

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MANITOBA
AND N.-W. T.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

WESTERN OFFICE:
IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BANNATYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

EASTERN OFFICE:
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk street,
London, W. C., England.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on the fifth and twentieth of each month. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States, Eng., and Ireland and Scotland, \$1 per year in advance. All other countries, 8s.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 10 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to this office, either by Money Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.
7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention.
9. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
10. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve the ADVOCATE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
11. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Fiscal Reform.

From one end of the country to the other, says the Farmer & Stock-breeder, of London, England, the subject paramount in the minds of the people at the present time is the question of fiscal reform. All who have observed the trend of public opinion of late years, could not have failed to observe that the Imperial idea, based on the reality of the Empire, and its community of interest at present existing with strange lack of cohesion, left much to be desired in the welding of the separate parts into one cohesive whole. It is no new idea, this Imperialistic enunciation; it has been fostered more within the past ten years than at any previous time in the history of this country, but it has been left to Mr. Chamberlain to bring the question within the range of practical politics. What we as agriculturists have to decide is, whether or not the system of free trade pertaining in this country shall be abolished in favor of preferential tariffs. It is true that the country's greatness has to a very large extent been built up concurrently with the system of free trade, but it has still to be proved that free trade was the making of the country. It has been shown beyond a shadow of doubt that a country protected like the United States can make even greater strides in commercial progress than the history of Great Britain can show. If that is so, it is clear that to a very large extent the inherent qualities of the race must be held responsible for the proud position which this country has attained in the world's commerce.

What is the proposal which has been laid before the country in very bald outline? Briefly, it is to the effect that preference should first of all be given to the produce of our colonies, which in return should afford our manufacturers special facilities for the cultivation of their markets. All raw material for purposes of manufacture shall be admitted free to this country, but food will be taxed and the dream of old-age pensions become a practical reality. The chief consideration from the farmer's point of view is the attitude which he shall adopt towards the principles enunciated by Mr. Chamberlain. What advantages will accrue, not for the agricultural interest only, but to the nation at large? It is necessary when considering this question to take a broad look at the effect which such a policy would have, not upon one section of the community, but upon each integral part. Agriculture is still our greatest industry, and, from a purely selfish point of view, the principle contained in Mr. Chamberlain's proposal—viz., that of taxing food—would undoubtedly receive more support

from the agricultural classes than from any other industrial branch of the nation. And yet, unless taxation is tolerably heavy, it is very difficult to see in what particular way the farmer will be benefited, save, perhaps, by the removal of some of the taxes which press rather unfairly upon him. Feeding-stuffs will doubtless be dearer, but by a revision of our system of taxation, as suggested, it would no doubt tend to make the Empire more dependent on its own resources, and agriculture in this country would share in such benefits as are conferred.

A revision of our fiscal system, or our system of taxation, is inevitable. It is clear that the burden is very unfairly borne at the present time, and since the country has become so wealthy, and the wealth has shifted since our present system of taxation was introduced, it is only right that the whole subject should come up in a concrete form before the nation. It is impossible as yet to discuss the question as fully as might be desired, because we are not yet in possession of any succinct proposal; nor are we yet definitely aware of the feeling which exists in the colonies, although preliminary evidence seems to indicate that the proposals of Mr. Chamberlain are receiving very favorable, and, in some respects, enthusiastic consideration. It is clear that if we can preserve our own markets for ourselves, we shall receive an infinitely greater reward than could possibly fall to our lot by the maintenance of the present or even a slightly extended foreign trade. Our own markets, after all, are the principal markets of the world, and as we at present conduct affairs we are completely at the mercy of those tariff-raising countries which do everything to protect themselves and, as far as possible, to ruin us. The moral effect of having a tariff authority to protect ourselves must undoubtedly be very great, and our manufacturers would receive from foreign countries better consideration than they have done within the past fifty years. Agriculture, of course, has a good deal to gain, because it is one of the few producing industries of this country which has been turned to a large extent by favorable legislation into the world's manufacturing center. Nowadays the theory has been abandoned that the nations of the world were either manufacturing or producing nations, and that the two could not go hand in hand. We have ample evidence that this belief, which was energetically urged by statesmen in the early part of last century, has proved to be ill-founded, and we would certainly be seriously neglecting an opportunity which is presented to us once in a lifetime if we did not dispassionately consider our whole fiscal policy, and the attitude which we as individuals must adopt towards it. Agriculture is far from being played-out yet, and the great majority, we might say, of farmers are strongly protectionist, but the question must be considered as apart from the discussion of the relative merits of free trade and protection. It must be considered as a national question, and not as one which will benefit one particular industry while perhaps destroying another.

Horses.

Distinction Between the Shire and Clydesdale.

