

Hotels take large turkeys, finding they carve to better advantage; and when men like Pillsbury and Washburn give their employees Christmas or Thanksgiving turkeys, they generously order large ones, ten pounds or over; but the great, steady, and most important trade—family trade—wants a medium size—seven to ten pounds; hence White Hollands and Bronzes (only grades) were well spoken of. The message sent farmers was: raise the turkeys early, get quick-maturing but not large kinds, strive for a compact body, and have as fat as possible before sold.

VETERINARY.

Ringworm of Calves.

In the recent issue of the journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, of England, there is a useful article, by Professor G. T. Brown, on the disease commonly known as ringworm of calves, a summary of which we here give. It is a fact, a knowledge of which may create some surprise, that the disease is not in any sense the work of a worm, therefore the name is a misnomer. The disease, which every farmer knows at sight, is the effects of the growth of a fungus in the skin and hair of the calf. It may be well just here to say that a fungus is a cellular flowerless plant nourished through the spawn or mycelium, living in air, propagated by spores, chiefly growing upon decayed organic substances or soil, arising from their decomposition. It is highly probable that when the designation ringworm was given the disease, even scientific men believed the disease to be due to the action of a worm, but now it is thoroughly understood to result from the action of a fungus which does not penetrate beneath the surface skin, although the secondary effects of the irritation thus set up reach beyond the local derangement, and according to their intensity act and react on the nervous and nutritive functions, and thus injuriously effect the health of the subject.

The ringworm fungus grows with equal luxuriance on rotten wood, in malt, or in gelatine and kindred substances, and there can be no doubt that its continued existence on a farm is due to the vitality of the spores of the fungus lodged in the bark of trees, gateposts, or in other places against which cattle affected with ringworm are disposed to rub themselves. A careful experiment has proved that the spores are active eighteen months after their removal from the skin of a diseased animal, even if exposed to severe frosts for a period during that time. These facts clearly point to one department in which great care in disinfecting must be exercised. The disease would be greatly circumscribed in its ravages were all such seats of its incubation thoroughly cleansed with lime wash after a preliminary washing with a disinfecting fluid such as Bordeaux mixture or a solution of sulphate of copper. A top-dressing of lime should be applied to all grass lands where calves with ringworm have been grazed; manure and litter charged with the products of ringworm should be burned, or put out of the way until they can be plowed in; and as the fungus thrives best on putridity and what is moist, all that is putrid and moist should be removed and strict sanitary regulations enforced. It has already been observed that an improvement in the animal's condition is invariably associated with a rapid decline of the disorder. Cleanliness in outward condition, and a thriving state of individual health, will do more than anything else to ward off the disease of ringworm.

While ringworm is a disease that runs its course, and if the stock be reasonably healthy, will sooner or later exhaust itself in from six weeks to three months, farmers cannot afford to wait for this, and there are remedies well-fitted to accelerate a cure. The object of all remedial measures is to render the affected part unfriendly to the growth of the parasite. Thoroughness of application is as necessary in this case as in any other. The course followed by the disease is such that a cure is much more likely to be effective at a later than at an earlier stage of its history. The best cure for ringworm, however applied, is active inflammation. First of all clear away all crusts, scabs or scurf which protect the fungus. The curycomb, and plenty of soft soap and water, will accomplish what is needed in this case, and the stuff removed should be destroyed by quicklime, or better still, by fire, to prevent the disease from spreading. Applications of the following agents should be made to the parts most affected:—Bichloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate), ammonio-chloride of mercury (white precipitate), chloride of zinc, perchloride of iron, tincture of iodine, sulphurous acid, and acetic acid. The first three, as is well-known, are deadly poisons, and should only be used sparingly, and where the disease is most virulent. The others may be used, with ordinary care, with perfect safety. Any strong disinfecting fluid, mixed with vaseline or glycerine, applied with a brush, answers well. Carbolic acid, mixed with four times its bulk of sweet, linseed, or castor oil cures with two or three applications. As, however, prevention is better than cure, the most effective method of dealing with ringworm is to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect every place, nook or cranny in which scurf, hair or scales may lurk, thoroughly washing all of them first with disinfecting fluid and thereafter with lime wash.

THE HELPING HAND.

Handy Farm Contrivances and Methods.

Upon almost every farm there are some handy, original devices, or improved methods and practices not generally known, which, if given to the public, could be utilized by others in rendering farm management more economical and remunerative. This department is intended to bring out such information for the benefit of our readers, and is to be maintained by them in holding out a helping hand to their fellow-workers by the interchange of descriptions of labor saving tools and contrivances, particular ways of management, original and successful experiments tried, or any other feature in connection with farming not generally known.

To encourage subscribers to contribute to this department of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, we offer a cash prize of \$2 for the best, and a second prize of \$1 for the next best contribution received prior to the 15th of each month. These and other contributions deemed of sufficient merit will be published as rapidly as our space will permit, but will not necessarily appear in order of merit. Compensation according to our standing offer for accepted matter will be allowed for suggestions published, but not awarded a prize. The decision in every instance will be final. Suggestions must be written upon one side of the paper with pen and ink, and must bear the contributor's full signature and address. They must be as short and concise as possible, 100 words being just as good or better than 500 if they tell the same story. Where an illustration will assist in making a description clearer, a rough pen sketch should accompany it on a separate sheet from the written matter. Every contributor must be a subscriber to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. These contributions must not be mere reproductions of what have been published elsewhere. What we want is original matter. Plan sufficiently ahead so that the contributions will be as seasonable as practicable.

