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Advertisements for the Agricultural Department should be addressed to the Agricultural Editor at Springfield, Vt.

The opening of the winter has at last yielded to cold, with snow enough for sleighing.

The Kohlrabi is held in high esteem as a substitute for turnips. It stands drier better than Sweden.

The Canada Farmer says that apples should be stored where it is cool and dry, and not disturbed to pick out decaying ones.

A correspondent of the Maine Farmer says in breaking steers place the most delicate one on the off side, as he can make a good near ox of almost any steer.

The committee on ways and means has prepared a bill reducing the tariff on woolen goods and many other articles of necessity, twenty per cent, and renewing the duties on tea and coffee, at ten and four cents per pound.

Mr. Allen Morse of Calais writes us that he has observed on the intestines of hogs killed last fall many small bladders or bubbles of air, and inquires what the cause is, and whether they are an indication of disease in the hogs, and if so whether the meat is good for food.

At a meeting at Birmingham, England, of breeders of Longhorn cattle, it was voted to form a society of breeders of Longhorn cattle, and to establish a herd book. It was stated that sixty years ago Bakewell's favorite cattle sold as high as the Shorthorns at the present day.

We have from M. Field Fowler, 144 State street, Boston, a circular, setting forth the value of cotton-seed meal as food for stock, and analyses showing its nutritive value as compared to other articles of food. This meal is extensively used by dairymen in the Connecticut Valley.

A farmer on the island of Nantucket where the soil is miserably poor, states that last winter 650 loads of kelp from the sea was spread on twelve acres of land upon which he raised last summer 600 bushels of shell corn, 1,200 bushels of turnips, 500 of carrots, 300 of beets and 50 loads of pumpkins.

The law prohibits the confinement of animals in pens for more than twenty-eight consecutive hours without being released for five hours' rest and food, under a penalty of one to five hundred dollars. This law is in force in all the states, but does not apply to animals fed and cared for by grooms in the cars.

Somebody has applied to congress for a law conferring a letter patent or some protection of that sort to the originators of new varieties of fruit, grain, vegetables, etc. and there are people so simple as to advocate such a law. The result could be no substantial benefit to the originators and would occasion troublesome and expensive litigation, useful only to lawyers. It would be a misfortune.

The English government having prohibited the importation of diseased cattle from foreign countries, the farmers claim that large numbers of Irish cattle brought across the border are affected with contagious diseases, and demand that they should be subjected to the same restriction. The fear of offending the Irish is too strong, and great offense has been given to the English farmers by the refusal.

The American Agriculturist cannot recommend farmers to manufacture their own superphosphate. The trouble, the loss from unavoidable accidents with the acid, and the difficulty of completely neutralizing the acid without rendering the superphosphate insoluble, more than balances all the saving. There is danger of spoiling it in drying. Sulphuric acid is a very dangerous article to handle.

Farmers having calves which do not thrive, should look to their bedding. If they are obliged to stand and lie on ice, or worse yet on wet manure, it is impossible to make them grow, or even to keep in a healthy condition. The blood in their feet and legs circulates poorly and becomes diseased. This added to the discomfort they suffer prevents growth. They are not only set back in size and take on bad shapes, but are permanently injured. Clean out the stables every day and bed them well. It will pay.

New Jersey supplies the country with half its cranberries, 5,000 acres being devoted to the crop. But the product has been diminishing year by year, many bogs failing to give any crop. The soil attacks the fruit just before it ripens. The disease is said by Professor Taylor, microscopist of the United States department of agriculture, who has visited the bogs, to be caused by the sourness of the soil, causing fermentation of the fruit. He recommended liming the land and sand, but it was not effectual.

The Vermont Watchman gives utterance to the belief that county fairs as an institution fail in many points to meet the reason-

able expectations of those who ought to be benefited by them and are most interested in them, and proceeds to submit a plan for rival fairs to be held under the auspices of the grange. In the same issue it suggests the query whether it would not be better that the members of the board of agriculture to be chosen by the county agricultural societies instead of receiving their appointment from the governor.

The New York Tribune says every act dictated by the mind is followed by a change in the brain, which though slight at first and liable to obliteration, becomes deeper by each repetition, until it is an established characteristic, and is transmitted to the next generation. When a creature jumps a fence a furrow or rut is made in the brain, and every time the act is repeated the rut becomes deeper and the habit of jumping fences fixed and hereditary. It has a singular effect on the "brain" of the writer, living within twenty miles of four parks factories.

