

The Southerner.

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THE SOUTHERNER.

Geo. HOWARD, Jr., Editor & Proprietor.

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AGRICULTURAL.



"Agriculture is the chief foundation of a nation's power, as it not only furnishes man with food and clothing, but also with materials for the mechanic arts and commerce."

From the Journal of Agriculture.

Shelter

CONNECTED WITH DISEASES IN CATTLE AND SHEEP.

Want of shelter is injurious both to plants and animals. It exposes them to sudden and excessive changes of temperature, and to the heat abstracting influence of cold, of winds, storms, rain, snow, and fogs. Its fatal influence on vegetation is well shown in one of Mr. Bain's very valuable series of papers on shelter, which have appeared from time to time in the *Journal of Agriculture*. There he proves, beyond doubt, that the bleak country, the stunted trees and fences, and the thin short miserable crops, which even in this age of improvement still meet the traveller's eye in many parts of the United Kingdom, are for the most part the unmistakable evidences of insufficient shelter. On the other hand, Mr. Bain shows that, even with an ungrateful soil, and in unfavorable circumstances, judicious shelter often produces rich and luxuriant crops, where, but for the shelter, nothing whatever would have grown.*

But the want of shelter entails vile consequences not only on plants, but also on animals, increasing very materially the cost of their livelihood, retarding their growth, and rendering them liable to many serious diseases.

Exposure to cold, as above stated, necessitates the consumption of a very large allowance of food; and when, as is usually the case with animals badly sheltered, such exposure to cold is combined with exposure to rain, and to all sorts of weather, the necessity for an increased supply of food will be still greater. In such circumstances, an unusually large quantity of material is expended in the maintenance of the animal heat; and if this extra expenditure be not compensated for by an increased quantity of food, the animal necessarily loses weight,—or, in other words, the fat which it may have previously accumulated is re-absorbed, entering into chemical combination with the oxygen in the systemic capillaries, and by this combination evolving the heat required to replace that abstracted by exposure to the inclemency of the weather.

The beneficial effects of shelter in feeding are well shown in an experiment made at Whitfield, by Lord Ducie, some years ago. A flock of two hundred sheep was divided into two lots of a hundred each. One of these lots was placed in sheds, and being allowed an unlimited supply of Swedish turnips, it was found that each animal consumed on an average 21 lb. per day. The other lot remained in the open air, and without shelter, and, although getting the same sort of turnips, each sheep consumed 25 lb. per day. After being thus managed for some months, the sheltered sheep, were found to weigh, on an average, 3 lb. a head more than those kept in the open air, although the latter had consumed nearly one-fifth more of food.† Hence it is clear that the amplest supply of food, without sufficient shelter, is inadequate to impart a high condition to animals.

The general appearance of animals living in badly-sheltered houses or localities is unthriving; the skin is hard, dry, and inflexible; and the hair rough, and stands on end. They are frequently affected by a hoarse, or cough, which is obstinate and difficult to get rid of. It is generally loud, clear, and distinct, and of a sort which people are in the habit of calling healthy. It is certainly not the

worst sort of cough, and it does not, perhaps, indicate any immediately fatal disease; but it is a cough, and, as such, it is a symptom, and an indubitable one too, of some irritation of the pulmonary mucous membrane—an irritation probably caused in such a case as this, by sudden variations in the temperature of the atmosphere.

Amongst the diseases to which insufficient shelter more particularly gives rise, are those affecting the respiratory organs—which, from their susceptibility, and their relation to external air, are particularly liable to suffer from any change in the temperature, moisture, or other conditions of the atmosphere. Catarrhs or runnings at the nose are occasionally met with, but these are much more common in man and in the horse than among cattle and sheep. In these ruminants, exposure generally involves the mucous lining of the bronchii or of the lungs, producing irritation, congestion, and, in aggravated cases, inflammation. In cases of bronchitis, pneumonia, or pleurisy, resulting from insufficient shelter, the inflammation generally involves in a greater or less degree all parts of the respiratory system; but the whole extent of the mucous membrane, from the larynx downwards, seems especially to participate in the disease. In such cases, death usually results from the ingress of the air being prevented by the effusion speedily filling up the various ramifications of the bronchial tubes. It is this form of inflammation of the lungs which generally cuts off animals brought from a warm to a colder climate. In exposed localities, enteritis is often met with, both among sheep and cattle; many animals suffer from palsy; and inflammation of the eyes and cataract are of frequent occurrence.

