

On the Land

GENERAL.

In the State of California there are 160,000 acres in vineyards, representing a capital of £30,000,000 and providing employment for 40,000 persons.

In the results for the year ending May 31 basic slag heads the list in the experiments at the Ruakura Farm of Instruction to determine the influence of manures on the feeding-value of pastures. The plots have carried an average of eleven sheep per acre for the past twelve months, such a result being scarcely credible on this land.

The Government of Greece, in order to encourage the development of the fruit industry, for which the country is said to be eminently suited, is about to set up model establishments at many centres to carry out experiments—(1) in fruit-cultivation; (2) production of trees for distribution on a large scale; (3) experiments with different stocks and varieties and their acclimatisation and uses; and (4) the training of skilled men for fruit-tree work.

LUCERNE FOR DAIRY CATTLE.

Of all fodders tested at the Ruakura Farm of Instruction during the past season (says a writer in the *Journal of Agriculture*) lucerne gave the best results in milk-production. At the present time lucerne ensilage is being used for the cows, and it is eaten with evident relish. The first growth of the season was cut with the intention of making hay, but the weather being unfavorable the lucerne was made into ensilage after lying on the ground for eight days. When stacked it was in a semi-dry state, but a copious supply of water was added during the building operations. The result was a very high temperature, but the ensilage is fairly succulent and has a pleasant flavor, which is a great contrast to that resulting from lucerne stacked in a perfectly green condition, the flavor of the latter being very objectionable. I feel quite certain that lucerne ensilage should be made from well-matured material in order to avoid sour silage.

MANGE IN HORSES.

The disease known as mange is commonly caused by one of two varieties of mange mites. The common mange is caused by a mite (*psoroptes*), while a more severe form of skin disease is caused by a mite (*sarcoptes*), which burrows under the skin. The trouble starts, as a rule, on the withers, the upper part of the neck, and the root of the mane, from which it spreads to all parts of the body except the extremities. A close examination of the skin will reveal small pimples, and elevations, followed by the formation of scabs, which, if brushed off, show a raw surface beneath. A mange mite, known as the *symbiotes*, because it is found in groups, attacks the hind fetlocks, and occasionally all four limbs. A horse which stamps continually at night is often suffering from this disease. The sarcoptic form, if allowed to run on, often causes serious trouble; but the other forms are very amenable to treatment. All the affected parts should first of all be thoroughly washed with hot water and soft soap, applied with a hard brush, to remove all the scabs. A currycomb may be necessary to loosen the scabs where they have hardened. Dressing should then be applied, of which there are many different ones prescribed. A good one is linseed oil, seven parts; spirits of tar, one part. This should be put on thoroughly every two or three days, washing with soda and water between each dressing. The mites may be transferred to other animals, so every precaution should be used, and swabs, etc., burnt after use.

WHAT THE HORSE CAN PULL.

Since horses use their weight in pulling, they should be loaded in proportion to their weight (writes R. M. Dolve, of the North Dakota Agricultural College), and observers are agreed that for hauls over country roads a horse is properly loaded when exerting a pull on the traces equal to one-tenth of his weight. For a team of 1600-pound horses this would be exerting a pull of 300 pounds, and, if it requires a 140-pound pull to haul a ton on an average level country road, they would haul about 21.3 tons.

In order to haul this load up a 6 per cent. grade they would have to exert a pull equal to one-fourth their weight, which is an exhaustive pull, and should not be much exceeded, especially if the hill is long. If the hill as a 10 per cent. grade, the load would have to be reduced to 1690 pounds, or nearly three tons less, in order to keep the pull up the grade equal to one-fourth the weight of the horses.

Statistics show that it costs over 10d per ton-mile to market farm products, so that if the distance to market was five miles it would cost 4s 2d to market a ton when the road is level or contains not more than a 6 per cent. grade.

Assuming that it would take as long to haul the small load of 1600 pounds necessitated by the 10 per cent. grade as it does to haul the larger load, the cost of marketing a ton would be increased to 9s, or an increase of 5s, because of the grade.

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