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By M. MAC LEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Farmers' Register.

OBSERVATIONS AND ROUGH EXPERIMENTS.

1841.

1. *Gypsum.* On March 26th, 21 bushels of pulverized gypsum (French) sown at the rate of a bushel per acre on clover of second year's growth. Soil, originally acid and very poor; a light loam on sandy subsoil, well marled in 1824, since manured and altogether improved, from a product of 6 bushels of corn per acre to 25 or 30. The clover crop in May, and June 1st, freely grazed. No benefit whatever perceived on a comparison with adjoining clover not dressed with gypsum on a soil exactly similar.

2. *Green-sand.* At the same time, in the field, on similar soil, and on clover of same growth, one acre dressed with 40 bushels of green-sand, earth (not calcareous) from James river. No effect produced.

3. In March, eight acres of good loam, marled 10 years ago, product in corn supposed equal to 30 bushels, and wheat after clover 18 or 20 bushels, were dressed with green-sand earth at the same rate. Two beds left out. Clover in its first year. No perceptible benefit.

4. *Seed wheat.* Having seen old seed wheat recommended, by several contributors to the Register, of the crop of 1840, the grain of which was very good, a small quantity was kept in good order and carefully guarded against all danger of heating, or other injury. This fall, 12 bushels sown in a field of uniform and good quality, and immediately adjoining new seed of same kind (purple straw.) The sowing of both kinds commenced and finished in the same day, and operations in every respect conducted exactly alike. Quantity to the acre the same (5 1-2 pecks.) The old seed a little weevil-eaten, notwithstanding every care used in keeping it, but not enough so to be much objectionable. The old seed longer germinating, and to this day, December 31st, looks decidedly inferior to the wheat from new seed.

5. *Top-dressing with farm yard manure, and with unprepared leaves.* Eighteen acres of light sandy loam in clover of 2d year, very thin and very unimproving, was top dressed in April, 1840, with rough and unrotted manure from the farm-pen, at the rate 800 to 1000 bushels per acre. This land was marled in 1824, and though greatly improved (for before its product was 8 to 10 bushels in corn, and perhaps 3 in wheat,) was still but of middling product, and before this manuring, would not have brought more than 18 or at most 20 bushels of corn per acre, or 6 bushels of wheat after corn. The last crop of wheat, cut in 1839, after corn, was known to be only 42 bushels of wheat or 2 1-2 bushels to the acre. That crop however was very much damaged by chinch bug. The top dressing was as coarse as any trodden litter could be, many corn-stalks merely mashed, but unbroken, constituted an average of the manure of the farm-pen, which was made of the stalks and straw of the farm pen trampled by the cattle, and covered over with the manure of the stables and hog-pens every time they were cleaned out throughout the winter, which was about once a week. The hog-pens were principally littered with leaves from the woods. The effect of the top-dressing on the clover was almost immediately perceptible. In September the field was fallowed for wheat, and in June of this year 283 bushels of wheat, were cut from it, equal to 16 bushels per acre. The soil is decided a corn soil, and too light for wheat. But the most striking and gratifying proof of improvement is the frequent appearance of green-sward in many places, where it was not at all observed prior to this manuring. This valuable grass has generally made its appearance in spots of the different fields after marling, but this particular field was too poor for its growth (so as to be noticed) even after marling, until it received this top-dressing.

6. In January, 1840, about 15 acres of light loam, with sandy subsoil, in clover of second year's growth, top-dressed with 377 very large ox-carts loads of leaves, principally pine-boards raked together in adjoining woods. The covering was so thick that at one time it was thought that the clover was in great danger of being smothered. It however came through and was decidedly beneficial, except in spots where the leaves were left too thick. In the fall, the whole was fallowed for wheat. Crop 15 bushels per acre, and considered a good yield for the land. Its

