EASTON GAZETTE.

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Agricultural.

[COMMUNICATED.]

The following paper was read before the Board of Agriculture by Samuel Stevens, Esquire, and is now presented for publication.

Question. What species of sheep do you consider the most valuable to farmers generally, and what are the best modes of managing sheep and lambs?

Answer. On this subject *I* possess the pride and ambition of a Farmer, and fearless of contradiction, pronounce the Bakewell Sheep bottomed on Merino the most profitable. In the first place, the Merino gives a fine beautiful wool, and when crossed by the Bakewell, you add beauty and size, both having a predilection for fat, and an uncommon sweet flavor, and what is very remarkable and important they are ready for the butcher at eighteen months old, and if suffered to remain two years old, they will increase in beauty, size and fat superior to any other breed of sheep I have ever seen—and on as little food. But all Farmers who expect to have fine sheep, ought to be careful every year, to select the most beautiful form and figure to breed from, both in male and female, and be sure never to suffer his Ewes to go to the Ram until the fall after they are twelve months old. He should keep his breeding Ewes, his Lambs after they are weaned, his weathers, and his Rams in separate pastures, and I consider it bad policy to put the Ram to the Ewes before the 20th of September or first of October; his Lambs will then fall about the first of March when the grass begins to spring, and gives his Lambs a fair and vigorous start, they also avoid the danger of being lost by bad weather, as no sheep should ever be confined in winter nor summer, great care should be taken to have your Ewes in fine order when they take the Ram; and when they first lamb I doubt whether they should be in very fine order, as I conceive the lamb is more apt to die. I would strongly recommend to every lover of sheep, to seed a field in Rye about the middle of August, when he harrows down his corn, which will afford him a fine fall pasture for his weathers, or such sheep as he intends for the butcher, and a great pasture for his Ewes and Lambs in the month of March, and the Rye will by no means be injured from producing a crop, provided they are removed by the first of April. One more important remark allow me to make, no farmer should ever keep a sheep over six years old, nor keep too many, and particular attention should be observed to remove them from field to field about every four weeks, as they become tired and wish a change—if even you take them from a good to a bad pasture I believe they will rejoice at it and do better.

Question. What is the best and most economical mode of keeping milch cows in full milk during winter?

Answer. On this important subject I have made but few experiments, turnips, which have been highly spoken of by English Authors, *I* have but little faith in, the milk is thin, and I believe a cow will die on them, unless she has meal, short feed or some other kind to aid them. I know of nothing more economical, and more calculated to produce fine milk than to have your cows well fed on clover hay and pumpkins; secured in a nice clean stable, well littered with straw, and the stall well cleaned every morning, and at night fresh litter—and a plenty of nice water. In the first place a farmer who does not raise Clover, should scarcely be entitled to enjoy that good name, and pumpkins can be raised in your cornfield without the least expense or trouble (by placing two or three seed in every fourth hill each way, when you re-plant your corn,) except gathering them in the fall, which can be done by little boys or girls to remove them to the turning rows, before seeding wheat—but I believe chopped Rye straw mixed with meal would be very valuable feed, also for horses.—But to digress a little from the question, rest assured as much depends on the milk maid, as does on the difference in food; if a cow is not milked clean; every time she will accumulate the milk left; therefore, care should be taken to extract every drop, and again a cloth and fresh water should be taken to the pen or stable every morning to wash the udders.

Question. Do you consider Oxen valuable as hauling beasts?—which is the best mode of breaking them, and the best and cheapest mode of feeding them in winter, when put to severe work?

Answer. I do consider the Ox a most valuable beast for labor, and very economical. In the first place they require no feed to raise them except grass, in summer, and coarse food in winter, and the manure they return will amply pay that expense, and when well broken are so governable that a small boy can drive them with security. You may work them ten or twelve years at hard and constant labor, at the expiration of which time you can with two or even one summer's rest and good pasture, with a small portion of corn convert them into beef, or dispose of them to the butcher; you have the same advantage should they become lame or blind at an earlier period, which is not the case with horses. The capital invested is much smaller than when horses are employed, and the gear is much less expensive, and can be more easily repaired by your servants, and can draw as much manure out as a pair of horses, when the hauling is on the farm; but in my opinion should never be allowed to travel far, nor be driven out of a fast walk. I am strongly inclined to believe all oxen should be broken when one year old, by placing on them a small light yoke, and suffer your negro children or even your own children to drive them about in a common go-cart with a pair of truck wheels; children will become delighted with the sport, and become useful either in collecting manure from the road side or corners of fences, &c. and deposite in some suitable place, or bringing to the wood pile, chips or bushes, &c. should they be suffered to pass over this time, I have never encountered any difficulty in breaking them by placing a young one with an old one, yoke them, then secure their heads with a rope, and unite their tails with strings, have them gently lead or driven about for one or two days, and then put to an empty cart, where they may be used perhaps a part of a day, then put them to light work, but they should be unyoked every night as this gives them confidence, they should be gently handled, and an ear or two of corn given to them occasionally, when under yoke, and after it is removed.

