

Stock.

Stick to Your Flocks.

Flock owners have been much discouraged during the last year. The reduction in the price of wool has been very serious. But sheep owners should not fail to note that wool is not the only product which has suffered a serious decline in price and profit. The decline has been as unbearable in wheat and in pork.

Our manufacturers are in distress for the want of a market. Operatives are discharged, or the wages seriously cut down. Glut in production has brought this about. We have increased our wool production largely in a few years, greatly to the credit of our flock owners, for this country ought to produce a full supply for the home market, and then the business should be properly protected. But if there has been no change in traffic on wool, the business would be depressed at this time, influenced by the general depression. We hope flock owners will not rashly change their business without fully counting the cost. Change from sheep to some other speciality, now means very nearly a sacrifice to stock. It is said that "two moves equal a fire," and it is quite as true that two changes are equal to a total loss of capital invested.

Flock owners are supposed to understand their present business, and when they dispose of this at a sacrifice, and then enter another—of which they are comparatively ignorant—they have completely sunk the capital in their flock, by the losses in the sales, and inexperience in the purchase of the new business. And before they have got the experience in the new business, the sheep industry has recovered from its depression, and they are not likely to be satisfied till they get back into it again. These changes are nearly always unfortunate, and should be avoided as far as possible. We should reason in this way: All the great specialties in agriculture are permanent, and must be purchased to supply the necessities of the people, and consequently any depression in them must be very temporary, therefore nothing is made by changing from one to another.—National Live Stock Journal.

Pedigree

"Any man I engage," says one, must come to me well recommended." And he is right. "I will not engage a man who will not look me square in the face, who is not neat in his person, and apparently free from objectionable habits," says another, and he is right. So in regard to pedigree and points. It is getting to be a fashion among some people to decry pedigree. They emphasize the necessity of individual merit, and very justly, but these is no need to go to the other extreme and treat pedigree as a matter of slight, or comparatively slight importance. Nor do good breeders do so of course, but there are a class of men who are beginning to breed pure-bred cattle, and among them we have noticed a disposition to speak of the pedigree as nothing, by comparison with individual merit. They should remember that a good breeder would no more think of using an animal without a good pedigree, whatever his individual merits, than he would think of using an inferior animal, however long and aristocratic his pedigree. The butcher judges of the animal just as he is, but is very different with the breeder. The latter selects the animal, not so much indeed for what he is; but for what his get will be; and his good points assume importance in his eyes only when backed by the certificate of good breeding, which is the guarantee of his ability to perpetuate them in his offspring.—National Live Stock Journal.

Frosted Grass Injurious to Colts

If colts, with an empty stomach, are turned on to frosted pastures early in the morning, they are very apt to be injured, and sometimes death ensues. A colt should be full fed in a shed or stable turning it out on a frosted pasture; but what would be better and safer, is not to let it run on pasture till the sun has melted the frost, and better still, to wait till dried off, as previous to this, the grass is likely to produce colic. Young cattle and sheep feeding on frosted grass are less likely to be injured than colts; but it would be better to keep them off of it also. Wild colts brought up on the great Western plains may thrive on such grass, but it is not so in a civilized country.

Stallions to be Put in Condition

If not already commenced, it is now time to begin to put the stallion in condition for the coming season's service. This is not one of those things which should not be put off late, and then hur-

ried forward with excessive feed. It should begin several months beforehand, the feed not to be more than sufficient to keep up or bring on a fair growth of flesh, attended with daily moderate exercise when the weather permits. Keep him loose in a large box stall, so he can walk about, and also so he can exercise in it. The great fault in keeping stallions is, that they are made too fat and do not get sufficient exercise, and in consequence of this, the first mares they cover are not so sure of being got in foal. After a while, not being over-stuffed with rich food, and have more exercise, the stallion becomes a sure foal getter.

Chewing the Cud.

There is no such thing as a "cud" which the animal keeps in its mouth all the time; but there is a cud in another sense. Animals like the cow, which live upon food not very concentrated, have to consume large quantities of it to get the necessary quantity of nutritive matter. Hence, they do not chew their food fully while grazing, but swallow it as soon as they can and proceed to get more. Afterward, when resting, they bring back portions of the food to the mouth, by a special arrangement of the muscles of the stomach, and chew it over again; this time the mastication is thorough. This second process is called chewing the "cud." After one portion is sufficiently masticated it is swallowed and passed into a separate stomach; another portion of the rough food is then chewed, and thus the process is continued until all is masticated. Now, when a cow gets sick the desire for food ceases more or less, and the animal ceases to bring up and chew its cud, just as it ceases to graze when sick. Not chewing the cud, then, is a symptom of sickness. It may be of various kinds, and the resumption of cud chewing is a symptom of returning appetite and therefore to returning health.

Stock husbandry, that basis of good farming, is coming to the front. The late high price for first class beef has had a good effect and given the stimulus of encouragement. Now, what is needed to push the breeding and raising of good steers still further forward and to increase their production is to collect and to reduce to principles. If we allow that it is settled as a fact that raising of steers and the fattening of oxen average well in profit with other branches of farming then we may direct our attention to the best kind of steers and oxen and to the raising and fattening of them.

Of the new breeds of domestic animals introduced into this country during the last quarter of a century, none has attracted more attention or excited greater interest than the small Yorkshire pigs. Though less widely known and distributed than some others, it must be remembered that their introduction to American breeders scarcely antedates a single decade, and nearly every herd of any size in the United States traces its origin to the herds of two enterprising breeders and importers.

