The Bloomfield Gimes.

Tuesday, July 15, 1873.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Stock Raising in Nebraska.

BY PROP. J. D. BUTLER.

LINCOLN, Nebraska, 1873. About the 20th of March, I took the train from here for Chicago, 542 miles. Leaving this city at two on one afternoon, I should ordinarily have reached that Queen of the Great Lakes at three o'clock on the next afternoon. But on arriving at the Missouri I found it impossible to cross, for according to the local phrase it was "gorged with ice." It was as if a glacier had rushed down from an Alpine ravine and blocked up the track along a Swiss valley. Such an iceberg had not been seen there befor during this season, and it was next day swept down the river.

Meantime, however, several cars filled with cattle and hogs for Chicago, were sent back 25 miles to Ashland to spend the night in the yard where they had been kept through the winter. I went with them in order to inspect the Nebraska style of stock fattening.

One yard I visited is on a neck of land between two rivers, one fresh and one salt, so that no salt is needed for the stock. The only shelter was a close fence four feet high on one side, and hay cribs on another which broke the force of the wind. Though the winter had been the severest ever known, the cattle were in good condition, and none of them had died. They had no covering whatever overhead.

The food of the stock was mainly Indian corn each ear cut into three pieces and shoveled from a wagon into huge troughs scattered here and there in the yard. Wild hay in the side cribs was always within reach, and some of the corn, cobs and all, was ground in a horse mill into coarse meal.

The hay cost only the cutting, being free on what in England would be called "commons" The corn was partly raised close at hand, ninety bushels and upward on a single acre-and partly bought at 15 cents

The cattle were Texas-had been driven last year 1,200 miles from the far southwest. The first cost was \$12 per headand \$6 more for driving to the yard. Five dollars more will pay passage to Chicago. The last lot of a hundred sent from this sold for four and a half cents, or more than fifty dollars for each beef.

No business is growing faster in Nebras-4ca than steek-raising. None will pay better. Indian corn is too bulky for distant transport. It needs a condenser. What it needs it finds in cattle and hogs. Hogskin and cowskin make the best bags-bags that hold ten times more than canvas bags of the same size.

Ashland is a new town on the "Burlington Route' from the Mississippi River to Ft. Kearney, and twenty-five miles west of Plattsmouth. In that land-district over 25,000 home-steaders and pre-emptors have s at the United States office in Lincoln, and about 3,000 have bought B. & M. Railroad land on ten years' credit and 6 per cent interest. On land contracts since 1872, nothing of the principal is payable dill the end of four years.

Variety of Food.

Experience has proved that, for some reason unknown to science, variety is essential to health, after reaching the age when we are free to choose our food. The perpetual recurrence of the same edibles, even though their number be considerable, becomes in all periods of life except infancy mot only wearisome but positively injurious. The tack of variety in cases is due to the goverty of the poorer classes and the difficulty of buying fresh provisions in places romete from markets. Salt pork, salt fish, potatoes, with pies, poor bread, and Japan tes are the staples of food of thousands of familes during our long winters. It should be understood how needful a change of diet is from time to time. Fresh vegetables, particularly in the country, are readily obsparingly used. The edible roots, as turnips, carrots, onions, and beets, and cabbage, are as well worth preservation as the omnipresent petate. All these vegetables used thorough boiling and more than they

A Farmer says : My experience in applying ashes to potatoes with the best cresult has been to put on a single handful to each hill soon after they are planted, and before they get out of the ground. I shave increased my crop one-half by so doing. By making an experiment in the e field, by leaving a row without ashes, I have seen the result. I consider ashes etter than plaster for potatoes; worth to me 25 cents a bushel.

to A sheep with a sort nose may be made happy by the application of tar and sulphur to the part affected.

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