In milk cows, and ewes giving suck, the udder is particularly liable to suffer; for in them the mucous membrane of the viscus is in a highly vascular condition, and therefore particularly predisposed to take on inflammation. The injudicious exposure of cows to inclemency of weather, during or immediately after parturition, is one of the most common causes of that form of inflammation of the peritoneum, and the membranes of the uterus, properly called puerperal fever. But of all diseases to which insufficient shelter gives rise, rheumatism is perhaps the most frequent.—The manner in which it is produced is somewhat as follows: The insufficient shelter, whether depending on the bad construction of houses or sheds, or on the black and unprotected state of the pasturages, exposes the animals to currents of air or winds; these cause derangements of the circulation; and the blood, being driven from the cutaneous and more external vessels, accumulates round the internal organs, and thus causes congestion of the serious, fibrous, and cartilaginous tissues. If the immediate or exciting cause of the rheumatism be sufficiently powerful, and the parts in a state of predisposition, as they generally are in animals exposed to the evils of insufficient shelter, the congestion passes into inflammation—and we have the pleura, the pericardium, synovial bursa, fascia of muscles, coverings of the nerves, lining membranes of the blood-vessels, and cartilaginous tissues of joints, all involved to a greater or less degree, in that specific inflammation termed the rheumatic.

Insufficient shelter, especially if associated, as it too often is, with an indifferent and insufficient diet, forms one of the most fertile sources of phthisis pulmonalis, or pulmonary consumption. The slightest taint of this disease, when nurtured under the favoring influence of insufficient shelter, obtains a firm hold on the constitution, and, gradually gathering force, runs a rapid and fatal course. The disease, however, occasionally springs up independently of any apparent predisposition, seeming capable of being induced by the influence of insufficient shelter alone. In such circumstances, insufficient shelter acts in a manner analogous to other debilitating causes. It depresses the vital energies, interferes with the processes of assimilation and secretion, and in extreme cases gradually produces that degeneration in the vital fluids which leads to the deposition of tubercular matter in various parts of the body.

Another and very common affection, in exposed localities, is the growth of serofulous tumors—most generally appearing about the head and neck. These most usually affect young animals, causing much pain—which, however, is more acutely felt in the parts contiguous to the swelling, than in the swelling itself. They belong to the class of malignant tumors, generally run on to

softening, and are often very difficult of cure.

Besides these diseases, want of shelter also gives rise to various accidents, which, in certain localities, are even more serious than disease, and often lead to greater loss. We refer particularly to the large number of lambs and ewes which, in many cold and naturally unsheltered parts of the country, annually perish during the lambing season. By some the loss of the lambs has been estimated at 20 per cent. and that of the ewes at about 6 or 8. Although this estimate, as applied to most hill-farms, and even to Scotland, is perhaps considerably above the average, still it cannot be doubted that the annual loss of life during the lambing season is, in such situations, very great, and that it is mostly to be ascribed to want of shelter. Since such is the detriment to health, such is the loss of life and of capital, which result from insufficient shelter, surely more attention should be bestowed upon the means of remedying this evil. The measures to be employed for this end are in themselves few and simple; but the putting of them into practice is sometimes attended with considerable difficulty. They may be briefly stated as follows: Let the situation selected for the erection of the habitations of animals be naturally well sheltered, especially from the prevailing winds of the locality, either by surrounding eminences, by strips of plantation, or by buildings. Let the construction of the houses be such as to ensure the highest possible degree of health to the animals which are to inhabit them. The efficient sheltering of pasture and sheep grounds is a point of much importance, but one of considerable difficulty. Natural shelters—such as hills, wood, &c.—must be taken advantage of; and high grounds should be covered by plantations, as affording shelter to considerable distances. The judicious planting of trees, sometimes in rows and sometimes in clumps, is a very valuable mode of sheltering fields; and the laying down of hedgerows, and even the building of properly constructed walls, often aid materially in securing cattle and sheep from the inclemency of the weather.*