The following received from one of our readers recently, illustrates one class of articles suitable for this department:—

Keeping Up Fertility Without Live Stock.

SIR,—While stock feeding and rich land always go hand in hand, there is a way of managing to obtain a salable crop every year with very few more animals than is necessary to do the work, and at the same time increase the fertility and mechanical texture of the soil. This could be accomplished by the use of artificial fertilizers and other purchased manures, but that is not the method to be dealt with in this article. While the ploughing in of any crop improves the mechanical condition and also adds fertility to the soil, there are some of the so-called soiling crops that have more value than others. Such crops as buckwheat, rape, rye and corn ploughed under obtain their plant food almost entirely from the soil in which they grow, and therefore add very little fertility. The improved crops that follow such manuring is largely due to the improved mechanical condition, which allows the roots to spread out and go deeper for their food than if the soil had been more soggy and solid. Not only that, but much of the fertility which was already in the soil (but not available to the growing crops) was rendered soluble by the action of the decaying crop after being ploughed in. This being the case, an opportunity of growing a soiling crop of any kind should not go unimproved. There is not a grain field which, when cleared, but will cover itself with a soiling crop before winter, if it is well worked up and sown to rape, buckwheat, or corn, which, if ploughed down, will produce better crops the following years than heretofore.

It is, however, now well-understood that there is a class of crops that do not depend entirely upon the soil for the gaining of fertility, but reach up, as it were, and extract from the exhaustless store of nitrogen in the air, and take it to itself to feed its own growth, and also store up a quantity in the roots for the following crops. Among this class of crops—the legumes—we find the clovers, which, if judiciously grown year by year, will build up land until as large crops can be grown as will stand up till harvested. Now, the beauty of using any of these soiling crops is, that no season need be lost, but each year a selling crop can be taken off and sold. The rotation to be recommended is clover, peas and wheat, or clover, beans and wheat, or clover, potatoes and barley, or clover, corn and oats—any of these according to the adaptability of the land to their growth. Whatever else is grown, clover must not be left out, and to grow this well the land should be thoroughly drained. To get the best results the grain crop, be it wheat, barley, or oats, should be seeded with clover in the spring. After harvest nothing should be allowed to run upon it, but just before winter the mower should be run over pretty high, leaving the cut stubble and clover to lie as a mulch to protect the clover roots. The following summer, in most years, a good crop of clover hay can be taken off, which, if cut at the proper time and well-cured, will be a profitable crop. Now, a great many people think they must have the second crop or aftermath, but just here is where a mistake is made. If potatoes, beans or corn are to be grown the next season, it will do best to allow the second clover crop to stand or lie until the spring, when as good as a heavy coating of stable manure can be ploughed in. If, instead of one of these hoed crops, grain is to be grown (peas, for instance), the clover would be as well ploughed down in the fall, because if ploughed under in the spring, and a dry season follows, the land will be kept too open and will dry out, but, with a hoed crop, surface cultivation will retain the moisture. Of course there will be some straw, but if box stalls are used for the working horses, much of it can be turned into manure each year, and when rotted should be spread with a manure spreader upon the knolls that show a need of it.

S. J.

SHOWS AND SHOWING.

Toronto Industrial Exhibition.

About as striking an evidence of the success of the coming Toronto Industrial Exhibition, so far as the extent of the display is concerned, as could well be afforded may be found in the fact that it has been necessary to erect two large tents on the grounds to accommodate goods for which room could not be found in the buildings. In one of these, located directly to the west of the music pavilion, will be shown a large and miscellaneous collection of manufactured goods. The other, just south of it, will be devoted to wooden ware, washers and wringers.

Live stock entries closed on the 17th; a very large number coming in just at the last. The total volume is greatly in excess of any previous season, and ensures a very fine and thoroughly representative display in cattle, horses, sheep and swine. Nearly all the leading stock farms and stables of Ontario will be in evidence, together with not a few entries from Quebec and the United States. There will be a choice showing of Shorthorn cattle, and the milk breeds will be especially well-represented. The display of horses will be superior to anything yet witnessed, more especially in the Thoroughbred, trotter, carriage, and saddle-horse classes.

The agricultural produce display will be augmented by a collection of grains and grasses from the Province of Manitoba, furnished in accordance with special instructions of the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, which will exemplify the productive capacities of the Province.

A feature of special interest to farmers and dairymen is the milking machine imported from Scotland, which acts upon the suction principle, and effects a great saving of time in dairying. It has been thoroughly tested and pronounced highly satisfactory by experts.

Preparations are going on actively for the great water fête to be given on an artificial lake in front of the grandstand. A great variety of special attractions have been secured, including many gifted vocalists, musicians, acrobats, and all kinds of specialty artists. The Fair begins on 2nd September, but the formal opening, by Lieut.-Gov. Kirkpatrick, will take place on the following day.