Mr. J. C. Oliver inquires what is the cause of barn itch in cattle, and for a remedy. If memory serves us rightly this trouble is caused by a microscopic insect burrowing in the skin. One or two applications to the affected part of salt grease in which sulphur has been simmered over the fire, (but not the kitchen stove) effects a cure. The disease is one which affects cattle when fed on hay at the barn in winter. A daily ration of roots and an ounce of sulphur in the food two or three times a month are good preventives of this and other diseases.

The Massachusetts agricultural college, with a farm of 300 acres which cost in the raw state twelve thousand dollars, and upon which many thousands of dollars have been expended in improving the soil, besides two thousand dollars for a barn, and several hundred thousand for college buildings, plant houses, boarding houses, etc., with a very valuable stock of horses, cattle and pigs, and a full rig of implements and machinery, all paid for, and an income from its fund and from tuition of \$21,000, annually, finds itself short \$9,000, annually, and has voted to make the farm pay its own expenses, and to reduce other expenses \$5,000, and call on the Legislature for \$5,000. Poor thing! How it is pinched by poverty to be sure.

Agricultural Fairs.

The Vermont Watchman favors the holding of county fairs under the supervision of the county councils of the order of Patrons of Husbandry, "and if our state agricultural society has outlived its usefulness, or fallen into bad hands, as some are claiming, what shall prevent the state grange from holding a grand and successful state fair?" Well there is need enough of an infusion of new life, and very likely of reform into the management of county and state agricultural societies. There are plenty of grumblers who stay at home and take care of their own business and leave these societies to die or be run by those who have selfish interests to promote, who are voracious in the charge of played out usefulness or fraud. They usually suggest the organization of rival societies as a remedy for the alleged evils.

Admitting the existence of every evil complained of, the question arises, is it best to reform and reorganize the societies we have or incur the labor and expense of duplicate organizations in fields which ought to be represented by those already in existence? Is there any obstacle in the way of a thorough overhauling of any society which is not doing its duty efficiently and faithfully to the cause of agriculture?

It will be conceded by every fair minded man, and by none more readily than our contemporary that it is a waste of force and of money to maintain two agricultural societies to perform the work within the scope of one. Our neighbors of New York, who tried the disastrous experiment of holding two rival state fairs in one week, can tell how the thing works. But the reply is made that "the societies have fallen into bad hands." How have they fallen into bad hands and what is to prevent the new societies "under the supervision of the councils and the state grange" from meeting the same fate? The answer is plain enough. Neither the body of the farmers nor a fair representation of them go to the business meetings of the agricultural societies to look after the common interests. Any man in the state can become a member of the state agricultural society, and have an equal voice in its management by the payment of one dollar annually. And yet so indifferent are the farmers of Vermont to the benefits to be derived from a strong state agricultural society and a good state fair, that they leave the important work at that organization to be done by the directors. It is a notorious fact that twenty-five men would be a sufficient number to walk into any annual or business meeting of that society, pay down each his little dollar, and outvote the members present and take possession of the society and its fund.

It is not to be expected that all the farmers or even a majority of the leading farmers of the several towns in the state will go to Brattleboro, Burlington or any other point to attend a business meeting. They will not go to that trouble and expense to see the state fair with all its attractions of fine stock, crops and farm implements and the people with horse trots and side shows. But the county societies can send their delegates to the state society to represent them, and then, if the county societies were run by the farmers of the county, the state society would represent the body of the farmers. Unfortunately they are not so run as a general rule, and a very few, who have a never failing fund of public spirit or an axe to grind, are left to bear the burden.

The farmers for whose benefit all agricultural fairs are, or ought to be, run are the ones who have got the work to do, and on them rests the responsibility of failure through inefficiency or fraud.

Whereas, Professor Henry M. Seely of Middlebury has signified his willingness to

give without remuneration a portion of his time to such investigations and experiments, therefore, it is

Voted, That the Vermont board of agriculture, manufactures and mining do establish the Vermont experiment station, to be under the control of this board, and that the same be placed in the charge of Prof. Henry M. Seely as superintendent.

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C. HORACE HUBBARD, for Com.

The report of the committee was adopted, and the votes unanimously passed. Although the work to be accomplished must necessarily be small when compared to that of stations endowed and sustained by government patronage and individual liberality, much can be done, enough we doubt not to prove that this field of labor is one which ought not to be neglected. And we trust that from so humble a beginning as this results of inestimable value to farmers will ultimately accrue.

We should fail in a manifest duty did we omit to commend the self-denying labor Professor Seely so willingly offers. Others give of their abundant wealth. He gives of the very sinews of his life.

Pomfret.

