

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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men, but milking and care of cows must be performed by competent, painstaking workers, and the more machinery one has to expedite the work, the more of these exacting duties can he attend to himself. Apart from the introduction of machinery and improved methods, the only other thing that could solve the dairyman's labor problem would be a period of hard times, depressing wages in other lines of employment and throwing good men out of work. This contingency no humane or patriotic person wishes to see. If we cannot make money at dairying without making slaves of our people, by all means let the dairy industry go.

There is a great deal of weight in the second reason advanced, namely, that of farmers getting too well off. This does not mean that they are all rolling in wealth, but that many of the best ones, those who in times past were the leading patrons of the factories, have come into more comfortable circumstances, and are forsaking the toilsome ladder by which they climbed. While we fear some are more hasty than judicious in seeking an easier road to competence, their improved circumstances are a matter for congratulation, and there is reason to expect that a touch of hard times will find them reverting to the old standby, and prosecuting the dairy business more energetically and successfully than ever. Reviving and waning of interest in dairying recurs as regularly as the ebb and flow of prosperity. People gladly resort to the cow when their pocket-books get thin, but forsake her for something easier when times ease up. A New Brunswick farmer tersely expressed a too common disposition towards dairying when he said: "I'm going out of the milk business; I've got tired of being a valet to a cow."

Poor cows! This catches a great many to whom the first reasons do not apply—people who have families to do the work, and who certainly cannot be accused of being too well off. But these usually have such unprofitable cows that

they become discouraged, and complain (speaking from experience, forsooth) that dairying doesn't pay. They are never prosperous patrons, and it is no wonder that the factory which depends upon them goes down. Volumes have been written upon this one subject of poor cows, volumes might be added, but we cannot do better than reiterate Prof. Dean's advice, to "breed, weed, feed." When farmers become convinced that nothing can beat a good cow as a money-maker, and resolve to make the most out of her by keeping accurate records of milk yields, discarding the boarders and breeding from the best, conducting the dairy business on business principles, and sticking to it through thick and thin, then will dairying flourish in Canada, and as it flourishes will our farmers prosper.

The "Farmer's Advocate" is not pessimistic as to the outlook. We believe that invention and progressive enterprise will provide the remedy for existing difficulties, and that dairying will long retain its lead as the foremost department of the Canadian farm.

Send in Your Photos.

Have you good photos of farm homes, orchards, gardens, outbuildings, live stock, farm, orchard or dairy operations, cheese or butter factories, interior views of Lomes, or rural schools and grounds? If so, send them to us at once, in accordance with the camera competition conditions, named elsewhere in this issue. Twelve cash prizes are offered, and a competitor may win two prizes. Every Province in Canada and the adjoining States should take part in this interesting competition.

HORSES.

Early vs. Late Foals.

This subject is one of great interest to horse-breeders, and especially to those who are anxious to make their foals pay for the cost and trouble of rearing. With large stud owners, says a writer in the London Live-stock Journal, and those who go in for showing, regardless of expense, such trifles as housing and keeping a mare and foal for two or three months are hardly considered, but the small breeder or tenant-farmer has to count the cost of his foals, and if they "eat their heads off" before they can be turned out to grass, breeding them for profit is, obviously, a very doubtful business. Still, there will always be a diversity of opinion as to the merits of an early or a late foal, and showmen will rightly claim that early foals are best for showing as foals or yearlings, as the January or February-born youngster attains a size which the May or June one cannot possibly get in the time, and there is unquestionably a tendency to favor size in the ring, with the natural result that the later-born competitors are outclassed for no other reason than that of youth.

As a remedy for this state of affairs, the plan of considering age when making the awards in the younger classes, seems to be worthy of consideration. With cattle, it is the fashion to give the age in the catalogue, and it is frequently seen that a bull or heifer calf of eight months old takes honors before those which are only just short of a year old, and it is quite possible to treat foals and yearlings in the same way, so that the judging is a question of merit rather than size or age. As far as the health and constitution of horses are affected by the date of their birth, eminent breeders have given their opinion to the effect that a January Thoroughbred foal is much more liable to become a roarer than a later born one, and although Hackneys and the draft breeds may not be so prone to contract chest and throat affections, there can be no possible doubt that a foal of any breed which has never known a day's ill health grows up with a better constitution than one which has only been kept alive with medicine and good nursing.