The common habit and custom of farmers to give their oxen corn to work on, is in my opinion radically wrong, and a most wanton waste. Economy should be made the first study of a farmer, to learn to conduct his business with a true and steady eye to his interest in all its ramifications.

—I have been constantly in the habit of using oxen for thirty three years and fear not a contradiction when I say I draw as constantly and work as many carts as any other person, in proportion to my number of acres, and I can with truth & sincerity say, I never used five barrels of corn or any other kind of grain during the time with my hauling oxen.—My constant habit is to have stalls provided for them with racks, where *I* feed them from the last of October with corn caps as long as they will last, then with some kind of coarse hay, some times during the winter I change their food from corn caps to hay, and so alternately as suits my convenience and opinions. In the spring I give them my top fodder, and occasionally a few blades and clover hay; this method I persue until the grass puts up in the spring, when I turn them out and throw to them some kind of hay, top fodder or blades.

Through the spring and summer I cut green clover, and give to them every night.—During meal spells I like to have some fine spot for them to graze on convenient to the house, or give them green cut clover, or dry clover. This practice, viz: winter feeding, I obtained when *I* first began to farm from a near neighbor, whom all will admit was a judicious farmer, viz: Mr. James Goldsborough, and he caught the idea from a farmer who should, be held in the highest estimation for the improvement of land, and the first mover of a marl cart in this county, and perhaps in America viz: the late Mr. John Singleton. Through the year I run from three to six carts daily except in harvest and planting corn time, (unless prevented by sickness or some unforseen accident.) My oxen are not fat,—is it the wish or profit of a farmer to have his oxen sleak, fat, and pampered like a turf steed? Or is it his profit to do all he can with them, and at as moderate expense as practicable? To show the *practicability* and not *theoretically*, what labour oxen can perform on the treatment I give them, I will for your satisfaction (and hope it will not be considered presumption) to give you an extract from my Diary, of the number of loads of manure which have been put out on my land for the last eight years, independent of hauling wood, rails, litter, cornstalks, &c. and the drawing of my farm yard manure to the place of deposite with the view of making compost &c. which I have never retained an account of—but I allude to actual marl, compost marsh mud, &c. which can be denominated manure carted out on the field.

From seeding	1824,	till seeding		1825	6291
" "	1825,	"	"	1826	8542
" "	1826,	"	"	1827	6299
" "	1827,	"	"	1828	5361
" "	1828,	"	"	1829	7122
" "	1829,	"	"	1830	5672
" "	1830,	"	"	1831	*3862
" "	1831,	"	"	1832	5266
Total					48,415

*Too wet to draw.

Averaging 6052 loads each year, covering about 100 acres per annum, but I frequently put my compost on the same ground and in the same year where I marl, to give it action.

Qestion. Are you of opinion that by the present mode of farming, our lands are impoverished more than they were many years ago, and if so what is the cause?

Answer. This is a question in answering which considerable difficulty may occur,—when I take into consideration the vast majority of lands through the Eastern Shore, which are cultivated in three, and some times in two fields, without perhaps five acres being manured annually on each farm, and badly cultivated, I would say they are declining in value and character, and this is very much owing to land speculators who purchase up the large tracts of land cheap and rent them from year to year at high prices, whereby the tenants have neither opportunity nor encouragement to improve, which would not be the case were the landlords to lease out said lands for a term of years, to good tenants, & enable them to improve the land. But many farmers are rapidly improving their lands, not only by manuring, the application of which is tenfold more than ten years ago, but by *judicious management, high cultivation, and a regular improved system.* The spirit of improvement appears to be increasing, and an agricultural ambition now exists which in my opinion will tend to raise the character of our lands, which added to the improved state of the health of our country, the easy access to market, the convenient and easy means of cultivation, the many and various kinds of manures to be procured, the many luxuries to be obtained from our waters, &c. &c., will in time invite strangers to settle amongst us, who may still add to our improvement, and prices of land—and in lieu of our youths seeking foreign climes, they will become more satisfied with "home sweet home."