*Mr. Bain, who has for several years been well known to agriculturists as an able and persevering advocate of "shelter," thus states its great importance as an agricultural improvement: "I am at last so satisfied with the value and necessity of shelter over the larger portion of these kingdoms, that, instead of pleading for it as profitable, and a great auxiliary to improvement, I am inclined to state it to be a necessary and indispensable preliminary to all improvement, at least if we would have it duly profitable. There is no doubt that, by draining and cultivating and manuring, we may greatly improve the land, and the amount and quality of its crops; and there is no doubt that by these means we have immensely improved both; but judicious shelter, where necessary, would immensely farther have improved both the land and the crops, whether these last should be of grain, or of vegetable, or pasture, and also in like proportion have furthered the comfort, and the health, and the growth of the animals fed upon them, whether in the fields or in the stall."

From the Plough, Loom, and Anvil.

Flax Cotton.

The annexed notice of the progress of the arrangements for the production of flax cotton, taken from an account of the late New-York State Agricultural Fair, can scarcely fail to have interest for our readers of the planting States, and we desire to call to their special attention. Southern policy has driven Southern labor almost exclusively into agriculture, for it has looked to the separation of the spindle and the loom from the plough and the harrow, the consequence of which is, that all the cotton-spinning machinery of the world is now located in flax-growing countries of the world, which latter are now engaged in a vigorous effort to throw off all dependence upon the producers of cotton; and that effort will be successful, and that at no distant period, if it be not so even at this moment. What, then, will be the condition of the planter! Even now he is almost ruined, when his crop reaches two and three quarter millions, and even the prospect that such may be the size of the crop has reduced the price to an average of little more than thirty dollars per bale; but let the present movement be perfectly successful, and there will soon be added a million of bales of flax to take the place of as many bales of

cotton, and then even twenty dollars a bale be considered a high price. We entreat our Southern friends to study well their prospects, and to determine for themselves if their security against such movements will not be greatly increased by adopting the measures necessary for bringing the spindle and loom to their own cotton fields, and thus making a market on the land for the produce of the land.

"Nothing, however, arrested our attention in this hall but the specimen of flax-cotton and its various proportions, exhibited by E. G. Roberts, assignee of Clausen's patents for the United States. We saw one intelligent, influential citizen converted from scepticism to enthusiasm for flax-cotton by his first earnest examination. It will go inevitably. A cotton fibre scarcely distinguishable from Sea Islands may be produced from flax by Clausen's process for six cents per pound; and a machine for breaking out the fibre from the unrotted stalk was exhibited by Mr. Clemmons, of Springfield, Massachusetts, which is calculated materially to expedite the flax-cotton revolution. This machine renders the entire fibre, with hardly a loss of two per cent. as "swingle-tow," straight, and wholly separated from the woody substance or "shives," at a cost which can hardly equal one cent per pound of dressed flax. Its operation is very simple, and any man who has seen it at work a day may manage it. Its entire cost is from \$125 to \$200, according to size. It will be a shame to American agricultural enterprise if flax-cotton and linen are not both among our country's extensive and important products within the next three years."

For the South.

Buy no more blankets. is the title of an article from the Southern Cultivator now going the rounds of Southern papers. We approve the "buy no more blankets," earnestly recommending the cotton planter to follow the advice, but not in the way the writer recommends; because the "cotton comforts" cannot be made at the cost stated, that is to be worth a straw after they are made. To be economical, that is, durable, the stuff should not cost less than eight cents a yard, and one should contain six yards, and four pounds of bats, which always be worth 25 per cent, advance upon the price of fair cotton—say eight cents per pound, making the cost of a comforter eighty cents. This will be as warm as two common negro blankets; but have a care it is not too warm. It is almost impervious to air, and when used in a hot climate, or in warm weather will absorb and retain the effluvia arising from perspiration; and as it cannot be washed like a blanket, will engender disease.—Comforts for negroes, are too much like hot air furnaces, and air-tight stoves in air-tight rooms for white folks—great savers of fuel at the expense of human life. Cotton comforts upon clean beds in cold latitudes, are the best and cheapest covering in the world. For the use of dirty careless negroes they are not so; besides they are much more liable to accident from fire than woolen blankets. Yet I do not advocate your buying blankets, because you can make them at home, and cost you nothing. You can grow wool just as easy as you can grow cotton, and at about the same price; and in growing wool you will necessarily grow mutton, which you may find by experience, is a cheaper and healthier food for your people than fat pork. You may be assured from facts we have learned in our extensive journeyings through the Southern States that cotton comforts are not generally approved by those who have tried them for the reason I have stated. Blankets are preferable in every respect, and home made ones would be preferable to any others.—*The Plow.*

