

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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U. S. Beet-sugar Progress.

Hon. James Wilson, United States Secretary of Agriculture, in an address before the American Beet-sugar Association, at Washington, D. C., April 11th and 12th, said there was no good reason why they should not make their own sugar. Their policy was to make the U. S. independent of other countries in regard to the necessities of life. Sugar came from the atmosphere, and it was bad policy to send \$100,000,000 worth of grains, that took so much food from the soil, abroad to Europe for sugar. It was better to get the sugar out of the wind that blew over the United States. Seven years ago only about 30,000 tons of sugar was made out of beets in the U. S.; last year 241,000 tons were made. Wherever the factory got sufficient beets the industry was profitable. Too much expense was devoted to hand work in the field, instead of horses and machinery. He intimated that the best beet seed would yet be grown on the Pacific Coast. Quality, tonnage, and economical production were the problems to be solved. The industry in the States was over the worst places, and he predicted the time was not far off when they would be hunting foreign markets. These remarks should be encouraging to those who are promoting this industry in Canada as a profitable branch of agriculture and a competitor with the monopolistic sugar-refining industry.

I have always enjoyed the "Farmer's Advocate" very much, and have been benefited by it many times. It always has been enjoyed by the whole family. It is now thirty years since I first started to take it. I hope every farmer and his family will soon be reading it, as it is the best farm paper printed. I wish you years of success.
YORK CO. N. FRENCH.

An interesting review of the principal agricultural features of the past session at the Legislature of Ontario appears as the first article in the "Legislative Department" of this issue.

HORSES.

Selection of Sires from Standpoint of Soundness.

In a recent issue we discussed, on general principles, the selection of sires suitable to breed to mares with the idea of producing a foal of a certain class. We now propose to discuss the subject from the standpoint of soundness, regardless of suitability in respect to individuality, type, breed, etc. Every breeder of any considerable experience or observation knows that unsound sires or dams will produce foals, a greater or less percentage of which will, at some age, develop the peculiar unsoundness from which their parents suffered. It is very seldom that congenital disease actually exists in the foal; that is, a foal is seldom really diseased when born, but there is a congenital predisposition to many diseases which appear at variable ages from slight provocation. While it is not possible to detect in all cases, in either stallions or mares, the presence of diseases, a predisposition to which may be transmitted to the progeny, there are many diseased conditions that are more or less easily diagnosed, a predisposition to which is transmitted with considerable regularity. The following may be mentioned as the more common and evident, viz., bone diseases, as spavins, ringbones, bony growths, etc., sidebones, curb, bog spavin, and thoroughpin; diseases of the eye, especially cataract; roaring, whistling, and other abnormal sounds during respiration; a predisposition to diseases of the legs, as scratches, mud fever, etc. In fact, there are few diseases, not caused by accident, the predisposition to which is not, to a greater or less extent, liable to be transmitted from parent to



Cossacks on the Line.

progeny. If we recognize the above statements as facts, it teaches us that we cannot be too careful in demanding soundness in the animals that are to become the parents of our colts. As stated, it is not possible to detect all diseases or weaknesses in either stallions or mares. For instance, an animal may have weak digestive organs, and be predisposed to digestive troubles, and be liable to transmit the same weakness to his progeny; or there may be a congenital weakness of the coats of the blood-vessels, which is liable to a like transmission, and at the same time it is impossible for any person to even suspect the presence of such weaknesses under ordinary circumstances; but the presence of the specific diseases or unsoundnesses mentioned can be detected by the ordinary observer, and, of course, are sufficient reasons for refusal to breed to animals thus affected, even though the general characteristics may be all that is desired. Stallions may be unsound, and at the same time not be visibly affected as far as usefulness is concerned; for instance, there may be spavin (either bone or bog), curb, ringbone, sidebone, etc., which does not cause lameness, even though there may be no symptoms of treatment having been given. All such should be passed by as undesirable sires, for even though lameness may not be present, and possibly may never have been, there is danger of hereditary predisposition to similar diseases in the progeny, that may cause serious, and, possibly, incurable lameness. In many cases where such conditions exist, the groom or owner has a plausible story to tell of the blemish having been caused by a blow, kick, or injury of some kind, and assure the probable breeder that there is no possibility of hereditary transmission. The breeder is safer to take no chances of this kind, for while it is possible that such diseases may be the result of accident, it is highly improbable. When deformities, lumps, bony deposits, etc., can be clearly shown to be the result of accident, as a fracture, breaking down from racing, etc., we need not be afraid of hereditary transmission, except in cases where the peculiar conformation indicates a weakness that

