are often neglected at this season. Provide them with comfortable bedding, secure lodging, and remember their health and comfort, as well as thrift, is essentially promoted by the liberal use of the currycomb and brush. The more scrupulous the care and attention bestowed upon these useful animals, at this trying season, the more efficient and useful will they be to perform the labors often onerous and difficult, imposed on them in the spring.

Milch cows should by no means be neglected. As a general thing, the more sedulous your attention is to their comfort, the more profitable they will be. Over feeding however, is to be avoided, as well as undue and unnecessary exposure to cold storms and drenching rains. Cows should seldom be permitted to leave their yards during winter. Water, in abundance, should be provided within their enclosures, and where it will be at all times easily accessible, and of good quality.

Hogs require especial attention; they should be well fed and comfortably lodged, with an abundance of clean, dry straw for their beds, and wholesome drink. Their pens should also be kept dry and clean, and every circumstance calculated to promote their thrift, attended to with care.—*Maine Cultivator.*

**REMEDY FOR SCALD BETWEEN THE CLAWS OF A COW.**—Carefully examine the claws and remove any foreign substance found insinuated between them. Wash the part well with soap and water, and if there is an offensive smell, wash with dilute chloride of Lime. Dip a pledget of tow in Friar's balsam and place between the claws, and confine it there with a bandage. Should matter form, apply a poultice of three-fourths linseed meal and one-fourth common turpentine, which should be daily renewed till suppuration takes place, which, when ripe enough, should be opened with a lancet. After this, apply the Friar's balsam as above; or if the case be obstinate, anoint with butyr of antimony, washing occasionally with the Chloride of lime.

**EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENT.**—A most singular occurrence has just taken place at Owthorne, near Patrington, in Holderness. On the 10th ult., a fine male fox made his appearance among a flock of lambs, belonging to a widow in that place, and became so much attached to one of the lambs that he could not be driven away. The most extraordinary part of the whole affair is, however, the fact that the lamb also declined to be parted from its strange companion, and now the pair are seen daily, seldom far from each other.—*Hull Packet.*

**IS SOAP ASHES A GOOD MANURE?**—Soap ashes is a good, useful, and lasting manure, for cold, strong, wet pastures, and peat or moory soils, applied in large quantities, which may be at the rate of from 150 to 200 bushels per acre, either alone or in compost with earth. On arable soils it is a useful dressing, at the above or a greater rate, ploughed in a month previous to sowing the corn or other crops. It is also a very fertilizing ingredient, mixed with farm-yard manure, and its principal part being

lime and chalk, it is useful in any soils in which lime is required, and can be applied in the same proportions, and is useful for pasture, wheat, barley, oats, turnips, and potatoes. It also destroys grubs, slugs, and the larvae of all insects.

**HOW TO DESTROY RATS.**—Feed the rats plentifully, and without disturbance, for a few nights with oatmeal, dough, or some other palatable food; when their confidence is gained, poison the food with powdered white arsenic or rat-bane; take care that no living thing can have access to the poisoned food till you lift or destroy the remainder in the morning; there will be no use in laying the poison a second night in succession, as the rats will not touch it, but repeat the operation in six weeks or two months—it is the only effective way to thin their numbers; you should not let your hand touch the food, either poisoned or unpoisoned; the rats will smell it. Use a wooden spatula for that purpose.

**NEW PROCESS FOR PRESERVING WOOD.**—M. Brochard's plan for preserving wood, which differs very little from other methods now in use, or at least proposed for the same purpose, is, first by means of a pneumatic apparatus, worked by a steam engine, to exhaust the wood of its sap and other watery liquids; then by means of compression to force into the exhausted wood two other liquids one after the other, which combining in the interior form an insoluble salt of iron. The author produced before the Academy of Sciences at Paris, two pieces of deal which had been experimented on at Gênes by M. Brochard, engineer of the Ponts et Chaussées. These two pieces of wood had been used as piles, and had been covered by sea water to the depth of three or four yards; one of them which had not been in any way prepared was very much attacked by the worm, whilst the others which had been prepared in M. Brochard's way, was scarcely attacked at all.

**NITRATE OF SODA FOR AFTER-GRASS AND WEAK CLOVER.**—This dressing, at one time used for many crops for which it was not suitable, has since fallen into undervalued neglect. That the liquid manure of the farm is the best for after-grass, is now beyond question. When we see a report, at the Royal Agricultural Society, of rye-grass cut six times a year, yielding altogether at the rate of 118 tons per acre (1), by only giving it a good watering with liquid manure, immediately after each cutting; thus making it grow three feet in six weeks; we have probably reached the limits of practicability for this climate. But how many farmers have not the means and convenience of thus collecting and applying their liquid manure.

For these nitrate of soda is probably the best substitute. Without pretending to approach the report above, it will, nevertheless, when properly applied, produce surprising effects upon the after-grass, and upon poor hungry clover.

It must be strewed, in wet weather, as soon after cutting as possible. 1-2 cwt. per acre is not too much; but where money is very scant (a too common case now among farmers), 1 cwt. may do, though of course not so well.

For after-grass it should be mixed with six or eight times its weight (or more) of wood ashes; and for weak clover it should be, per acre, 1 cwt. nitrate of soda, 2 cwt. gypsum, and 6 or 8 cwt. wood ashes.

