

An Honest Auctioneer—or Sandy's Dream.

BY SANDY FRASER.

It wis rainin' a cauld drizzle frae the east the ither day, an' as there wis naething I could dae outside I cam' intae the hoose an' sat doon beside the stove. The auld wumman had a guid fire on, an' it wisna' lang before I got unco' drowsy an' wis beginnin' tae nod till I near pit ma neck oot o' joint a couple o' times. Juist then wha comes in but Alex. Dewar, an' says he, "Hello Sandy, are ye no' goin' tae the sale?" "What sale?" says I. "Hoot, mon," he replied, "dae ye no' ken that auld Jim McGraw is sellin' out the day? Ye don't want tae miss a' the bargains that will be there." "I'd clean forgot about it," says I, "but I'll gang wi' ye, gin ye're o' a mind tae tak' it in."

Sae we went oot tae the stable an' hitched up the auld mare, an' it wisna' lang till we were at the farm that wis for sale, along wi' a' the stock an' machinery an' household effects, an' "ither things too numerous tae mention," as it aye says on the bill.

The auctioneer, wha wis an unco' strange lookin' sort o' a mon, wis juist gettin' ready tae begin the sale when we joined the crowd that wis gathered in front o' the hoose. "He's got a queer streak in him, that auctioneer," says Alex. tae me. "He shouldna' be runnin' loose, I'm thinkin'." This is his first sale since he got oot, an' maybe it will be his last before he gae in again." Juist then the chap we were talkin' about got up on a wee table that wis in the yard, an' began tae announce the terms o' the sale. "Five dollars an' over is cash," says he, "but anything under that amount ye can hae six months' credit on. Gin ony o' ye had ony notion o' movin' awa', or joinin' the army before yer notes came due we're gaein' tae see that ye willna' mak' mair than five dollars by it. This thing o' makin' a mon pay cash for the wee amounts that wouldna' matter sae muckle gin ye lost them, an' takin' a chance on gettin' yer pay in six months on the big amounts, is played oot. Gin we've got tae tak' a risk on anything we'll mak' it as little as possible."

"An, noo," he went on, "the first thing tae be pit up for sale are these chairs. How muckle will ye gie me for them? They're pretty weel dried up sticks tae risk sittin' on them, but gin ye lean them up against the wall they ought tae hang together for a while, once ye get them hame. How much?"

Ye may no' believe me, but the chairs were sold at a fair price.

"The next thing tae be pit up wis a sofa. "This sofa," says the auctioneer, "looks as though somebody must hae found it comfortable. Na doot oor friend Mr. McGraw rested on it between meals. The spring is pretty weel oot o' it, but it's na mair than they will be sayin' about all o' us when we're the same age." The sofa wis sold, an' the next tae come on wis the auld grandfather clock. "This clock," says the auctioneer, "is a wee bit run doon at present, like everything else hereabouts. But gin ye dinna' meddle wi' it, it will be right twice a day, onwyay, an' I'll gie it tae ony o' ye that has sense enough not to pay ower muckle for it."

Aifter the clock wis sold a couple o' milk pails were pit up. "These are milk pails," the auctioneer started oot again, "an' gin ye happen tae want a strainer ony time, all ye will have to dae will be tae pull the rags oot o' the holes in the bottom an' there ye are. I'm wonderin' Mr. McGraw didna' get oot a patent on this twa-in-one milk pail. How much am I offered?"

After a lot mair truck o' this kind had been got rid o', wi' the auctioneer pointin' oot the weak spots in ilka thing; we went oot tae the machine shed.

"Noo," began the auctioneer, "wha wants tae buy a horse rake to-day — an' anither one day after to-morrow? This one here will need tae be taken tae the dentist an' fitted wi' some false teeth, but onwyay, gin the mon that buys this rake will juist buy the mower that is tae be sauld next, I'll guarantee that he'll rake as muckle hay as he will cut." When these two articles had been knocked doon tae the "lucky bidder," as he is called, the auld lumber wagon was rin oot. "This grandfather wagon," says the auctioneer, "wis juist painted day before yesterday, an' whaevers buys the wagon gets a' that paint for naething. Mr. McGraw should get something for it, if only tae pay the wear an' tear on his paint brush." The wagon went like the rest, an' then came the double harness. "On takin' a second look at these auld straps," remarked the auctioneer, "I'm reminded o' something that Bill Nye, an auld friend o' mine, said once. He said that when a young chap started tae go doon hill, he found everything greased for the occasion. This harness is the same way. It's greased for the occasion. However, the oil won't hurt the harness, even gin it was applied ower late tae dae ony guid. Ye can tak' the will for the deed."

