

EDITORIAL.

Four Months for Twenty-Five Cents.

Farmers should now decide what papers they will take during 1894. Every progressive man should subscribe for at least one first-class agricultural paper. The best should be taken irrespective of price. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is the best, the cheapest and most widely-read agricultural paper in Canada. In order to introduce it into homes where it is not now being received, we will send it on trial from now until the end of December for twenty-five cents.

During harvest is a good time to notice which field is failing and needs a change of crop, and which spots need manure. Do this while riding the binder.

Sheep that are put on fresh clover or rape, especially if it be damp, often become bloated. It is good practice to allow them short stays at first while the fodder is dry.

A good remedial treatment for hoven sheep is to drench with salt and water, and place a stick of wood in the mouth, as a bit, tie it there by a cord from either end over the head for thirty or forty minutes, and the trouble will disappear.

The palatability of a food has much to do with its value, the animal's appetite being a very good guide in feeding. As with men, individual animals have varied tastes. The food must be suited to these, or best results cannot be attained.

Farmers are too often reminded in the middle of a busy day's hauling that the wagon tires are loose. This annoyance and serious loss of time could be prevented to a great extent by an occasional coat of paint to the wheels, which will cause them to look better and last longer.

"The remedy is nearly as bad as the disease," reports one farmer who applied oil to his cows' backs to check the horn-fly. Exposed to the sun the oil had the effect of a blister almost, leaving the backs of the animals very tender and more susceptible than ever to subsequent attacks by the fly. Some cows suffer far more from this pest than others.

July and August usually usher in a shrinkage in milk flow, and fortunate is the dairy farmer who provides abundance of pure water for his stock, and is able to supplement short pastures with succulent food. We would like reports from any who have tried last year's corn ensilage in such an emergency, or from those who may have taken "time by the forelock" and filled a small silo with early clover for use a few weeks later on.

A writer in Hoard's Dairyman, who has visited many dairy farmers, reports but little interest being taken in the World's Fair milking trials, largely because only three breeds are represented there. Had the Ayrshires, Holstein-Friesians and Red Polls also been in the battle, it would have attracted general attention. The question of which is the best dairy breed will still be unsettled, and most men will select according to their local conditions.

In a recent issue we gave particulars of a successful experience in cross-breeding Ayrshires and Jerseys. Since then another has come under our notice, this one being by a large milk-producing concern in Pennsylvania crossing Holsteins and Guernseys. These two breeds would be more likely to make a favorable "nick" than would the Holsteins and Jerseys. It is a standing claim by Guernsey men that even on ordinary winter food their cows will produce yellow butter. Guernsey milk is rich "in color," and one object in the above cross was to combine a good rich color with a generous flow, and at the same time have a hearty, vigorous cow.

A new principle or method in farming often proves unsatisfactory, because wrongly applied. Said a farmer the other day: "No more sowing corn with a grain drill for me; look at the rows of grass and weeds!" It had been sowed rather too thick in drills three feet apart, but was not harrowed on coming up. It is simply astonishing how afraid many men are to put the harrow on the corn field. They shake their heads, saying "It will tear it up sure," but practice proves that it won't. Some of the cleanest and finest corn in Middlesex County to-day was gone over three times (twice cross-wise) after it came up, with a big diamond harrow. Then came the one-horse cultivator, followed once by the hoe, and then the cultivator again and again.

The continuance of the British embargo on Canadian cattle is likely to have a depressing effect on the price of "stockers" in this country for the remainder of the present year; but it will enable those who have the proper facilities a good opportunity to secure a lot of cheap steers for stall feeding next winter.

Harvesting should not be considered as concluded until the fence corners, stone piles and by-places have been cleaned of rubbish in the shape of weeds. Docks and burdocks can be more easily subdued at this season of the year than at any other time, as their seeds have matured, and when cut and burned can do no more damage. But when left till later, colts, cattle and sheep become good vehicles for the spread of the nuisance, carrying the seeds to other places.

Most business men know how to use money wisely in their own business, but when they come to invest any surplus in outside enterprises they are often losers. This is especially true of farmers. They can invest their earnings in draining wet land, improved tools and buildings with reasonable expectation of a good return, but when they venture to dabble in other speculations are almost sure to suffer from the disadvantage of not knowing what they are about so well as others who use their money in this manner.

This is the time of year when the work horses require extra care. During hot weather they need water several times a day. The practice with some to water only at morning, noon and night is barbarous, especially when the weather is extremely hot. Where it can be done two sets of horses should be used on the binder, which should be changed every two or three hours while the rush lasts. No noon spell will be required, the horses will not be worn out, and 16 or more acres can be cut in a day with a six-foot machine.

It is erroneously considered by many farmers that burning the stubble is a waste of fertilizing elements, but the facts are that the potash and phosphoric acid are in much more available form for plant food in the ashes than in the straw. There are other good results that follow this practice. If there is fairly heavy stubble burnt off, the surface will be scorched and thus rendered fine, and will stop the evaporation from the soil, and therefore retain the moisture which is so much needed at this season of the year. Numerous insect pests are materially lessened by the burning process.