The farmer who takes pains to "make up" the bed for his cow or horse gains many times the cost of the labor in so doing. If all material is passed through the cutter previous to being used for bedding it not only adds to the comfort of the animals, but assists in the matter of cleanliness, by reason of its great power of absorption. For this reason sawdust is becoming a favorite.

GET UP CLUBS.

The FARMER is making an effort to enlist in its behalf all the reading and thinking portion of the farmers of the North West. Subscription has been reduced as low as we dare venture in the belief that we can double our list of paying subscribers and greatly increase its influence and popularity.

The FARMER is closing its fifteenth year of publication. It is no new venture, no uncertain thing, but well founded and ably conducted. Any single subscriber can remit \$2.00 and receive the FARMER one year from date of payment. Those who write and send in a club of five, all paying at once, can have the FARMER one year for \$1.50 each. Old friends of the FARMER can easily secure among their neighbors five or ten names and secure their paper at \$1.50 per year.

We hope that many will get up clubs and vindicate our faith in their good will towards their old time friend,

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The Earl of Aylesford.

GALVESTON, Jan. 14.—The Galveston News' Big Springs, Texas, special says: Henage Finch, Earl of Aylesford, who died here last night of cyrosis of the liver and dropsy, settled an English colony here in August, 1883. He had been in declining health for the past year, but nothing serious was anticipated until a few hours before his death. Although only thirty-six years of age, he had the appearance of a man fifty years old, having been of late years a hard drinker. The Earl leaves no male descendants and his title to the Barony of Aylesford and its estates now fall to his next eldest brother, Charles Finch. All the late Earl's personal property will go to his two daughters, now in England. His stock and landed interests in Texas are small, amounting to about \$25,000, although he had over \$150,000 invested in Texas.

The Earl's life was insured in English companies to the amount of nearly \$300,000. The remains are now being embalmed and will go to England in charge of Mr. Bernard, private secretary of the late Earl. At twenty-two years of age he married Edith, daughter of Col. Peers Williams, member of Parliament, of Temple Court, Berks, England, and had by her two daughters. The marriage was considered an advantageous one on both sides. The Prince of Wales has been charged with the responsibility of ruining Aylesford, and may have had much to do with it, for he took the young Earl into his most intimate companionship, and made him a claim and comrade in the wild orgies that made the people of England distrustful of their future monarch. The Prince ceased to sow his wild oats and settled down to comparative decency, but the Earl kept up the spree until about a year ago, when he found himself \$1,000,000 in debt and the defendant in a very disreputable divorce case. His lovely wife had the sympathy of everybody, and his creditors were protected by the courts. The estate which was entailed, was placed in the hands of a conservator for the benefit of his creditors, and the Earl was given an allowance of \$50,000 a year with which to come to America in the summer of 1883 for rest and much-needed recuperation.

Under the patronage of Jay Gould the young Earl went to Texas where he bought 37,000 acres of grazing land, upon which he erected a plain house, which he furnished in a style becoming the action of country in which it is located. There, with two brothers and such congenial spirits as he chanced to fall in with, the Earl has spent most of his time, his life being anything but that of an autocrat. He acquired considerable popularity with his cowboy neighbors and was regarded by them as a great acquisition to the country.

PRACTICAL JOKE.

Mr. Shafer was engaged in the summing up of a case before Judge Marvin when Smith entered the room to be on hand for the trial of one of his own cases, which immediately followed Shafer's on the calendar. Among the natural gifts possessed by the latter was a wonderful command of language, and a goodly pair of lungs. His stentorian voice could be heard a block from the court room, and when he chose to exert it he could well-nigh raise the dead. As he was thundering away with his argument to the jury, Smith had observed the client, with his mouth open, eyes watchful and attentive, and drinking in his lawyer's eloquence. Going near enough to be heard by him, he remarked to another person: "Shafer is going to lose his cause, for there is a juryman who is hard of hearing, and he is a fellow who always controls the rest, and he don't hear Shafer." The client sneaked over to Shafer's side and whispered: "Speak louder, Mr. Shafer." "Sit down, you infernal idiot!" snorted Shafer in an angry undertone. The client had hardly resumed his seat when Smith again observed within hearing of the man: "What a pity it really is that Shafer doesn't speak louder; if he does not he will lose his case beyond a shadow of doubt." Again did the client pull the coat-tail of Shafer and implore him to speak louder, and once more did the amazed Shafer order him to his seat with a blessing.

Smith made a third essay in the client's hearing. "Shafer is beaten; he might as well throw up the sponge; the deaf juryman has decided upon a verdict as he is gazing fixedly on the floor, and he won't look up unless he hears more than he does at present." "Good heavens, do you think so?" ejaculated the client. "Certainly I do," replied Smith. "The goose is cooked." The now thoroughly frightened man jumped up in a chair so as to command the attention of the court, and with a roar like that of a boreal blast, he drowned even the voice of Shafer, and implored the judge to compel Mr. Shafer to speak louder in order that the foreman of the jury, who was as deaf as a stone, might hear him. Shrieks of laughter and a perfect tornado of mirth brought the trial of the action to a sudden termination.—Albany Express.

LEUTENANT SCHWATKA, in a letter to the New York Tribune, denies that he ever tendered his resignation or ever tried to recall it, as some busy Washington special reported. He says he had indefinite leave on half-pay to prosecute his Arctic work, and that is all there is in the report.

One of the railway companies whose line runs out of Boston proposes submitting to its employes a temperance pledge with an ultimatum to "sign or go."

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