

EDITORIAL.

Do not allow the potato vines to lie around after the crop is dug. They should be burned off, and the fungus spores will be destroyed that would give trouble next year.

Put your harvesting machinery under shelter. Any machine that is worth buying is worth taking care of. It is a needless waste to allow it to stand out in the weather, when a little cheap lumber will cover it.

Farmers, and especially the younger members, who are not already able to detect the age of a horse by his mouth, should study carefully our series of articles by Dr. Mole, M.R.C.V.S., Toronto, on dentition, which commenced in the September 1st issue.

That was a very high compliment indeed paid to Mr. Arthur Johnson, of Greenwood, Ont., in being unanimously chosen by the Shorthorn men to award the \$1,000 premium or purse, put up by the breeders, for the best ten animals of the beefing breeds at the World's Fair bred and owned by the exhibitor.

Keep your harness in good repair. It is well to have a supply of rivets and buckles of assorted sizes, and some leather constantly on hand, ready for use at a moment's notice. A few dollars thus invested will save much time, money and annoyance from having to go several miles to the shop for trifling repairs.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of New England are making strenuous efforts to suppress the practice of dehorning cows, on the grounds of inhumanity. Would it not be well for them to study the report of the commission appointed by the Ontario Government, and to take warning by the mistakes of the sister society in this province?

The Scottish Farmer, in giving an account of a recent bulletin issued in America, pays this compliment: "When our agricultural experiment stations succeed in turning out work like this they will have fully justified their existence, and there is no reason why the United States and Canada should lead the Old Country in the application of science to agricultural practice."

In speaking of the Abundance plum, which is illustrated in the August issue of the Horticulturist, the Rural New Yorker has the following: "The Horticulturist considers it 'quite too early for any trustworthy statements to be made concerning its adaptability to the Canadian climate.' But it succeeds so well in New York and Michigan that there is no reason why it should not succeed in southern Ontario. What we keep thinking of in connection with the Abundance is that, though every plum bears curculio marks, not one has dropped from any injury the pest has inflicted."

It is impossible to lay down any infallible rules as to the age at which young stock should be bred, size and a good thrifty condition being more important than age. So that the animals owned by a progressive farmer will often be fit to breed at an earlier age than those of a neighbor who does not give them the same care, but in all cases it is best to await the period of reasonably mature development before breeding, if the best results are to be secured. Breeding at too young an age is such a drain upon the vitality that in many cases the animal never fully recovers from the effect. Generally the dam suffers from too early breeding more than the sire.

The farmers who are feeding steers for the British market will do well to note the following advice given by the Scottish Farmer to its readers: "Big bullocks do not now pay the farmer. This is the doctrine believed in by the judges of fat stock at Brechin, and they have good grounds for the faith that is in them. Two of the heaviest and biggest bullocks we ever remember having seen were placed second to a pair of compact, closely coupled, well-fleshed crosses, and there is no doubt that the fashion is wholly in favor of this class. No gentleman now desires to see the same old roast doing the honors of his table for several days. The farmer who feeds big bullocks loses on both sides. They consume more food than the smaller ones, and in the second place they are far more difficult to dispose of to the butcher. What pays the farmer is the medium-sized, richly-fleshed animal."

Clonmore, Record 2:21.

The magnificent standard-bred stallion Clonmore, No. 5288, record 2:21, whose cut appears on our front page, stands at the head of the stud of standard bred trotters owned by G. K. Foster, Esq., Rock Farm, Danville, P. Q.

Mr. Foster, who devotes his whole time and energy to promoting the breeding of standard-bred horses, is noted in his neighborhood for doing anything he undertakes well, and he certainly showed wonderfully sound judgment when he placed Clonmore at the head of his stud, for, recognizing the need of something else besides mere pedigree, he secured in Clonmore a horse who combines with the most fashionable breeding grand individuality. While his record of 2:21, made during a hotly-contested race, proves him to be a stout and game performer; his sire, Connaught, 2:24, a son of the famous Wedgewood, 2:19, having several other sons in the .20 list, while his dam, Hopeless, is by the famous Hérès, 2:27, sire of so many fast and game performers. In appearance Clonmore is a rich mahogany bay, standing almost sixteen hands and weighing 1,100 pounds, showing a beautifully proportioned body, supported by such a set of legs as one does not meet with every day, and set off by a graceful yet muscular neck, set well into a pair of grand sloping shoulders, and surmounted by an exquisitely moulded head, with an expressive countenance. In short, in our opinion Mr. Foster has secured in Clonmore a horse who, while his superb breeding and fast record proclaim him an aristocrat among trotters, will draw the attention and command the admiration of all horsemen by his graceful carriage and exquisite proportions.

Besides Clonmore, Mr. Foster also owns the bay stallion Petruccio 1727, a very handsome three-year-old, by Patron, 2:14, and out of a daughter of Shelby Chief. This colt is very speedy, and is expected next year to enter the .20 list.

The mares at Rock Farm are eight in number, all standard and registered, and while it would take too long to describe them separately, we may do so succinctly by giving Mr. Foster's motto, which is: First, Individuality; Second, Breeding; Third, More individuality. The wisdom of this motto is shown by the success of the youngsters from Rock Farm at the Vermont Breeders' Meeting at Newport, Vt., where two of Clonmore's colts, a yearling and a two-year-old, carried off all the awards in their classes, repeating their triumph a few days later at Stanstead, P. Q., where they also took first money on the track in their classes.