product after corn has usually been about 8. Part of this land was much infested with wire grass. In getting in the wheat no means adopted to get rid of the wire-grass, except to pick up and carry off the little that the harrows brought to the surface. And in fact this piece received one harrowing less than I usually gave to such wire-grass spots, on account of a rain which interrupted the operations. This fall, 1841, in ploughing for corn, noticed that very little wire-grass was left. Could the leaves have had any agency in killing the wire-grass, by shading or otherwise? Or did the mere exposure of the roots to the sun, as some maintain, effect it? Some credit is no doubt due to the latter cause, but the former has a strong, and may be, a stronger claim; for, in similar spots, followed without any application of leaves, I have never known a similar decrease of wire grass. It may be well to mention that the above 15 acres were 10 or 12 years ago well marled—the soil, originally and previously to marling, acid.

7. *Leaves ploughed under.* In January, 1841, covered a stiff, intracutable soil, previously and so many years ago well marled, with leaves, which were ploughed under, and oats sown early in March. No benefit to the oats whatever; and when ploughing the land for wheat this fall, the leaves were turned up very little decayed.

E. RUFFIN, JR.

[The foregoing statements were furnished upon our suggestion, and in regard to most of them in consequence of our seeing or otherwise knowing the general results, and deeming them the more worth notice, because of our personal acquaintance with the original condition and character of the land, which was the subject of our own early labors and improvement by marling. Though the written memoranda of the writer furnished the by-gone but recent facts nearly as here stated, still as accurate experimenting had not been at first designed, and still less any publication of results, it is not pretended that the statements of quantities are entitled to the respect due to the results of carefully and properly conducted experiments.]

We have another and more general reason for presenting these notes of observation to our readers. It is to show that by merely noting down, in the most concise and simple form, any results or facts observed deemed worth remembering, any practical cultivator might aid in furnishing a mass of interesting facts, or suggestions of subjects for inquiry and more careful experiment. There are hundreds of our readers, who never report any thing for publication, who might in any half hour, furnish some few such observations, which, as facts, and still more as having the authority of the name of the observer, would attract general attention, and convey much of useful suggestion, and induce imitation and co-operation in the pursuit of doubtful truths—all tending to cause the making of properly conducted and accurately reported experiments. Will each one reader, who may acknowledge the value of such operation and results, do something towards producing them?—Ed. FAR. REG.]

From the Kentucky Farmer.

THE AGE OF CATTLE AS SHOWN BY THEIR TEETH.

My attention has been drawn to this subject ever since our Winchester fair. One of the judges appointed upon that occasion examined the teeth of several of the cattle that were presented there, and pronounced them to be older than represented.

Some of these cattle were bred in this country, and I know that their ages were correctly stated.

At Paris, the treatise upon cattle with the plates was introduced by one of the judges, and the teeth of some of the animals were examined to see if they corresponded. This led to suspicion that there had been imposition in some of the cattle presented.

Since that time I have examined the teeth of a number of thorough-bred Durhams whose ages I know to a day, and have found that in this stock their teeth would make them appear to be about four months in each year older than they really are. A three year old will have the teeth that, in the treatise upon British cattle is said to belong to a four year old.

I attribute this to the early maturity of the Durham stock. It is reasonable to suppose if they get their growth sooner than other cattle that they will also shed their teeth sooner. I have said about four months to the year, which was the case generally. Some showed even a greater difference.

SAMUEL D. MARTIN.

From a prize essay on making compost heaps and the value of liquid manures, written by Mr. James Dixon, and published in the Journal of the English Agricultural Society, we make the following extracts:

So. Planter. "Having brought great quantities of both peat and saw-dust into my farm-ard, I laid out for the bottom of a compost heap a space of considerable dimen-

sions, and about three feet in depth; three-fourths of this bottom was peat, the rest sawdust; on this we conveyed the daily dung from the cattle-shed, the urine also is conducted through channels to wells for its reception—one of each side of the compost heap;—common water is entirely prevented from mixing with it. Every second day the urine so collected is thrown over the whole mass with a scoop, and at the same time we regulate the accumulated dung. This being continued for a week, another layer, nine inches or a foot thick, of peat and saw-dust (and frequently peat without saw-dust) is wheeled on the accumulated heap. These matters are continuously added to each other during winter, and in addition, once in every week never less than 25 cwt.—more frequently 50 cwt. of night soil and urine; the latter are always laid next above the peat or bog earth, as we think it accelerates their decomposition. It is perhaps proper here to state that the peat is dug and exposed to the alternations of the weather for several months before it is brought to the heap for admixture; by this it loses much of its moisture. In some cases, peat contains acid or astringent matters, which are injurious to useful vegetation. On this I have not tried any decided experiment, but am led to the supposition by frequently seeing stones, some in a partial state of decomposition, others wholly decomposed in bogs, and at the depth of several feet from the surface. Some years' experience has convinced me of the impropriety of using recently dug peat; proceeding in the manner I recommend, it is superior and more convenient on every account—very much lighter to cart to the farm-yard or any other situation where it is wanted; and so convinced am I of its utility in composts for every description of soil, except that of its own character, that wherever it can be laid down on a farm at less than four shillings per ton, I should recommend every agriculturist and horticulturist that can command it, even at the cost here stated, to give it a fair trial. So retentive and attractive of moisture is peat, that if liberally applied to arid, sandy soil, that soil does not burn in a dry season, and it so much improves the texture and increases the produce of an obdurate clay soil, if in other respects rightly cultivated, that actual experience alone can fairly determine its value.

"For the conveyance of night-soil and urine, we have the largest and strongest casks, such as oils are imported in; the top of which is provided with a funnel to put the matters through, and the casks are fixed on wheels like those of a common dung cart. For the convenience of emptying this carriage, the compost heaps are always lower at one end; the highest is where we discharge the contents, in order that they may in some degree spread themselves over the whole accumulation. The situation on which the wheels of these carriages stand while being discharged is raised considerably; this we find convenient, as the compost heap may be sloped six or seven feet high; low compost heaps, in my opinion should be avoided. The plan here recommended I have carried on for some time. I find no difficulty in manuring my farm over once in two years; by this repetition I keep up the fertility of my land, and it never requires more than a moderate application of manure.

"The beneficial effects of top-dressing young clovers or mixed grass seeds is scarcely ever regarded with due attention. By this help crops are not only much increased, even thirty or fifty per cent, but they are also ready for cutting much sooner, which is a backward spring gives the stock farmer inestimable advantages for sorting his cattle, and thereby raising manure at his pleasure. The full effects of this practice I first experienced in the dry season of 1826; I had some clovers which had been manured previous winter; my land was soon covered with crop, and that so vigorous a one that the hot weather did not overpower it. My cows that summer were tied up during the day time, and in the night they were turned out into the pastures; most of the stock in my district were much distressed from over-heat as well as from being short of food for some weeks; milk yielded little butter; scarcely any for a time was offered in our large market town;—no doubt that year will be remembered by many gentlemen on the Agricultural Society's committee. I, however, was under no difficulties on account of the season; my clovers produced plenty of food for my cattle, and in return, they yielded as much milk and butter as I ever recollect from the same number. I am persuaded that the same satisfactory results would have followed if the same system had been adopted for feeding stock; it was that year my attention was first directed to raising compost heaps from urine. This I now do frequently without the help of any dung from the cattle-stalk. The same occasion called my mind to another matter

well worthy every farmers attention—I allude to the great superiority of the manure raised in summer-stalling to that produced in the stalls during winter. I verily believe the difference is fifty per cent, unless stock are fed in a great measure during winter with artificial food. In an arrangement for making compost heaps from urine, I would recommend a receptacle to be made at the back of the cattle-stalls just outside the building; this should hold about twenty cart-loads of mould, or any other matters to be employed; if its situation were a little lower than the cattle sheds, all the urine would pass into it, and remain there until the mass is completely saturated, which will be sufficient; when the earthy matters are covered over with it, the compost may then be thrown out and the proceeding again renewed. In order to show part of the benefits of this practice I beg here to observe that the most foul or weedy mould may be used; the action of the urine, if not reduced by water, is so powerful, that wire-worms, and black slug, many other destroying insects, and all vegetables, weeds, &c. when in contact with the urine for a time are deprived of their living functions. The situation for raising this compost should be protected from the weather by a covering similar to a cart shed; indeed, the deteriorating influences of rain, sun and arid winds, on all putrescent matters or compost are so serious, that in my humble judgment it would be worth while to have places under cover where these are usually laid down."