Sept. 10th 1833.

Importance of knowledge to Farmers.

1. The farmer ought to rise early, to see that others do so, and that both his example be followed, and his orders obeyed.

2. The whole farm should be regularly inspected, and not only every field examined, but every beast seen at least once a day.

3. In a considerable farm, it is of the utmost consequence to have hands specially appropriated for each of the most important departments of labor, for there is often a great loss of time, where persons are frequently changing their employments; and the work is not executed near so well.

4. Every means should be thought of to diminish labor, or increase its power. For instance, by proper arrangements five horses may do as much labor as six perform, according to the usual mode of employing them.

5. A farmer ought never to engage in a work, whether of ordinary practice, or intended improvement, except after the most careful inquiries; but when begun, he ought to proceed in it with much attention and perseverance, until he has given it a fair trial.

6. It is a main object in management not to attempt too much, and never to begin a work, without a probability of being able to finish it in due season.

7. Every farmer should have a book for inserting all those useful hints, which are so frequently occurring in conversation, in books, & gathered in the course of his reading, or in a practical management of his farm.—*Sinclair.*

The general principles of Husbandry.

1. Whatever may be the nature of your soil, and situation of your farm, remember that there is no soil so good but may be exhausted by bad tillage; and that there is none so bad that cannot be rendered fertile by good tillage; even barren heath, if it can be ploughed and swarded.

2. The true art of husbandry consists in suffering no crop to grow upon your land that will so far exhaust your soil, as to lessen the value of your succeeding crop, whatever profit such a crop may afford you.

3. To avoid this, suffer no one crop to grow two years successively, upon the same piece of ground, excepting grass and buckwheat, without the fertilizing aid of rich manures to support the strength of the soil; and then change of crops will generally do best, excepting onions, carrots, and hemp.

4. Every plant derives from the earth for its growth such properties as are peculiar to itself; this plant when followed successively for two or more years, upon the same ground, will exhaust the soil of those properties peculiar to itself without lessening its powers to produce some other plants. This fact is most striking in the article of flax, which will not bear to be repeated oftener than once in seven years, and is common to all crops with the exception of those mentioned above.

5. To avoid this evil, arrange your farm into such divisions as will enable you to improve all the variety of crops your lands may require, in such regular succession as to form a routine of five, six, or seven years, according to the nature of your farm.

6. This method will make poor land good, and good better. Try and see.

[From the New York Farmer.]

Importance of selecting the best breeds of Live Stock, particularly of Swine.

Mr. Editor:—I have noticed frequently and with pleasure, your remarks in regard to the importance of a careful selection of the various sorts of live stock raised in our country. If farmers were more particular to select the best breed of all animals they raise, undoubtedly they would find it much to their advantage. There is perhaps in our country no animal in which there is greater neglect than in swine; and it becomes every man who fattens a single hog, to look to it that he gets one of the right sort. And if this is the case in regard to the man that has but one, how important is it for farmers throughout our country, that they raise only from the best and most approved breeds. It has been thoroughly proved by several persons in this region during the last two years, that the advantages in the improved breed is greater than was before imagined. Trials have been made between hogs of the common sort called good, and a breed introduced into this neighborhood by Mr. W. K. Townsend. They were imported from England three years ago, and are called by him the *Norfolk thin rind breed.*—They are small bone, thin rind, the meat very fine grained, remarkably thrifty, and inclined to fatten early, or will continue to thrive until 18 months old. It is not uncommon for all pigs kept over the season the next fall, to weigh from 435 to 460 lbs. and for spring pigs butchered in the fall to go over 300 lbs. and this with ordinary feed. One of my neighbors who three years since, tried hard to get two pigs of the old breed to weigh in the fall 200 lbs. each, has the last season, with he says, no more care, or no better feed, made two of this breed weigh 660 lbs.—He considers that he has gained at least 100 lbs. of pork on each hog, by the change of breed. These pigs weighed the 1st of April 24 lbs. each. A farmer, a few miles in the country, butchered two at 18 1-2 months old, that weighed rising 440 lbs each, and he says he gave them the same care as he always had given his hogs; he asserts that he has gained fully 200 lbs. of better pork than he generally had, which he says he credits to the breed. An old Revolutionary Pensioner purchased one of this breed from Mr. Townsend's farm in the fall of 1831, then a sucking pig, weighing about 35 lbs. and as he had made one from the same pen, just butchered, weigh rising of 400 lbs. he declared that he meant by the next fall, to make this weigh 500 lbs.—The hog was butchered say the last of December, and the old soldier has gained one pound over his mark. These facts are stated to induce others to try the experiment of selecting their pigs from the best breeds. I am convinced myself of the importance of it, and wish others, and especially Farmers, to practice on this principle. D.

