



LVII.—CLIMATIC ADVANTAGES OF THE SOUTH OVER THE NORTH AND WEST FOR FARM WORK AND FEEDING STOCK.

Messrs. Editors: I wonder if the farmers of The Progressive Farmer territory realize the advantage they enjoy over the farmers of the North and West in the matter of climate? And are we making use of this advantage as much as we should in doing our farm work and the feeding of live stock?

The Difference in Cost of Grain.

The point is made that we cannot compete with the West in the feeding of cattle because of the high price of grain in our section. But look at the question fairly and let us see if our Western neighbors have such an advantage after all. Corn usually sells about one-fourth higher in our section than in Illinois—that amounts to about fifteen cents per bushel; in fact, Western corn may be shipped to our section at about fifteen cents per bushel; so the above is a fair estimate of price, and we may conclude that in the matter of purchased corn feed, the West would have us at a disadvantage of about one-fourth, providing the climates were the same.

But it Requires More to Supply Animal Heat in the Colder Sections.

We all know that a considerable portion of our grain feed goes to the keeping up of the animal heat of beasts being fattened. The difference in temperature between Piedmont South and Middle West is around 20 degrees; that is, when Illinois cattle are burning up corn to withstand a temperature of 10 degrees below zero, Piedmont cattle are just feeling frisky with the mercury about 10 degrees above zero. We will make a rough guess that in this warmer climate of the Piedmont section a pound of meat may be made on the same quality of cattle at a cost of one-fifth less corn than in the colder climate.

We would like to have the Experiment Stations work out this problem in actual experiments, using the same sheds, feeds, and same quality of cattle. We will concede that the Western farmer has a little the advantage up to this point.

The South Can Grow Roughness a Third Cheaper.

But wait a little: the South has another great grain feed that is being shipped West in considerable quantities for the feeding of cattle. The Southern farmer has the advantage here of about one-fifth, as this great concentrate (viz., cottonseed meal) is produced right at the Southern feeder's door. Any practical farmer who is acquainted with conditions in both sections will admit at once that rough feed can be produced in the South at about two-thirds the cost of production in the Northern section because (1) of the more luxuriant growth of all manner of forage crops in the sub-tropical section, (2) the present low market value of the Southern lands, necessitating only one-fifth the interest charged against the land on which the forage crop is grown in the South, and (3) the fact (which is not generally known) that a team will cultivate about one-third more land in corn in our section than will the same team in the North because of our open winters, allowing all land to be broken before spring arrives.

The last is not theory, but a fact that we have proved to our satisfaction. We are handling our place of 240 acres in the Piedmont with the same team power that we used in working 150 acres in the North, the same sort of farming being done in each case. But to secure this advantage, we must take advantage of the pleasant winter weather to do our plowing, manure hauling, etc. Then when the warm spring days arrive we are ready to harrow and cultivate our crops, keeping our work well in hand.

Direct Profit as Great, Indirect Profit Greater.

In conclusion, we believe we are safe in saying that cattle may be fed in the South with the assurance that as great a direct profit may be expected as is secured by the feeder in the West, and that we may expect a far greater indirect profit from the rapid increase in value of our well cared for Southern lands. But of course we must give careful heed to the saving and applying of the manure made during the feeding period if we would reap the greatest profit from our labor.

A. L. FRENCH.

R. F. D. 2, Byrdville, Va.

The New Senator From Kansas.

The Senate will have a little sporting blood infused into it when the new Senator from Kansas, Hon. Charles Curtis, dons his toga and take his place among the statesmen. Not only is Mr. Curtis one who is familiar with the ways of race-horses, but he is also proud of the Indian blood which flows in his veins. He has been a jockey, a peanut vender and a cab-driver—and all the time he was studying at odd moments. Finally he read law in the office of a Topeka lawyer, who took him into partnership. Then he entered politics. Last November he was elected to the House of Representatives of the Sixtieth Congress for his eighth successive term. Now he has been named by the Republican caucus of the Kansas Legislature for Senator. Mr. Curtis' mother, it is stated, was a half-blooded Indian of the Kaw tribe. Every year during the festivals of this tribe it is his custom to visit them, to enter their council chamber and to take part in the discussions. Some of the old families of Virginia are proud of their descent from Pocahontas, the daughter of Powhatan. Mr. Curtis shows by his interest in the tribe of which his mother was a member and his identification with it on occasions that he is not ashamed of his ancestry, although his mother was not the daughter of a king. Descendants of Pocahontas have distinguished themselves for their statesmanship and public services. Mr. Curtis will have opportunities to make his mark in the Senate. His career has been a singularly interesting one. His work in the Senate will be watched with more than ordinary interest, not only because he has Indian blood in his veins, but has already proved himself a man of high purpose and substantial achievements.—Baltimore Sun.

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