

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published every Thursday (52 issues per year). It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical, reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 when not paid in advance. All other countries, 12s.
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LONDON, CANADA.

fall pasture for the lambs, it is yet not too late to prepare a piece of ground and sow the seed. In a showery season a strong growth of rape may be secured on land plowed and prepared after wheat or barley has been harvested, or a piece of clover stubble land plowed down after haying, and well worked on the surface, makes a very good preparation. There is no other forage crop that will provide so much quick fattening food for sheep in the fall, and it makes good pasture right up to the setting in of winter and the fall of snow. The greater part of older Canada is admirably adapted to sheep-raising. Here all the most suitable foods are successfully produced, the climatic conditions are most favorable, ensuring healthy and vigorous flocks. Fortunately, a considerable proportion of our farmers have had sufficient experience with sheep to enable them to successfully handle a flock, and others may learn from these. The Canadian Northwest, so well adapted for ranching, is certain to prove a good field for the sale of pure-bred rams, and will doubtless share, to no small extent, in the revival and in benefits of improved prices for mutton and wool. The whirligig of time brings its victories as well as its defeats, and sheep are evidently going to have their innings now.

Pleased with Premiums.

I received the collie pup, and am well pleased with him. I am well paid for my trouble in getting twelve subscribers for the "Farmer's Advocate."
DUNCAN CAMPBELL,
Bruce, Ont.

I received the Bible all right, and think it a beauty. Wishing you every success.
YORK, N. B. JOSEPH NELSON.

I must congratulate you on the excellence of the "Farmer's Advocate." It is a most interesting and valuable publication.
W. F. KAY,
St. John's, Que.

Camera Competition.

Now that the holiday season is here, cameras and kodaks are greatly in evidence, and as our previous competitions in photography have proved so successful, we have decided to announce another open to all amateurs. Our range of subjects will be wide, so that competitors may pursue the special line for which they are particularly adapted.

Our offer is:

1st Prize\$5.00
2nd Prize4.00
3rd Prize3.00
4th Prize2.00

for the best photographs of country homes, home or garden groups, interior views, field scenes, fruits or flowers, choice bits of scenery now at their best, children, animals, and so on.

RULES GUIDING COMPETITORS.

All photographs must be mounted, and preference will be given to those not less than 4 x 5 inches in size.

They must be clear and distinct. In making the awards, consideration will be taken of the artistic taste displayed in the choice of subjects.

They must reach the office of the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," London, Ont., not later than October 1st, 1904.

The name of competitor, with P. O. address, must be marked on the back of each photo, as well as the name and location of the view photographed.

Any competitor may send in more than one photograph, but can only obtain one prize.

All photographs competing shall become the property of the "Farmer's Advocate."

No photographs from which any engraving has been made is eligible for competition.

HORSES.

The Irish Horse-breeding System.

In the year 1900, the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland devised a scheme for encouraging improvement in the breeds of live stock, particularly of horses and cattle, in that country. An outline of the Irish system may be of interest to Canadian horsemen, who have for some time been discussing the problem of obtaining for service throughout the country a sufficient number of sound, well-bred stallions of the most profitable types.

GENERAL OBJECTS.—In formulating their live-stock schemes, the Department's main object was to promote improvement in the breeds of the country by encouraging private enterprise in the breeding of pure-bred animals and in the introduction of new sires, and to do this in such a way that the accompanying advantages should be principally secured for the smaller farmers. Since interests of national importance were at stake, such, for example, as the maintenance of the high reputation of Irish horses, the improvement of the feeding qualities of the store cattle, and the milking properties of dairy cows, and as these interests required that the stock of the country should be considered as a whole, and should not, in public schemes for its improvement, be attacked by the introduction of strains likely to have injurious general effects on the national breeds, it was necessary that these schemes should contain certain principles of uniform application to the whole country. It was, therefore, necessary that the live stock schemes should emanate from the central authority, while, in particulars other than their national features, they might be modified in accordance with local opinions and circumstances. In order to have the assistance of the most representative expert opinion in Ireland in the formulation of these schemes, the Government appointed two special advisory committees—one for horses, and the other for cattle, sheep and swine.

HORSE-BREEDING SCHEME.—The horse-breeding scheme, as outlined by the advisory committee, and approved by the Agricultural Board, provided for the registration of suitable and sound thoroughbred and agricultural sires, and the selection of a number of the best brood mares in each county to be served by these sires. The owner of a registered stallion is entitled, under the scheme, to a fee of £3 for each selected mare put to his stallion. The mares selected were the property of persons deriving their means of living from farming, whose valuation did not exceed in the poorer counties £150, and in the more wealthy counties, £200.

