



The Eastern Mail (Waterville, Maine)

Waterville Materials

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The Eastern Mail (Vol. 11, No. 31): February 11, 1858

Ephraim Maxham

Daniel Ripley Wing

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The Eastern Mail, ... Waterville, Feb. 11, 1858.

MISCELLANY

short work or at least, until all snows had been off the fields before the first snows of the winter. So it was that we had to wait for the snows to go away before we could get our horses to work again.

We here ask what business there is at the present time so good a man can engage in it and realize a profit without devoting his time and attention to his business. Farming gives a remuneration for labor, and the man who engages in farming understandingly, may expect to receive not only a remuneration for his labor, but an income from capital invested.

We would also recommend farming as being less risky, less liable to become affected by the various depression of the money market, than many other kinds of business. In proof of this assertion, all classes join, at the present time, in saying that our farmers are the most independent part of our population. Some, it is true, engage in farming to no purpose; they have no system, make no proper application of time, talent nor labor; and in fact, such may more justly be called land killers than land tills. But a man who engages in farming understandingly, and pursues it steadily and evenly, making a proper application of time, talent and labor, and all that comes within his reach, may reasonably expect not only to receive a remuneration for labor, but an income from capital invested. This is not all. He secures to himself and family pleasant and happy homes and he has the pleasing satisfaction of believing that the world is none the worse for his having lived in it; and when he passes away, he leaves a valuable legacy for those who may come after him.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. C. THISELL, Chairman.

Augusta, Jan. 28, 1858.

Several gentlemen discussed the subject of horse-trotting, and of the trial of all the qualities of a horse at the annual show.

Mr. Hammond, of Piscataquis, from the Committee on Topic No. 1, made a report that no amendment to the present law relating to the subject of agriculture was necessary, and the same was adopted.

Mr. Drummond, of Kennebec, from the Committee on Topic No. 13, reported as follows:

Your Committee on Topic No. 13, have given considerable deliberation to the subject committed to them, and respectfully report that not less than 12 per cent. is returned upon capital properly and judiciously invested in farming. Accepted.

Dr. True, of Oxford, suggested that every member of this Board should feel that his duties extend over the whole year, and he should take an active interest in the collection of statistics for the use of the Secretary of the Board.

Mr. Flint, of Somerset, spoke of several subjects which should engage the attention of the members. The public mind of the State is getting fully aroused to the subject of agriculture. The report of the Secretary for the present year is so highly esteemed that it is almost impossible to keep a copy on hand.

In answer to a question he said that generally it takes about three colts to get one good horse according to his observation, although his own personal experience was more favorable, having come early into a good breed of horses.

Mr. Anderson of Cumberland, thought that the pastures in the State as they are and the short summer, that the Devons are the best.

Allowing to Durham short horn cattle superior size and early maturity, but they are soft-hoofed, loosely made—slim—but thin-hided compared with many other breeds, in fact he believed them to be as tender as any breed except the Jersey. To the Hereford superior size and perfect action.

If we can find a breed of cows of fair qualities, and will impart these to their offspring we do the best. The Devons do this more uniformly than others. The Herefords require a higher growth of feed than the Devons, and are not as good milkers.

The introduction of Durham breed into Maine he could not regard as favorable. They were large and occasionally good milkers, but they cannot be relied upon for their integrity in imparting good milking qualities to their offspring. There is a great want of uniformity in this respect. Every farmer must adapt his breed to the conditions of his locality.

An axiom of breeding is received in England and prevails among the more intelligent breeders in the U. S., that in stocking a farm with meat stock, regard should be had to breed of cattle which had been native to the place, if principle was not regarded the stock too large would inevitably come back to that size, and on the other hand, those too small would increase in size until they came up to the size of the natives, and there is this advantage to those which are too small that they increase particularly in muscle, while those too large decrease in muscle and retain their large bone, and after this decrease their originally disproportioned joints.

Mr. Goodale of Sacon, spoke of the various breeds which he had noticed in his visits to New Brunswick and various parts of the State. There is everywhere an increased attention to this subject of the cattle, and a great improvement is going on.

He referred to one matter which may be and by some to be of great importance when we send to market the much larger number of cattle that we have been doing in the past, and that is the fat, suggested by chemistry, that in producing a pound of fat meat, there is less exhaustion to the soil than in producing a pound of lean meat. Fat meat does not draw phosphates from the soil in the same proportion as lean meat, and yet lean meat sells for less than fat meat.

He called the attention of the Board to the importance of veterinary science. In Scotland the death by diseases in cattle had diminished one half since the introduction of this science into that country.

Dr. True of Oxford, remarked that from his experience and observation, he was satisfied that the root crop would be found to be beneficial in the raising of hogs. The root seems to give variety to food or wine which they like.

He had satisfied himself that it was more economical to fatten hogs in the early months of the autumn, instead of putting it off until November or December.

Mr. Drummond of Kennebec, said that he had found it economical and effective to feed his hogs through the winter on roots, turnips and cabbages, and in the spring and summer, on clover and grass, and fattening in the autumn, early, on the first crop of barley, oats, and drawing on corn. He thought that pigs would make a good growth on clover as on any other food.

Mr. Lancaster of S. Kennebec, had fed his hogs on turnips, put up raw. He never found any difficulty in their eating the turnips. He tried to winter hogs on apples, but they looked pale and thin, and as though he owed them something. He would never try apples again for this purpose, but in improved form.

Mr. Goodale, of Sacon, thought that the true method of young swine was to incorporate it thoroughly into the soil, so that it shall be in a mild form and not injure the tendons of the plants. He believed if the best manure he could

find for the growth of fruit trees, as it caused the wood to ripen earlier than trees grown in stable manures. He thought that the whole tree in phosphate manure was much heavier and larger than before.

Hon. Robert Weston, of President, was called upon for his views. He remarked that he had listened with great pleasure to the general course of remarks upon the subject of stock raising, and particularly the sheep husbandry, which he felt was a great and growing interest. In the few minutes allotted to him he could call attention to the growing of pork hams. He did this because it may be said by men they meet, and who had listened to what had been said, by them, or who should rend the reports of their sayings. On this, to all very well for you men who have capital, if we only had the money to begin with, we could do something at farming but as we are poor, we cannot succeed. He knew something of the embarrassments which the poor man feels—the restless hours of midnight when his real condition forces itself upon him—and in agony and tears even, his endeavors to answer the question what he shall set himself about to obtain, not riches, but a living for himself and little ones. His deep sympathy for such men led him to desire, to suggest and to do something for their encouragement and help. He himself started as a farmer, with a wife and child, and involved in debt in the pursuit of lumbering and lending his name as security. He had succeeded in paying his debts and in enjoying the pursuit of farming, and its delights and rewards. He wished that every poor man could be aided and encouraged to take hold of this pursuit, which if faithfully pursued is sure to pay.

He proposed to start the poor man with sixty dollars; and this amount if necessary to be loaned to him by friends and neighbors; this sum to be invested in eight pigs and forty dollars worth of corn. The farmer shall cover his pig yard with shed roof of poles, scantlings, or other means of keeping it dry. He shall spread over its surface a coating of a few inches of muck or loam, or dust from the road, and supply an additional coating every week.

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