

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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products and meat, and quality will, as usual, command top prices. The number of cattle put in for winter stall feeding will probably be materially lessened. Feeders will select more rigidly, and both for culis and stockers of quality a lower range of prices is expected. Taken all round, we shall need to put closer study into livestock husbandry this season than usual, and if the present emergency spur us to keep only the best stock in a better way, it will be a blessing. The scarcity and the cost of labor, with a fodder shortage, will incite to improvement in the choice of stock and the methods of feeding.

QUALITY OF POPULATION BEFORE NUMBERS.

Numbers of people, size of cities, vastness of trade, do not constitute national greatness. It is the character and welfare of the average citizen that counts. This thought, previously expressed in these columns, we would repeat and reiterate. There is a disposition on the part of some people to envy the United States her eighty or ninety million of inhabitants. We do not share the wish. That Canada's population should grow healthily, is certainly to be desired, but that it should grow by the wholesale immigration of cheap-living foreigners, we would strongly deprecate. The American Republic includes in her census returns hordes of undesirable people she would gladly spare. If formidable statistics are the desideratum, we might swell the census returns by including in our population the number of horses and cattle in the country. They are by long odds preferable to the throngs of unassimilable foreigners threatening the future of the country.

Apropos of this matter, we are pleased to find the following from "Bystander" (Dr. Goldwin Smith), in the Weekly Sun:

"It has been assumed that mere increase of population, no matter from what source, or of what quality, is an increase of well-being; and in that belief we have been welcoming a crowd of

lawless Calabrians and Sicilians whom we dignify by the vague name of Italians, to which their only title is the geographical; of Russian and Polish Jews, the least desirable of all possible elements of population; and of fanatical scatterlings, such as Doukhobors and Mormons. We have, besides, been opening the gate to Chinamen, while it was kept practically closed against their wives, a policy which seems specially to aim at the propagation of the worst immorality; though for this, the disorders of our own labor market have largely to answer. The political elements thus absorbed in our system are as bad as the social and moral. Besides, Canadians may surely desire to keep a little room for the future expansion of their own race."

THE YOUNG MAN THIS WINTER.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Every wide-awake farmer's son is asking himself how he can best invest the coming winter, in view of his future welfare. This question reminds the writer of Dr. William Osler's advice to young doctors regarding the best investment of the first five hundred dollars of their earnings. "Gentlemen," said the first physician of the empire, "invest your money in more brains; I mean get more education." What applies to the young doctor applies with even greater force to the young farmer. His success in his work depends more than anything else upon his personal efficiency, and no more urgent question ever forces itself upon him than the problem of the development of his capability to grapple successfully with the many interests that demand his energy. No doubt the summer's work has been strenuous enough, and no one need be surprised if the young farmer feels the need of a rest. Such a lull in his arduous work has its place. The most energetic workers are those who find time for repose. But when his rest has been enjoyed, let it mean that the young agriculturist will enter upon some line of activity that will add mental capital that coming years will render available for his life-work. How may the young man best use the usually less-fully-occupied winter months, the end in view being his highest usefulness as a man and as an agriculturist? A young man who seriously asks this question will never be contented with merely "doing the chores," toasting his shins by day, and dancing attendance upon rural festivities by night.

For one thing, if the young man has a fair education, and has a little available cash, he will make no mistake in attending an agricultural college. The mental training that he will receive under such auspices, together with the unique opportunity afforded him for observation and investigation, will more than pay for the investment of time and money.

If however, he cannot attend college, he may hire out with some farmer in whom he has confidence, and who has been specially successful in some line of work in which the young man has had little or no experience. A few months spent in this way will surely result in a deal of added power in his future work. Not a few of our best instructors are our farmers who have learned to do by doing, and whose knowledge has been won at the cost of experience.

If, however, the young man finds that his duty is to remain at home, he should avail himself of the best books and magazines treating of the farm and its activities. Tremendous strides have been made in the last ten or fifteen years in the agricultural literature of our country, and of these advances the young man should avail himself. This literature should be not only read over, but studied, weighed, and judiciously applied.