predisposes to the accident. It is claimed by some that congenital predisposition to navicular disease and founder are inherited. This is a fact in so far as a peculiar conformation of the parts, such as narrow, deep heels, accompanied by short, upright pasterns, predispose to the former, especially in horses used for fast work; and a broad, flat foot, with weak wall and sole, predisposes to the latter, but in bone diseases there is often noticed a predisposition in the most desirable conformation, hence when we observe such we should refuse to patronize the horse, even though the general conformation of the limb be all that is desired. In cases of diseases of the eye, especially cataract, no question whatever should arise. We are often told that such has appeared as the result of hard work, standing in a dark stable, etc., but as a matter of fact it is a constitutional disease, and where the predisposition does not exist, ill usage will not cause it. In regard to roaring or whistling, more difficulty arises. Horses with very nice, finely-cut throats, and narrow jaws with little space between the branches of the lower jaw are predisposed to this condition, but any horse, even one of the most desirable conformation, is liable to become affected as the result of a severe or improperly-treated case of influenza or laryngitis, or from exposure, or confinement in close atmospheres during a long sea voyage, etc., and while we like to select a sire whose respiratory organs are perfect, if we see one that suits us in individuality and conformation in all respects, even though he makes a noise when subjected to severe exercise, we may be justified in patronizing him if we know that he has suffered from a severe attack of the diseases mentioned, or has been subjected to conditions that are liable to cause the trouble in a horse not congenitally predisposed; at the same time, if we can procure the services of a horse that is sound, and suits us in other respects nearly as well, we should give him the preference, and not run any risks. To sum up in a few words, we may say: In order to produce foals with the least possible danger of inheriting predisposition to disease, we cannot be too careful in selecting both sires and dams that are essentially sound, not taking into consideration abnormalities that are evidently the result of accident. "WHIP."

Licensing Stallions.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I noticed an article in your issue of April 14th regarding licensing stallions, and I agree with the writer, for I think the time has come when the men who have invested thousands of dollars in pure-bred stallions, of both light and heavy draft breeds, should be protected in some way against those cross-breds or scrubs that travel from door to door, giving their services for four or five dollars, some even less; and I am sorry to say that some of our farmers use such horses, thinking they are saving money and time, when they can get them to come to their barn with their horses. Now, I think the only remedy is to appoint an inspector and have every horse that is kept for breeding inspected, and a license or permit granted to him if he is sound and registered in the studbook for the respective class he belongs to, so that those not having a license or permit could not lawfully travel with their horse and charge a fee for his service. If compelled to stay at home, there would not likely be so many mares bred to them, and no doubt but in three or four years there would be a great change for the better in our horse stock, and farmers would be benefited, as well as those men that have invested so much in pure-bred horses, for all good horses bring high prices to the owners. I would like to see a convention of horsemen called, where they could come to some understanding regarding this matter. I expect before anything effective can be done an act of parliament would have to be passed. I may say that registered stallions of all classes are within easy reach of any farmer or party wishing to breed to such horses. I would like to hear from others interested.
J. J. A.

Glengarry Co., Ont.

Horse Pointers.

Sponge the shoulders with salty water after bringing in from a hard day's work.

A bran mash every Saturday night during seeding will help rid the horse of his winter coat.

Sweat pads are on many farms a necessary evil. Well-fitted collars are better.

Do not feed musty oats, or you will find it necessary to call in a veterinarian to treat a case of diabetes (polyuria).

It will not hurt the in-foal mare to do a bit of harrowing during seeding, only do not leave her tied in a single stall at night; she should have a box.