

Vol. I.

The Farm.

How to Make Good Pastures.

Many an acre grazed will not carry a sheep. Other acres will give full feed to a cow, each, all through the summer, and be pretty good mowing when frost comes. Both kinds pass under our observation every day. The difference is not in the original character of the land, for it is found on adjoining farms, with the same formation, and with the surface and soil looking just alike. There is a big pasture of 30 acres, where fifty sheep would lose rather than gain flesh during the summer. The oldest inhabitant a century can remember when it was mowed, seeded, or top-dressed. It has always been pastured generally by cows, until it ceased to yield food enough to support them. There is some grass upon it now, but more malleous, five-fingers, and moss. But the soil was originally good. The trees that still stand on the borders are heavy oak and chestnut timber, which do not thrive on poor, thin soils. Yonder is a field of five acres, that pastures five cows, and has done it for several years. The grass is luxuriant, and grows much faster than the cattle can consume it. It was stocked down five years ago, after several years of heavy cropping, with vegetables and tobacco. Of course it was manured heavily, and very thoroughly cultivated. The land will feel that treatment, and make grateful returns for a whole generation to come. It is far within the limits of truth to say, that one acre of this five is worth the whole fifty of the other for the purpose of sustaining animal life and making salubrious products. The one does not pay taxes; the other pays them and a handsome profit. Now we do not believe there is any royal road to thrive with these run-down pastures. Top-dressing will not answer, for the grass seed is not there to vegetate. Seeding will do little good, for the grass already there is growing small by degrees. If the soil is fair, arable land, plow, plant, manure, and cultivate, and you give it a new start. That old sod of dead grass roots and moss rots, becomes plant-food, and seeds up joyful harvests. But this will cost money, spent in manure, seeds, and labor. You say, of course it will, and if you get your money back again, principal and interest, you ought to be satisfied. If by spending \$50 upon a worthless acre of pasture you make it pay you the interest on \$50 above the working expenses, you are doing a good business. We must use our capital in farming just as we do in other enterprises. We must bury it as we do our wheat, that it may live and bear fruit. If we buy stock in a railroad, or in almost any enterprise, the capital dies for a time. We do not lose faith if it does not come back the first or second year. Spent in renovating old pastures by plowing and manuring it usually gives full interest the first year, and puts us in the way to secure dividends for years to come.—American Agriculturist.

POTATO FLIES.—Several of the blistering beetles are destructive to the potato vine, and are popularly known as potato flies. Mr. Daniel Hubbard, Montgomery Co., Ill., writes that his sons effectually destroy these insects by making a fire of straw and other light stuff upon the edge of the field at twilight. The insects are attracted from a great distance by the light, and in two instances the fields were completely cleared.—American Agriculturist.

CANNED PEACHES.—A valuable correspondent in Boston writes us a protest against the quality of the canned peaches in the market. He says, and truly, that as a general thing they are not fit to eat. Last year was one of unusual scarcity, and anything in the shape of a peach, whether ripe or not, was used to fill the cans. The present season there promises to be an abundant peach crop. Now here is a first-rate chance for some canning establishment to make a reputation. Let it be known that a certain brand of peaches will be seen opened, and not the tough, slimy apology for peaches that we have had, and the fortune of that house is made. Buyers wish a good thing or nothing.—American Agriculturist.

CANNING GREEN PEAS.—V. Miller and many others fail in preserving green peas. We have several times stated as follows: Peas are put in the cans, soldered up, and boiled several hours; the cans are then punctured, the steam allowed to escape, soldered, and boiled for several hours again, about eight hours in all. Then—they may all keep or may all be worthless. Our most experienced preservers, who follow the business of canning vegetables, find peas more difficult to manage than any others.—American Agriculturist.

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