THE WASCO NEWS

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FRIDAY, August 10, 1906.

FEEDING THE COWS.

At a reading club of farmers in New York recently Prof. Wing of Cornell University said in his address:

"We do not keep animals for the pleasure of their company and it takes about three-fourths of all the food for maintenance ration—that is to keep the animal alive.—Now this one-fourt that goes towards a productive product, if the feed is cut down, cuts off first from one-fourth productive ration, and correspondingly cuts off the profits. Later study has shown that the balancing of rations down to small percentages; formerly thought necessary, need not be done for good results. Food rich in pretein, such as gluten meal and dry brewers' grains, have largely reduced the price of foods like oil meal, which was largely used to supply a proper ration. This bulk of the ration is an important matter. Those animals the chew the cud should have a reasonable full stomach for the digestive operations to go on in the best marrer. The alfalfa plant comes nearest to being a food perfect in its feeding value although perhaps a little rich in protein.

"a cow is a prafitabla one, that is, a good milk producer, it can be determined within a month, and if she is not more profitable than the average cow of the state of New York, which produces only 4,400 pounds of milk a year, it is not a profitable one. The cow that does not produce 6,000 pounds of milk in forty week is not worth keeping, and if the milk is low in butter fat, less than 4 per cent, the animal should produce 8,000 pounds to be a profitable one."
—Rural Spirit.

THE SULPHER MINES OF LOUISIANA.

The discovery that extensive deposits of sulphur existed in the State of Louisiana was made several years ago, but until recently the substance could not be obtained from these beds, owing to the distance at which they are located from the surface and the foreign bodies which intervene. Indications of surphur have been found in various portions of Calcasieu Parish in the State named, especially in the form of springs of water strongly impregnated with this mineral. One prospector succeeded in drilling through to the bed which is now being worked, and discovered that it was not only of a high grade, but over 100 feet in depth.

For several years attempts to secure sulphur in commercial quantities failed owing to a layer of quicksand which exists above it. The thickness of the quick sand varies. The greater portion of the bed is estimated to range between 100 and 200 feet, the sulphur itself lying at a depth varying from 600 to 800 feet. The problem of getting the sulphur through the sand without mixing the two substances has been an extremely difficult one: but it has finally been solved to such an extent, that from this bed is now coming the bulk of the sulphur produced in the United States, if we except that secured from pyrites.

Generally speaking, the following method is employed in obtaining the sulphur: Wrought-iron piping is driven through the upper formation and the sand bed, by steam-driven apparatus somewhat similar to that employed in putting down tubing for petroleum wells but the machinery required is much more powerful. The tubing used is of two sizes, one for the passage of the steam, the other for drawing up the sulphur. The steam pipe is connected with a pump and boiler of sufficient power to force a jet from the surface to the sulphur. The contact of the steam with the material, which in its natural state is in a solid form, converts it into liquid; in other words, melts it so that it can be drawn up through the discharge pipe by means of air pressure. This is supplied by a series of powerful compressors, which bring the liquid sulphur to the surface, in the same manner as a column of water is carried by pneumatic pressure for irrigation and other purposes, the conduits being installed in pairs side by side.

The end of each discharge pipe is set in a vat of suitable proportions. This vat is usually a shallow excavation in the ground, lined with concrete or some other material, and open at the top, so that its contents are exposed to the action of the sun and air. Here the sulphur is again solidified by natural evaporation, when, after being broken up into masses convenient size for transportation, it becomes a commercial product ready for shipment to the refinery or point of consumption.

As mentioned above, the quantity of sulphur secured from the Louisiana deposit has already assumed such proportion, that with the exception stated it is furnishing the bulk of the American supply. The operations are as yet conducted by one company, and much secrecy is maintained as to the average output. The plant is now being operated on such a scale that the present output probably will be doubled, when all of the conduits now being put down are in operation. With the additional conduits in service, the yearly production will be over one-third of the total quantity consumed in the United States, which at present averages about 500,000 tons. But as yet only a small quantity of the deposit known to exist has been secured, for it has been traced a distance of fifteen miles from the present workings. Excluding the sulphur extracted from pyrites, the Louisiana deposit will yield far more than any other country where sulphur is secured from natural formation, with the exception of Italy, whose thousand mines furnish nearly 600,000 tons annually. The Italian sulphur in its original form, however, is far inferior to the American article, for the rock from which the commercial product is refined averages less than 20 per cent of pure sulphur. It is claimed that the Louisiana grade does not contain over 2 per cent of foreign matter, so that it is available as it comes from the well for many compounds into which it is manufactured, while it can be refined at a minimum cost. While the exact percentage of pure sulphur is not made public, its high grade is verified by the fact that it is sent away by the carload to various points of consumption in this country, and but a small quantity goes to the refinery. In fact, so much of it is being shipped to fertilizer works that steamships leaving New Orleans have been known to carry as much as 1,000 tons as parts of their cargo. It might be added that the material is transported in bulk like so much coal or iron, and is stored in the open air like this material.

