

VOLUME 62.

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AMONG THE FARMERS.

"SPEED THE FLOW."

Correspondence on practical agriculture topics is invited. Address all communications to the Editor of this paper, care of the South Paris, Maine, office.

TOO MUCH CORN.

In the corn-growing states farmers feed too much corn, especially to hogs that, they do not feed enough other foods along with the corn. This fault in feeding will probably be emphasized this year, when corn is very plentiful.

Within the past month swine diseases have occasioned a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in Illinois alone. And here in Maine we have seen swine plague or cholera, which has killed many of our swine.

It seems to me that practical freedom from disease among our swine for more than twenty years shows that there is virtue in our practice of breeding only mature animals, of allowing the swine to drink only deep well water, of keeping all quarters scrupulously clean, of feeding a variety of foods, and of providing salt, charcoal, and such condiments. Of our practice in swine growing, we count the feeding of a variety of foods the most important point. We try to grow pigs nearly altogether on green feed, clover being the largest factor, and we often largely on corn because the corn is so plentiful.

Stations confirm the common sense of feeders that corn is the best fattening food. But we do not feed corn exclusively when fattening, and we think that in our manner of feeding may be found a large fraction of our secret of keeping disease out of our hogs.

While in the methods of farmers generally may be found one powerful cause of swine disease.

The Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station secured information of the methods of feeding employed by 102 leading hog raisers of the state. Presumably these men are successful in raising hogs.

Intelligent and judicious feeders. The station, summarizing the feeding methods of these leading swine growers says: "Where the hog does not get his food entirely from the pastures and the droppings of the cattle, corn is the almost exclusive food for fattening hogs."

This only one cause of swine disease, the hog lots in the great corn-producing states; and it is probably equally true that corn is 80 per cent of the grain fed to hogs in the other corn-growing states.

It is difficult in the bone and muscle formers, as compared with the heat and fat formers. The Department of Agriculture has analyzed the average of 50 cases of dent corn: Protein, 10.3 per cent; nitrogen, free extract, 70.4 per cent; fat, 12.5 per cent; cellulose, 8.8 per cent; the average of 50 cases of dent corn: Protein, 10.3 per cent; nitrogen, free extract, 70.4 per cent; fat, 12.5 per cent; cellulose, 8.8 per cent.

Feeding an animal on corn alone is like feeding a man on corn alone. It is not a healthy diet.

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INTERESTING FIGURES—CATTLE AND HORSES.

Some very interesting deductions are to be drawn from the returns made by the local boards of assessors throughout the state to the state board. They are of a striking character, especially the footings covering the live stock.

Take the horses, for instance. The figures from nearly every county show an increase from 10 to 15 per cent while the numbers of the one, two and three-year-old colts have fallen off with remarkable regularity. The decrease in yearling colts is marked, being as much as fifty per cent in one instance, demonstrating unmistakably that within two years horse raising has become less popular. Yet the same number of horses augmented, notwithstanding the decrease in colts, which can no doubt be accounted for in part by the imports of cheap Western and Canadian horses, the very kind that we ought not to have. Farmers think it does not pay at present to raise them.

The number of oxen in the state continues to dwindle, according to the assessors' returns, having diminished since last year from 3 to 10 per cent. The average. All the counties exhibit a falling off.

There has been a noticeable and gratifying increase in the number of cows—from 10 to 20 per cent—and it is almost uniform in the counties. It is noticeable that dairies are advancing and that farmers are giving more attention to butter and cheese production. It is what was to be expected with grain and hay as cheap or cheaper than ever before and the price of dairy products having fallen but slightly. The swine have also increased in number. This may be the consequence of increased production, more hogs being needed to consume the skimmed milk. This year's returns show another large falling off in sheep. It is not to be wondered at when the price which wool has sold at is considered.

The increase in the valuation of the state as figured from the assessors' returns, is about \$4,000,000 against the \$3,000,000 gain of last year. The State assessors in their report will probably include the results of their assessment, which they have not done up to this time. The abundance of these vehicles and the fact that many of them are new, have led assessors to regard them as property which should bear its proportion of the common burden. Carriages and other instruments have been more generally taxed within a year or two than formerly.

THE APPLE MAGGOT.

The apple maggot, Trypeta pomonella, is working serious havoc with the apples this year. Its ravages are worse than those of any other pest.

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MYSTERY OF THE GREAT RUBY.

By LUCIE ST. DEANE.

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CHAPTER XVI.

The good old lady was horrified at my suggestion, but I forced matters.

"You know the punishment for obstructing an officer of the law in his duty?" I added in my most impressive manner.

"No," she replied faintly. "What is it?"

"Well, it is not hanging," I answered, with a smile, "but a heavy fine or imprisonment. I have my suspicion who those burglars were, and by examining the marks they have left may be able to find them."

"No," she replied faintly. "What is it?"

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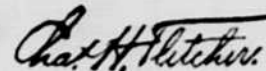
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