LIVE STOCK.

STOCK RAISING IN THE SOUTH.

There is a class of men throughout the piney woods belt of the south, who have devoted themselves to cattle and sheep raising. Some of their establishments are large, including one to three thousand cattle, and more sheep. The habits of these men are almost nomadic; of consequence they live without comforts, and their children grow up with little education. But in Georgia, and probably elsewhere under similar circumstances, they have made money, receiving only gold, which is put in a stocking or in a trunk, and is really of no more use to the owner than so much gravel. It is by no means proposed to set this mode of agricultural life as an example to the southern people, simply because it is attended with pecuniary profit. The instance is cited to show that under all the disadvantages of the case, the only class which has devoted itself to stock raising has made money.

Every planter has more or less live stock. Formerly a serious attention was given to hog raising. It was the ambition of the planter to provide his own bacon, but rarely any for sale. He had a few sheep, and, under favorable circumstances a considerable gang of cattle. But the sheep he rarely saw unless they were brought up to be salted, or the remnant of the flock ran home for protection against an incursion of the dogs. The sheep were sufficient in number to make him lose his temper when the dogs killed them, but not sufficient either in yield of mutton or wool, to counterbalance the annoyance.

Cattle were turned out in the spring generally very poor, gaining flesh slowly, as the season advanced, saleable at low prices, as grass beef in the fall. If not sold the hope was to carry them through the winter, without shelter, their only feed being straw and shucks, the supply of both being limited. No one can say that this is an exaggerated picture of the average cattle and sheep raising in the cotton states. There are, of course, exceptions. But how many of the planters who read these lines adopt a better system with regard to their sheep and cattle than the one described? Can this be called stock raising?

If a land-holder should put his cotton or corn in the ground, let them alone to find their own food, plant roots being able to travel and find their own victuals, plants having enemies as well, and then in the autumn return to pick the one and gather the other, would he be called a planter? Just as well as the man should be called a stock-raiser who leaves his stock to shift for themselves. Under this treatment of crop we might well say that farming was a failure, as well as stock-raising. Stock-raising is a business and must be followed as a business. Not a sole and separate business, but as much so as the cotton, corn, and wheat, etc., on a plantation, requiring care as regularly, though not of so long daily continuance as the crops. Growing stock must be attended to, as well as growing plants. And, when grown, both must be prepared for market, if we expect to derive a profit from them. Corn in the shuck, or cotton in the seed, would be as little likely to find sale in a distant market as half fat cattle or sheep. Instead of preparing our stock for market in the winter, they lose in the winter what they have gained in the summer and autumn—it is a a Penelope's web, lasting very often the natural life of the poor animal. When he is in fair order in the summer, he cannot be sold, for fresh meat is a drug. When he would bring a good price in market, he is too poor to eat or sell.

Besides the want of habitual attention, this offering of live stock for sale at the wrong season of the year, in consequence of their poverty in the winter, is a material cause of the failure to make live stock remunerative at the south. There is nothing in the soil, climate, products, and at certain seasons of the year, markets of the south, to render live stock unprofitable. The difficulty is in their treatment by us and our having them partially ready for market at the wrong time.

Every winter car loads, almost without number, of cattle, sheep, and hogs, are brought by rail from Kentucky and Tennessee. These animals are fed upon land often reaching two hundred dollars per acre. It is true that animals requiring corn to fatten them can be raised cheaper at the west than at the south. But it is also true that animals which do not require corn to fatten them, as cattle and sheep, can be raised with increased economy and profit as we go southward.

Every really thrifty farmer will raise his own colts, substituting oats for corn. While pork cannot be raised for sale at the south, it can be raised in sufficient quantity for home consumption. Wherever clover will grow, it requires, with the aid of peas, but little corn to fatten hogs. On this farm there a seven Berkshire shoats, weighing about one hundred pounds each, all of them fat enough for the knife, that have had no other food than that which they get in a clover lot of three quarters of an acre, since the middle of April, and will receive no other food until October, when the pea field is open. There is scarcely a farm in the south where the soil has a clay foundation and is made sufficiently rich, where the same thing cannot be done. One acre of rich land in clover will keep in first rate growing order ten hogs, that will make two hundred to two hundred and fifty pounds of pork each from the middle of April to the middle of October. This will supply the market for a large family. The hogs must not be put on the clover before it begins to blossom, nor after cold weather begins, as the roots become sweet, and they will destroy it. Sows with pigs, if put upon clover, must have some corn.

