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Pork and Pork-Making.

In the great corn-growing districts of the western States, corn is doubtless the best food that can be raised for fattening hogs, and the system of feeding hogs that is attended with least labor and outlay. Grinding or cooking food is of very questionable economy where corn is worth only ten to twenty-five cents per bushel, yet it is in such places that pork-raising is a directly profitable business; that is to say, it pays much better to convert corn into pork than to sell it for the farm, without reckoning the value of the manure in the calculation. This arises from the fact that the relative difference between the price of corn and pork is there much more in favor of the pork than in this and the older settled States, owing to the cheap rate, compared with value, at which pork can be sent to the eastern cities. In feeding hogs, however, with corn at fifty cents per bushel and pork at four dollars per hundred, we have to be careful and economical of corn, rather than of labor, to make it pay. Grinding, cooking, or soaking in water for twelve hours or so, will repay the extra labor and expense. It is, however, doubtful whether, on no account of the manure, it is profitable to feed corn to hogs at fifty cents per bushel and pork at four cents per pound. Many good farmers think it will not, and keep only sufficient hogs to eat up what would otherwise be wasted, making their pork in summer on sour milk, and finishing off with apples, small potatoes, pumpkins, and "nubbins" or immature corn, in addition to milk. In this way the actual cost of pork-making is little more than the labor, and the profit considerable. But this system is necessarily limited, and what is acquired is a profitable plan for feeding hogs &c., on a large scale, it being otherwise impossible to maintain our farms in a high degree of fertility; that is, we can not export a greater part of the hay, corn, &c., from a farm and keep it in good heart—without, indeed, we purchase instead of making manure, which in many localities is probably the cheapest way. But, as a general rule, our farmers must keep more stock, make more pork, mutton, and beef, off their farms, before the maximum produce of the soil can be obtained, or rationally expected.

In a rigid system of farm management, we must judge of the economy of growing a certain crop, or feeding with a particular kind of manure, by its effects on other crops of equal or greater importance. Thus on wheat-growing farms, we have to look not merely to the profit of growing one crop, or feeding, &c., alone, but to the effect it has on the ultimate object—the production of wheat. And the system of farming is best which yields the least profit as a whole, even though actual loss is sustained by growing and feeding out of the crops, &c. In fattening hogs, therefore, we have to consider what is the best method to adopt, taking into account the expense at which the food used can be grown, the effect of its growth on the soil, the amount of pork it will produce, and the value of the manure made by its consumption. To determine these points satisfactorily, requires more knowledge than we at present possess; and a series of experiments are needed before we can say that the principal object on a wheat farm would be the accumulation of ammonia; for it is impossible in any other way to increase the wheat crop, when on most soils increases or diminishes as ammonia is supplied or withheld as in nature. The wheat plant not only consumes, but actually destroys ammonia, during its growth. Corn, barley, and oats, as supposed, from good reasons, to do the same; and therefore none of them is the crop which we should grow for the purpose of feeding out on the farm, with the object of obtaining ammonia for the wheat crop. But peas do not destroy ammonia to any extent in their growth, and contain four times as much nitrogen (the essential element of ammonia) as corn; so that not only is a crop of peas produced without any destruction of ammonia, but the manure made by hogs eating them would contain four times as much ammonia as that made by those eating corn, and would therefore be four times as valuable as a manure for wheat. Foods, too, containing a high percentage of nitrogen are highly nutritious; and not only are they adapted for supplying the wear and tear of animal tissues in working horses and cattle, but experiments prove that they will actually produce the most fat and better, although these substances contain no nitrogen. Hence we may expect that, weight for weight, peas will make more pork, mutton, or beef, than corn, barley, or oats.

Raising a crop of peas is attended with much less labor than a crop of corn, it is a first rate preparative for a wheat crop, and is of the land in good time for preparing it for wheat sowing. The principal objection to growing peas in Western New York, is the destructiveness of "pea bug"; but if we grow peas as here advocated, for feeding hogs, this difficulty is removed, from the fact that the bug does little injury to the pea till late in the fall, or winter, and in feeding them to hogs they may be given as soon as harvested, and may be all eaten and the hogs ready to butcher before cold weather sets in, and renders more food and attention necessary. Peas are first rate food for horses, cattle, and sheep; but for the hogs especially they should be very dry, and therefore it is not desirable to feed them to him soon after cutting. So that, during the prevalence of the pea bug, the hog appears to be the best animal for feeding with peas, and answers every purpose. The pork of bacon from pea-fed hogs is considered finer, and of altogether a superior quality. We would recommend that the peas be soaked in cold water from twelve to twenty-four hours before feeding to hogs.