If the grass or clover is not intended for cutting, it may be strewed any time from May to September; but not in the short days, or early spring, as its effect is very dependent upon sunshine; and a wet day must be chosen, that it may be washed into the soil, as its great strength may do more hurt than good if lying dry on the surface.

**ANCIENT PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.**—In the year 1352, the 25th of Edward III. wages paid to hay-makers were but 1d per day; a mower of meadows 3d per day, or 5d an acre; reapers of corn, in the first week in August, 2d; in the second, 4d per day; and so on until the end of the month, without meat, drink, or other allowance, finding their own tools. For thrashing a quarter of wheat 2 1-2d; a quarter of beans, peas, barley, or oats, 1 1-2.—By the 13th of Richard II., in the year 1389, the wages of a bailiff of husbandry was 13s 4d a-year, and his clothing once during that period at most; a carter, 10s; shepherd, 10s; oxherd, 6s 8d; cowherd, 6s 8d; a day labourer, 6s; a driver of ploughs, 7s. In 1444, the 23d of Henry IV., the wages of a bailiff of husbandry were 23s 4d per annum, and clothing to the price of 5s, with meat and drink. In time of harvest a mower had 4d a-day, and without meat and drink, 6d; a reaper or carter, 3d a day—without meat or drink, 5d; a woman labourer, and other labourers, 2d a day—without meat or drink, 4 1-2 a-day. By the 11th of Henry VII., 1696, there was a like rate of wages, only with a little advance.

### PROTESTANT CORNER.

**THE INQUISITION FOILED.**—A correspondent of the *Daily News* writes from Rome—A grand escape of condemned, or more properly speaking accused, priests, took place the day before yesterday from the Inquisition, where they were confined, some for acting as regimental chaplains, some for having blessed the Republican troops, and others for similar offences against ecclesiastical decorum. They succeeded in effecting a subterranean excavation from their dungeon to upper day or rather night, for they made off about one o'clock after midnight, without being molested by the French sentries in the neighbourhood, for as it had been denied that there were any prisoners in the vaults, the soldiers did not consider themselves obliged to watch very strictly. Some women of the Trastevere quarter are said to have assisted considerably in the liberation of the prisoners, of whom from nine to thirteen are variously stated to have escaped. A few, amongst whom was M. Gazzola, of literary and newspaper fame, refused to leave the prison, alleging that, being accused of pecuniary peccadilloes, flight would be equivalent to a confession of guilt; and some unfortunates finally were prevented from profiting by the general move, and emerging with their companions to *riveder le stelle*, by the dreadful predicament of one of their number, who, being a very stout man, got jammed in the escape hole, and fixed himself so firmly in the wall by his own efforts, that finding return as tedious as to go on, he was obliged to remain until the other got out and by some means got away.

**PERJURY AT DOLLY'S BRAE.**—The manifest perjury at the late Dolly's Brae investigation, has appalled the honest men of all parties. A very intelligent observer who was present at the Castlewellan investigation, had his attention arrested by a proceeding adopted by each Romanist witness immediately on being sworn. And as he continued to watch, his conjecture was confirmed, by an induction absolutely universal; no witness on that side—no not even the priest—presented an exception. *Each Papast after he was sworn, spat on the ground; the priest himself expectorated as distinctly as his flock.* This it is true may have been accidental. The uniform coincidence however is at least curious. It is, however, quite possible that the wretched peasant may believe that the obligation of his oath and the taint of perjury were thus carried away—*"lustrabitis callidus expiata."* Here at least is some new matter for reflection, or at all events for conjecture, as respects the genius and character of Irish popery. On the fact our readers may altogether rely.—*Dublin Herald.*

**POPISH REACTION IN ITALY.**—Much sensation has been created among the English residents in Tuscany, by the peremptory command of the Prefect of Luca, that Captain Pakenham of the British Navy, should quit the territory in three days, and upon no account to return without special permission of the government. The offence charged against Capt. P. is, that he placed in the hands of a paralytic patient in the hospital a religious tract. The British residents immediately convened a meeting upon the subject, when a strong protest was agreed to, which was to be forwarded to the British Minister at Florence.

**PIUS IX AND PILGRIMAGE.**—It is mentioned in a letter from Rome, as on good authority, says the *Freeman's Journal* of New York, that Pope Pius IX has declared his intention of making a pilgrimage soon to the "Holy House of Loretto," to return thanks to the Virgin Mary "in that renowned sanctuary, for the deliverance of Rome from the despotism and plunder of the Radicals."

**REFUSAL OF THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE DR. ACHILI.**—Monsieur de Tocqueville has redeemed his pledge concerning Dr. Achili. Nothing can be more straightforward than his conduct. The Inquisition replies to his remonstrance, that they have grounds against Dr. Achili other than religious. We have been made acquainted with an extract from a despatch from Rome, detailing the grounds. We are informed that there is reason to disbelieve these accusations. But we can only say, let them be investigated—publicly, impartially, immediately.—these conditions France owes to herself to enforce. An oppressed man claims the protection of a chivalrous nation. To allow a man to be detained in custody, on vague charges, in a city occupied by the French arms, would be contrary to every idea of justice. The Code Napoleon would not allow this, and the Code Napoleon is one of the conditions of the President's letter to M. Ney. We claim