

CURRENT TOPICS.

Food Capacity of Cattle—J. A. Murray; Summary:—

The 'Food capacity' is taken to be the amount of total dry matter consumed when the animal is offered as much as it cares to eat.

The food capacity of steers is subject to a nearly uniform acceleration of 40 lbs. per month from birth up to the age of 12 or 14 months, after which it remains approximately constant. It cannot therefore bear any simple relation to the live-weight of the animal.

In the case of steers the average constant rate of consumption was about 18 lbs. of total dry matter per head per day throughout the period from 1 to 4 years; in the case of milk cows it is probably about twice as great, viz.; from 30 to 40 lbs.

(From Journal of Agricultural Science, October, 26, 1926.)

Co-operative Farming £. 1,000,000 loss.—At the National Farmers' Union dinner, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Winston Churchill) referred to the advantages of co-operation. In reply, the President of the Union (Mr. Langford) placed a few facts and figures regarding the farming activities and failures of the Co-operative Whole Sale Society whose activities represented co-operation in its widest terms. In 1917, there were 105 distributive societies engaged in farming; they owned or rented 25,000 acres with an invested capital of £ 634,000. They showed a profit of £ 32,646 after paying an interest of £ 23,120. But during the next 4 years, 76 more societies went in for farming with an additional 50,000 acres and a total turnover of £ 3,230,000 paying an interest of £ 127,750. Money recklessly speculated during the above period!! In 1921, the loss was £ 362,500. Since 1921 some of the societies sold their farms. The loss since 1921 has been £ 1,000,000. (From Farmer and Stock-Breeder dated November 1, 1926.)

The Broadshare instead of the Plough:— The most important and the most expensive operation on the farm is ploughing is good in theory but in Fenland the best result is obtained by broadsharing instead of ploughing.

The land is ploughed fairly deep for beans which during their growth are horseshoed several times. This leaves the top inch or two of soil in a fairly loose condition. As soon as the crop is carted the land is broadshared to a depth of 2 inches which cuts off all rubbish and induces germination of thousands of small seeds after a few days interval the rubbish can be harrowed up and burnt and the field is ready for wheat. Fen farmers never plough for wheat. The two fold advantages are :—the country corn is drilled without hindrance of clashing with the lifting of sugarbeet and the labor bill is decreased considerably. The broadshare makes a firm seedbed and less rubbish seems to grow than when land is ploughed. It ensures drilling of wheat in proper time and if sugar beet is grown more men are available for its early delivery.

(From Farmer and Stock-Breeder, December 27, 1926.)

Rotations for Tobacco :—The most common rotation used in Virginia for tobacco is

First year—Firecured tobacco—well manured and fertilized.

Second year—Wheat—no fertilizer.

Third year—Clover and hay—limed.

Fourth year—Clover and hay—unfertilized.

Rotation in Rhodesia :—

First year—Firecured tobacco—well manured and fertilized.

Second year—Maize—phosphates used.

Third year—Monkey nuts, beans or peas for market.

Fourth year—Cowpeas or velvet beans as green manure.

Lime if necessary, 3rd or 4th year.

(From Rhodesia Agricultural Journal, December, 1926)

Empire Silk :—The whole of silk raw material used in England is imported and is worth about 2 million pounds sterling per annum. On an average 98 per cent of the imports are from foreign countries. The only countries of the Empire producing silk on a commercial scale are India and Cyprus.

The world's annual supplies of raw silk amount to about 70 million pounds and are not equal to the increasing demand of the

silk
with
com
(From

chara
coun
have
on.
Mr. A
was
going
under
was
Kidd
This
produ
in 19
acres
years
15 an
cent.

Dece
appro
over,
view
grave

Phys
anim
resul
tenar
his s
clusi
cattle
the n
invite
Cattl

silk manufacturing countries, prominent among which is America with a consumption of 70 per cent of the world's silk entering commerce.