New Haven, Jan 20, 1833.

Fattening Hogs.—To render hogs fat enough for market at the least possible expense should be the study of every economical farmer. To do this, hogs should be kept in a thriving condition through the summer, and as soon as the first of September, should be confined in pens and fed in such quantities as will induce them to remain at rest a greater part of the time. It is too often practiced to shut hogs in large fields after feeding season has commenced, where they exercise to that extent that much of the strength of the food is wasted by their rambling about.

It is not important that hogs should be fed in the early part of fattening with corn as that will prove too expensive, but by bestowing a little labor upon their food, it may be prepared from articles more perishable and less merchantable than Indian Corn or barley.

Attached to or near every hog pen, there should be prepared suitable apparatus for boiling or steaming food for them.

Farmers are not generally aware of the importance of boiling food for hogs. The nutritive properties of food are increased in some instances, from ten to twenty-five per cent. Two bushels of potatoes boiled are more valuable for feeding than three when fed raw. Potatoes, pumpkins, squashes, and cabbages when boiled and mixed, make excellent food for hogs, for the first three or four weeks, after which, those who wish for firm flesh, should begin to add a little corn meal.

Potatoes and pumpkins when boiled with a small quantity of corn meal, will answer well for three fourths of the time allotted for fattening, after which soft corn, and after that corn meal should be used.

Hogs fatten better, and it can be done at less cost, when feeding commences early than when it is deferred until October or November, besides the pork brought early to market usually commands a higher price.—*Goodsell's Genessee Farmer.*

Fattening Swine.—The corn given to your swine should be soaked, boiled, or ground into meal. It is an advantage to let the food for swine, ferment a little, but not become very sour, before they are fed with it. Dough made of meal and water, mixed with boiled potatoes, is excellent for swine. Their lodgings should be dry, warm, and kept clean. To prevent measles and other disorders, and increase their appetite, a little brimstone, now and then, given in their dough, is useful. Change of food is advisable in every stage of their existence. They should receive their meals with regularity. They should always have as much food as they will eat up clean; but never more than that quantity. If the issues in their fore legs should be stopped, they should be rubbed open with a cob.

N. Y. Farmer.

From the New York Evening Post.

An English Journal gives the following extracts from a newly published work, entitled "Narrative of the Expedition in Portugal in 1832, under the orders of his Imperial Majesty Don Pedro, Duke of Braganza," by G. Lloyd Hodges.

Don Pedro.—Don Pedro's is one of those characters, so disposed is the open manifestation of every passing sentiment which affects the mind, that it offers little difficulty to its thorough comprehension by even a careless observer. He possesses, in an eminent degree, some of the most valuable qualities that adorn humanity, clouded, truth obliges me to confess by some that are but likely to lessen materially the degree of good he is striving to confer on his country.—Frank, open, and manly, possessing, too, a powerful and robust frame of body and strength of constitution capable of supporting a vast degree of fatigue and privation, he evinces a natural bias towards dangerous and hazardous enterprises. All these qualities are now in their fullest vigour, as the Emperor is but in his thirty sixth year. His character is particularly marked by a love of truth in all he says, and a scrupulous desire to fulfil all his promises—a matter of no small difficulty in a prince, and especially in one so circumstanced. The strength and steadiness of his judgment are upon the whole questionable, as many events of his past life, as well as the sequel of this narrative, will, I think demonstrate. The defective mode of his education, will, however, account for much of this. He has never been habituated to reading, and in consequence his knowledge of mankind must have been derived only from those who have surrounded him. It would be two trite a subject to point out the almost necessarily erroneous views he must entertain of mankind on some points, and his total ignorance in others, while courtiers were his principal companions and instructors. The absence, too, of a judicious controul over his conduct in early youth is too evidently seen in his present deportment. He is subject to sudden impulses generally, and sometimes yields to the most violent ebulitions of temper under the influence of which he gives prompt utterance to whatever notion sways him at the time, with little delicacy or regard to the feelings of his most attached friends, or dependants.—Such conduct in too many cases produces coolness of zeal in his service, and in others, entire alienation. It must, however in justice be added, that extreme generosity serves in no small degree to lessen the bad effects so mischievous a habit infallibly produces. It will readily be perceived, after these remarks, that the Emperor is not distinguished for that princely dignity or deportment which has so powerful an effect of swaying the minds of men.

