Farmers' Column.

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

Siling Stock.

BY A. M. WILLIAMS.

In no department of agriculture has so much progress been made in the last twenty years as in the keeping of stock. While it is claimed that the farmer can winter a great deal more stock and more cheaply by the help of the silo, there are some that oppose it, and for different reasons. But it is plain the silo has come to stay. The merits of soiling are so great that we hear of no opposition to it Until a short time soiling has been pretty much limited to a little patch of sowed corn, calculated to feed the stock when the pastures got short in summer, and even this little quantity was very useful. From year to year the farmer that at first planted little, then planted more and more, and wherever the practice was introduced it soon became general throughout the neighborhood. The milkmen living near the cities, soon learned that sowing rye in the fall, and feeding the cows in the spring was an excellent plan, and this practice is now very common. Farmers are just learning the value of this operation and the practice is fast increasing in the country. But I want to caution the inexperienced against the too common practice of letting the rye stand too long instead of feeding it early. It is not good when too old. The ground on which this rye is raised should be rich in order to have the crop ready early, and every day is an important item. Besides, the feed is much better when grown rapidly.—There is a variety of crops that may be used to follow this rye. I see that wheat is strongly recommended. The average farmer will hardly mow his wheat to feed green, although he can easily prove it will pay. Clover is, perhaps, the favorite. Probably there is nothing better than corn in its season, but we can't get this early. Last season I visited a farmer who keeps a dairy and sends his milk to New York. He showed me a field of oats and peas sowed for stock. They were sowed thick, and stood up straight, although apparently four feet high. I think there was more feed for stock on an acre of this field than any other acre I ever saw. The ground had been very heavily manured. This man sells about $10,000 worth of produce a year from a farm of 150 acres. But he keeps a large stock and buys $1,000 worth of New York manure. This large sum is not got from common farm crops. He does a large business in market gardening and raising garden seeds. His theory is manure is everything. For raising soiling crops of all kinds, manure should be applied heavily whenever it can be obtained. A good article for soiling is Hungarian grass. The land should be rich and care used not to get it too thick. I prefer to cut it before it heads out, although I think most people don't. German millet is extensively used for this purpose I have never tried it but once, which was not a success; but I have always been successful with the Hungarian grass for soiling.

Let us now give a moment's consideration to about the only objection that can be made to the system of soiling stock. This is the extra labor required. Where the material for soiling is grown near the barn and only a small stock is kept it is evident this extra labor is not great. A man with a scythe in a few minutes can cut fodder enough for quite a number of cattle. But where the stock is large and it is necessary to raise the feed at a distance, the fodder is usually cut with a mowing machine and drawn to the barn in wagon loads, like hay.—Where it is convenient to have all the pasture desired this is evidently the easiest way. But this is seldom the case. We are tending toward intense farming. If a man has pasture for two cows, he wants to keep four. This he can easily do with a little soiling. I hope the farmers who have not yet tried experiments in this line will, the coming season, sow a number of crops for the purpose and I think they will be well paid. I would especially recommend for one oats and peas, and for another Hungarian grass. The sooner they are sowed the better. In this latitude the ground is already in condition to receive the seed, and the sooner it is sown the better will be the crop.—*N. Y. Independent.*

Agricultural Notes.

Now is a good time for farmers to look to the question of a change of seed. Vegetation, as well as animals, deteriorates unless prevented by the watchfulness and scientific attention of man. Wheat, oats, corn and potatoes need frequent change of location more than change to another kind of seed.

Enough fertilizers are lying around and going to waste in the fence corners, back yards and out-of-the-way places on some farms to make a marked difference in the crops produced each year. The wood pile, the henroost and the garbage pile will each contribute a considerable portion each year if properly looked after.

A correspondent asks if there is any nutriment in corn cobs and how they compare with oats or rye straw. Answer: There is some nutriment in anything that can be eaten. But there is not much in a fence rail and not very much in a corn cob. Corn cobs are more valuable for their mechanical effect than for their nutritive qualities. Good straw contains considerable nutriment.

The failure of the wheat crop in some parts of the country will make a greater number of acres for corn the coming season. This will, or should, mean an increase in the help during the cultivating season. Where help cannot be obtained it is better to rent out the extra land that must be farmed, rather than try to run it through with what was already calculated upon, and thus slight both.

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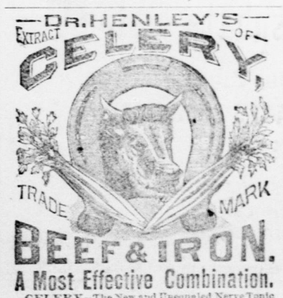

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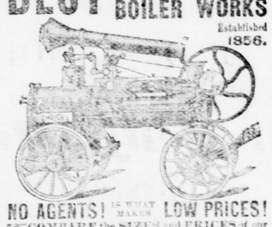

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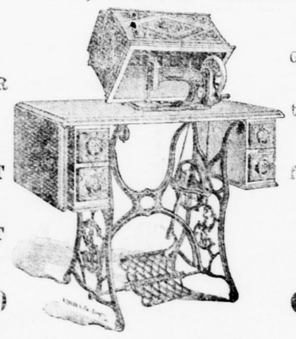

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