

THE RECORDER.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

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SHEEP AS LAND IMPROVERS.

A writer in the Rural World gives the following summary of the effects of sheep on land:

Next in importance are the relations of sheep husbandry to an improved system of agriculture. These considerations apply much less to simply pastoral husbandry, like that of California and Texas, than to sheep culture pursued as a branch of a mixed husbandry.

Mr. Mechi, the most famous of the living scientific farmers of England, estimates that 1,500 sheep folded on an acre of land for twenty-four hours, or 100 sheep for fifteen days, would manure the land sufficiently to carry it through four years' rotation.

As farmer are now about employing help for the season, there are various questions to be consulted in doing so. Cheap hands are seldom profitable. An inefficient, slovenly, careless or vicious man is not fit to be trusted with business.

The raising of hay for market is increasing throughout Vermont, and especially in the famous grass region of the Champlain Valley, where farmers claim that good crops can be raised yearly if stock are kept from the meadows, many of which, especially the 'clay farms,' have not been seeded for twenty years, and yet yield a fair amount of hay.

One great cause of failure among the farmers of this country lies in suddenly rushing from one business to another, without giving any branch of farm economy a fair trial.

Turnips can be fed in connection with other food to much advantage. They should be boiled and mixed with some more concentrated food in fattening swine.

Horace Greeley once remarked that you might say good things of a public man daily for sixteen years and get no thanks for it, but cap it all with a half column of criticism, and you heard from him instantly and were made to feel the weight of his displeasure.

As a note of travel—on foot—the remark of the tramp who was begging something to eat is one of the best on record. He was so thin, he said, that when he had a pain he couldn't tell whether it was a stomachache or a back-ache.

The cow is a machine for secreting milk, and this machine should be developed to the greatest perfection. A poorly developed animal cannot have its secretory system in a vigorous and active state.

HOW TO PLOW.

In his address on 'Plowing' before the State Board of Agriculture of Connecticut, Professor Brockbridge said: 'There are two kinds of soil on every man's farm—the agricultural soil and the subsoil. The agricultural soil may be two inches deep, or it may be nine, but it is not twenty feet. It is no deeper than the air can penetrate. If the agricultural soil is too shallow, it may be gradually deepened by lifting an inch of the subsoil at each plowing, bringing it up to the air and enriching it with manure. Our agricultural society committee, by their premiums for smooth, shiny, flat furrows, have done the community great harm. Such plowing as oftenest takes the premium is the poorest kind of plowing. The soil is best plowed when it is most thoroughly crushed, twisted and broken, with the sod well covered. On some kinds of land I would have the furrows lapped as much as the Canada farmers plow. Let the air and water have a chance to circulate under near the surface. Light lands, however, should have a flat furrow.'

Experiment stations are regarded by the foremost countries of Europe as indispensable to the welfare of agriculture and the state, and are accepted as the most efficient auxiliaries in promoting the progressive and remunerative culture of the soil. Notwithstanding nearly every state in our own country has annually made liberal appropriations for the encouragement of agriculture, in the form of bounties to societies, premiums on specific productions, appropriations to colleges, and other similar expenditures, yet the subject of establishing experiment stations has not received that attention which its importance demands.

Both science and experience prove that manure is a valuable fertilizer, especially for the onion tribe. As a top-dressing to grass its effect is excellent. On peas, asparagus, strawberries, and indeed on nearly all growing crops the application of manure produces marked results. When sown broadcast some of the ammonia in it escapes into the atmosphere and is wasted. It should, therefore, be mixed with water, say at the rate of twelve quarts of water to a hoghead of manure, and used as a liquid manure. A mixture in the above proportion makes a very powerful fertilizer.

SHADE IN PASTURES.—The only real argument against shade trees in pastures is that the animals collect there and deposit manure where it is not wanted. This may be avoided by erecting temporary shades that can be removed from time to time to different parts of the field, and thus to double duty, affording comfort to cattle and manuring land. These temporary shades may be placed on barren knolls and the poorest spots in the pasture, having the effect of inducing increased fertility where most needed.

Clover as a green crop is our best fertilizer, mellowing and enriching the land largely and well down, and at the same time growing profitable crops. But it takes time. For land that requires immediate enrichment there is nothing equal to the pea, a rank grower, shading the ground, and thus favoring moisture and mellowness. The pea here meant is the Southern, or cow pea.

The farmer who applies fertilizers to his crops should seek to force his plants to take as much of this fertilizer as possible each year; for otherwise it will require a large capital to lie idle in the ground, and increase the charge on investment, besides the waste which occurs from the washing of the soil.

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