As the Louisiana deposit is further opened, it is likely that this State will yield the world's greatest tonnage of sulphur, when comparison is made with other deposits now being worked. Aside from Italy, Japan is the next greatest producer of crude sulphur. Most of the Japanese grade comes from Moyoro Ba which is located on an island about 2,000 miles north of Yokohama. Here a formation of sulphur lies on the slope of three volcanic mountains to such an extent that it is estimated fully 1,500,000 tons can be obtained by merely digging of the surface. At present only about 16,000 tons are being secured yearly, of which 10,000 tons are shipped to the Pacific coast of the United States. Outside of Italy and Japan, the United States has no other competitors of consequence. The only other American sulphur deposits being worked are in Humboldt county, Nevada, and near the town of Marysville in Utah, but neither of these yields a thousand tons annually.

It is understood that at present about twenty pipe lines have been driven into the Louisiana bed, the material being extracted through tubing four inches in diameter. The maximum capacity of the plant will be about forty wells when the present enlargement is completed. The present industry is situated in what is known as the coast prairie a short distance from the town of Lake Charles and in the southwestern part of the state. Geopraphically, it is believed to form a portion of what is called the Gulf coast oil best, which includes the Jennings petroleum field, also the Beaumont and other fields in eastern Texas.

MUTTON MAKING.

Corn Belt Farmers Setting Their Stakes to Make Sheep Pay.

Demand for breeding ewes for corn belt farms continues unabated, far exceeding the supply. Even ewe lambs just a year old are being bought for the grain growing lands. It is needless to state sheep showing the largest percentage of mutton blood are the favorites with those farmers who would add to their bank accounts and conserve the fertility of their lands by the aid of the golden hoof. Mutton sheep may be made to pay well entirely regardless of the wool they bear on their backs. There is no animal common on the farm that will convert feed into meat more profitably, and when it is considered that the sheep utilizes much that otherwise would go to waste, besides being an excellent weed scavenger, the strongest of argument is adduced in its favor. Corn belt farmers should set their stakes to make sheep pay from the meat making standpoint alone. Then whatever they get from the wool will be so much extra profit. The fleece is not to be disregarded altogether, and it is quite compatible with the best returns from the mutton that the returns from the wool should be ample. Nevertheless, viewing the way the market has developed of late years, the meat must be the first consideration, and the wool must be considered a byproduct.

Money Out of British Flocks.

That the down and long wool breeds have been brought to such a high state of perfection and that the British shepherds have made more money out of their flocks than other stockmen in the insular kingdom prove conclusively that the wool may be left as a subsidiary consideration to have attention in so far as it does not interfere materially with the main object in view. American farmers have the Merino, which may be utilized as a foundation for grading up with great profit. With the advantages of close grazing and wool thickening inherent in the Merino breeds, as well as the mutton in some of its types, the American farmer has not only all materials at the hand of the British farmer, but more as well.—Breeder's Gazette.

DENATURED ALCOHOL.

Dr. Wiley's Idea of the Farmer's Position In Its Manufacture.

In discussing the possibilities of denatured alcohol Dr. H. Wiley, chemist of the department of agriculture, says in Rural New Yorker that practically all of the alcohol made in the United States at the present time is made from Indian corn. The most abundant source of alcohol after Indian corn is probably the potato, either the ordinary white, the sweet or the yam. This is a crop grown in great abundance in almost all parts of the United States, while in some localities especially favorable conditions are obtained for the growth of the potato—for instance, in the northern part of Maine, in Colorado and many other places. Imperfect, broken or bruised potatoes can be very profitably used for alcohol making where the sound and well formed potatoes would bring more money by direct sale.

