

About the Farm

pected, illogical things, and it had pleased the eccentric goddess to decree, not only that the Old Man's special should be lying at Lyons waiting for number two, but that the general claim agent of the Indian Valley Railroad should be journeying southward on this same number two, now held up by Mrs. Finnegan and her dog. It was General Claim Agent Harrington whom Miss Georgie had addressed. Mr. Harrington now took command of the situation.

"Who is this woman?" he asked. "Larry Finnegan's widow," answered Shorty, who knew everybody on the road. "Why have you stopped the train, Mrs. Finnegan?" demanded Mr. Harrington. "I want pay f'r the cow ye've kilt f'r me."

"Well, well, this is no way to get it. Send your claim to Omaha; and if it is just it will be paid in due time."

"Omehah! Omehah! Don't ye say Omehah to me. I went to Omehah an' the brick-topped blagga-ard there told me to go to a place that was invited an' set aside 'specially f'r r-railroad men. An' now I'm goin' to have pay f'r me poo-oor murdered R-rosie before I l'ave this spot."

Mr. Harrington found himself losing command of the situation.

"How do I know you had a cow killed?" he demanded, betrayed by his emotions into an appearance of negotiating.

"There's her grave over there, poo-oor thing," replied Mrs. Finnegan, pointing to a fresh mound of earth near the fence.

"We killed a cow, all right, coming up the other day," interposed Shorty.

"Well, well my good woman, tell me what she was worth, and I'll see what can be done about it when I get to Omaha."

"She was wort' fifty dollars, an' ye'll see about it before ye git a foot nearer Omehah than ye ar-re now, unless ye go be ha-and."

"Fifty dollars! Why, I could buy the best cow in the country for thirty-five dollars. Come, come, Mr. Kingman, remove that woman and let's get on."

Miss Georgie took a step forward. "Come on, boys," he called. His request being re-enforced by Mr. Harrington's urgings, Shorty and the express messenger supported Miss Georgie on either flank, though it must be said the advance was without enthusiasm.

"Watch 'em, Cha-arley," warned Mrs. Finnegan. Charley promptly showed a whole-hearted willingness to watch 'em by springing forward a step and emitting a series of ferocious growls and barks. The three hastily retired.

"Say! but you are a brave lot," sneered Mr. Harrington.

"P'raps you'd like the job yourself," retorted Shorty.

"O, confound it, I'd rather pay the fifty out of my own pocket than lay out the president's special any longer," said Mr. Harrington, ignoring Shorty's suggestion. "Here, Madame, here's your fifty dollars," he continued, peeling two twenties and a ten off a huge roll which he fished up from the depths of his trousers pocket.

"I said sixty dollars."

"Sixty dollars? Cows seem to be going up in your market, Mrs. Finnegan."

"Tis the beef trust."

"Well, for heaven's sake come and get your money and let us go on."

"Ye'll hand it to me like a gentleman."

"I'm not coming near that dog."

"He shan't hur-rt ye if ye behave yer-self," said Mrs. Finnegan, throwing her skirt over Charley's head and holding him tightly with one arm. Mr. Harrington grew purple in the face and breathed hard for a moment. Then he peeled another ten off the roll and handed it to Shorty, who cautiously advanced near enough to toss the little roll into the widow's lap. She took it, counted it twice with great deliberation, tied it in a handkerchief, deposited the handkerchief in a pocket which she found in her skirt after a long search, rose, brushed herself off with one hand and at last stepped aside.

"Now ye kin go," she said.

Not until they had reached Mrs. Finnegan's gate did Mrs. McGuigan find her tongue. Then, looking up with the adoration which humility pays to genius she exclaimed:—

"A-ah, Mrs. Finnegan! That wuz the time ye sco-ored wan."

Care of Brood Mares

By Grattan

Some horsemen utterly neglect the brood mare, while others err in giving too much attention. The latter forget that exercise is necessary and that strong, heavy foods are undesirable.

Exercise but Avoid Accidents

A mare in foal may be safely used to do ordinary farm work, as long as she is not asked to strain herself, as is usually the case when a snowdrift or a mud-hole makes it a difficult matter for a horse to avoid putting forth extreme muscular efforts in order to pull a load. Slipping on icy spots is a common cause for abortion, but many times mares are thoughtlessly turned out when ice abounds and less frequently they are driven on icy roads without being properly shod.

If more than two of the farm mares are in foal it is almost a foregone conclusion that some two of them will fight when turned out together. No surer method of causing trouble exists than a kick in the abdomen from another horse. It will be far better to give them their exercise in harness, doing such light tasks as, may usually be provided about the farm.

If the mares are worked in winter when their feet are likely to become balled up with ice and snow, the balls should always be knocked out before they are driven in on to the stable floor, where there would be danger of their slipping.

Mares kept in box stalls sometimes get injured by being caught in a half-closed door going out or in the stall, according

to the direction in which the door opens, and sometimes a mare that is somewhat stubborn about being driven into the stall or the stable gets a bad fall by reason of getting a blow with a whip in the hands of the person trying to drive her. Such mares should never be driven into the stall or stable, but should be led.

Feed for the Brood Mares

In the matter of feeding almost any good sensible feed may be allowed. Smutty corn or rusty oats should not be fed under any consideration. Good oats, bran and well cured hay make a food that would be hard to improve on. It goes without saying that a mare should never be kept tied in an open stall as foaling time approaches, and a box stall is better at all times.

