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### AGRICULTURAL.

#### FATTENING CATTLE.

We take the following extract from the Journal of the New Brunswick Society, for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Home Manufactures, and Commerce.

Cattle put up to fatten should have a house for themselves apart from the other stock, it should be warm, but well ventilated and kept as clean as possible, the dung should be removed at least twice a day, as the smell is decidedly injurious to the animals, and apt to make them loathe their food. Turnips will necessarily form the staple portion of their food, but it will be highly useful to alternate them, with other matters such as potatoes, carrots, bruised oats, oil cake, &c., mangold-wurzel does not seem to be very suitable for the manufacture of beef; the times of feeding are, say, 5 morning, 11 forenoon, and 4 afternoon, and these or any other times fixed upon should be regularly attended to: a little hay or straw should be given between meals, and the cattle should be well littered up and kept as quiet as possible; considerable difference of opinion exists among feeders as to the propriety of cooking the food given to Cattle—some years ago, experiments were made at the suggestion of the Highland Society, Scotland, as to the comparative value of raw and cooked food, and the result was that though the beasts kept on cooked food gained a little more weight in the course of the trial than the others kept on raw food, yet the gain was not equal to the expense of preparing the food.

In this country where the winters are so much colder, turnips are liable to be frozen, the superiority of the cooked food would probably be more marked; perhaps the proper way would be to compromise the matter by giving the first two meals raw, and the evening one cooked; when potatoes are used we would recommend that they should be boiled and mixed up with cut straw or chaff.

The quantity of food proper for a meal, will depend on the size of the animal, but the following quantities will not be very wide of the mark for an ordinary sized beast, (supposing three feeds per day to be given,) turnips 30lbs., potatoes 20lbs., carrots 20lbs., bruised oats or corn 6lbs., and oil cake about 5 lbs.

The great secret of the business is, to find out what quantity of food the Cattle will eat without impairing their appetites or producing loathing, an evil particularly to be guarded against; for this purpose the person in charge should watch the animals during their meals, and if any portion of the food is left after the appetite is satisfied, it should be carefully removed and a corresponding quantity subtracted from the other meals. It must be borne in mind however, that the greater quantity of food the beast can be made to consume without producing satiety the sooner he will be ready for the butcher, and the less the food required to be expended in feeding him, or the greater will be the quantity of meat in proportion to the food consumed.—thus suppose it requires at the rate of sixty bushels of turnips to bring an ox to a certain condition in forty days, and that one-fourth part, or fifteen bushels of those turnips would be required during that time to support the animal system, and that 7s. 6d. be paid for the labour of feeding, if the period of feeding the ox were prolonged to four times forty, viz: one hundred and sixty days, the whole sixty bushels of turnips and 7s. 6d. worth of labour would be exhausted in merely sustaining the original condition of the ox, without any accumulation of meat since first put up, on the other hand, if the ox can be induced to consume the food with a good appetite, so as to be raised to the above condition in twenty days instead of forty—twenty days support of the animal system or seven and a half bushels of the turnips will be consequently saved, or the amount there is consumed will become surplus nutriment and be laid in as fat.

As cattle thrive and fatten faster in warm weather than cold, the earlier in the season they are tied up the better, provided their food is ready for them, and it will be better for the Farmer to take up a portion of his turnips before they have attained their full size, than to delay the business till the end of the season.

If cattle are put up in good condition and carefully at-

tended to they should be ready for the butcher in four months, Farmers however should be provided with food for six months consumption at least, he will thus have a greater choice of market days, and otherwise he will be no loser by the delay, as his cattle will pay him fully as well for the last two months as they will do for the first four. With respect to the ages at which cattle are put up to fatten your Committee believe that two and a-half years is the best age for the breeds of cattle now in the Province, or about three years old when killed, that after they are past eight or nine there is small chance of their paying for stall feeding; old oxen, and cows that are past milking are therefore inadmissible, and should be made the most of on the pasture.

**COMPOUND FOR FATTENING CATTLE.**—Flax-seed and oil-cake have long been considered very valuable for fattening cattle. The English farmers prize these articles highly, and great quantities are imported and used in the British Islands. Oil-cake is even carried from this continent to fatten English beef. One great advantage which the English farmer thinks he derives from the use of it, is the improved quantity of the manure, and this is considered of such consequence as to balance a large portion of the expense of the cake. Flax seed or linseed oil, has likewise been sometimes used, mixed with bran, &c., for fattening animals, and the effect has been a very rapid gain. We have occasionally used flax-seed for cattle with good advantage, by boiling it and mixing with meal, cut hay, &c. We recollect the practice of one man in particular, who, more than twenty years ago, was considered to have great success in fattening cattle, he boiled a quantity of flax-seed, or instead of that, pulverized oil-cake, with potatoes, and scalded meal, (either from barley and corn,) in such quantity that when the mixture was cold it could be cut out in pieces, and in that shape was given to the cattle while they were in their stalls.