In making these remarks, it is not intended to unduly commend our grand natural crop, peas. In many districts, this is the best crop that can be grown for all purposes; yet on wheat farms where the principal object is the growth of

wheat, we would not grow corn for the purpose of feeding hogs—peas being a better crop, because produced at less expense to the soil, and affording the most valuable manure for the wheat crop.—Genius Farmer.

Common Schools.

The constable or collector who receives from the treasurer the schedule of unpaid school taxes, under the provision of the 29th section of the general school law of 1849, is responsible for all the taxes which by due or ordinary diligence he might have collected, the persons charged having property sufficient and liable for the taxes. School directors acting together as a board, (where there are no sub-districts,) alone may properly employ and fix the salaries of teachers. Where there are sub-districts the committees select the teacher, subject to the approval of the board of directors. A custom to employ and pay teachers without the sanction of the board, cannot be recognized as a valid custom, and be of itself set up as conclusive evidence of binding on the board. But where the custom existed, and a teacher was employed by a director, and taught under his contract for a limited time, with the knowledge of the board, was officially known and recognized as a teacher, or either by having his school and number of scholars taught, &c., returned in the annual report of the superintendent, or by the receipt of his own reports to the board, or by payment of expenses for fuel, &c., or on account of his salary, or in any other way, he may recover and require payment from the board for the amount due him, as per agreement with the director employing him; not because the contract was originally binding on the board, but because by their subsequent conduct, during the period the teacher was actually rendering the services, the board, implicitly at least, ratified and approved the contract and made it their own. Committees of sub-districts have no power to close schools. The directors of the district are responsible for maintaining and keeping open the schools of the district, and the care which the committee may exercise must be subject to the use of the schools under the board of directors, and not to care to the extent of closing them; otherwise such closing would defeat their use.

The school directors alone have the control over the school houses of the district. They hold them to be used for school purposes only, and they prohibit their use for any other purpose than school purposes when held solely by the school district, unless in cases where the purpose is innocent or promotive of public good, and not objected to by any considerable portion of the tax payers of the district. Even in such cases the directors have the right to refuse the use of the school houses. If other parties take possession of the school houses, without the consent of the directors, they are trespassers, and may be held jointly or severally liable for all the damages done, in a civil action, and also, where the taking of possession was by force and violence, be prosecuted criminally for a forcible entry. Guardians resident within a district of wards residing elsewhere, may be required to pay the school tax upon all the fixable personal property they represent on behalf of the wards. Real estate is taxable only in the district in which it is located.

The 11th section of the general school law of 1849 provides:—If it shall be found that an account of great distance or difficulty of access to the proper school house in any district, some of the pupils thereof could be more conveniently accommodated in the schools of an adjoining district, it shall be the duty of the directors of such two adjoining districts to make an arrangement by which such pupils may be instructed in the most convenient school of the adjoining district, and the expense of such instruction shall be paid as may be agreed upon by the directors of such adjoining districts. From this extract the duty of the directors to make, under the circumstances there contemplated, the necessary "arrangement" is expressly enjoined, and directors cannot avoid making the same, upon proper request, without a clear violation of such duty and proper liability for such delinquency. The basis of the arrangement is that "the expense of such instruction" shall be paid to the board of directors of the district teaching the pupils, by the adjoining district. The amount of tax paid by the parents or guardians of the pupils should not be regarded in making the arrangement; for all the children of a district have an equal right to the benefits of the common school system. "The expense of such instruction" can be readily ascertained by a reference to the whole number of pupils taught in any one district, and the entire cost of teaching the same. The right of pupils who are thus located in reference to the schools, or their own and of an adjoining district, is as undoubted and well sustained by the law as the right of a pupil to be taught in his own district.—Keyston.

Modern agriculture is not particularly venal for its avarice. It is of rapid growth and cheaply raised. It is generally of a night's growth. A tripping vagrant drags a prize in a lottery and presto change! his vulgar veins are filled with better blood than that of his plebeian neighbors. A one horse imitation of him in all save the soul, makes property by gouging the poor. He drinks better liquor, assumes airs and gives parties. An honest poor man works until he secures a fortune. His daughters "fly high" and toss their empty heads as they pass working girls? Well, fortunate for some people that money is a substitute for brains. The man who does not know enough to chew gum, needs but money to make him eligible to the affections of scheming mamma's.

This triumph of truth are the most glorious, chiefly because they are the most bloodless of all victories, deriving their highest laurels from the number of saved, not of the slain.

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