A Fact for Farmers.

Dr. R. T. Baldwin has recently made public the result of several years investigations and experiments upon manures and the various ways of fertilizing the soil. He states that the best and speediest way to fertilize any soil, is to cover it over with straw, bushes, or any raw material, so as completely to shade it. The surface of the earth thus being made cool, dark, damp and close, soon undergoes a chemical process like putrefaction and becomes highly fertilized. This plan of fertilizing, he says, may be applied with success to any soil whatever no matter how poor; and the result will be astonishing.

Colic in Horses.—Colic in horses is readily cured by tying a small piece of tobacco on the bit of the bridle. The

curse is effected when the tobacco is dissolved in the saliva. We have seen horses cured in this way, when swelled up badly and in great agony.

AN IMPORTANT FACT.

Gen. Samuel Houston, in a late speech is said to have stated a fact not generally known, and which is of importance to the families of soldiers who were murdered by order of Santa Anna, at Goliad, in 1836. It is that the Legislature of Texas, several years ago, passed an act, giving to the next of kin of each soldier who fell in that massacre, sixteen hundred acres of land, to be located on any of the unappropriated lands belonging to the State.

FLOUR FROM ROANOKE.

On Saturday the freight cars brought down on the Seaboard & Roanoke railroad 100 barrels of flour from Weldon, consigned to merchants in this city. In quality this flour is said to be unexcelled by any that comes to our market. Thus the bright future is beginning to dawn upon our long cherished hopes. We learn that the construction of the Weldon Bridge is in rapid progress and requires only about six weeks more to finish it. The workmanship and materials are said to be of the best description.—*Norfolk Herald.*

Mr. Attorney Eaton.—To those who are acquainted with the varied attainments, both legal and literary of this accomplished gentleman, we need not say that he discharges with marked ability the difficult and arduous duties of the important station which has been assigned him. Mr. Eaton possesses in an eminent degree a combination of virtue and talent which peculiarly fit him for almost any office within the gift of the State. His incorruptible private life, his excellent common sense, his professional attainments, his moral firmness in the discharge of duty, and his indefatigable industry and energy all unite to render him one of the first men of his age in Carolina.

We were pleased at first to learn his appointment to the office of attorney general of the State for many reasons. We knew in the first place, that no better officer could be secured from the number of able and competent lawyers in North Carolina; and in the second place we were sure that the people within the limits of the circuit as well as throughout the State, when they become as well acquainted as the people in this section of the State and with his rare endowments and professional merit, would be inspired with admiration of him, both as a man and an officer. We are pleased to learn that he has won golden opinions from all men of all parties by his firm, able, impartial, and dignified administration of the duties of his station, and we know that he will continue to merit the approbation of an enlightened and moral public sentiment.—Mr. Eaton has the head to perceive, and the moral courage to do what is right; whilst he possesses in his bosom a heart that feels even for those who do wrong. We learn that a distinguished gentleman of the Bar said of him a few days ago that he was, all qualifications being considered, one of the best officers the State had. This compliment, emanating from the source whence it sprung, comprises the highest eulogium.—We are right glad to hear him spoken of in these high terms of commendation, for his worth is equalled only by his extreme modesty. —*Warrenton News.*

The Extra Session.—The Goldsborough Republican thinks that the Extra Session of our State Legislature, which seems inevitable, will be constituted of the members elected in 1850. That Legislature was never expected to perform such a duty; but, as it is really a mere matter of form, in which neither political party can possibly secure an advantage over the other, we can see no objection to the suggestion. It is different with respect to the Congressional Districts. Each of these is independent of the others—elects its own member; whilst the Presidential Electors are chosen by the aggregate vote of the State. It is important, too, that the candidates for Electors should be selected within a reasonable time. All considerations, therefore, would seem to justify the calling together of the present Legislature, and not the next, to arrange the Electoral Districts,—and for no other purpose. The session need not last a week.