Where the soil is low and damp, it is unsuited for sheep. Dry, rolling sandy land makes the best pasture. Fall oats or rye make the cheapest winter feed where the perennial grasses are not found. Where the object is to fatten mutton in February or March for market, the turnip or sweet potato, the former folded, the latter sliced with a root slicer, with hay or pea vines answers and excellent purpose. Turnips alone will not fatten sheep for the butcher, they will keep them in good order, but some dry food is necessary in addition; when a fat sheep is spoken of in this article, the word is used in the same sense as when we speak of a fat hog whose sides shake.

The perfection of a cattle farm would be a sufficent amount of cane, or swamp lands on which the natural winter grasses grow, also a sufficient amount of upland well set in Bermuda grass. The cattle penned every night on ground designed to provide winter food for fattening them. Three year old steers and heifers raised in this way, taken from the swamp in January, well sheltered and fed with turnips, potatoes, pea vines, straw or hay, would be ready for the butcher in March, and bring a handsome price. Under this treatment, the swamp or cane brake becomes a Chincha island to the farmer who knows what to do with it. If money cannot be made by cattle raising upon a farm so situated, under judicious management, then it cannot be made by this branch of farming in any country.

Nothing is said of the dairy, because of the uncertainty of obtaining good and reliable milkers. If this desideratum could be steadily supplied, the dairy would be a source of great profit. In 1860, the butter crop of the state of New York sold for more money than the cotton crop of the state of Georgia, which was the largest ever made in that state. This is one of the departments of agriculture in which we must rely for aid on foreign skilled labor—small farmers owning their own lands, and managing the dairy within themselves and their families.

It must not be forgotten that in successful stock raising, the judicious management and husbandry of the manure is a vital point. Commercial fertilizers are in certain aspects a necessity. If the large cotton planter, could save one-half of his annual expenditures for fertilizers, by devoting a portion of his time to live stock, it would be a great gain to himself and his land.

A striking instance of the value of this kind of manuring is found on this farm. Reference is made to the crop of six acres of turnips, fed off by sheep, which was the subject of a statement by the commissioner of agriculture of Georgia, in the Rural Carolinian last winter. The success of the experiment was entire. Enough of the turnips was sold to amount to upwards of two hundred dollars, and sufficient were left to feed a flock of Merino sheep, upwards of one hundred in number. The ground is now in cotton, corn, and one and one-quarter acre in onions. It is perfectly rich and clean, and the growing crops promise beautifully. The enrichment of those acres cost the writer nothing, in fact it was thrown in. They will be sowed with oats in September, and in February with clover on the oats. Afterwards a judicious rotation for a term of years will yield heavy crops without improvement or necessity of manure.—*C. W. Howard, in Rural Carolinian.*

SHORT-HORN CATTLE.

In an interview with Mr. Wm. Curtis, a noted short-horn breeder of Michigan, the inquiry was propounded to him, why is it you prefer the short-horn, Mr. Curtis, to any other breed of cattle?

Well, sir, he said, I can very soon answer that question. Because there is more profit in them; there is more of them, you can get more out of them. The calves and young stock bring more money; they take on flesh faster. The cows give rich milk and the butter is rich. I know this, for I have tried short-horns for years. They have no superior for beef. They make good working oxen. They combine more good qualities than any other breed of cattle. They cannot be improved by crossing with any other breed. Cross a short-horn cow with a Devon or Ayrshire or Jersey bull, and you lose size. But the short-horn improves everything it touches. It is the best-known breed for improving native stock, and for this purpose alone they are invaluable. They are kind and gentle, easily handled, good breeders and good mothers, hearty feeders, and I prefer them to any other breed They all have their good points, but the short-horns, in my opinion, have the most best points.

HOW TO ITALIANIZE YOUR BEES.

