

CORN STOVER--ITS CONSERVATION.

A machine has recently been invented and patented that is destined to give a new impetus to farming in the corn growing states and to increase the value of farm lands in each. It is a machine for separating the pith from the corn plant so that the nutritious portions which remain can be reduced to a suitable condition for profitable feeding to stock and thus benefit the farmers and stockraisers. This pith when eaten by stock as it is found in corn stover, is not only indigestible and possesses only a very limited amount of nutrition, but it also, on account of its wonderful absorptive property, nullifies to a large extent the juices that are necessary to the proper digestion of food. Hence the corn stalks are only partly consumed in the field by stock, and the larger bulk is allowed to decay. When this indigestible ingredient is eliminated from the stover, that which remains becomes a very nutritious article of food, readily digested and very valuable as a substitute for hay. It is estimated that in the state of Nebraska alone, nearly seven million tons of this corn stover of the crop of 1898, were practically wasted. THE CONSERVATIVE thinks that the immense crop now in prospect of 1899 will result in more than ten million tons of the corn plant in Nebraska being largely wasted, after the corn is husked. By the separation of the pith from the stover and thus reducing it to a nutritious condition for feeding it can be readily seen what a great saving will be effected to the farmers of this state. What is true of Nebraska is also true of Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and other corn growing states. It is estimated in these states mentioned, nearly forty-eight million tons of corn stover were raised in 1898, and that most of it was not economically utilized on account of its indigestible nature, resulting from the presence of this pith. The report of the department of agriculture at Washington states that one acre of corn stalks contains 1642 pounds of digestible matter, while two tons of clover hay contain only 1836 pounds, and two tons of timothy hay 1892 pounds. The general average over the country of timothy and clover hay is not two tons per acre. It will thus be seen from official reports that one acre of corn stalks after the corn is husked contains nearly as much digestible material as an acre of clover or timothy hay. Hence the farmer who has heretofore raised the corn plant for the grain can increase the productive yield of each acre at least one-half, if the corn stover is properly utilized, and it can be properly utilized by eliminating the pith. The earning capacity of his land is increased at least one-half and the value thereof proportionately enhanced. Every acre of corn stover should be

taken care of as each acre of hay land is cared for, and it can be done in as cheap a manner. In a country where mixed husbandry is a necessity, where farming and stock raising go hand in hand, the benefits arising from the utilizing of the corn stover can hardly be estimated. By removing the pith from the stalk the cornfield becomes as valuable to him for stock purposes as so many acres of hay land. The greater amount of stock he can raise annually the more independent he becomes. The farmer not only has corn for his stock but through the corn stover is amply provided for hay.

Corn Pith.

Pith is a great absorbent of moisture. It is very dry and porous. It is almost devoid of feeding value and is a highly detrimental matter to take into the stomach. It will readily absorb from eighteen to twenty-five times its weight in moisture and when freed from the shell it swells to about ten times its original bulk. On account of this property of absorption and swelling it is successfully used in warships to quickly close a hole made by a projectile and so stop a leak. So great is its absorptive power that not a drop of water enters the vessel. It is this same wonderful absorptive property of the pith that makes it so detrimental for feeding cattle because, if it absorbs water outside the animal's stomach, why should it not absorb the digestive fluids all along the digestive tract before they have a chance to digest the food materials in corn fodder? As soon as the pith in the stover enters the animal's mouth it begins this process of absorption and continues it throughout the entire process of digestion. A feed of twenty pounds of corn stover contains about four pounds of corn pith, a useless material. This can absorb from sixty to eighty pounds of water and digestive fluids in the mouth and stomach of the animal. This is an unnatural drain on the animal's system.

What the farmer needs is some method by which this pith can be separated from the corn plant in an economical manner, so that the remaining nutrient food can be eaten by the animal and thoroughly digested. He wants a machine that can be easily managed, one that does not require power beyond that which he controls, and one that can be handled by the help he has at home. If he can get a machine at a reasonable expense, one that will hold the same relation to his cornfield that the mowing machine does to his hayfield, he is just as sure of having a crop of nourishing feed as good as hay as he is of having a corn crop.

Sherwood's Invention.

Such a machine has been invented and patented by George R. Sherwood, of Kearney, Neb. Mr. Sherwood has spent years in work and study on this

machine until he has perfected one which will be successful beyond any question, and one which is fully protected by patents. He has invented a machine that will cheaply and perfectly separate the pith from the stover and one that will be of unquestionable benefit to the farmer of the corn growing states, on account of its simplicity, practicability, and the ease with which it can be worked. This machine has been examined by prominent agriculturists, master mechanics, and others, and each pronounces it a success. If, through the agency of a simple machine, the several million tons of corn stover that are produced in the state of Nebraska alone, can be made useful as an article of food instead of being largely trampled under foot by stock and permitted to rot, a person can readily see the great saving it will be to the state of Nebraska by feeding this waste corn plant and thus increasing stock feeding and stock raising in our state. The yield of hay in Nebraska for 1898, amounted to a little over three million tons, while the estimated product of stover amounted to over seven million tons. Each ton of this stover is worth from \$3.50 to \$5.00. By utilizing this, taking the basis of 1898, as an average, there will be a saving of feed for stock in our state amounting to about thirty million dollars. This is a matter which should receive the closest attention of all persons who are interested in the development of our state. Farming and stockraising are largely the foundation of prosperity and anything that tends to make the farm more productive and remunerative increases the prosperity of the country at large. Sometimes the simplest devices bring about the greatest results. The machine patented by Mr. Sherwood is simple and practical. It is one that each individual farmer can afford to have on his farm. It is not intended to revolutionize or change the methods of farming. The farmer will plant, cultivate and harvest his corn just as he has been accustomed to do, but instead of simply saving the kernel and permitting the stalk to go to waste, through the agency of a machine of this kind he will utilize the entire crop and convert it into a most profitable article of food. In this manner he will almost double the earnings of his corn crop.

No law can give freedom to the slave any more than inability can be prestidigitated into ability by law.

What folly to proclaim a love for humanity which no one has for the majority of individuals composing it!

The world is full of atheists though they know it not. Atheism is the dogmatism of ignorance. Religion is the positivism of self-knowledge.