

Farmers' Column.



Give fools their gold & leaves their power. Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall. Who sows a field or trains a fowling. Or plants a tree, is more than all.

Protecting Sheep Against Dogs.

The Belair, Harford county, Agis furnishes a report of the May meeting of the Deer Creek Farmers' Club, from which we make the following extracts of some of the remarks submitted on the occasion:

Mr. S. B. Silver said: Every farmer knows the value of a small bunch of sheep, and it is necessary to have some protection for them. His sheep are housed every night, but he has frequently been aroused in the night by the barking of dogs around his sheep pen, and been obliged to get up and drive them away. It is well to have a good shepherd dog to assist in driving the sheep from one part of the farm to the other. Sheep increase rapidly and the wool and lambs are profitable. A neighbor, John Carr, had sold \$110 worth of lambs and wool in one year from 9 or 10 sheep. On an account of dogs sheep must be put into a house every night, but they do better in the fields. In warm weather they feed chiefly at night. They huddle together on the knolls, which are always the poorest spots, and enrich them by their droppings. Sheep are few in number comparison with other branches of farming, but if we had some protection from dogs every farmer could have a few and find them a source of great profit. He did not know what measure of protection to suggest, as a majority of persons seem to prefer dogs to sheep.

Mr. Moore said that at the next assessment dogs should be assessed and be made respectable animals in the eyes of the law. If the owner cannot be taxed, from not having a sufficient amount of property, let the dog be taxed. Owners ought to be responsible for the damage done by their dogs. Dog laws are unpopular because there are ten dog owners to one sheep owner. Encourage people to raise more sheep and a dog law would soon become popular. In Cecil county no man could go to the Legislature if he were opposed to a dog law, while in Harford the reverse is the case. We have a dog law in Harford, but it is unpopular, and it must be because it is not a good law. The keeping of sheep would be profitable to the individual and also to the community.

Wm. Webster said he had wondered for 25 years, how such an intelligent class of people as the farmers of Harford could have had patience to permit so many Legislatures to pass without demanding a dog law. Thirty years ago it might have been unpopular, but it is not now. He was a friend to the dog, but a greater friend to the sheep. Dogs are not property, and if they can be allowed to deprive us of our property and taxes, there is something wrong. Dog laws work well in the Western States, and in Cecil and Chester counties. Why not in Harford? Mr. Webster had read a letter from the editor of the Elkton Whig, who spoke of the efficiency of the dog law for that county. In 1883 the sheep awards amounted to \$400 and \$1,250 was turned over to the school fund.

The Cecil law imposes a tax upon owners of dogs upwards of two months old of \$1 on each male, and \$2 on each female dog, to be collected by the tax collectors. All dogs upon which no tax is paid before the 1st of April, must be killed by the collectors under a penalty of from \$10 to \$100. The fee for killing dogs, and the awards for sheep destroyed or injured are paid out of the dog tax fund.

Mr. Webster said the law was so popular in Cecil that no one could be elected to the Legislature if opposed to it. In Chester county a fox hunter whose hounds frightened some sheep and prevented them from feeding properly afterwards, was fined \$200. If we had a dog law we could afford to keep fine sheep. If more sheep were kept here it would be better for the farmer, the mechanic and everybody. Sheep are a benefit to rich land, and a greater benefit to poor land. He would put these words in every farmer's mouth until the next Legislature meets: 'Give us a dog law!'

To Measure an Acre.

A handy thing to have on a farm is a measuring cord with which to measure off acres. To make one, procure sixty-seven feet of strong rope, one inch round, make a loop or fasten a ring or bar at each end, and make these exactly sixty feet apart. This is four rods. Then tie a piece of red rag in the center. One acre of ground will be a piece four of the cords (chains) long and two and one-half wide, equal to sixteen by ten rods, making one hundred and sixty square rods to the acre. The advantage of the ring or loop is that one person can measure alone by driving a stake in the ground to hold the rope while he stretches it out. The rope should be soaked in tar and dried, which will prevent its shrinking when wet.

Salt in Butter.

The art of butter making will never reach perfection until we stop putting salt in the butter. It is a depraved taste that requires a salt taste in butter. The most critical judges in the old country never think of allowing salt to come near the butter, and after getting accustomed to it there is all the difference between the two that there is between salt and fresh fish, flesh and other dried or prepared food. The true epicure could eat a pound of unsalted butter at a sitting. It will be money in the dairyman's pocket when salt is abandoned in the dairy. -American Dairyman.

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