For denaturing alcohol—that is, making it unfit for drinking—the addition of from 3 to 8 per cent of crude wood alcohol is very efficient. This produces a spirit known as methylated spirit. To make the concoction still more bitter there is often added a chemical compound known as pyridine, which dissolves readily in alcohol and imparts to it an intensely bitter and unpalatable taste.

Dr. Wiley strongly advises the farmers of this country not to undertake the manufacture of alcohol. To do this successfully requires a thorough knowledge of the chemistry of the process and a high degree of technical skill. The successful practice of the future, he thinks, will consist in the establishment of central distilleries in a good locality accessible to the farmers who will furnish the raw material for manufacture.

As has been frequently predicted by this paper the crops are almost without exception turning out from twenty-five to seventy-five per cent better than was generally predicted. We have talked with several farmers lately, many of whom were a few weeks ago intending to cut their grain for hay all have a fare yield and many have a good crop. The grain is nearly all No. 2 but there is good deal of No. 1. and all that is not No. 1 is and extra good grade of No. 2. The crop will in all probability be equal to last year and there are some indications that in many parts of the county and possibly all it will be a better crop than last year.

Mrs. Dan Morehouse's sister is visiting her this week.

Fred Meader goes to Portland with his boys today to be gone some time.

F. J. Smith and Mr. Chas. Stewart of Portlond, arrived in Wasco last evening. They are here to learn if possible what support the open river movement will receive in this section.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Professor L. B. Baldwin, of the Oregon Agricultural College, spent Thursday afternoon and Friday morning in the town, makiag a canvass in the interests of the state college at Corvallis.

His aim is to come in touch with public school and high school graduates and others contemplating advanced college training and secure them on the matriculation list of the college next year.

The attendance last year reached the 735 mark—100 more than the matriculation score of the former year.

There is being constructed a sixty nine thousand dollar building to accommodate the department of house hold science and afford an attractive home for young ladies attending the school.

The institution offers courses in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, civil engineering, mining engineering, pharmacy, household science, literary commerce, forestry, and agriculture.

The college is provided with every appliance requisite for a demonstration of the principles and laws of the text book.

Its graduates are commanding lucrative positions; the numerical strength of its student body is increasing at a rate that necessitates biennially legislative appropriations to keep the amount of appliances adequate to increasing patronage.

Those contemplating a college course can obtain a literary and technical education without paying tuition, at the Oregon Agricultural College.

The first term will begin on the 17th of September.

Notice For Publication

Notice is hereby given that Charles O. Porter, of Early, Oregon, has filed notice of his intention to make final five-year proof in support of his claim viz: Homestead Entry No. 8901 made Jany 18, 1901, for the SW1-4 Section 33 Township 3 N. Range 18 E. W. M. and that said proof will be made before the Register and Receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on August 31st, 1906.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of the land viz:

Jerry Lester, Frank A. Kollas, William Bartlemay, Herbert K. Porter, all of Early, Oregon.

Dated at The Dalles, Oregon, July 18, 1906.

Michael T. Nolan,
Register.

Notice For Publication

Notice is hereby given that John Freeman, of Klondike, Oregon, has filed notice of his intention to make final five-year proof in support of his claim, viz: Homestead Entry No. 9426 made June 4, 1901, for the SW¼NE, N½SE¼ Section 15 and NW¼SW¼ Section 14, Township 2 North Range 18 E., W. M. and that the said proof will be made before the Register and Receiver, at The Dalles, Oregon, on July 23rd 1906.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, the land, viz:

Lem Agee, G. C. Fridley, A. S. Johnson, C. W. Johnson, all of Klondike, Oregon.

Dated at The Dalles, Oregon, June 16 1906.

Michael T. Nolan, Register.

Sugar Beets.

In an Ontario test of varieties of sugar beet Giant White Feeding and Tankard Cream among the large growing varieties gave the largest beets and the smallest amount of sugar. Improved Imperial, Rubensamen and Mangel sugar beets proved equal in both sugar and purity to the Kleinwanzleben variety. The results of experiments favor planting in rows eighteen or twenty inches apart. The use of a small amount of nitrate of soda and fairly large amounts of sulphate of potash and superphosphate cause the beets to start quickly and thus allowed thinning about three days sooner than where no fertilizer was applied. The fertilized plats gave a larger yield of beets and showed an increase of from one-half to 1 per cent in the sugar content.