The name of Pomfret is a household word with good butter makers and intelligent farmers all over the land. The fine results accomplished by her Jersey dairies which have excited so much comment and surprise during the last few years, have called attention to the fact not before so generally known, that the farmers of this town are not only industrious, prosperous people, but are taking the lead in farm improvements, social enjoyments and mental culture.

It is very unusual and remarkable for the farmers and people of a town to be so united and harmonious in social gatherings, which are free to all, where rational enjoyments usurp the place of and crowd out a low class of itinerant shows. To this fact must be attributed the well known taste of the people for what may be termed intellectual, social pleasures (or vice versa as you will).

We had all anticipated the Pomfret meeting with promise of an exceptionally good time. Our expectations were more than realized in every respect. The good people met us at the station, six miles away, and made their houses our homes, and gave every attention to our comfort that heart could wish. Delightful as this was to us, the interest in and appreciation of the work of the board, the enthusiasm for improvement and the evidences on every hand that improvement goes beyond mere theory, were still more gratifying.

One of the pleasantest features of the occasion was an impromptu collation of the hall on Friday noon, when instead of dispersing to the farm houses for dinner, the ladies brought in their lunch baskets and loaded down the tables with a bountiful repast, such as farmers' wives and daughters know so well how to prepare, of which all were invited to help themselves. They were probably satisfied with the silent appreciation manifested, and perhaps astonished at the display of manual dexterity with knife and fork.

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We shall have a word to say hereafter of the Jersey dairies of Pomfret.

An Experiment Station in Vermont.

The subject of experiments by scientific men, and men who have devoted their lives to careful study and practice of specialties, has recently been brought prominently to the notice of Vermont farmers by accounts of similar enterprises in Europe, and the single one in America, at Middletown, in Connecticut. The importance of such questions, for instance, as those, in relation to milk—the raising of cream at different temperatures; coagulation by acids, rennet, electricity, or other agencies; the composition, natural and artificial coloring of butter; the globules, animal and other odors and essential oils, and the chemical decomposition of butter and cheese. Also in regard to the valuable tuber, the potato; the composition and the structure of different varieties. Particulars, the obvious questions in relation to them. Seeds, their genuineness, purity, quality and vitality. Feeding stock; steaming food, food ration, etc. The apple, testing the hardness of promising varieties; parasites and diseases; the structure, growth and composition, and the causes and chemical results of decay.

There are many other questions which may, with great benefit to the farmer, be investigated. The facts already established by agricultural experiment stations may be collected and made available. Such investigations as these are worthy the attention of the most accomplished scientists.

We have the extraordinary gratification of making the announcement that Vermont is to have a volunteer experiment station. The following report of a meeting of the board of agriculture at Pomfret, February 3, will explain itself:

"The committee appointed to consider the subject of an experiment station in Vermont have given to the subject the consideration which its importance demands, and unanimously recommended that the Vermont board of agriculture do establish the second experiment station on this continent; and we submit to the board the following preamble and vote, the passage of which we recommend."

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An Experiment Station in Vermont.

The subject of experiments by scientific men, and men who have devoted their lives to careful study and practice of specialties, has recently been brought prominently to the notice of Vermont farmers by accounts of similar enterprises in Europe, and the single one in America, at Middletown, in Connecticut. The importance of such questions, for instance, as those, in relation to milk—the raising of cream at different temperatures; coagulation by acids, rennet, electricity, or other agencies; the composition, natural and artificial coloring of butter; the globules, animal and other odors and essential oils, and the chemical decomposition of butter and cheese. Also in regard to the valuable tuber, the potato; the composition and the structure of different varieties. Particulars, the obvious questions in relation to them. Seeds, their genuineness, purity, quality and vitality. Feeding stock; steaming food, food ration, etc. The apple, testing the hardness of promising varieties; parasites and diseases; the structure, growth and composition, and the causes and chemical results of decay.

There are many other questions which may, with great benefit to the farmer, be investigated. The facts already established by agricultural experiment stations may be collected and made available. Such investigations as these are worthy the attention of the most accomplished scientists.

We have the extraordinary gratification of making the announcement that Vermont is to have a volunteer experiment station. The following report of a meeting of the board of agriculture at Pomfret, February 3, will explain itself:

"The committee appointed to consider the subject of an experiment station in Vermont have given to the subject the consideration which its importance demands, and unanimously recommended that the Vermont board of agriculture do establish the second experiment station on this continent; and we submit to the board the following preamble and vote, the passage of which we recommend."

Whereas, Professor Henry M. Seely of Middlebury has signified his willingness to