To Italianize your bees safely and in the most profitable way, you must send for a good Italian queen to introduce in the strongest colony of your apiary. As soon as the new queen has arrived, take another empty hive of the same size, without bees, and insert a division board so that you will have on your left a little room in the hive for four frames. Now take from the colony which shall have the new queen, two combs with plenty of sealed brood. On one of these combs cage the new queen and bring her with the second brood-comb and all adhering bees, but without the old queen, in that little room, and give still two other combs containing only honey. The other brood-combs of the colony transferred with the old queen and bees in that room on your right hand, close the hive and then set it on the old stand. After two or three days confinement of the new queen take out the two combs from the little room at your left hand, cut out every queen cell, and set at liberty the new queen. The bees of this little colony will do her no harm. From this time you will have two queens in one hive, and each queen will fill the cells with eggs in proportion to the number of her worker-bees in her own. After some days, at your leisure, you may hunt out the old queen in the strong colony. This done, you will open some passage of the division board cut in it, and closed before you have inserted it. Having opened the passages, the strong colony will not build queen cells, and so become acquainted with each other. After one day or two you remove the division board, fill up its place with a comb from the room at your left hand, and you have safely and in the most profitable way, a new queen to a strong colony.

In the same way I have described, you will divide a small colony early in the spring, we will say at the close of April or at the beginning of May, as the weather is favorable and the colonies are sufficiently strong. Give the little colony brood-combs with sealed brood and eggs and larvæ, and let it rear a queen. (To give it a queen cell would be of great advantage.) Do this early that you may have a fertile queen in that little colony.

To make an artificial swarm, proceed as follows: Hunt out the queen of the little colony as soon as she has laid her first eggs, cage her and bring her, with some new brood-combs, in a new hive of the same size, remove the old stock from its place and bring the new one with the young queen on the old stand. After two or three days, in the evening, release the young queen, and you will have a strong swarm. The old stock you may remove to any place you like. As the old colony has a fertile queen it will increase. Do not forget to give it some water in a sponge, at the entrance, during the first two or three days after you have the artificial swarm.—*Correspondence National Agriculturist.*

THE Vermont Farmer says farmers must not expect to get rich in a day. They, like others, need more of the old-fashioned patience that "learns to labor and to wait." The most calamitous of all the results of the war of the rebellion—more deplorable than all the loss of life and a greater burden than the national debt—is the impatience of safe, moderate and wholesome ways of making money and of living. There is a disposition to get rich in a couple of years, a chafing and uneasiness in any business which does not give speedy and large returns. Speculative investments are sought in farming. Farmers shift their stock, and change all their plans to take up that which is on the top wave of success. Now, between the old, stupid, obstinate ways, which conceded the value of no improvement, and the modern reckless grasping for a phantom, there is a middle ground, which opens wide the door for improvement, and holds abundant promise for success. It is the path which leads by through culture to a higher productiveness of the soil, and a larger digestive capacity of the animals which consume the crops. That this kind of farming pays is susceptible of proof.

WORKING TEAMS IN THE COOL OF THE DAY.—A writer in the Country Gentleman says that he breaks prairie soil as follows: "The sod is in splendid condition, the grass well forward, rendering the labor of teams comparatively light. Indeed, my cattle seem to bear the toil on grass alone far better than I could expect. I am trying an experiment with my breaking this season, in order to avoid the excessive heat of mid-day. My cattle are at work as soon as it is light enough to see. They work steadily till 10 a. m.; are then turned out until 4 p. m.; and worked from that time as long as I can see. One week's trial convinces me that I can thus do more work, without danger of hurting my cattle, than to wait till 7 a. m., and work through the heat of the day. The cattle, after a week's work, take me round a land 120 rods long as fast as I have any desire to walk, pulling a fourteen-inch breaker, and cutting two and one-half inches deep."

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

The Plan for English and American Coalition—An Extension Scheme.

The executive committee of the national grange have spent considerable time in receiving and considering the proposition of the English co operators for a union for commercial purposes of the two bodies. The co-operators are represented by Thos. B. Worrall, of Manchester, England, who is the managing director of the company which is proposed as the bond of union. The British co-operative societies are not secret bodies; hence it will be impossible under existing circumstances for them to unite with the patrons, but this difficulty has been met by the formation of a trading company having the indorsement and support of the united co-operative bodies in England, and fully organized under the English laws. The propositions are to have two branches of the society, one in England and the other in the United States. The board in each country is to have the absolute control of the funds subscribed therein, and all to be used for the purpose of the international exchange of commodities. The capital is $25,000,000.