On the contrary his conversation partakes at all times of the perfectly plain and familiar, unmarked by any petence to, or effort of refinement: it is, however, essentially decorous. He would no more permit himself the use of a licentious expression than he would tolerate it in others. In his domestic relations his conduct is not merely unexceptionable; it is admirable. His attention to every slightest wish of the Empress, & his devoted attachment to his children, are generally well known. Of the Empress, as I have already observed, report speaks in very high terms of praise. She possesses an excellent understanding, and great liberality of sentiment. Her opinions are said to have great weight with her imperial lord; and much were it to be desired they could be more frequently appealed to, in order to neutralize or destroy the evil suggestions of his mischievous and selfish counsellors, which may eventually, it is to be feared, prove fatally injurious to their too-confiding master. It is an evidence of no small generosity of feeling in the Emperor, that, in speaking of Don Miguel, he never uses any epithet denoting reprobation or strong hostility. His usual expression is simply Mon frere. Of the King of Spain, in like manner, he speaks as Mon oncle. With regard to his religion the Emperor is honestly and conscientiously a Roman Catholic; at the same time he appears thoroughly convinced of the gross abuses of the Catholic church in Portugal; and should his daughter's government, under his direction become ultimately established in the country, it may be with certainty anticipated that the church reform will be no less searching and effective than the state reform; and, in a word, that the interval between the present despotism of the government and the constitutional form with which he is applying his best energies to replace it, is not more than that which will be between the present compound of delusion, fraud and extortion, engrafted on the church of Portugal, and the same church after his purification of it shall have taken place. I have already referred to the early hours and active habits of the Emperor. I must also notice extreme temperance. He never takes wine; water is his usual beverage even coffee he abstains from. Health, the most vigorous and uninterrupted, is the almost necessary consequence of his mode of living. His strength of muscle is very considerable, and he takes no small delight in lifting and carrying heavy weights, and performing other similar feats, to prove his bodily powers But admirable qualities, his high natural sense of justice hatred of oppression, his liberal sentiments, and his general benevolence, I am compelled to acknowledge that there is one opposite characteristic, which detracts much from the valuo of all—I mean commixture of vanity.

A second division of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, reaching from Seneca Creek up to Harper's Ferry, is completed and about to be opened for transportation. The event is an important one to our neighbours of the district, and we have no doubt will realise for them all the advantages they have anticipated.

From the Alexandria Gazette, Oct. 14.

Whilst we are writing, the waters of the Potomac above Harper's Ferry are silently flowing into the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Passing the long contested Point of Rocks into the long finished part to Seneca, they will connect the tide water of this District to the fertile region of the Shenandoah and the upper part of Virginia and Maryland watered by the Potomac and its tributary streams.

This part of the Canal is the most expensive of the Eastern section. The difficulties have been surmounted in a manner which reflects the highest degree of credit on those who directed and those who have executed the work. Early in the ensuing season, more than one hundred miles will be completed, passing Shepherdstown and Williamsport in its route.

The hopes of the people of this District have been raised to the expectation of its cont nuance to the bituminous coal region above Cumberland, and we hope they will not be disappointed.

In the mean time, however, we have the extreme gratification of feeling an assurance that the supply of Coal will not depend on this event. We have before us a favorable specimen of Anthracite Coal found about 5 feet below the surface of the ground, near the line of Berkley and Morgan counties, in Virginia, and about fifteen miles from the Potomac. There is every reason to believe that it will be found much nearer to the Canal, and that the supply of this article of necessity will be abundant in quantity and excellent in quality.

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