The demand for Clonmore's colts has been so great lately that Mr. Foster finds it almost impossible to keep them till they mature. His stock at present consists of eleven head of foals, yearlings and two-year-olds. And to one and any who are interested in light horses, we would say: Be sure to pay a visit to Mr. Foster's establishment, which is easy of access, being within the limits of Danville village, and barely ten minutes walk from the G. T. R. station, and where the proprietor is only too glad to receive visitors and show them his favorites.

This is a good time to look after the farm fences. They probably have had little attention since spring work began. It is much less trouble to make fences which will turn your stock, if you do so before they have once gone through them.

Intending visitors to the World's Fair should without fail time their departure from Canada so as to reach Chicago in the morning. Trains are nearly all late, and to land there in the middle of the night will entail untold discomfort, annoyance, and probably a good deal of extra expense.

According to official reports of the world's wheat supply, this year's estimated production is about 1,000,000 bushels less than the average for the last ten years. This seems very little when the whole world's production is considered. Nearly all European countries have a large deficit, which is made up in other parts of the world. The estimated quantity of wheat required to be transported is 379,000,000 bushels, which should certainly cause a somewhat brisk competition and rise in price.

It is a fact that sheep pasturing on the sea coast enjoy comparative immunity from parasites. This is due, no doubt, to the regular taking of salt along with the food, conveyed to the herbage by the ocean spray. By it parasites are repelled and never get a foothold. But if sheep get salt once or even twice a week, between the saltings the stomach will be filled several times with feed in which there is not a remote trace of this useful insecticide. Keep salt within easy access at all times, and thereby assist the sheep in keeping clear of the deadly parasites.

Agricultural Summer School for Teachers.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE quite agrees with the President of the Ontario Agricultural College in saying that there are two things which the people of this province should not forget:—(1.) That farming is the main industry in Ontario. (2.) That whatever improves the condition of farmers and makes them more successful workers, benefits all classes of people. These are facts which no one will question, and our educational authorities, from the Minister of Education down, will do well to keep them in mind while making out our programme of studies, and preparing regulations for the guidance of trustees and teachers in our Public Schools.

The Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, always anxious to advance the interests of the farmers, made up his mind a few months ago that the Ontario Agricultural College might possibly contribute in some measure towards the equipment of our Public School teachers for a work which, it is thought, they could do with very great benefit in the rural schools of this province—a work which would tend to make agriculture a more profitable occupation, and do something towards inspiring farmers' sons with a love for the simplicity, independence and healthfulness of farm life. The result of Mr. Dryden's decision was a short summer course in agriculture for teachers.

The course began on 3rd July, and continued till the 1st August. The number of teachers in attendance was thirty-four, seventeen male and seventeen female. It was certainly encouraging to find that ladies constituted one-half of the number, as it has sometimes been objected that they would take no interest in the subject. Such is not the case. The subjects embraced in the course were as follows: (1.) The typical animal for the production of flesh. (2.) The form and kind of cow likely to be a profitable dairy animal. (3.) The quality and relative values of the different cuts in a side of beef. (4.) The testing and handling of milk and cream, the making and marketing of butter, etc. (5.) General and agricultural chemistry. (6.) Geology, botany and entomology. (7.) The fundamental principles of political economy.

The lectures were fully illustrated by practical examples in the dairy, yards, fields and laboratories, and in two instances by excursions into the country (to Elora and Rockwood) in charge of Prof. Pantton.

The cost for the whole course, including board and lodging, was only twelve dollars. The work was done by President Mills, Prof. Pantton, Prof. Shuttleworth, Profs. Shaw and Dean, James Millar, Esq., and William Houston, M. A.

The teachers were delighted with the course. They found the professors very courteous and attentive, their surroundings at the college exceedingly pleasant, and the lectures eminently practical and suggestive far beyond their expectations.

The Minister of Agriculture and the staff of the college may be congratulated on the marked success of their venture on this new line. We have no doubt their work will ultimately be a great benefit to the country, and we are pleased to know that a similar course will be given at the college in July next.

Hints on Horse Feeding.

The manner of feeding horses is a very important matter, but one which is often sadly neglected. If a horse is required to do more work than usual on a given day, it is a common custom to give him more food. This is a great mistake. Owing to the fatigue consequent to the increased exertion, the animal is less able to digest a large feed, and therefore should be fed less rather than more. Again, it is decidedly improper to give a horse a large feed just before undergoing any severe strain; for, if a large feed be given immediately before active exercise, the blood which is required by the digestive organs in order to carry on their proper functions goes to the muscular system, digestion is impaired, and colic is the probable result. If a large feed be given immediately after active or prolonged exercise, the animal is weak and the blood is drawn upon largely for the rebuilding of the muscular waste, and the digestive organs suffer accordingly. A change of food should be made with caution. If a change must be made, a smaller quantity of the new food should be given for several days, and the amount gradually increased. In no case should a change of food and work be made at the same time. A good rule is: Never give a horse a full feed on a change of work, nor full work on a change of food. With regard to watering, the consensus of practical experience is in favor of giving the horse drink before the feed of grain.