((From Journal of Jamaica Agricultural Society, December, 1926))

British Sugar Enterprise:—The Englishman with his characteristic industry has taken to producing sugar in his own country. During the past 20 years a few beet sugar factories have been established and cultivation of beet strenuously pushed on. The pioneer of the industry in great Britain was, says Mr. A. Aitkin, Lorp Denbergh. In 1909 the Steaford factory was established; in 1911 the Cantley factory in Norfolk was set going and in 1925, the Colwich factory in Nottingham was built under war pressure. In 1924, the Anglo-Scottish Corporation was founded and now have factories going at Colwich, Spalding, Kidderminster, Poppletras, York, Felstead, Essex and Cupar. This season they had handled 307,000 tons of sugar beet and produced 35,000 tons of sugar. The area of sugarbeet in Britain in 1922 was 8,000 acres; in 1923, 16,000 acres; in 1924, 23,000 acres; in 1925, 60,000 acree and in 1926, 128,000 acres. Fifteen years ago the maximum percentage of sugar from beet grown was 15 and during the past season, six farmers had a record of 24.3 per cent.

Sea birds:—Dr. Walter E. Collinge writes in "Nature," December 25, 1926, that no action of sea birds can produce any appreciable effect on the plenitude of the fishes of the sea. Moreover, many species are exceedingly valuable from an agricultural view point and their wholesale destruction is fraught with the gravest possibilities.

Banalore "Maintenance Experiments":—Dr. F. J. Warth Physiological Chemist, Bangalore, has pursued his studies on animal rations under Bangalore conditions and has given the results of his observations in a Memoir entitled "Bangalore Maintenance Experiments". The author has struck an original line in his scheme and has adapted it for local breeds of cattle. His conclusions are worth careful study, by all who are interested in the cattle problem and especially of those who are ever possessed with the night mare of fodder scarcity, and in this connexion we invite our readers, attention to the note on "Food Capacity of Cattle" published elsewhere in this number.

Bombay Cattle Breeds:— The Bombay Agricultural Department is to be congratulated on its up-to-dateness in bringing to the notice of the public a short account of the 8 existing cattle breeds in that province. The leaflets issued on this subject give a fairly full description of the tracts in which they are found and of the characters and prices of the several breeds. Of the 8 breeds it is satisfactory to note the Scindhis are the best milkers. Their reputation, as our readers are aware, has extended beyond the limits of the Bombay Presidency. We find Scindhi cows in requisition in Madras, Ceylon, Java, and other countries. Of the dual purpose Breeds Kankrej, Gir, and the Thar Parkar hold an unrivalled position though the last by virtue of its location in the arid tracts of Thar Parkar in Sind is fitted more for tracts where pasturage is scarce. The three draught breeds are reported to be the Krishna Valley, Khillari and the Amrit Mahal, which last has become a special feature of Mysore Agriculture.

Y. M. C. A's Rural Work:—Of the organizations, the one that has given a very practical turn to rural reconstruction work in this province is the Y. M. C. A. now under the able guidance of Mr. K. T. Paul. Since his return in August last, from the World Congress at Helsingfors, he has been devoting his utmost attention to this aspect of the Y. M. C. A. The number of lectures he has delivered on this subject in several centres, the enthusiasm he has evoked amongst his hearers and the practical scheme he has laid down for rural rebuilding through honorary or paid workers deserve commendation. Mr. Paul seems to believe more in concentration and this is all for the good as satisfactory work done in one centre becomes infectious very soon and spreads even uninvited to places otherwise inaccessible.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Cottage Industries:—Mr. S. K. Sundaracharlu, whose name was prominently before the public as Assistant Labour Commissioner and in connexion with the Labour Conference at Geneva 3 years ago, has been placed on special duty to investigate the actual requirements of power from the Hydro-Electric works at the Pykara Falls and will after its completion make enquiries on the Cottage Industries in this Presidency. The unemployment problem is staring in the face. All are agreed that in an agricul-

tural
inapp
scale
indus
well
as op
also
make

Coun
under

mont

Direc

value

B. V

Agri.

Mr. I

Ayya

more
to ha
Datta
the p
chand
T. A.