In the last "Southern Planter," a writer gives us a remedy for the mange in dogs. Although in common life things which are considered valueless are compared to a dog, yet the fidelity and affection of that valuable domestic animal have always made him an object of gratitude and care with man. If we should disregard his comforts, or neglect to alleviate his maladies, we should be wanting in those noble qualities in which he has set us the example.

Some years ago, when residing in the upper country, I had a very beautiful and favorite pointer. He became mangy over his whole body, and very much reduced, so that I expected to lose him. I had a friend residing in the neighborhood who owned a tan yard. He was kind enough to take my dog for a week or ten days, and dip him in the tan several times each day. He was then rubbed well with a mixture of tanner's oil and tar, and sent home. In the course of a short time the scales began to peel off, and new hair to grow out. He soon became the sleekest and prettiest animal I ever saw, and was never again affected with the disease, or even visited by vermin for a year or two. I often thought, by his playful antics that he was conscious of his obligations, and wished to express with kindness a gratitude which he felt; but the obligations were transferred to me, for he lived to afford me many an hour of sport and many a nice dish of game.

The disease is evidently infectious, and those that are subjects of it should not be permitted to consort with those that are not. I hope the brief remarks above, may lead to the relief of many a valuable animal for the mutual protection and enjoyment of himself and owner.

W. J. DEEPLY.

P. S. In the case above related, I first resorted to the usual remedies, such as sulphur &c., without effect.

TO KEEP SKIPPERS FROM BACON.

It is stated in the "Plough Boy," an agricultural paper recently commenced in South Carolina, that if a small piece of sulphur is thrown on the fire every day the bacon is smoking, it will effectually prevent skippers and bugs from entering. We consider this an important matter, and we are strongly disposed to believe the remedy a good one.—*Ex paper.*

The remedy may be, and no doubt is, a good one, but we doubt its propriety, believing that the fumes of the brimstone will impart a bad flavor to the bacon.—*Ed. KY. FAR.*

[If the remedy be effective in preventing skippers, no fear need be entertained of a disagreeable odor remaining. We have heard that as good effect may be produced by throwing a few pods of red pepper on the fire once in two or three days during the smoking of the bacon. The latter plan has been tried several years in our own house-keeping; and whether that or some other cause operated, there were no skippers in the bacon. In one case, salted fish in barrels, placed in the meat-house after the smoking was finished, was full of skippers, while the bacon remained free.—*Ed. Far. Register.*

An old man was remarkable for his lack of knowledge, and his irreligious habits. His sheep had wandered from home; Sunday as to him a leisure day, he devoted it to hunting them. His march conducted him to the Meeting house, just as the congregation was about going in. He entered with them, and sat down with his back to the Preacher, and near to his brother-in-law. The text was "I shall smote the Shepherd and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad." In the course of the sermon, much was said about the wandering sheep.—"Ade," said he, punching his brother-in-law, "I reckon them are my sheep, if they have bob tails, I'll be darned if they ain't!"

WONDERFUL CONTRAST.

About 47 years ago, in 1795, Alleghany, Washington, and Fayette counties, were full of distilleries, and an immense quantity of whiskey was made and sold.