It is undeniable that the foal which arrives during the days of the swallow and the cuckoo escapes many of the ills to which boxed foals are liable, one of the most serious being joint evil, an ailment rarely seen in those born and reared on the grass.

Apart from the health of the animal and its development, the every-day class of breeder has to consider the question from the £ s. d. point of view, which, of course, makes the early foal a much more costly animal at weaning time than

the late one, so that the balance is in favor of the latter.

Among Shire horses there has probably never been a better developed yearling exhibited at the London Show than Rokeby Harold, the champion stallion of 1898, the only instance of a yearling being a champion of this great breed show, and the writer has been told that he was foaled about April 20th.

This goes to prove that age is not everything in a yearling, and if farmers can get a Shire foal on its feet during May, and do it well when they have got it, there is a better prospect in front of that than there is of what may be called a hot-house youngster.

Untoward Results of Castration.

(Continued.)

PERITONITIS, or inflammation of the lining membrane of the abdominal cavity, from which two membranes covering the testicles are derived, and which must necessarily be incised during the operation of castration, sometimes occurs after the most careful and skillful operation, and the operator cannot be held responsible. This disease is more apt to occur if antiseptic measures have not been observed, or if the animal be in a poor condition—either too fat or too lean—or if exposed to cold or damp weather after castration; but, as stated, it may occur under apparently favorable circumstances and when all possible precautions have been observed, due, doubtless, to some unobservable constitutional tendency to inflammatory action, when all external circumstances are good.

SYMPTOMS.—As a rule, the animal apparently does well for two or three days after castration, and there is usually little swelling or stiffness. Then he is noticed to be dull and dejected, hangs his head, takes no notice of surrounding objects, refuses food and water, and does not care to move. The temperature is increased to 102 to 106 degrees F.; the pulse at first full, frequent and bounding, but gradually decreases in strength, but increases in frequency. The respirations are usually more or less labored; mucous membranes injected. He evidently suffers considerable pain, but is too much depressed or too much afraid to express his suffering in the usual manner. If there be colicky pains their manifestations are of short duration, and give way to great depression. Movement apparently causes intense pain, hence the patient persistently stands if allowed to. The abdomen is tucked up, and the breathing hurried and principally thoracic. The extremities are cold, and the patient sinks rapidly. In some cases he becomes delirious or comatose, and paralyzed before death. In this disease the inflammation extends rapidly from its point of origin over the whole surface of the membrane. Changes in the blood are induced by which the various constituents become broken up and discharged by the urinary organs, usually tinging the urine a dark red or coffee color. A post-mortem examination of an animal that has died from this disease reveals small intestine, and sometimes the stomach and large intestines, containing a greater or less quantity of this altered blood, a passive hemorrhage having occurred into the canal before death. The surface of the peritoneum is in some places studded with dark-red spots, and in others covered with a plastic exudation. Surrounding the inguinal ring (the opening through which the spermatic cord passed) there is generally seen a discoloration of the tissues to a dark red, which extends over more or less surface.

TREATMENT.—In many cases the disease terminates fatally in a few hours, notwithstanding the most skillful treatment, while in others it yields to treatment. Treatment must be directed to soothe and support. Opium should be given in large doses, as one to three ounces of the tincture (laudanum), according to the size of the patient, in a little cold water as a drench every two hours until the distress disappears. In the meantime he must have stimulants, such as two to four ounces whisky, or one-half to one ounce aromatic spirits of ammonia, every two or three hours, as indicated. The opium and stimulants may be given together. Local treatment consists in bathing the wounds with hot water, to encourage an escape of serum and soothe the parts, and cloths wrung out of hot water should be constantly applied to the abdomen. Purgatives are admissible, as we wish to arrest the peristaltic action of the bowels, hence the large and repeated doses of opium. If this treatment is ineffectual, the probabilities of a favorable termination are very remote; but should the acute symptoms yield, great care must be taken that the patient be subjected to no cause by which a relapse may be induced. The food must be of the most easily digested nature, as boiled linseed with bran, and a little grass or good hay, and he must not be subjected to cold or dampness until thoroughly recovered. "WHIP."