In the third volume of the American Farmer, is an article by Nathan Landon, of Litchfield, Conn., on the subject of feeding cattle with cut straw, oil-cake and flax-seed.—says he fattened an ox and a three year old heifer, with less expense, even, than that of common keeping, by the following process. He says—"I boiled about two quarts of flax-seed and sprinkled on to cut straw, which had been previously scalded and seasoned with salt, together with some oil-cake and oat-meal, working them together in a tub with a short pitch fork, till the whole became an oily mush. I fattened the heifer first—she was of ordinary size, and in good order to winter. I gave her about three pecks, [of the mixture] which she ate voraciously, and in the course of four days, when the seed was gone, she was visibly altered. I fed her regularly in that way about two months, in which time she had eaten about one bushel of boiled flax-seed, with the other ingredients in proportion—when she was butchered, she weighed 584 pounds, 84 pounds of which was tallow. She would not have sold before fattening for more than \$16. I sold two quarters of her beef for \$18 13cets. She cost me not more than \$10, exclusive of the hay and straw she ate, which was chiefly scalded as above. On the first of February I began with the ox. I fed him about three months, but not altogether so well as I did the heifer. He digested about one pint of boiled flax-seed a day, prepared as above, which I suppose formed half the fat in these two cattle.—The ox was short, measured [girthed] seven feet two in., and when killed, weighed 1082 pounds, and had 182 pounds of tallow. He cost me while fattening, twenty-five cents a day; he had previously cost me thirty-five.—My nett gain in fattening those two cattle, was more than all I have cleared before in fattening oxen and cows in fifteen years; and this is owing, I think, chiefly to the use of flax-seed. I never fattened cattle that appeared so calm, so hearty, and digested their food with so much natural ease and regularity as these. I kept my cows in the same way in the month of March for one third the expense of hay. It makes excellent milk and butter."

**SALT AND SOOT.**—The power of soot as a top dressing to either wheat or pasture land is materially increased by the admixture of one fourth of common salt. In the fourth volume, p. 270 of the Royal Agriculture Society's Journal it is stated that fifty-four bushels of soot and six of salt produced larger crops of Altringham and white Belgian carrots than twenty-three tons of stable manure and twenty four bushels of bones, at half the cost. It is best to use the land where used as top dressing for wheat, after the soot is spread, as that prevents the evaporation of the ammonia which is the most essential part of the manure. To mix it with lime is most injurious, as that alkali causes the rapid dissipation of the ammonia.

### LECTURE ON EDUCATION BY MR. D'AVRAY GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

(Concluded.)

Thus an effort has at length been made to infuse into our ancient seats of learning, something of the general knowledge that has grown in the world since the days when they were founded. For those who desire to make it so, a Cambridge education may in future be a positive reality, and shape itself to actual necessities and wants.—The future Lawyer, Statist, or Physician, may here have received the bias that determined his career, and opened to him its distinctions—most of all, society will be the gainer. It will obtain the securities of knowledge, derived from systematic study, and the advantage of system applied to the correction of knowledge. For it is impossible to conceive that if the laws of England, the lessons of History, the principles of economy have been the subject of systematic investigation for the last century, at our seats of education, we should not by this time have felt the effect in almost every direction of our public polity.—This is what James's chancellor pointed at when he attributed it to deficient training, that English Princes should so often have found a solitude in regard of the statesman like services of able men—he says, "It is even a rule in exercises, that they be framed as near as may be, to the life of practice; otherwise they so pervert the motions and faculties of the mind, and not prepare them; the truth whereof is not obscure, when scholars come to the practices of professions or other actions of civil life; which, when they set into, this want is soon found by themselves, and sooner by others."

To a reading man, the boon thus granted, will be very grateful. It will be no longer possible to describe the studies of such men, or the leisure of studious men as described by Archdeacon Hare, when he sought to account for the small affection borne by the more thinking class of undergraduates to their University, by showing how little their University could do for them. "It has come to this pass," said the conscientious and impartial witness, "that almost the only study specially fostered by the University and rewarded by its honors, except the various branches of Mathematical science is classical philology of a somewhat pedantic kind, hardly rising beyond grammatical criticism, and the minute details of Archeology. But if a certain class of studies is specially encouraged, those which are left without this encouragement are in a manner discouraged; the contrast of the sunshine deepens the shade. When a race is going on, they who do not join in it, are mostly mere bystanders, with no higher object than amusement. At all events, they cannot partake in the benefit of being swayed and borne along by a common impulse; they leave the stimulus so powerful with the young of sympathy in a common pursuit: and if they follow any peculiar studies by themselves, they are thereby set in a kind of opposition to authority, and established institutions are led to look upon them with dislike, if not with disdain, and to feel an overbearing confidence in their own wisdom." Every one has an interest in desiring that "authority, and established institutions" should not be treated thus. Every one will wish that the first effect of the present change may be to attract more closely to the University, the best and most deserving of her pupils. An Alma Mater at last, in truth, as well as in name she now offers nourishment to all her children. The probability is that the offer will not be refused or coldly met; that the dunces will diminish, and that Swift's reproach to the Universities will cease to be applicable,—that education is always the worse in proportion to the wealth and grandeur of the parents."

Oxford is following the example of Cambridge, and although the amendments proposed, are not as complete or comprehensive as could be desired, they are an earnest of future improvements.—The nursing mother will find it difficult to stop where she has begun. Having once given the child a little nourishing food, she will find it indispensible to be more liberal in her diet as his strength increases.

The new course may be succinctly described in the first instance, as giving greater efficiency to the prominent features of the old system; and in the second, as introducing new features of a more general kind than had hitherto been admitted.

The principal changes are the division of what is termed the great-go into two examinations, and the addition of two schools, embracing a variety of studies formerly excluded from the collegiate course, and having a greater or less bearing upon the ulterior pursuit of the student. This is really the true element in which university teaching has