The United States, in order to raise a revenue, made a law to tax it. The people refused to pay, rebelled and raised an army called the Western Insurrection army, and marched to Pittsburgh. Gen. Washington sent an army of about 3000 U. S. troops and volunteers to suppress it.—They arrived, when the whiskey army disbanded. In the year 1815 and '16 the United States put on a direct tax, and perhaps then we had 1500 stills in Washington and Alleghany counties. Now there is not perhaps 15 still houses in operation in the two counties. A few days ago a gentleman, who was U. S. Deputy Collector in Washington county in 1816, informed us that there was then 978 still-houses taxed, and \$76,000 collected of taxes for the United States; and now perhaps there is scarce ten distilleries in that county.—*Pittsburgh, (Penn.) Gazette.*

Speech of Mr. Calhoun on the Treasury Note Bill in the U. S. Senate, January 25th, 1842.

Mr. CALHOUN said: There was no measure that required greater caution, or more severe scrutiny, than one to impose taxes or raise a loan, be the form what it may. I hold that Government has no right to do either, except when the public service makes it imperiously necessary, and then only to the extent that it requires. I also hold that the expenditures can only be limited by limiting the supplies. If money is granted, it is sure to be expended. Thus thinking, it is a fundamental rule with me not to vote for a loan or tax bill till I am satisfied it is necessary for the public service, and then not if the deficiency can be avoided by lopping off unnecessary objects of expenditure, or the enforcement of an exact and judicious economy in the public disbursements. Entertaining these opinions, it was in vain that the chairman of the Finance Committee pointed to the estimates of the year, as a sufficient reason for the passage of this bill as amended.—Estimates are too much a matter of course to satisfy me in a case like this. I have some practical knowledge of the subject, and know too well how readily old items are put down, from year to year, without much inquiry, whether they can be dispensed with or reduced, and new ones inserted, without much more reflection, to put much reliance on them. To satisfy me, the chairman must do what he has not even attempted; he must state satisfactorily the reasons for every new item, and the increase of every old one, and show that the deficiency to meet the revenue, cannot be avoided by retrenchment and economy. Until he does that, he has no right to call on us to vote this heavy additional charge of five millions of dollars on the people, especially at a period of such unexampled pecuniary embarrassment. Having omitted to perform this duty, I have been constrained to examine for myself the estimates in a very hasty manner, with imperfect documents, and no opportunity of deriving information from the respective Departments.—But, with all these disadvantages, I have satisfied myself that this loan is unnecessary—that its place may be supplied, and more than supplied, by retrenchment and economy, and the command of resources in the power of the Government, without materially impairing the efficiency of the public service, my reasons for which I shall now proceed to state.

The estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury for the expenditures of the year, is \$32,997,258, or, in round numbers, thirty three millions, embraced under the following heads: the civil list, including foreign intercourse and miscellaneous, amounting to \$4,000,957 37; military, in all its branches, \$11,717,791 83; navy, \$3,705,579 83; permanent appropriations, applicable to the service of the year, \$1,572,906, and Treasury notes to be redeemed, \$7,000,000.

Among the objects of retrenchment, I place at the head the great increase that is proposed to be made to the expenditures of the navy, compared with that of last year. It is no less than \$2,503,032 13, taking the expenditures of last year from the annual report of the Secretary. I see no sufficient reason, at this time, and in the present embarrassed condition of the Treasury, for this great increase. I have looked over the report of the Secretary hastily, and find none assigned, except general reasons, for an increased navy, which I am not disposed to controvert. But I am decidedly of the opinion, that the commencement ought to be postponed till some systematic plan is matured, both as to the ratio of increase and the description of force of which the addition should consist, and till the Department is properly organized, and in a condition to enforce exact responsibility and economy in its disbursements. That the department is not now properly organized, and in that condition, we have the authority of the Secretary himself, in which I concur. I am satisfied that its administration cannot be made effective under the present organization, particularly as it regards its expenditures. I have very great respect for the head of the Department, and confidence in his ability and integrity. If he would hear the voice of one who wishes him well, and who takes the deepest interest in the branch of service of which he is the chief, my advice would be, to take time; to look about;

