

The Farmer's Advocate

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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are not subjected to the dense shade produced by the full-leaved forest of the later part of the year.

And with the rush of the flowers has come the rush of the birds. The migration is now at its height, and new species are arriving in Canada every day. The members of that large and beautiful family the warblers are now coming in hosts, some to remain and breed in the southern portions of the Dominion, but the majority to pass through to their far northern nesting grounds. The warblers are the joy and the despair of the amateur bird student—the joy because of their beauty—the despair because of the great number of species many of which resemble one another, and worse still the great diversity of plumage often exhibited by a single species. The warblers are largely named from their coloration, and among the earliest to arrive are the black and white warbler, the black-throated green warbler and the myrtle warbler.

Agriculture First.

A bulletin of the Ontario Department of Education gives prominence to these appropriate paragraphs from Aristotle:

The first attention should be paid to that which is in accordance with nature; but by nature agriculture is first, next comes all those things which are derived from the earth, such as mining and other arts of like kind.

But agriculture should be ranked first because it is just; for it does not derive its profits from men, either with their consent, like petty traffic and the mercenary arts, or without their consent, like the arts which pertain to war.

Further, also, agriculture is natural, for naturally every existing thing derives its nourishment from its mother, and so consequently men derive it from the earth.

Moreover, it contributes much towards fortitude; for it does not make the body unserviceable, like the illiberal arts, but renders it fit to live and labor in the open air, and to run the risks of war against assailants. For husbandmen are the only persons whose possessions lie outside of the city walls.

A crusted soil is a dry soil and an ill-ventilated soil, notwithstanding the cracks which open between the brick-baked masses of earth. A timely stirring with the harrow or weeder prevents crusting by forming a moisture-conserving mulch through which air may readily permeate to the soil beneath. Don't let the crust form or the weeds get a start.

HORSES.

A number of farmers in Middlesex County, Ont., use sweet skim milk to feed their colts after weaning. This fed in proper quantity seems to keep the bowels regulated, and the colts thrive well. Starting at a small quantity the amount fed is increased up to five or six quarts at a feed night and morning for a strong, healthy foal.

We have often wondered just why more colts were not castrated at a few weeks of age as is practiced with calves, and in talking with a veterinarian a few days ago the point was brought up, and he gave as the main reason the fact that a very large percentage of horse foals have scrotal hernia up to four months of age. He believed that eighty-five per cent. of these foals suffer from this trouble.

Every season a number of the young foals are troubled with retention of the meconium. Various substances have been recommended as injections for the removal of this, but a successful practitioner in Western Ontario, relies upon the injection of one ounce of glycerine per rectum at intervals until the meconium is expelled. This is very simple, and said to be equally effective.

Many mare owners believe that by feeding a little whole wheat, either alone or mixed with oats or other grain, they are able to tide mares over a period of danger from abortion. Of course this does not apply to contagious abortion, but to cases where a mare through weakness, slight injury or habit is likely to abort. Wheat is a good regulator and strengthens the walls of the uterus somewhat, but cannot be relied upon to save all mares, and has comparatively little value in this respect where mares are in good condition. By good condition is not meant very fat, but healthy thriving and in good working order.

A case was brought to our notice a short time ago of a light stallion in splendid flesh, which, during an entire season, got only one mare in foal, not that he was not bred to a large number, for he made a big season. Enquiry was made into the feeding of the horse which showed no signs of disability, and it was found that the greater part of his ration was composed of boiled feed. The horse was fat and "soft", and his physical condition was not as good as his appearance indicated. The following year on dry, uncooked feed, this same stallion did a large season, and foaled a large percentage of mares bred to him. Boiled feed may be a good thing once or twice a week, but should not compose the bulk of the ration.

Draft Pairs Profitable.

A good draft horse sells readily at a high price, but there is always a premium placed upon well-matched pairs. From twenty-five to fifty dollars per head extra is generally paid in excess of the price which could be obtained for these animals purchased singly from two different owners where the horses closely resemble each other. On very high-class teams the difference is often much greater than here indicated. No system of mating is certain to produce horses of like size, color, conformation and quality, but constantly breeding to the same horse, year after year or, if the stallion is not available for several years, to one as nearly like him as possible in color, type and conformation, is far more likely to bring the desired results than where no discrimination is used in this respect. The breeding of matched pairs demands that the breeder have the type he wishes to produce firmly fixed in his mind. Violept crosses cannot be relied upon and must be shunned. Get a good type of mare and breed her to a pure-bred stallion of her own breed—a good type of horse, not small and not abnormally large. Both mare and stallion should be typey individuals of the breed. It is not absolutely necessary that the mare be pure-bred, a good grade of the same breed as the stallion often gives excellent results, but, of course, pure-bred is preferable. The stallion should, in every case, be pure-bred, and should show every indication of being a prepotent sire—a masculine individual with a strong head and character about him which cannot fail to leave its mark on the offspring. As far as breeding pairs is concerned, this kind of selection is all that can be done, and even then disappointments are common.