Aifter this we went around tae the coo stable an' lined up in a circle about the door. When the first coo cam' oot the auctioneer says, "Gentlemen, this is a coo. Gin ye think it's a bear or ony ither o' the fur-bearing animals, ye're mistaken. When a mon doesna' provide a warm stable an' plenty o' straw an' corn stalks for his coos in 'this Canada o' oors' they're liable tae no' winter vera weel, an' come oot in the spring wi' a con-seederable coating o' lang hair, like the sample we hae before us. How muckle dae ye bid?" The rest o' the coos were worse than the first an' the auctioneer took care tae draw attention tae a' their weak points as they cam' oot o' the stable. Gin ony o' them were auld enough tae vote, he mentioned the fact, an' nae-body there but the born gamblers got muckle encouragement tae invest their money in live stock.

At last a coo wis brought oot wi' a mon on each side o' her tae hauld her up. "Let her lean against the side

o' the door," says the auctioneer. "Here, Sandy Fraser," he says, turnin' towards where I wis standin', "ye're surely no' gaein' hame wi'oot buyin' one coo, onwyay. Gie me a bid on this one."

"Never!" says I, "sae lang as there's ony brains left under ma cap. I've had my day wi' that kind o' stock. What dae ye tak' me for?" says I, gettin' excited.

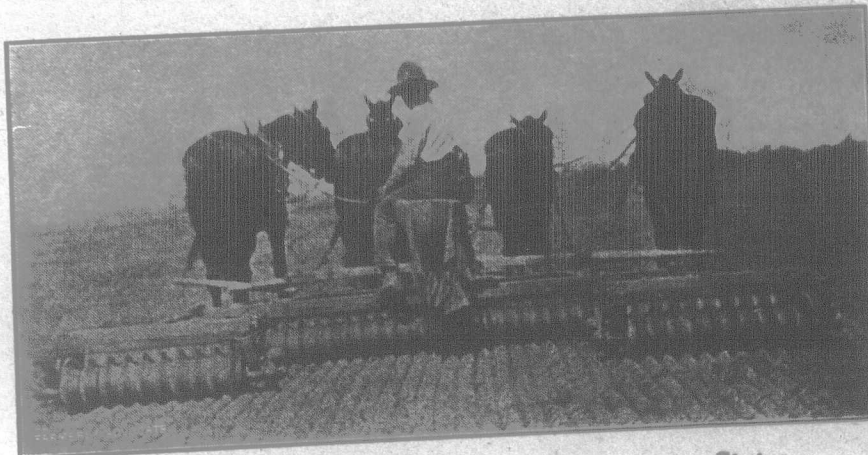
"Hoot! Hoot! Sandy," said the auld wumman, giein' me a poke in the ribs wi' the rollin'-pin. "What's the matter wi' ye? Hae ye been dreamin'?" "No," I replied sittin' up an' rubbin' my eyes, "I hae been night-marein'. I thocht I wis at an auction sale, Jean, an' the auctioneer wis tryin' tae mak' me buy anither coo." "Weel, I don't wonder ye got in a bad way then, Sandy," says Jean, "for ye've got tae milk the bunch alone again to-night. I canna' leave this bread I'm bakin'."

"Oh, that's a richt," says I, "I'm feelin' better the noo. An' Jean," I called back as I wis gaein oot o' the door, "I'm gaein' tae tell ye a story sometime about an honest auctioneer. Ye dinna' think there's ony such animal, but wait till I've tauld ye about this one."

THE HORSE.

Hernia or Rupture in Foals.

Hernia or Rupture is a tumor formed by the displacement, or escape of a portion of an internal organ from its natural cavity, through an opening in the walls of the cavity. It projects externally as a more or less soft fluctuating tumor, enclosed by the skin. Abdominal and pelvic hernia are divided into reducible, irreducible and strangulated, according to their condition; and into umbilical or navel, scrotal, ventral and diaphragmatic, according to their situation. A hernia is reducible when it can readily be returned into the proper cavity. It consists in a soft, fluctuating swelling unattended with heat, pain, or uneasiness. Its size and consistence varies considerably, according to the stage of digestion after each meal. When the animal coughs it becomes tense, larger, and communicates a sudden impulse to the hand of the examiner if held upon the tumor. A hernia is irreducible when it is not strangulated, yet cannot be returned into the abdomen or pelvis by pressure. The causes that prevent reduction are, 1st, the bulk of the protruded organ is out of proportion to the opening through which it would have to return; 2nd, adhesions of the protruded parts to the walls of the sac, through the medium of organized lymph.



A Type of Roller Used Extensively in South-western States.

A hernia is said to be strangulated when the contents of the sac, by virtue of ingesta that has passed into it, produce such a degree of pressure and distension as not to cause it to be irreducible but also by compressing the blood vessels to disturb, impede or suspend circulation within them. The condition speedily causes serious inflammation in the protruded parts which extends and involves others within the normal cavity.

