The Farmer's Column.

Cows About to Calve.

Many farmers consider that if they commence feeding their cows *after* they have calved, they do all that ought to be done. A very intelligent farmer, to whom I happened to be speaking of this a few days since, said he considered that one pailful of food given *before* calving was worth, for the cow's present and future welfare, two pailsful given afterwards. His argument was: That almost all cows are poorly wintered and were thereby generally weak towards the Spring, and when warm weather came they felt the enervating effect of it just as we do, and consequently needed more and better food [illegible] have an almost certain chance of doing well afterwards. To be equal to this effort, the cow should be liberally fed for some time before she has her calf, and instead of suffering a depreciation of strength towards Spring, she will thus have an accession. We all know that milk, health and strength are the rule instead of the exception, no cow will be at her best until plenty of grass has recuperated her low condition consequent on the Winter neglect; and hence, under such treatment, the full yield of milk will take place some weeks sooner than it otherwise would. For many years I have had great experience in cow keeping, and I have, with few exceptions, been fortunate in having no sick or weak cows. I attribute this altogether to giving plenty of food some time before calving. Another reason for so doing is, that if you wait until afterwards, the stimulating effect of more and better food causes too much reaction, and hence it is frequently seen that the poor man's cow dies sooner than the well-to-do farmer's. The poor man takes plenty of care of his cow when she is milking and valuable, but before that time any food will do for her; "she is dry," they say, and therefore cannot want much food—a great mistake, as they very soon find out to their cost. Horned cattle want food in spring, more even than horses.

I have often seen the difference between the work that a well-fed yoke of oxen will do in hot weather, when compared, even though both are fed alike at the time of working, with that of straw wintered, half-starved, lean beasts.

It is of little or no use to feed just as hot weather and hard work begins.

Feed sooner, and get your oxen into good heart, and then when work pushes, they will be equal to it.—*American Stock Journal.*

The Cow Tree.

"Among the many curious phenomena which, presented themselves to me in the course of my travels," says Humboldt, "I confess there were few by which my imagination was so powerfully affected as by the cow-tree. On the parched side of a rock on the mountain of Venezuela, grows a tree with dry and leathery foliage, its large woody roots scarcely penetrating into the ground. For several months in the year its leaves are not moistened by a shower; its branches look as if they were dead and withered; but when the trunk is bored, a bland and nourishing milk flows from it. It is at sunrise that the vegetable fountain flows most freely. At that time the blacks and natives are seen coming from all parts provided with large bowls to receive the milk, which grows yellow and thickens at its surface. Some empty their vessels on the spot, while others carry them to their children. One imagines he sees the family of a shepherd who is distributing the milk of his flock."

HOW MUCH WILL KEEP A HORSE.—A horse weighing from ten to twelve hundred pounds will eat about six tons of hay, or its equivalent, in a year.—And we suppose the real point to get at is, whether one can keep his horses cheaper on some other product than hay. This is an exceedingly difficult question to answer—it depends so much on circumstances. We shall not attempt to answer it fully this time, but will merely say that, in our opinion, three and a half tons of corn stalks and two and a half tons of corn would keep a horse a year in fully as good condition as six tons of good hay. We may estimate, also, that it will take three and a half tons of oat straw, and two and a half tons of oats to keep a horse a year. A bushel of oats weighs thirty-two pounds, so that it will take over 155 bushels and three and a half tons of straw to keep a horse a year. It would take about two acres of good land to produce this amount.—*American Stock Journal.*

THE TERRITORIES.—Few people realize how many acres are unoccupied in the Great West. The eleven Territories contain over one billion and a quarter acres, exceeding by nearly two hundred thousand square miles the aggregate territory of all present admitted States of the Union. The Territory of Alaska contains 369,529,600 acres.

STRAWBERRIES IN FEBRUARY.—Strawberry vines in Sweetwater Valley produce an abundance of the luscious fruit the year round. The vines are in bearing and blossom now.—*San Diego (Cal.) Union.*

Printers need but little here below, but need that little sure.

1873. THE WORLD. 1873.

A new political era is opening before the country.

The negro cycle of our politics has rounded to its conclusion thro' civil war, social violence, industrial disorder, and has ended in giving freedom to four millions of the negro race, and the ballot to its adult males.

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new."

The politics of this new era will come home to every man's business and bosom as never before, being vital to private prosperity and the maintenance of a Democratic Republic.

For not only are the manifold encroachments upon State Rights and Local Liberty to be repelled with ceaseless vigilance, not only is home rule or local self-government now as always to be maintained for the best guarantee of civil liberty and of national greatness, but besides, the victories of peace which are to give splendor to the new political era must be won against every advantage which even enemies of free institutions could desire or possess.

A gigantic Debt, which the honor of the country is pledged to pay, encumbers all our industries with its oppressive burden. Nevertheless our systems of Municipal and State Taxation are crude, unequal, and defraud the poor to release the rich. Nevertheless our system of Federal Taxation is such an infamous masterpiece of ignorance and incapacity, put to the vile uses of monopolists and favorites and thieves, as never anywhere has disgraced modern civilization since Louis XIV., with his methods of taxation rather than its amount, paralyzed the industries of France. And along with the Tariff, which prohibits the export of our manufacturers, abridges the number of our industries, cuts down the profit upon the exports from all our farms, plantations, and mines; abolishes our shipping from off the high seas, and filches $5 from the people's pockets every time it puts $1 into the U. S. Treasury,—along with this engine of oppression, stupidity and fraud, goes a Currency of fluctuating value as the measure of values in every act of domestic exchange.

Whatever parties may arise or fall, whatever their defeats or triumphs, and whatever their names, THE WORLD now and always will remain the unflinching champion of a

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