

A COLUMN FOR FARMERS.

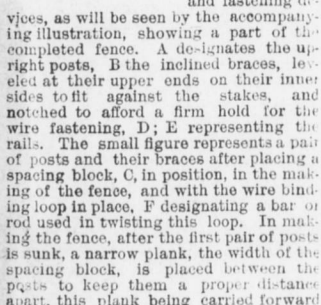
SOMETHING ABOUT FEEDING CATTLE FOR BEEF.

Some of the Reasons Why It Pays to Breed and Fatten High Class Beesves. Like Everything Else There is Always Room at the Top—The Cause of Low Prices.

Does it pay to breed and fatten high class beesves? The answer is: Of course it does. To what extent? I reply, to the full extent and capacity of all breeders and fatteners in the length and breadth of the land. The low prices current for beesves have caused a most valuable increase in our export trade with Great Britain; so pronounced is it that the exportation of beesves on the hoof is steadily on the increase. When our exports of beef are made in refrigerators the classes catered to in Great Britain are those who seek cheap meats. When we send live cattle abroad the best butchers are our customers. To supply this foreign trade only grade steers, cows, and calves are suitable. This wide selection from our herds leaves a home demand for choice beesves which is not met. Rank three-year-old coarse oxen and emaciated old cows, with scrub bulls, are now the offerings from which our slaughterers are compelled to choose if they would buy in the cattle markets on the eastern seaboard. Many local buyers cannot suit the requirements of these customers in selecting for such purposes, buy in the great western cattle centers and thereby incur the risk of shippers. This does not add the ranch man nor yet the feeder of store beesves; the latter, to reap his just profit, should obtain for his live beesves the best local rates, to effect which he should sell direct to the slaughterer in the local markets.

Ranchmen complain of low prices; wholesale butchers complain of cattle as unprofitable. Coarse, immature beesves dress below a just average value. The slaughterers are compelled to choose if they would buy in the cattle markets on the eastern seaboard. Many local buyers cannot suit the requirements of these customers in selecting for such purposes, buy in the great western cattle centers and thereby incur the risk of shippers. This does not add the ranch man nor yet the feeder of store beesves; the latter, to reap his just profit, should obtain for his live beesves the best local rates, to effect which he should sell direct to the slaughterer in the local markets.

An Improved Fence. An invention has just been patented, which provides for a fence more particularly to take the place of the old Virginia or worm fence, and enable farmers to utilize to the best advantage the rails or rail timber. It consists of stakes, braces, horizontal rails, and fastening devices, as will be seen by the accompanying illustration, showing a part of the completed fence. A designates the upright posts, B the inclined braces, riveted at their upper ends on their inner side to fit against the stakes, and notched to afford a firm hold for the wire fastening, D E representing the rails. The small figure represents a pair of posts and their braces after placing a spacing block, C, in position, in the making of the fence, and with the wire binding loop in place, F designating a bar of rod used in twisting this loop. In making the fence, after the first pair of posts is sunk, a narrow plank, the width of the spacing block, is placed between the posts to keep them a proper distance apart, this plank being carried forward



to the next set of posts, and so on until the fence has been completed. The braces are then sunk in inclined position, the spacing block inserted, and a galvanize wire fastening drawn around the tops of the stakes and posts, the ends of the wires being twisted together. The twisting rod is then used to twist the wire vertically until the parts are drawn together with sufficient force, when the rod and spacing block are removed by use with the next pair of posts, and the rails are placed in position as shown.

CHICKEN SCRATCHINGS. Save all the bones from the table, put them in an old sheet-iron pan kept for the purpose, and brown them slightly. Then pound them on a rock with a mallet, or if you can afford it, buy a bone crusher. Bone dust should not be mixed with the chicken feed. It is too stimulating, and is liable to cause enlargement of the liver in hens that are not laying. Put it where the hens can get it, and those that want it, and need it, can then eat just what they care for and no more. Have a scratching place, and do not throw the chicken grain down the clearest, hardest piece of ground you can find, but among leaves, or in straw, and make the hens scratch. Prepare the scratching ground in a place that is sheltered from the wind, and let it be a permanent affair. There is no profit in keeping mongrels in your poultry-yard when pure-bloods can be had at comparatively so small an expense. Uniform chickens are not only prettier and thus more satisfactory to care for, but they may be fed to a better advantage than can a flock which is made up of large and small. Don't cheat yourself with the belief that once a month is often enough to clean out a chicken-house. It should be cleaned every day, or at the farthest, every three days. You might about as well leave the droppings under the roosts as to throw them just outside the door. Take them to the field, or ungr a shed, and mix with an equal quantity of dry soil.

News From Abroad. Across the ocean fall the working- some to the satisfaction of the powers that be, and others quite the contrary. Over to France the irrepressible Boulanger was dethroned at the election, last week— dethroned to such an extent that he now proposed coming to this country. What for? We wonder. Perhaps he has read enough of American flunkeyism, when in the presence of an English Lord, or Prince, to inspire him with the idea of going to Congress, or of being chosen President. In England the question has been one pertaining to grants. Parliament has wrestled with the question as to whether any large appropriation, in the form of grants, should be voted for Queen Victoria's grandchildren. After a prolonged and exciting debate the question was finally settled in favor of the grants. And as Gladstone voted with the royalists, it is their turn to get him on the back, and call him the "Grand old man," thus leaving our warm sympathies with our Irish friends to grin and bear it.

One in thirty there has been serious trouble, but, however connected with politics or State affairs, but trouble resulting from atmospheric disturbances. A cyclone of tremendous force and unpunished extent has devastated hundreds of miles—destroying scores of lives, thousands of buildings, and many villages and large towns. From latest accounts the storm was the severest and most destructive of any occurring during the past century. In Ireland, cutting and evictions are not nearly as numerous as they were some time ago, but still enough of each is going on to furnish London and Dublin newspapers with almost sensational items. England, with Ireland left out, would be an interesting as Shakespeare's Hamlet with Hamlet omitted.

Media Academy and Degree Hall. We have received from S. W. C. Smith, A. M., proprietor of Media Academy, a handsomely illustrated catalogue of his school for young men and boys. Also the prospectus of Breaker Hall, a school for girls and young ladies. Both these institutions are located at Media, Pa., and are presided over by Mr. and Mrs. Smith. The school year of Breaker Hall commences on Wednesday, September 23rd, and that of the Academy September 15th. No schools that we know of enjoy larger class patronage than these.

ALL LADIES interested in the health and appearance of their faces, should use the celebrated "WATERBURY'S" Cream, which is the best and most perfect of its kind. It is sold by all druggists and dealers in cosmetics. Price, 25 cents per bottle. Six bottles, \$1.50.

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Cathartic for myself and family.—J. T. Hess, Leithsville, Pa. "Ayer's Pills have been in use in my family upwards of twenty years, and have completely verified all that is claimed for them."—Thomas F. Adams, San Diego, Texas.

Ayer's Pills. I have used Ayer's Pills in my family for seven or eight years. Whenever I have an attack of headache, to which I am very subject, I take a dose of Ayer's Pills and am always promptly relieved. I find them equally beneficial in colds; and, in my family, they are used for bilious complaints and other disturbances with such good effect that we rarely, if ever, have to call a physician."—H. Voullien, Hotel Voullien, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

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