All transactions are to be for cash or its equivalent. The British co-operators number 500,000; have over one thousand stores, some fifty or sixty cotton spinning mills, about twenty flouring mills, an agricultural and horticultural society, and a number of manufactories, and, of course, consume a large quantity of American products. The funds subscribed by the English branch of the company will be employed in the purchase of ships, the erection of warehouses, and the manufacture of such articles as are in constant demand among the patrons of husbandry. These ships will bring the goods to New Orleans and other southern ports, and to eastern ports if necessary, and they desire the patrons to employ their portion of the capital in carrying American staples and products to meet these ships, and thus to make the necessary exchange in the most direct and simple manner. The co-operators have a large surplus capital, which is constantly on the increase, and which they think can be profitably employed in this trade.

While each branch of the company will have control of its own affairs the two boards will form a council, who will by joint action decide what branches of business will be engaged in, and define the method of conducting the same. An American will be sent to Liverpool to watch the interests of the grange branch of the company, and the English board will have a like representative in New Orleans, while the general supervision will be in the hands of a managing director, already elected, and who, though an Englishman born, has been twenty-three years in America. The proposition is regarded with great favor, and it is expected the sub committee of the national grange, to whom the whole matter has been referred, will report Monday.

The executive committee determined to send three of their number, viz.: Messrs. Shankland, of Iowa; Chase, of New Hampshire; and Jones, of Arkansas, to represent the patrons of husbandry in the cotton states congress, which meets in Raleigh, N. C., on the 13th inst.

SNAKE BITE.—A physician of Oregon says: "Take the yolk of a good egg, put in a teacup, and stir in as much salt as will make it thick enough not to run off, and spread a plaster and apply to the wound. Do this when bitten or stung and I will insure your life for a sixpence. I have tried this remedy in a number of cases, and have never known it to fail to cure a rattlesnake bite or the sting of a spider;" which is "important if true."

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

The Times Hard All Over the World—But a Want of Currency is Not the Cause.

New York Tribune, July 6.

There is no part of the commercial world where there is not at the present time more or less complaint of dull times. These dull times are accounted for in various ways, but the main cause of them, in our opinion, is the close interdependence among commercial nations. Take England for an example. Let us admit that she is the richest of nations, amply supplied with capital for her own uses, and having extensive productive investments in all other countries. Grant that her commercial system is perfect and still we shall find that the power of her capital and the advantages of her colossal trade have their limitations. She cannot sell to those who are too poor to buy. She cannot transgress the laws which regulate commercial credit without suffering for it. With abundant harvests and cheap food for her trade languishes and every wound inflicted on the nations with which she trades is transmitted to her nerves as by an electric shock. If dull times taught no other lesson than the unity of the modern commercial world they would not be without considerable compensations.

There is another way of accounting for hard times, which was accepted as the true theory by the majority in both houses of the last congress. These gentlemen would persuade us that the whole trouble comes from the scarcity of money. We beg to refer these gentlemen to the financial condition of England, France and the United States at this very time, as a practical demonstration that scarcity of money has nothing to do with the universal dullness of trade. We point to the remarkable fact that in each of the countries named unemployed money is extraordinary abundant. Finally, we invite attention to the circumstance that all this money in England, France and America is offered the public on the usual conditions which govern bank loans and discounts at very moderate rates of interest. In France the rate for over a year has been only four per cent. and in London for more than four months the discount rate has remained fixed at three and a half. Does this show that the business world is suffering for want of a circulating medium, either gold or paper?

Postal Points.

The law went into effect Thursday placing the fees on domestic money orders as follows:

On orders not exceeding $15, 10 cents.

On orders over $15 and not exceeding $30, 15 cents.

On orders over $30 and not exceeding $40, 20 cents.

On orders over $40 and not exceeding $60, 25 cents.

Postage on printed matter and merchandise, one cent for every ounce, or fraction thereof, up to four pounds.

The fee for registering letters will shortly be increased from eight to ten cents, in addition to the regular postage.

Postage on letters to Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Spanish possessions, Switzerland, Turkey, Italy and Denmark, has been reduced to a regular standard rate of five cents to every half ounce or fraction thereof.

By remembering these points, those who have business at the postoffice will save themselves and the clerks much trouble and annoyance.

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