At Foaling Time

It will be well to keep as close a watch as possible for the arrival of the youngster, but do not press any more attention on the mare than is absolutely necessary. In most cases it is wise for the watcher to keep as quiet and as much out of sight of the mare as possible, but at the same time be in such a position that he can observe her actions and note the progress being made toward delivery. If the attendant has an intelligent idea of the act when it takes place in a normal manner, he will be able to recognize abnormal conditions, and if not able to rectify these he should send promptly for a veterinarian. A very important point with the attendant is to know when to interfere, as much harm is sometimes done by premature or irrational interference, as is at other times by being too tardy. He should not be anxious to render assistance, he should be content to allow nature a fair opportunity to perform her functions, and when

things are making fair progress he should await developments.

In a very large percentage of cases the act of foaling in mares is naturally performed. Sometimes this does not occur, especially is this the case where the mare has led an idle life, and her muscles are in a flabby condition as a consequence. When things are all right, birth is the most rapid in horses of all domesticated animals. In cases where labor pains have been frequent and severe for a time and no progress is apparently being made toward delivery, the attendant must decide that some abnormal condition exists and the aid of the veterinarian should be had.

If the mare is kept in the stable, see that all the bedding is removed after the foal arrives; this, together with the after-birth, should be burned. Saturate the floor with a disinfectant solution and give dry bedding.

In some cases the mare is unnatural and vicious with her foal, and if not prevented will injure and probably destroy it. In this case the attendant should not leave her until her fear or dislike of the foal has been overcome and the youngster has sucked. If the foal be strong and smart and the mare is giving it the proper attention the less interference the better.

After Foaling

Give the mare bran mash for a day or two to reduce the fever incident to parturition and feed her on clean hay and oats. Reduce the oats and increase the bran if the foal shows evidence of constipation, but do not feed barley to the

exercise, clean water and comfortable quarters for the brood mares at all times, and the stables kept clean, well lighted and ventilated.

Cost of Production and Profit

In my opinion it is useless to try to increase the production of dairy products unless dairying can be made more attractive to the average farmer, and it will not be more attractive until it is more profitable. The average dairyman is losing money, and the future looks anything but bright. Washington is now producing about what dairy products are needed for home consumption. If we increase the production we must seek outside markets and compete with those states that are not only producing a better article, but are producing it cheaper, because of having cheaper land.

In our cow testing association of 24 herds there are 7 herds that gave an average of 418 lbs. of milk for the month of November at a cost of \$2 per 100 lbs. for feed. To this we must add about \$1.00 per 100 lbs. for care, depreciation, interest, taxes, etc., or \$3.00 per 100 lbs. Milk is worth from \$2 to \$2.40 at the farm, showing that these farmers are working for nothing and boarding themselves.

The best 7 herds in our association gave an average of 816 lbs. of milk per cow at a cost for feed of \$1.17 as compared with \$2 by the poorest 7 herds. Nearly every herd in the valley has more or less of these boarder cows that are not paying for their board. The object of this association is to pick out these boarders and help these farmers to keep and care for better cows.

If we have cows that produce 300 lbs. of fat we must have a 300-lb. man to feed and care for her. Simply buying a good cow and feeding her all she will eat does not mean successful dairying by a long way.

A successful dairyman must not only know how much to feed, but also what to feed to produce the best results with the different cows. Two brothers in our association have each a herd of cows. One produces milk at 80c per 100 lbs.; the other at \$1.60 per 100 for feed. The Poor Farm herd produces milk at \$1.06 per 100 while at the Soldiers' Home it costs \$2.50 for feed.

Whenever we find a profit producing herd of cows we will be likely to find a prosperous and contented farmer that is an asset to the community.

It is estimated that one-third of the cows in this state are making a profit for their owners, one-third are about breaking even, and the other third are making a loss. In my opinion the only way to make dairying successful in this valley with our high-priced land, is to cheapen the cost of producing milk by weeding out the boarders, and increasing the production of the better cows, and this to my mind resolves itself down to a matter of education, and that education must be taken to the farm, as the man that is keeping the unprofitable cows can be reached in no other way. He must be shown. He seldom reads dairy literature or attends dairy meetings.

Probably no other agency offers so good a chance to take the education to the right man as the cow testing association. If we can get these men to join the association, we can show what each cow produces and what she costs, and in this way may be able to convince the farmer that he is working for nothing when he keeps cows that do not pay for their board.

Some of the business men of Tacoma, believing that something ought to be done to build up the dairy industry near their city, conceived the idea of helping the farmer with small means to keep cows. This is a laudable undertaking and deserves success, but I cannot help but feel that they have begun at the wrong end and will fail to accomplish all that they are trying to do. They have employed a good man to buy the best grade cows to be had, and have sold them to the farmers on the installment plan, which is probably the only way these farmers can buy.

It seems to me that where this undertaking will fail, is in selling these good cows to the farmers and not sending the education along with them. Very few men who have not had a good deal of experience with cows will succeed at first. It seems to me that it would be a good plan to employ a man that thoroughly understands the feeding and care of cows to watch these cows carefully for a year



A Happy Family, Enjoying Home Comforts. Taken on the Farm of Mr Geo. Ball, Gladstone.