

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. 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.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line. Repeat, 10 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to us, either by Money Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.
7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In every case the "Full Name and Post-office Address Must be Given."
9. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to us, either by Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.
10. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P.O. address.
12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

The Rural Temperament.

Really to enjoy country life—to fully appreciate and love it in all its phases as they come to us in turn—one needs a rural temperament. Of course, we do not refer to that peace of mind which only religious experience can furnish, and which makes one contented with his lot whatever it may be. We refer rather to that choice or preference which causes different persons to select different occupations and modes of life, leading one person to prefer one set of circumstances, and someone else another.

There are people to whom the country quiet is unmitigated bore. They must have life—activity of the feverish kind that consumes. They would prefer slum life in the city to the most idealized rural conditions. They are not the sanest people, seldom strong and vigorous, seldom leaders, seldom the progenitors of eminent men. Their craze for excitement is like the drunkard's appetite for liquor. It runs away with them.

There are others who think they like the country. They like it providing it offers fine homes, light work, plenty of leisure, free rural delivery, telephones, good roads, and plenty of money. These assured, they will hide it for a time, but are easily allured thence by some other life offering a change. They measure country and city life by the creature comforts afforded in either case. Their regard for the country is a poor, shallow thing. They do not really appreciate country life at all, in a despatched sense.

Others, again, conjure up and long for a sort of idealized conception of rural scenery. They dream of babbling brooks, green meadows, and waving fields and singing birds. They have raptures of sentiment over a sunset or a sunrise. But—there is a fair-weather breeze. On a rainy day spent in a kitchen or barn, or a long post office along muddy roads, their enthusiasm and turn their backs toward electric-lighted streets. They do not really like the country—the few phases of it.

There are others, but very, very few, who know and appreciate the country for exactly what it is. They love it in all its phases, because it

is a part of them, and they a part of it. They see in the farm something more satisfying than money-making, and something more substantial than a dream. They are not the salt-and-sugar kind of folk who shiver at a November rain or turn up their noses at a muddy path. They know, like the sensible people they are, that every environment has its drawbacks, that life is nowhere a bed of roses, and that farming implies much hard work and some denial. But, on the whole, they like it. They relish the freedom, the purity, the wholesomeness and independence (though this latter is among the lesser advantages). They have dipped a little into science. They realize a partnership with nature, and delight in studying and applying her hidden laws. They love the companionship and unfolding interest of growing things. To them, every animal on the farm is a pet, every plant an object of delight, and every field a laboratory. They feel the ecstasy of living close to primal things. They feel that a dollar earned represents wealth created—not wrested merely from some less privileged ones. For there is far more genuine satisfaction out of one dollar wrought from the soil by skillful methods than from a thousand wormed out of other people's pockets through commercial sharp practice.

To those who appreciate country life thus intelligently, it makes an irresistible appeal. They would prefer a hut on the farm to a mansion in town, a muddy lane to an asphalted street. They might retire from a busy life in town to an old ace on the farm, but from country to city, never! They love the country for what it is, with that deep-sensed, exhilarating, expansive affection to which no other life can similarly appeal. There are a few such people on the land. "May their tribe increase."

Beef-ring Secretaries.

A good deal of interest continues to be taken in beef rings and their management. "The Farmer's Advocate" has been asked whether they are extending or not, and we would like to obtain the post-office addresses of all the secretaries of beef rings now in existence, and number of members in each case; also the addresses of secretaries of rings that have ceased operations, and why. This information can be put upon a postcard, addressed to "The Farmer's Advocate," London, Ont., and early replies we would greatly appreciate. This information may come either from secretaries themselves or from readers who know them.

HORSES.

Sore Shoulders on Horses.

A large percentage of "sore shoulders" is due to ill-fitting collars or carelessness, or both. If the collar fits properly, and the teamster is careful to keep both collar and shoulder clean, sore shoulders should not occur, especially in horses that have been worked regularly. We speak about "ill-fitting collars." This naturally suggests the question, "What constitutes a proper fit for a collar for a working horse?" In order that the fit may be perfect, each horse should be especially fitted by an expert collarmaker, as each horse's shoulder has its own peculiarities as regards conformation. At the same time, there is so much similarity in the conformation of shoulders that collars made according to a standard pattern will give good service on most horses, provided they are the proper size. Most shoulders are prominent at the point and for a certain distance up the shoulder, then somewhat hollow for a certain distance up, after which they again become prominent, and terminate in the crest, which is more or less wide, according to the condition of the animal and the development of crest. As these points in most cases have a somewhat definite relation to each other, the collarmaker can make collars of different sizes, each showing a fullness or a slackness to fit the depressions or prominences mentioned; hence a collar of the proper length and proper width should fit the shoulder. In some cases there are peculiarities in the conformation of a shoulder that necessitate a collar of a shape differing from the standard. In such cases a special collar should be made. A collar fitting a horse should be of such length that, when the horse is standing, the teamster can pass his fingers between the collar and the neck and the rim of the collar. There are certain conditions, when the horse is standing, which the neck expands, and the collar should be made to fit these conditions. In a fifth, the collar