A hernia is called umbilical or navel when a protrusion of any portion of the bowels takes place through the umbilical or navel opening; inguinal when the intestine enters the inguinal canal but does not pass into the scrotum; scrotal when the intestine is lodged in the scrotum; (inguinal hernia is not easily diagnosed.) It is called ventral when the protrusion takes place through an artificial opening in the walls of the cavity as one caused by a hook, kick, stake, etc. It is called diaphragmatic when the diaphragm (the partition between the lung cavity and the abdomen) is ruptured, and a portion of the stomach protrudes into the lung cavity or thorax. A hernia is said to be congenital when it exists at birth and the protrusion is through one of the normal foetal openings, as the umbilical or inguinal.

Umbilical Hernia.—In this article we will discuss umbilical or navel hernia in foals. During foetal life of the blood vessels and urachus of the foetus pass out of the body through a normal opening, called the umbilical or navel opening. This aperture, under normal conditions, closes at birth when the functions of the vessels mentioned cease, but in some cases this closure does not take place and hernia is noticed at once or appears in a few days. In some cases the closure of the opening, while complete, may be lax and weak and rupture may occur as a result of violent efforts at any time until the animal is two or three years old. The symptoms of umbilical hernia are evident. There is a soft fluctuating tumor, of greater or less volume, from the

size of a marble to that of a goose egg or even larger, on the floor of the abdomen at the navel. In most cases it is reducible and can readily be returned into the abdomen by the application of pressure, but usually reappears quickly when pressure is relieved. In most cases the animal appears to suffer no inconvenience. When such a condition exists, there is seldom cause for alarm and it is seldom necessary to treat; at the same time, it should be closely watched, and if it be noticed that the bulk of the tumor is gradually or quickly increasing, treatment should be resorted to. In young animals the omentum and mesentery, (those portions of the membrane which line the abdominal cavity, which are reflected from the walls of the cavity, and which suspend the intestines) are looser and longer than when the animal is a few months old. These gradually contract and shorten, and thereby draw the protruding intestine back into the cavity, thereby effecting a spontaneous cure. Of course, where the hernia is either irreducible or strangulated this cannot take place and an operation by a veterinarian is necessary. If the tumor is noticed to be gradually decreasing in bulk, or even remaining about the same size, it is better to leave it alone and allow nature to effect a cure, but if the volume be quickly or slowly increasing, or if after a few months it is not decreasing, treatment is indicated.

Treatment.—There are many modes of treatment, some of which can be given only by an expert, viz., cutting through the skin, exposing the intestine, returning it into the cavity, scarifying the margin of the opening, and stitching it with carbolyzed catgut or silk sutures; 2nd, placing the patient upon his back, carefully returning the intestine, gathering up the loose skin and enclosing it firmly in a clamp, or passing skewers through it and tying them with a cord in the form of the figure eight so tightly as to shut off circulation. Whichever method is adopted, care must be taken not to enclose any portion of the intestine. The animal is then allowed to rise and no further treatment is necessary until the enclosed tissues drop off, which is usually in ten to fourteen days; then the raw surface should be dressed regularly with an antiseptic, as a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid. Either of these operations, if properly performed, is successful in removing the hernia, but the results are not always favorable as it is not uncommon for lock-jaw to result after any operation for this purpose that causes a raw surface. Most practitioners now give the patient immunitive treatment before operating.

Another and safer, though a more tedious mode of treatment, is the application of a truss. This does not produce a raw surface, hence the danger of lock-jaw is largely avoided. A truss of leather or strong sacking about four inches wide, with a protuberance about the size of half a base ball on its surface, is placed around the abdomen, the protuberance being placed over the navel opening after the hernia has been forced back into the abdominal cavity. Straps and buckles, or strings are needed to adjust the truss. The tendency of the truss is to slip backwards and this must be prevented by attaching to the anterior border of it, either straps or strings, which are brought forward between the fore-legs and from the sides and attached to a strap around the colt's neck. A man has an opportunity of exercising his ingenuity in adjusting and keeping in position a truss for this purpose.

Care must be taken not to cause sufficient friction to scarify the skin and at the same time have sufficient pressure to prevent protrusion of the intestine. It must be watched carefully, and the truss readjusted if it becomes displaced. In most cases this will effect a cure in from two to three weeks, and in the mean time the colt is allowed to run with its dam. When the abdominal opening is quite large the truss may fail to effect a cure and one of the operations mentioned becomes necessary.

WHIP.

When more people love the land well enough to settle down on it to live the simple life and produce then will the cost of living come down; but so long as apartments, pavements and pictures appeal to the people so long will the farms be undermanned and the cities grumbling about high prices.

A look at the fields of Old Ontario, the real farms, proves that the Ontario farmer is not weighed in the balance and found wanting. The same cannot be said of some others when one sees the acres of land adjacent to some large centres and evidently held only for speculative purposes.

It is said that a simple device has solved the submarine problem. This may be a signal for another "strategic retreat" on the part of Hindenburg. Another reason may be, as was the case before, his inability to hold on.