We have received a valuable work in the eighth annual report of the Farmers' Institutes of the Province of Ontario for 1892. In it we find some very interesting and instructive papers and speeches, given by such men as Mr. Awrey, M.P.P.; Prof. Wm. Saunders, Director of Dominion Experimental Farms; James Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist and Botanist; Prof. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner; Hon. John Dryden, M.P.P.; Hon. T. Ballantyne, M.P.P., and others well informed in the lines upon which they speak or write. The subjects treated are of great practical importance to agriculturists. Copies of this report can be had by applying to the Agricultural Department, Toronto, Ont.

The time will soon arrive when the blacksmith's bill will be presented for payment. The receiver will, in some cases, walk round and wonder how in the world it is so large this year, but, on looking over it, it will be noticed that a large proportion is for horseshoeing. Farmers become so accustomed to getting all the horses shod that go into harness, that it has become a habit to the man, and also to the beast. To keep two, three or more teams shod all around, or even on the forefeet, is very often a needless expense. By a little planning one team can be made to do the roading, and the remainder of the horses can go barefooted without any inconvenience, and if necessary can also stand a few days on the gravel road, because their feet are toughened and in the condition that nature intended them to be. Farmers can be found in almost every neighborhood who never have a shoe on any horse except the driver, and get their work done just as well as others who spend a lot of money in shoeing. During the slippery season a barefooted horse will not slip nearly so much as one that is shod and has become a little smooth. There are many who could pay their taxes with the money they are giving their blacksmith. In those dull times this he should be stopped. Emancipate yourself from the blacksmith; save your money and your time, and perhaps save your horses from many a lameness resulting from bad shoeing.

Cattle Trade, Present and Future.

For some weeks the cattle trade of this country, as well as that of the west, has been in a very low condition, although the supply has not been excessive. To a large extent this is due to the state of affairs in Europe. Especially in France and England the summer's drought, which terminated only a short time ago, has scorched the pasture lands, and ruined the hay crop until there is nothing left to feed the animal. Imported hay is selling at so high a figure that farmers cannot afford to purchase it for their cattle, and the result is that thousands of lean stock are being marketed to save them from starvation. This has so glutted the markets for the present that prices there are also away down.

We hear of cattle in France being sold at one-fourth the price that is usually paid. Some farmers are curing their grain crops for fodder to supply the present emergency, knowing that a reaction must take place before many months. Some of the neighboring countries that have not suffered from the drought are purchasing and shipping to their farms great numbers, which will be returned fat with a handsome profit when the demand revives.

Knowing these facts we need not be alarmed about our present low prices. Although our exported cattle have been much better than the native stock that has been rushed on the market, we have to compete with them more or less, as an over-supply of poor meat materially lessens the demand for the better quality.

Our hope is in the future demand, which must come as soon as the present surplus is exhausted. The people must have meat, and foreign countries must be depended on to supply it, therefore our farmers should see to it that they are in a position to supply the demand when it comes, as it certainly will. British markets want the best quality that can be supplied, and will pay good prices for the article that fills the bill.

Failing Pastures.

At this season of the year it is a common thing to hear complaints as to the failure of pastures, and usually the reason given is the hot, dry weather. Now, without wishing to deny that this is the reason sometimes, we do wish to point out to farmers that more often than not, they and not the weather are to blame for the failing pastures. As soon as the grass begins to grow in the spring, the rule is to turn out upon it all the live stock of the farm. Before the herbage has had time to cover the roots it is eaten off, and as fast as it makes an effort to cover the ground with its verdure it is destroyed. A moment's reflection ought to satisfy any farmer that the only result of such a course must be a failure of growth later in the season. The blades and leaves of grass and forage plants are the means provided by nature for carrying on the assimilation of plant-food and growth of the plant. No surer means is known for the destruction of any plant or tree than to destroy the foliage as it appears. Keep any weed or noxious plant divested of its leaves, and it will soon die; so with the grass in the pasture. If grazed so closely as to prevent the blades affording the means of carrying on nature's work in the plant, the grass roots will die and the pasture fail. Let the grass have the opportunity to live over the hot season, and in the fall months you will be amply repaid by an abundant growth. Save them now by feeding some soiling crops—green oats or peas will do—if the corn is not large enough to go into. The abundant "bite" in the fall will save winter keep.

The Chicago Dairy Test.

I have always doubted the 800 to 1000-lb. records of butter credited to some noted cows; and now when the finest 25 cows of each of the three breeds who had courage enough to enter a public test, open to all, can only produce an average of 2 lbs. per day, and that under the very choicest feeding and care, where do these "queens of the dairy," "great dairy fountains," &c., stand? A great many breeds were not even able to get up enough courage to go through with such an exhaustive test, and as for the three and four-pound-a-day cows, they were rejected by the expert committees. Surely, when we farmers have cows that on grass alone, and in spite of flies, mosquitoes, &c., will give from 1 to 1½ lbs. butter per day for three to four months, we may consider that we have good cows, when the best cows in all America can only make 2 lbs. per day on high feeding and with every comfort; of course, the braggarts will still trumpet forth their wonderful yields of butter and milk. Why didn't they allow their cows to be tested at this great public test?