

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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2. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or 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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land is constantly increasing in value, because it is more than ever in demand for dairying, market-gardening, orcharding and other phases of agricultural activity adapted to produce larger returns per acre than accrue from the grazing of cattle. Thus, while the growing use of ensilage and the employment of labor-saving machinery tend to keep down the cost of production, increased land rentals or interest charges, combined with increased cost of labor, tend to put it up. As regards the class of cattle, there is this to be said, that, while economy results from the marketing of heaves at an earlier age than formerly, on the other hand, the cows which formerly earned their keep in the dairy and produced the calves as by-products are becoming increasingly scarce, as the great old dual-purpose breed has declined in average milking quality. When a man has to keep a cow a year to produce but a paltry flow of milk in addition to her calf, the business of beef-raising becomes more expensive and less attractive. Then, too, of late, cattle values have been exceptionally enhanced by the conditions of good pasture and rosy crop prospects, following a winter of feed scarcity, during which herds were abnormally depleted, and the man who managed to keep his stock through the winter for a June market has reaped the reward of foresight and good management. Cattle values have recently weakened again, but it is out of the question to expect a large supply of good beef to be produced cheaply under Eastern conditions, without the dissemination of a strain of deeper-milking dual-purpose cows. Aside from this factor, however, there seems every prospect of the spread between the buying price of cattle and the retail price of steaks being still further widened before any narrowing is accomplished, if, indeed, that is ever to occur.

Dispute not the common things of the earth, for in them is often much virtue.

OLD - AGE ANNUITIES VERSUS PENSIONS.

The Dominion of Canada is to be congratulated on having found a substitute for the pauperizing old-age-pension scheme to which the British Government has recently committed itself. While care of the helplessly aged and infirm is rightly regarded as a necessary charge upon the State, and Houses of Refuge and Homes for the Infirm and Feeble-minded are provided accordingly, still any general and prearranged plan to fix such charges on the community as an economic obligation, practically guaranteeing to indolence a pension in indigent old age, without requiring any contribution there-to on the part of the individual in the years of his prime, is certain to detract from his self-reliance, to remove one of the strongest incentives to industry and thrift, thereby reducing the moral strength and stamina of the race, and virtually sanctioning the mischievous doctrine that the world owes every man a living, instead of merely the opportunity to earn a living. If a permanent system of old-age pensions does not breed pauperism faster than the resources of the British Government can relieve it, the experiment will prove more successful than many shrewd thinkers anticipate. The Canadian plan, which passed the House of Commons last week, provides machinery by which the savings of the people may be directed to the purchase of annuities of not over \$600 for each person or family, the accumulated funds being held and guaranteed by the Dominion Government, which will add interest at three per cent. An annuity may be arranged to commence at 55 years of age or later; not earlier, except in event of special disability, in which case the amount would be less. The annuities will not be transferable or subject to seizure, and in case of death before the age at which the annuity is payable, the amount of the moneys paid in, with compound interest at three per cent., will be returned to the representatives of the annuitant. The annuitant may make periodical payments, or independent payments of ten dollars or more. Or, by payment at the age of fifty-five, immediate annuities may be purchased outright. Post-office Bank depositors may transfer their money to purchase annuities. Fraternal societies and religious organizations may purchase annuities for their members, and employers of labor can make arrangements with their employees by which they may benefit under the Act. The plan is, in short, a State-managed scheme to assure an annual income in old age to those wishing to lay by a sum in their days of prime to be so expended. Whether or not it will be extensively taken advantage of, time will show, but in any case it is emphatically preferable to a gratuitous pension system. The annuity system may have little merit to commend it, but it is at least free from the objections of the pension plan.

A GRATEFUL SUBSCRIBER.

When our subscription ran out, I was so short of cash I could not renew, and I expected every paper would be the last one, but it has kept coming, so now, at first opportunity, I am sending the subscription. I am glad you keep sending it, as "The Farmer's Advocate" has been quite a friend and welcome visitor in our home. We can hardly afford to do without it now. We all appreciate it very much. Sometimes, I believe, the information contained in a single article is worth far more than the cost of the paper for a year. The ——— charges, I believe, 50 cents extra for its Christmas number, while "The Farmer's Advocate" gives a far better one for nothing.

Parry Sound, Ont.

ALFRED G. SMITH.

