

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

Observations in the Country.

(Editorial Correspondence.)

In a recent trip of some fifty miles south of London, Ontario, passing through parts of the fine counties of Middlesex, Elgin and Oxford, the crop prospects and general evidences of prosperity on the part of the farmers were noted with pleasure. In few districts of the Dominion are found more fertile farms than in the townships of Westminster, Dorchester, Dereham and Southwold, the soil for the most part being strong clay, varying to clay loam, with lighter land in limited areas in certain sections. Winter wheat, which is commonly grown successfully in all this district, is this year a partial failure, owing to the unusual severity of the last winter, much of the land sown to wheat last fall having been plowed in the spring, and sown to oats and barley, with a prospect of good crops. Wheat fields that were left unplowed, probably because of being seeded to grass, show but a thin and uneven stand. With this exception, farm crops, including hay, and spring grain, are well up to the average standard, pastures are fresh and full of feed, and even corn, which is unpromising in most districts, here gives promise of a fair crop for fodder and ensilage purposes, clean cultivation and consequent thrifty growth being the rule. The farms here are generally free from weeds, and have the appearance of being well managed; while the dwellings and outbuildings are of the most substantial and tasteful description, evidencing the thrift and comfortable circumstances of the people. Throughout the most of this district dairying has for many years been the principal farming industry, cheese factories and creameries being found more thickly placed than in any other section of Western Ontario, and the solid financial condition of the farmers here confirms the opinion that, taking the years and the times as they come, there is no safer business for farmers, where the conditions are favorable, than the production and sale of milk in its raw state, or its manufacture into cheese and butter, together with the

feeding of hogs on the by-products of the factory. In the last two or three years, the extra good prices obtained for export cheese made the outcome for the farmers exceedingly satisfactory. This year, prices being considerably lower, the prospect is less roseate, but, pasturage being so abundant, the yield of milk is large and cheaply produced, and as these people have stood by the dairy business steadily for more than a quarter of a century, some of them have seen many ups and downs in the markets, and know that by staying with the business good average profits have been realized, and they are not easily discouraged. Owing to the lower prices for cheese and butter, the extensive milk-condensing factory at Tngersoll, operated by an American company, is receiving all the milk it can handle, at a cash price contracted for early in the year, and is providing a profitable outlet for a very large amount of milk.

At Tilsonburg, on the edge of Oxford County, the great Annandale dairy and stock farm of 580 acres, belonging to the estate of the late Mr. E. D. Tillson, was visited. Readers of the "Farmer's Advocate" in past years have been informed of the remarkable enterprise and achievements of that worthy gentleman in breeding and developing a dairy herd of Holstein grades of phenomenal productivity, one of his cows, bred on the farm, having produced 20,132 lbs. of milk in one year, five of his best cows giving 13,000 lbs. to 16,582 lbs. in a year, and sixty-five cows an average of nearly 10,000 lbs. yearly. This result was accomplished by careful selection of the cows, weeding out unprofitable ones, using sires bred in large producing lines, keeping individual records, and feeding liberally the year round, ensilage and a half of the winter's ration of meal being fed through the summer, even when the cows were on pasture. The farm is now leased and operated by the well-known Holstein breeder, Mr. Geo. Rice, late of Currie's Crossing in the same county, the record of whose cows in public dairy tests and Pan-American prize-winning stands unexcelled, and whose practical experience and knowledge of farming, breeding, and the manufacture of butter, renders him well-fitted for carrying on the work so ably inaugurated by the late owner of Annandale. Considering that since Mr. Tillson's death things on the farm had not been kept in quite the condition that obtained during his regime, and that the late severe winter played havoc with wheat and clover, Mr. Rice is to be congratulated on the headway he has made since assuming the management in March last, his crops of forty-five acres of corn, thirty acres of potatoes, and spring grain in proportion, looking remarkably well for this season. Here is well illustrated the wisdom of securing sound seed, for while corn in nearly every section of the Province is weak and irregular, largely the result of seed lacking in vitality, Mr. Rice, who raises and cares for his own seed corn, and tests its vitality before sowing, has an even stand over all his fields, and by frequent use of a two-horse cultivator, with shields to protect the plants, cleaning two rows at a time, weeds have been kept under and the crop constantly improving.