Indeed, the one thing of supreme importance for the young farmer is to look his future steadily in the face, in view of the fact that no farmer succeeds unless he keeps the balance true between theory and practice, between thought and action. The tide of intelligence requisite for the successful pursuit of agriculture is rising rapidly, and no farmer can come to his own unless he brings to bear upon his work the finest industry, guided by the best-trained and most adequately-informed intelligence. Happy is the young man who realizes this, and who prepares himself for his struggle in downright earnest.

O. C.
Wentworth Co., Ont.

HIS TEXT-BOOK.

Enclosed please find \$1.50, my renewal. I cannot afford to farm without "The Farmer's Advocate." It is my text-book on farming, and I do not read, I study it; and, where a young farmer has not been to the agricultural college, the nearest approach to it for him is to make a study of "The Farmer's Advocate," which is within the reach of all.

E. F. CROWDER.

St. Joseph Island, Ontario.

HORSES.

LAMENESS IN HORSES.

(Continued.)

SPLINT LAMENESS.

Splint lameness is quite common and sometimes quite alarming in young horses, and occasionally in horses of all ages. It is rarely seen in the hind limbs. In order to understand and appreciate the trouble, it is necessary to have an intelligent idea of the bony anatomy of the horse from the knee to the fetlock. This part is usually called the cannon, and consists of three bones, one large cannon bone extending the whole distance from knee in front and from hock behind to their respective fetlocks. This bone has a somewhat broad and flat posterior surface. To both internal and external edge of this surface is attached by ligamentous attachment a small, somewhat triangular bone, of considerable size above, where it articulates with the bones of the knee, and gradually decreasing in size as it extends downwards, becoming quite small, and terminating in a small nodule, somewhat pea-shaped, a little more than two-thirds down the large bone. This nodule can be easily felt on each side of the limb a few inches above the fetlock. In fine-limbed horses without long hair on their legs, they can sometimes be seen, and are occasionally mistaken for splints. A splint consists in bony union between the large and small bones. Inflammation between the bones is set up, usually simply by concussion during ordinary travelling. As a result of the inflammation, an exudate is thrown out. This is, of course, soft at first, but quickly becomes converted into bone, and unites the large and small bones by bony union. An enlargement of greater or less size is noticed, which, in most cases, gradually disappears by absorption until nothing can be noticed; at the same time, the ossific (bony) union between the large and small bones is permanent. We often hear people say that a horse over seven years old never has a splint. This arises from the fact that the visible enlargement has usually disappeared by the time the animal reaches that age, but, as stated, the union between the bones still exists. This absorption does not always take place, and it is not uncommon to observe well-marked splints in horses of all ages. In some cases the splint is double—that is, an enlargement is noticeable on each side of the leg—and in such cases there is generally an ossific deposit extending across the posterior surface of the large bone from one splint to the other. This often causes an irritation to the suspensory ligament, which passes down this surface, and causes permanent lameness. Except in cases of this kind, and in those in which the splint is so high that the knee joint is involved, splints seldom cause persistent or permanent lameness.

Symptoms.—In many cases there is no lameness. The first intimation of the presence of splint is the appearance of the enlargement, which gradually disappears. At the same time, splint lameness is often seen. The symptoms are usually characteristic. A horse lame from splint will usually stand and walk sound, but if asked to go faster than a walk will show well-marked lameness, the head drooping decidedly when the sound foot touches the ground. The lameness is often noticed before there is any visible enlargement. When a horse, especially a young one, shows this peculiarity of lameness, splint may be suspected. Manipulation will usually discover the seat of trouble. By pressing with the thumb and finger the line of attachment between the large and small bones, from the knee to the termination of the splint bone, the seat can be detected by the horse flinching and lifting the leg, and, if severe pressure be exerted, he will often rear on his hind legs. The usual seat of splint is the inner surface of fore leg, but may be on the outer surface of both. The hind limb is seldom affected, but when it is, the seat is usually the outer surface. When we know the peculiarity of the lameness and the manner of locating it, there should be little difficulty in locating the trouble.

Treatment.—Lameness is usually present only during the inflammatory stage. When the exudate becomes ossified (converted into bone), the inflammatory action ceases and lameness disappears, unless the enlargement be of sufficient size and so situated that it causes irritation to the