Where a good gelding is held for sale the owner might often increase his price by buying a mate for him and offering the pair, and by so

doing he would also make a profit on the purchased individual, thus getting a double profit on the transaction. Of course, a knowledge of horses and of the market is necessary that the mate be not purchased too dear, but every good farmer-horseman has this knowledge, and keeps in touch with the horse market. It is these little transactions—the incorporation of business principles into agriculture—which aid materially in swelling farm profits. Never buy a horse which will not sell again readily, and be reasonably sure that a profit can be made on him.

Some Draft Horse Facts.

Some interesting draft horse facts are contained in a little booklet issued by the Percheron Society of America. Published primarily, to set the Percheron's good qualities before the people, it also contains some information valuable to breeders of any breed of draft horses. It points out that number one geldings weighing 1,700 pounds or over, of good draft type and mature, with the right kind of feet and legs, have averaged, on the Chicago market during the last two years, \$350 per head, and pairs have sold from \$750 to \$800. Grade mares in demand for farm work have made from \$200 to \$300 per head weighing from 1,500 to 1,600 pounds, and the average for this class of mares in foal has been from \$250 to \$285 each.

Why are prices so high? The fundamental reason, according to the booklet, is that the supply is not equal to the demand. Less than twenty per cent. of all horses reaching Chicago, the greatest horse market in the world, weigh over 1,600 pounds, and about one-fourth of these are number one drafters. Basing the statement on these facts it is concluded that only about five per cent. of all horses reaching market are of approved draft type, weight and soundness, and less than one-fourth of the horses on the farms will weigh at maturity 1,600 pounds or over, and not more than one-third of these are of first-class breeding, type, conformation and soundness.

Continuing, the booklet claims that the auto truck will not materially affect the horse market. This statement is based on investigation which showed that in hauls under three miles in length, particularly under crowded traffic conditions, the auto truck is less efficient than the horse. Thus the auto is supplementing rather than displacing the horse. It is estimated that eighty per cent. of the traffic in large cities is within a three-mile radius, and, therefore, the horse market is secure.

Again, it is estimated that not a single state in the Union is producing horses on one-half of its farms. Iowa, the leading state, produces horses on 42.6 per cent. of its farms. This means that over one-half of the farmers must buy horses from their neighbors, and all the farms must be supplied before there is a surplus for the city.

During the decade from 1900 to 1910 the population of the United States increased twenty-one per cent., and during the same time the number of cattle decreased eight per cent. and sheep fourteen per cent. The number of horses increased only by eight per cent. A live stock decrease causes an increase in tilled acreage. The more land that is tilled the greater the demand for horses. More thorough cultivation is now necessary, and requires more horses. Farm labor is scarce and high-priced, necessitating the use of more modern farm machinery, which requires a greater horse power. And experience has demonstrated that draft horses are much more effective in modern farming methods than light-weight horses, and invariably sell for a better price. It looks as if there could be no mistake in breeding drafters and pure-bred draft horses are more profitable than grades, for they sell at an earlier age, bring a larger price, and yield a higher profit in proportion to the investment. While the pamphlet is written in the interests of the Percheron breed and contains some very useful information about that great breed of draft horses, the foregoing facts are equally applicable to all breeds of drafters.

The Board of Agriculture in England, have issued a register of stallions, together with the names and addresses of the owners of all those stallions which have been examined by a veterinary surgeon appointed by this Board and have been certified to be sound and suitable for breeding purposes. The object is the elimination of the unsound sire. No expense to the owner is incurred in registering a stallion, the service fee of which does not exceed \$10, providing the stallion is inspected at the place and time appointed by the Board. Every stallion submitted must be entered by name or accepted for entry in the recognized stud book of its breed. No application is considered for horses under three years of age in the year of registration.