It need hardly be said that the two breeds resemble one another more or less closely in general appearance, and that they plainly show the fact that they are related to one another. Shire horses are, as a rule, weightier and possess more substance than Clydesdales, and the former are on an average somewhat bigger animals than the latter. It would, of course, be wrong to think that this is invariably the case; this is not so, because a heavy Clydesdale horse may be weightier and altogether bigger than a light and small Shire; but comparing the breeds in a general way, the above holds good. Clydesdales have more sloping shoulders and also more oblique pasterns than the average Shire, Scotch breeders having paid great attention to obtaining a good slope of shoulder and pastern in their animals. The slope of the shoulder and of the pastern is one of the main points of distinction between Shire and Clydesdale. Further, the head of a Shire horse and that of a Clydesdale differ considerably from one another, or, at any rate, should do so in first-class animals of the two breeds. In Clydesdales in which there is a considerable strain of Shire blood, the Shire type of head is often apparent, and may crop up in an animal which is bred from pure-bred Clydesdale parents. The leg-feathering is, on the whole, less abundant in the Clydesdale than is the case in the Shire. Clydesdales are remarkable for their good walking action, which is free and light, and shows good length of stride. This is due largely to the well-placed shoulder and pastern, as if these parts are nice and sloping the walking action of a horse is generally good, provided the animal possesses courage and is of an active disposition.—[Farmer and Stock-breeder.

Diseases of the Digestive Organs in Horses.

(Continued.)

ACUTE INDIGESTION—(Acute dyspepsia, sometimes called gastritis).—This is one of the most common diseases of the digestive organs of the horse, and probably causes more deaths than any other. As digestion in the horse takes place largely in the small intestines, it is often impossible for the practitioner to determine in cases of this disease whether the trouble is confined to the stomach or whether the intestine is also involved. This weakness in the veterinarian's diagnosis is not important, as affections of this nature in both organs are concomitant, produced by the same causes and require the same treatment.

CAUSES.—The usual causes are too much food, food greedily swallowed and imperfectly masticated, feeding immediately after severe exercise, severe exercise too soon after feeding wheat, peas or other grain to which the animal is not accustomed, a too-sudden change of food (I may here state that change of diet in horses, and to a great extent in all classes of animals, should be gradually made), drinking large quantities of water soon after feeding. One of the most frequent causes is what may be called mistaken kindness on the part of the owner. For instance, a horse that has been idle and not accustomed to grain, is required to go a journey or do a day's work. In order to fortify him for the unusual exertion required, the owner gives him a full feed of grain, hitches him and starts. The stomach is charged with grain, to which it is not accustomed, and the horse is subjected to unaccustomed exercise. These two conditions in many cases produce acute indigestion; or, if the horse withstand this irrational treatment, he is given a large ration of grain at noon, probably given a drink immediately afterwards and hitched up for the return journey. If he escape an attack of illness under these circumstances, we may reasonably be surprised. When horses under the conditions described are required to work or drive, care should be taken to feed very lightly on grain until after the labor is performed, then, in order to compensate for the extra exertion, he should be fed grain for a few days. Some horses are especially predisposed to digestive diseases, as those with congenitally weak digestive organs, or when the organs have become weakened by disease; weak, anemic, poorly-fed and emaciated animals, very young or very old animals, horses recovering from a serious disease. Among the direct irritating causes may be mentioned green food, food and drinks that are very hot, or that are covered with frost or entirely frozen, unclean or decayed foods and drinks, mouldy hay or grain, matters undergoing fermentation or decomposition, as potatoes, turnips, fruit, grass or germinating grains. In some cases attacks of this disease occur where there has been no change of food or usage, and the cause is very hard to determine. In such cases we must conclude that there is temporarily some weakness in the digestive organs that, while not producing any visible symptoms, render the horse in that condition in which indigestion is easily produced. At the same time, it is seldom, except in horses predisposed to the disease, that an attack occurs that cannot be traced to carelessness or ignorance in feeding or usage.

SYMPTOMS.—The symptoms of many diseases of the digestive organs simulate each other so much it is often very difficult to say for a few hours just what the disease is. Hence the advisability, when convenient, in sending for expert assistance, as an attack of a serious nature may be mistaken for spasmodic colic, and if not energetically and skillfully treated, may reach that stage in which treatment will be of no avail. The first symptoms of acute indigestion usually are: uneasiness, dullness, stamping of the feet, lying down, rolling, getting up, looking around to the flank, etc. This is usually soon followed by more or less marked fullness (bloating) of the abdomen, more noticeable on the right side. In many cases these symptoms are preceded by a semi-diarrhoea, the horse passing semifluid faeces often and in small quantities. The pulse is at first full and frequent, becoming more frequent and weaker as the disease advances. The pain is usually constant, but of varying intensity. When relief is not obtained, the symptoms increase in intensity. In some cases death occurs very quickly, possibly in less than an hour after the first symptoms, the animal evidently dying from exhaustion. In other cases 24 to 48 hours, or even more, may elapse before recovery or death takes place. In such cases the violent symptoms are succeeded by dullness and stupor; instead of the violent symptoms being shown, he will walk