Quebec Provincial, Montreal.

The Provincial Exhibition which is advertised to take place in Montreal from the 12th to 21st Sept., and which is to be opened to the world, promises to be one of the most successful fairs that has been witnessed in that city for many years past. The entries are coming rapidly, and the various committees organized are now at work. The buildings have been materially improved and extended. They are receiving a new coat of paint, while each portion of them will be tastefully decorated. Handsome prizes, such as medals, as well as prizes in cash value, will be given for the best exhibits. Persons desiring information should communicate at once with the Manager and Secretary, Mr. S. C. Stevenson, 76 St. Gabriel St., Montreal. The Horticultural Department has been entrusted with the decoration of the grounds.

Among the prizes offered in the Sheep Department—Class 35, Oxfords—are in section 8, for the best pen of four lambs of either sex: \$25, \$15 and \$10. In Section 9, for the best yearling ram, \$15 and \$10; for best pair yearling ewes, \$15 and \$10. These prizes are given by the American Oxford-Down Sheep Record Association.

In the Swine Department—Class 40, Berkshires—a special prize by the American Berkshire Association will be given. It will consist of the first ten volumes of the "American Berkshire Record," and is valued at \$50. These prizes are offered for the best breeding pen of Berkshires, registered in the Berkshire Record, to consist of a boar and four sows over one year of age, owned by a resident of the Province of Quebec.

A special prize of a gold medal has also been awarded for the best design of a diploma, suitable for an Exhibition. The Juries Committee has considerably improved its department this year, and has built some one hundred new stalls; several new features have likewise been introduced.

New stalls have been built for the cattle department, while the sheep and swine pens have been enlarged and considerably improved.

The Percheron Stud Book of Canada, are offering a special prize, consisting of a silver medal, for the best Percheron stallion exhibited.

A gold medal is offered for the best Hackney exhibit, while a prize, consisting of \$30, is offered for the best pair of matched carriage horses 15 1/2 to 16 hands high (no cross allowed) and to be driven by owner in a gentleman's carriage.

A gold medal is also offered for the best road turnout, also a gold, a silver and bronze medals offered in the high jumping contest. In Section 8—Fat Cattle for Export—an additional prize of a medal is offered to the winner of the first prize. In the Poultry Department new coops are being added, while the building is being extended.

The Montreal Provincial Exhibition is offering a number of special prizes in the dairy department, with a view to stimulate every branch in the dairy industry. The building appropriated for the exhibit of dairy products and utensils has been well-fitted up and repainted, and refrigerators, which will be kept well-iced, have been erected at great cost. There is to be a special competition open to syndicates of butter and cheese factories, under the care of an inspector having one or more years' experience. The prizes for the inspector are to be \$10, \$30, and \$20, and for the syndicate, \$100, \$75, and \$50. There will also be a competition open to syndicates or cheese factories, under a new inspector (first year's experience), for which the following prizes are offered: For inspector, \$30, \$20, \$10; for the syndicate, \$75, \$50, \$25. In either competition each factory must exhibit one ordinary export cheese, white or colored, made between the 1st and 15th August, 1895. There will also be a competition open to butter factories, each to exhibit a tub, barrel or box of butter, made between the 1st and 10th September, 1895. The prizes to be offered for this competition are: For inspector, \$40, \$30, and \$20; for syndicate, \$100, \$75, and \$50. Uniformity of exhibits will be one of the chief points considered in judging, and this will apply as well to packing and furnishings as to the quality and nature of the exhibits. The points which fit butter and cheese for export will be the only ones taken into account.

The Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture has awarded special prizes for essays written by practical farmers; those on butter and cheesemaking, by makers, directors, or proprietors of cheese and butter factories. First, second and third prizes of \$30, \$20, and \$10, will be given for essays on each of the following subjects: "Making of Cheddar Cheese," "Butter-making," "Raising and Fattening Swine," "Feeding and Fattening Sheep," "Cultivation of Carrots for Fodder," "Making and Care of Farm Manure," "Plowing and Subsoil Plowing," "Artificial Manures and their Uses." The competitors must exhibit sheep if writing the essay on sheep, or pigs if competing in the pig essay, the same with cattle essays. Each competitor in the last three sections must exhibit grain, vegetables or fruit grown by himself. Entries made after Aug. 26th must be made on a separate entry form, and pay the regular fee. No entries will be accepted after the opening of the Exhibition. Lack of space forbids further publishing of rules and regulations, which can be obtained from S. C. Stephenson, Manager and Secretary, 76 St. Gabriel St., Montreal.

Bay of Quinte Exhibition.

The Bay of Quinte District Agricultural Exhibition will be held at Belleville, Ont., on Sept. 17th to 24th. From the Secretary and Manager, Mr. J. M. Hurley, we have received a copy of the extensive prize list, rules, regulations, etc., from which it appears that this show is being conducted with a great deal of enterprise. A special announcement is made regarding it in another column, to which attention is directed. It deserves success, and should prove a healthy stimulus to agriculture in the district.