

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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heifer calves, the greater number have been slaughtered. Cheese factories in many districts have given place to powder factories and condenseries which take all the milk, leaving no by-product, and so calf-rearing is out of the question. City milk trade does not permit of calf-raising, and so the "slaughter of the innocents" goes on, and year by year the beef supply of the country becomes scarcer and the price advances. The seriousness of the situation may be seen by the following special despatch a few days ago to the Canadian dailies from Chicago:

"Notwithstanding the dissolution of the National Packing Company, the corporate name of the so-called Beef Trust, the price of beef continues to soar to levels attained only in time of war. That the people of New York and of the Atlantic States generally will have to pay an extraordinarily high price for beef in the immediate future, trust or no trust, was demonstrated when prime corn-fed bullocks attained in the stockyards the top-notch price of \$10.10 per hundredweight, a price not reached in this market since 1867, just after the civil war."

The Breeders' Gazette, commenting on the subject, says "Grow corn." We might say "Produce milk." To grow corn or any other crop successfully and at a profit requires that the soil be kept in a high state of fertility, and to do this stock of some kind must be kept. Then, again, just as soon as all the farmers become so intensely interested in a single crop, just so soon will the production of that crop be increased beyond the demand and prices fall. Then what becomes of the crop? It must be turned to a profit, and so is fed and sold as milk or beef. It would appear that "Grow corn" then is good advice. If everyone turns to milk in time the price of beef must raise so high as to make it equally profitable with dairying, and more so. This will not come in a year, nor in two or three years, but it must follow unless our people turn to some other food to take the place of wholesome beef, which is not likely, unless the price is prohibitive, and it would not be a good thing for the race to be de-

prived of one of the best, if not the best, all-round meat. Surely prices are now high enough to sufficiently reimburse the producer of beef. Surely beef pays better than grain farming, everything considered. Surely it is profitable to keep stock and thus maintain soil productiveness. All that is now left to compare is beef and milk. Both are profitable, and no doubt there are many farms in this country upon which beef can be just as economically produced at present prices as milk. When beef was low such a statement could not be truthfully made. But now beef is in demand. The price is high and labor is scarce. Practically all the plant food is left on the farm in beef production, so good crops are ensured. Is it worth while then to turn all the calves off for veal? It does not appear so.

There is only one way to meet the question, and that is "save the calves." Stockmen in conference at Winnipeg recently suggested a law making it a criminal offence to kill a female calf. Things must be reaching a climax when such a suggestion is necessary. All calves are not fitted to become profitable breeders, but many which are under present conditions prematurely butchered would be highly profitable as such. The only way to get cattle is to get calves and raise them. Our country's agriculture must ultimately depend upon the live-stock interests and beef-raising must be one of the foremost branches of that industry. A half loaf is better than no bread, and poor beef is better than none, but there is no good reason if prices keep up, and present indications point to even a further advance, why good beef should not be produced in larger quantities. Think twice before you kill that calf. What is he worth as finished beef? What will it cost to finish him, and what will fattening him mean to the farm?

HORSES.

Horses which are to be shipped any distance for showing should be taken off the grass some time before the show, in order that they will be in a condition to stand shipping. Pasture grass makes them "washy," and must be avoided under such circumstances.

Develop the foal as rapidly as possible. By development is not meant excessive fattening, but keep him growing by giving all the oats or oats and bran he will eat. A well-fed colt will be as big at two years of age as the poorly-fed one at three.



Critic (15788).

Three-year-old Clydesdale stallion; first in class, and grand champion at Winnipeg Exhibition, 1912. Shown by Colquhoun & Beattie, Brandon, Man. Sire Everlasting.

A safe rule to follow in handling horses is never to trust any of them too far. It is never safe to leave a horse without tying, and it is equally bad practice to tie with a poor rope or strap. Far better practice is that of carrying a strong rope halter for tying, and using it every time the horse is left standing.

If your horse fails to win the coveted rosette in the show-ring, do not abuse the judge. Such conduct never changes a decision, never places the animal any higher up in the awards, and only marks you as a "kicker." Take defeat and success alike and the show-ring business will soon be mastered.

Of course the colt intended for exhibition at the fall fairs must be fed all the grain he will eat, but his dam must not be forgotten, for it is from her that he gets the greater portion of his nourishment. The dams of the foals to be exhibited should get a large grain ration, supplemented by a little oil meal.

If you are beginning in the show-ring, do not commence with an aged horse. Proper fitting requires experience, and colts are much more easily fitted than the older animals. As far as the advertising value of the exhibit is concerned, foals and yearlings or young stock are of much more value than older horses, as they represent the breeding ability of your stud.

If the mare has not proved to be in foal there is yet time. Fall colts are considered by some an advantage, and are surely better than no colts. Late September or October is a good time for young colts, provided the mare is not forced to work too hard in the autumn rush. The only care is that the colt get proper exercise and is not too closely confined in the stall.

Over 20,500,000 of the 23,778,481 horses of the United States are owned on the farms of that country. This gives some idea of the importance of the horse to agriculture. It seems rather strange that the demand from the city should be so great, when there is such a vast difference in the numbers kept in the country and in town and city. Surely breeders are not making the most of their opportunities. It should not take the entire increase from twenty million horses to keep the supply maintained in the country districts, and at the same time fill the vacancies in the ranks of the city animals, caused by death and depreciation.

Hereditary Diseases.

In drawing up a list of diseases which he considers hereditary, transmissible or communicable, A. S. Alexander gives, in a Wisconsin Bulletin, the following, which he believes should be sufficient to warrant the rejection of a stallion for public service:

Eye disease, such as periodic ophthalmia or "moon blindness" cataract; amaurosis, or "glass eye"; chorea, or St. Vitus' dance, constituting "crampiness" or "shivering," "string-halt," "roaring," "heaves" or "broken wind"; bone or bog spavin; ringbone; sidebone; navicular disease; and melanotic or pigment tumors; but blemishes and deformities due to accident not to constitute unsoundness, subjecting a stallion to rejection for breeding purposes.

Among communicable diseases should be included glanders, farcy, "maladie du coit," urethral gleet, simple pox and mange. In addition to these diseases, the seriousness of which is generally recognized, the examiner should reject a stallion having any malformation likely to be transmitted, and detrimental to the quality or usefulness of his progeny. Among these objectionable features should be included chronic foot lameness, associated with objectionable conformation; "sickle," "curby-formed," "boggy," "thorough pin" or "sprung" hocks; "washy" coupling; undersize and lack of quality and suitability, according to breed or breeding represented; stallions having one or both testicles retained in the abdomen; vice; "grease" or "grease heel," or any temporary sickness likely to endanger the health of the mare or the progeny.

While a stallion may be sound, so far as the absence of any known hereditary, transmissible or communicable disease is concerned, he yet may be quite unsuitable as a sire by reason of lack of type, unknown breeding, lack of size, bone, muscle, desirable character or disposition. Hundreds of horses have been passed or sworn to as sound, but they still are quite unsuitable for breeding purposes, being objectionable for one reason or another. Many of them are too small, and while some of the "scrubs" may look attractive, they lack any known breeding which would give at least a little likelihood of desirable conformation being transmitted.