The Government survey of the proposed Ottawa and Georgian Bay canal, which has been in progress for the past four years, estimates the cost of making a 22-foot waterway along the entire 400 miles, from Georgian Bay to Montreal, at \$100,000,000, and the time necessary to complete it ten years. It is estimated that the saving in time from Fort William to Montreal, as compared with the present Lower Lake route, would be from one and three-fifths to two days, and the saving in distance 282 miles.

HORSES.

AMERICAN HACKNEY REGISTRATION FEES.

It seems that the American Hackney Horse Society has taken a leaf from the book of the American Short-horn Breeders' Association, which imposes a registration fee of \$100.00 on imported animals. At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Hackney Horse Society it was decided, according to Rider and Driver, to establish a new schedule of registration fees for imported horses, and the charges to members are now \$25 for stallions and \$10 for mares and to non-members, \$50 for stallions and \$20 for mares. As the initiation fee for membership in the society is but \$10, it is not expected that many horses will be registered by non-members. The twofold purpose of the increased registration fee for imported horses is claimed to be to discourage the bringing over of inferior specimens of the Hackney breed, and to assist in raising revenue sufficient to meet the present indebtedness of the society and provide for the prompt publication of future volumes of the studbook. Until Volume III. of the Hackney Studbook came from the press last May the records of the society had remained unpublished since 1895, and with an always empty treasury, it was then only through the generous action of a few of the directors, who assumed personal responsibility for the printer's bill of \$1,594, that the long-delayed work was published at all. The directors now propose to put the society and its studbook on a self-supporting basis if possible, and since registration in the Hackney Studbook enables the importer to escape customs duties, amounting to 40 per cent. of the value of each horse imported, they deem it only fair and right that those who are thus most benefited by the maintenance of the studbook should contribute accordingly to its support.

FATALITY IN FOAL AND DAM.

1. Pregnant mare showed labor pains; the water bag appeared, and in about one-half hour ruptured. In 20 minutes longer an examination was made and the foal was found to be on its back with hind feet presented. We delivered her, and the foal's heart was beating, but it did not breathe, and died. What causes foals to come the wrong way? Could this foal have been saved? She lost her foal the same way four years ago. Would this cause the same again? The mare became sick and the veterinarian treated for founder, by keeping feet in bran and warm water and giving medicine. She died in three days.

2. A sells B a horse for \$200. Nothing was said about soundness. In a few days B discovers that the horse has stringhalt. Can B compel A to take horse back?

W. G. S.

Ans.—1. Foals are liable to develop in the uterus in any position, hence when parturition is reached the foal may be presented hind feet first, croup first, hocks first, fore feet, knees, poll, or, in fact, in any conceivable position. We cannot avoid this, neither can we tell why such unfavorable presentations occur. The hind feet first is the next most favorable presentation to the normal anterior presentation. It is not possible to turn a foal and make an anterior presentation out of a posterior one. It is quite probable if intelligent assistance had been given your mare so soon as it was observed that she could not deliver herself, and she had been delivered promptly, that the foal would have lived. The fact that four years ago her foal was presented in the same position had nothing to do with the recent case. I am of the opinion that inflammation of the womb resulted after your veterinarian last saw her, and caused death, as founder is not likely to prove fatal. Inflammation of the womb usually causes death.

2. No. When a horse is sold without warranty the purchaser has no redress.

V.

Perhaps the worst-abused animal that ever had the misfortune to undergo the gentle process of domestication is the livery horse. If there be an exception, it is the jaded victim of the negro teamster or the rag-and-bone collector. The ordinary equine driven by a regular teamster has the benefit of that greater or less degree of kindly interest which the basest human being must come to feel for his faithful charge. The owner has also a pecuniary interest in maintaining the beast's condition. Not so with the horse for hire. He is everyone's victim, used by a dozen different drivers in as many days; pounded over the road by unfeeling beasts in human form; neglected; abused; deprived for long periods of food and drink; the object of a mere mercenary interest on the part of most owners and the majority of patrons. Does the customer feel that the liveryman has used him mean, or that the charge is high, he wreaks his displeasure on the horse, remarking, perchance, that as he pays dear for the privilege, he'll "get the worth of his money." And it is just because of such treatment that livery rates are as high as they are. The driver is for kindness, not to the liveryman's prejudice, but to the horse—the patient, faithful, sensible, long-suffering horse.