to reorganize the Department in the most efficient manner, on the strict principle, and to establish the most rigid accountability and economy in the disbursements, before the great work of a systematic increase is commenced. Till that is done, add not a dollar to the expenditure.—Make sure of the foundation before you begin to rear the superstructure. I am aware that there will be a considerable increase this year in the navy, compared to the expenditure of last year, in consequence of the acts of the extraordinary session. This may deduct several hundred thousand dollars from the amount I propose to retrench; but I cannot doubt that an improved administration of the moneyed affairs of the Department, with the very great reduction in prices and wages, a saving may be made more than sufficient to make up for that deduction. In speaking of improved administration, I comprehend the marine corps. And here I deem it my duty to remark, that the estimates for that branch of the service appear to me to be very large. The corps is estimated at one thousand privates, and its aggregate expense at \$502,272. This strikes me to be far too large for so small a corps, of long standing, stationed at convenient and cheap points, and at a period when the price of provisions, clothing, and all other articles of supply is low. A large portion, I observe, is for barracks, which, if proper at all, surely may be postponed if the finances are placed in better condition.

I shall now pass from the military to the naval department; and here I find an estimate of \$1,508,032 13, for harbors, creeks, and the like. I must say that I am surprised at this estimate. All who have been members of the Senate for the last eight or ten years, must be familiar with the history of this item of expenditure. It is one of the branches of the old, exploded American system, and almost the only one which remains. It has never been acquired in, and was scarcely tolerated when the Treasury was full to overflowing with the surplus revenue. Of all the extravagant and lawless appropriations of the worst of times, I have ever regarded it as the most objectionable—unconstitutional, local, mean character, and unequal and unjust in its operation. Little did I anticipate that such an item, and of so large an amount, would at this time be found in the estimates, when the Treasury is deeply embarrassed, the credit of the Government impaired, and the revenue from the lands surrendered to the States and Territories. Such an item, at such a period, looks like infatuation; and I hope the Committee on Finance, when it comes to take up the estimates, will strike it out.—It certainly ought to be expunged; and I shall accordingly place it among the items that ought to be retrenched.

Passing to the Treasury Department, I observe an estimate of \$43,932, for surveys of public lands; and under the head of "balances of appropriations on the 31st December, 1841, required to be expended in 1842," \$200,000 for the same object, making, together, \$243,932, which ought not to be in the estimates, or, if put there, ought to be credited in the receipts of the year. The reason will be apparent, when it is stated that the Distribution act deducts the expenses incident to the administration of the public lands, and, among others, that for surveying, and, of course, it must be deducted from the revenue from the lands, before it is distributed among the States, and brought to the credit of the Treasury. It is, in fact, but an advance out of the land fund, to be deducted from it before it is distributed. There are several other items in the estimates connected with the expense incident to the administration of the public lands, to which the same remarks are applicable, and which would make an additional deduction of many thousand dollars, but the exact amount of which I have not had time to ascertain. These several items, taken together, make the sum of \$4,317,322 25, that may fairly be struck from the estimates. To these there are doubtless many others of considerable amount that might be added, had I the time and means for full investigation. Among them, I would call the attention of the chairman to an item of 158,627 dollars and 17 cts., under the name of "patent fund," and comprised among the balances of appropriations on the 31st of December last, and which will be required for this year. I have not had time to investigate it, and am unprepared to explain it. Does it mean receipts of money derived from payments for patents? If so, it ought to be passed to the Treasury, and classed under the receipts of the year, and not the appropriations, unless, indeed, there be some act of Congress which has ordered otherwise. If it be an appropriation, I would ask to what it is appropriated, and to what particular objects it is to be applied this year? The chairman will find it in page 40, of the document containing the estimates.

I would ask the chairman also, whether the interest on the trust funds, including both the Smithsonian and Indian, which may not be applied to the objects of trusts during the year, have been comprehended in the receipts of the year? We pay interest on them, and have the right of course to their use, till required to be paid over. The interest must be