The first year 410 stallions were offered for registration, of which 298 were thoroughbred and 122 of the agricultural type. From the first it was deemed advisable to spare no pains in making a searching examination of the stallions offered for registration, and, accordingly, before any of the stallions offered under the scheme were accepted, the Department's inspectors had to certify, (1) as to suitability, and (2) as to the soundness of the animal. A register was published

in March, 1901, which contained the names and pedigrees of 97 thoroughbred and 31 agricultural stallions that had been accepted. Upwards of 1,800 free nomination tickets of £3 each were offered at 150 shows of mares held during March and April, and nearly 1,700 of these tickets were issued.

In addition to subsidizing stallions by means of £3 nominations to mares, the department offered in a few counties where there was an insufficient number of stallions for the purposes of the scheme, premiums varying from £50 to £100.

LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF STALLIONS.—In order to encourage farmers of small means to provide themselves with a registered stallion, a sum of money was allotted by the Department for the purpose of granting loans for the purpose of approved sires. The money was lent at 2½ per cent. interest, payable in five annual instalments. It was a condition precedent to these loans that the animal should be insured for its full market value.

PREMIUMS FOR FEMALE STOCK.—As a further means of encouraging improvement in stock-breeding, the Department adopted the principle of awarding premiums and prizes to female stock. The advisory committee on horse-breeding pointed out that the industry in Ireland is, to a great extent, injured by young mares being sold out of the country, thus leaving only second-class animals for breeding purposes, and the Department adopted their recommendation that the prizes and premiums should be mainly confined to young mares from two to six years old, served by a registered sire, in the hope that the farmers would thereby be induced to retain these mares.

W. A. CLEMONS,
Publication Clerk.

Sore Shoulders.

The majority of teamsters have had more or less experience with sore shoulders in horses, and while proper care and attention will, in most cases, prevent the trouble, it sometimes occurs notwithstanding all reasonable care. Of course, all care should be taken to prevent it, such as seeing that the collar fits well, is kept perfectly clean, and thoroughly dried when off the horse, the hames properly fitted and the draft properly adjusted. The collar should be removed when the horse is in the stable, even for a short time. This gives the collar a chance to dry, allows a circulation of air over the shoulder, and permits it to cool. After a horse has perspired freely, it is good practice to bathe the shoulders thoroughly with cold water, to which has been added a little salt, and the shoulders then rubbed until dry. This, of course, entails considerable work, but it cools off the shoulder, removes all matting of and all dirt from the hair. If, after this precaution has been taken, the collar is brushed or scraped until thoroughly clean before being put on again, and a little trouble taken to lift it forward off the shoulder when the horse is standing, to allow a circulation of air, and then carefully replaced, being careful that no mane is allowed between the collar and shoulder, it is seldom sore shoulders will result. Some horses appear particularly predisposed to sore shoulders, of which we see several forms, each requiring specific treatment. Probably the most common form is what is known as "collar gall," which is a form of scalding caused by friction and heat. The spot or spots affected become sore and tender, the hair gradually falls out, and the skin assumes a red and partially raw appearance. If no means are taken to arrest the trouble, and the horse continues to work, the parts soon become entirely denuded of hair and raw. In treating this, or, in fact, any form of sore shoulders, where expedient, of course we should allow the patient to rest until the parts have become healed, but, unfortunately, it is not always possible to give rest, and while many may say it is cruelty to animals to work a horse with sore shoulders, and few will deny this, at the same time, when it is necessary to either work him or allow the work that must be done at the time or the owner suffer considerable loss, we can excuse a man for working his horse, but he should do all he can to effect a cure, and while it is hard to effect a cure under these conditions, in many cases it can be done, and, at least, care and attention will minimize the animal's suffering. In most stables there are old collars that have been practically discarded, and often one of these can be used to advantage. If it be a collar that has been refaced and restuffed, the outer facing can be cut away and the filling removed where it presses on the sore spot, or the collar may be pounded with a hammer until a depression is formed, or a sweat pad can be used in this way. Any device that will lessen pressure on sore spots, and at the same time not cause a roughness or undue pressure on other parts, will give relief. Whether or not this can be done, care as to cleanliness, etc., already noted, and the frequent application of a cooling, astringent lotion, will give great relief, and in many cases effect a cure. Probably the best application is one made of an ounce each of acetate of lead and sulphate of zinc, and one-half ounce of carbolic acid to a pint of water. This lotion should be applied frequently, and especially as soon as the shoulder