should fit perfectly, without allowing any room for expansion. If the collar be too wide, it will take a rolling motion when the horse draws, and this is sure to cause trouble, especially in wet weather. If it be too long, it will not fit the point of the shoulder properly, and trouble will result. On the other hand, if the collar be too short or too narrow, it will pinch and cause soreness. Great care should be taken not to have the collar too narrow on top, as it will pinch the top of the neck and cause trouble that is very hard to treat. The fit of the collar should not depend upon the tightness of the buckling of the hames. It should fit properly of itself, and the hames should be fitted to the collar and buckled moderately tight. The draft should be adjusted to just about the heaviest part of a standard collar. If too low, it forces too much draft on the point of the shoulder, and if too high it draws down too much on the top of the neck. It is not possible to give a definite measurement from the bottom or the top at which the draft should be placed, as horses measure so differently. The average harnessmaker is not a collarmaker. Many harnessmakers don't attempt to make collars; they purchase the collars they sell. Collarmaking is really a trade of itself. At the same time, any harnessmaker should be able to tell when a collar fits, and the most of them are, and are very careful in the matter. Harnessmakers are often blamed in this respect when they should not be. This is especially the case when young horses, or horses that, though in good condition, have had a few months' partial or complete idleness, have been fitted with collars, and after a few days' or weeks' work, suffer from sore shoulders. In such cases the muscles of the shoulders are full and somewhat flabby from want of function. Collars are fitted, and in most cases correctly fitted. The horses are put to work; the muscles of neck and shoulders become smaller, partly from pressure, and in many cases partly on account of loss of flesh, as most young horses, or older ones that have been unaccustomed to work, fail in condition when put at regular work, and in all cases the muscles become less bulky, though harder in consistence. As a consequence, the collars no longer fit properly, and if their use be continued, without alteration, soreness of some kind is almost sure to result. In such cases smaller collars should be provided, or the original ones supplied with sweat pads to fill the space made by the shrinking of the muscles. Opinions differ as to what the facings of the collars should be. Some prefer cloth made especially for the purpose, others prefer leather, some claim that pig-skin gives better results than anything else, but it is somewhat hard to see where its special virtue is. Whatever is used should be regularly and thoroughly cleaned, and the horse's shoulders should also be cleaned frequently; and when a horse is standing the collar should be lifted forward on the neck to allow the air to circulate on the shoulder. In such a case the collar should be carefully readjusted and the mane lifted from under it before starting the horse. When the collar fits properly, and reasonable care is taken, sore shoulders should rarely be seen. At the same time, trouble occasionally occurs even in cases where apparently all possible preventive measures have been observed. Shoulder troubles are of various kinds. The most common is practically scalding. There is little or no swelling, but the skin becomes wrinkled and dry, and, after a day or two becomes raw. In such cases, an astringent and antiseptic application should be used. There is no better dressing for these cases than a lotion made of 1 ounce each of acetate of lead and sulphate of zinc to a pint of water. This should be applied several times daily. Of course, in all shoulder troubles a rest is advisable, as it is a very hard matter to cure a case when the cause is kept up, and very hard to treat a case of this kind even when a proper-fitting collar is used.

In some cases, instead of scalding, we notice enlargements of different kinds. These are caused by bruising of the muscles by the collar. In some cases the enlargements appear suddenly, are soft and fluctuating, and not very sore. These are serous abscesses, and they contain a variable quantity of serum (a bloody-looking fluid). They should be lanced at the lowest part to allow escape of the serum, and then the cavity should be flushed out three times daily, until healed, with an antiseptic, as the lotion mentioned, or a 4-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid, creolin or other coal-tar product. In other cases the enlargements appear more slowly, and the heat and soreness are well marked. The swelling is hard and unyielding, and often of considerable size. Some of these soon become soft at a certain point, which indicates the presence of pus. They should be lanced and treated the same as the serous abscesses. In other cases they remain hard and sore. These should be lanced and probed, in order to ascertain whether pus be present. If even a small quantity of pus be found, by making a free incision and treating as above, the swelling will usually disappear, and the wound heal. But if no pus be present, the swelling is a fibrous tumor, and the only treatment is dissection. It must be carefully dissected out, the wound