The importance and amount of business which will come before the next Legislature, should call out the best talents of the State, as it will probably

bring forward a very strong vote of the people. The Electoral and Congressional and State Senate Districts are all to be arranged for ten years; a Senator in Congress to be elected; the Revised Statutes to be passed upon, provision to be made for meeting the State's subscription to the Central Rail Road. All these, in addition to the usual routine of business, are sufficient to call out the full strength of parties.—*Fug. Ob.*

A communication in the Richmond Enquirer thus speaks of Mr. Buchanan:

"The public eye has long since surveyed the political firmament, and has seen one star after another shed its soft ray, and, glittering for awhile, disappear in space; another, and another dies away and finally leaves the sight dazzled by the Ursa Major of the field; and let but the nation's mirror, which is soon to assemble in their convened wisdom, reflect back this glorious light, the remotest corners of our country will shout amen. Let them not shut the eye nor ear to the nation's choice, but with unanimous and overwhelming voice proclaim him; nor let them seek some village hamlet, whose inexperienced virtue and talents might be worthy of his country's admiration, but who would make sad business in managing the affairs of State.

In the astonishing changes which have taken place in our country, but this one man can be found, whose far-sighted sagacity could pierce the clouds of futurity for fifteen years, and unequivocally meet the two great and unexpected issues of the present day, States Rights and Intervention. Need his name be told? Is there a citizen of this broad domain of freedom who would not know him? "PENNSYLVANIA'S FAVORITE SON."

Florida Democratic State Convention. Charleston, April 26.—On the 19th instant the Democratic State Convention of Florida assembled and nominated James E. Brown, Esq., as their candidate for Governor; A. T. Maxwell for Congress; and D. L. Yulee and Dr. D. W. Spencer, Delegates at large to the Baltimore National Convention.

A series of resolutions were adopted, the first of which reaffirms the resolutions of the Virginia convention of 1848, and the second endorses the resolutions adopted by the Baltimore Democratic Convention of 1844. The third resolution deprecates the revival of any past issues; and the fourth appoints fourteen delegates to the Baltimore National Convention. They are sent unanxiously, no preference being expressed by the Convention.

The first choice of the delegates elected is understood to be for Douglas for President and Jefferson Davis for Vice President.

Another Freightful Steamboat Disaster.—One Hundred lives lost.

LEXINGTON, Friday, April 9.

The steamer *Saluda*, bound for Council Bluffs, exploded her boilers at this place to-day. She had on board, besides other passengers, a large number of Mormon emigrants. All the officers of the boat were killed, except the first clerk and mate. About one hundred lives are supposed to have been lost. The boat is a total wreck. Her boilers have been in use several years.

Cor. of New York Times.

He is only a Mechanic.—How frequently is this remark made by aristocratic upstarts, who have nothing to recommend them save their money and impudence, when the name of an honest and intelligent mechanic happens to be mentioned in their presence. They consider it degrading to associate with those who do not, like themselves, possess wealth, even though that wealth was obtained by the most rascally means. Nothing is so disgusting to well-bred, well-informed people, as to hear an ignorant, conceited, puffed-up, long-haired, brainless, impudent dandy, talk about mechanics, as if they were brutes.

No true lady or gentleman would be gaily of such littleness. It is only the ignorant, spoiled beauty—the worthless contemptible soaplock who would do so. Show us the man or woman who would consider it a disgrace to associate with honest, well informed mechanics, and we will show you a worthless, ignorant, conceited creature, useless to himself and the world, and a disgrace and embarrassment to his friends.

West. Lit. Mess.

Punch says, "Aush-a-by-baby! France is enjoying its little Nap—"