With the best set of farm buildings in Canada, costing over \$75,000, with an ample supply of pure spring water brought by gravitation to every stall in the stables, with accommodation for one hundred and fifty head of cattle and five hundred hogs, with a complete creamery outfit, operated by steam power, which also runs all the machinery of the barn, even to the horse-fork and sheaf-carriers, Mr. Rice has a great field for the exercise of his energies, and the indications are that he will prove equal to the occasion, as the work of the farm, with his well-chosen help, runs like clock-work, and hurry or flurry have no place in his operations, but order and system prevail in every department under a wise and judicious administration of authority; while the heart of the proprietor of the Annandale herd of Holsteins is so large that in his business circular inviting his friends and customers to visit the farm, he says: "The latch-string always hangs outside, and if you cannot find it, 'kick in the door.'" J. C. S.

Echoes.

I have now taken the "Farmer's Advocate" since the beginning of it, and would not like to be without it.
Huron Co., Ont. JOHN KITCHEN.

I would not be without the "Farmer's Advocate" for three times the cost of it.
Wentworth Co., Ont. JAMES McGUIRE.

I very much appreciate the change you have made in the "Farmer's Advocate." It is worth many times the subscription price.
Simcoe Co., Ont. W. H. B. McCLURG.

May say I am very much pleased with the paper, and appreciate it to the fullest extent.
Toronto, Ont. E. FRENCH, Confectioner.

HORSES.

Lightning-stroke.

This accident is not of equal frequency in animals of different species. Lightning appears to select special victims among animals, as the horse, ox and sheep. From reasons that cannot readily be understood, the horse is more frequently the victim than members of other species. The accident may occur either in the stable or field, more frequently in the latter. The consequences of the stroke, of necessity, vary according to the intensity of the electric fluid, and, also, according to whether its influence is direct or indirect as experienced by the animals.

Symptoms.—Violent electric discharges produce instantaneous death. Slighter strokes, and those which fall upon a neighboring object, cause conditions of more or less stupefaction and paralysis. In some cases they produce a condition of unconsciousness from which it appears impossible to arouse the animal, and this condition may persist for several hours. In other cases there is noticed a degree of stupefaction and partial paralysis. If led, he appears stupid, and staggers in his gait. The pulse, respirations and temperature in many cases being almost normal, while in others the two former may be abnormal, but the latter is seldom affected except in the latter stages of the accident that is about to prove fatal. The appetite may or may not be impaired. In cases where the stupefaction disappears, or begins to disappear in a few hours, where the paralysis is not marked and a desire to eat remains, the effects are likely to be slight, and a perfect recovery will probably take place in the course of a few days; while in more severe cases, the paralysis, partial or complete, persists for some days, notwithstanding treatment. In the majority of cases when death does not occur quickly, recovery may be looked for, even though it be slow. It is seldom permanent disability, either partial or complete, remains as a sequel to lightning-stroke. It is not uncommon to observe external wounds. On the skin, we may find straight or angular lines, or irregular figures, indicating the course followed by the electric spark, and on the surface of which the hair is burned (these markings have sometimes been mistaken for imprints of twigs or branches.) Lightning may also burn a large surface of the protecting hairy growths—eyelashes, hair tufts, etc. We sometimes observe very deep burns of the skin and underlying connective tissues and muscles: the latter, when lacerated, present a dark red or blackish tint. Post-mortem examinations of fatal cases present nothing characteristic other than the local alterations. In the majority of cases, the veins are engorged with dark blood, and the brain, lungs, kidneys, etc., contain small blood clots; but these characteristics are often entirely wanting. The flesh of an animal killed by lightning-stroke decomposes very rapidly.

TREATMENT.—There is no specific treatment for this accident; it must be purely symptomatic. Stupefaction must be combated by quietude and stimulants as two-oz. doses sweet spirits of nitre in one-half pint cold water, or six to eight ozs. whiskey or brandy diluted with an equal quantity of water, given as a drench every two or three hours, as long as indicated. Paralytic symptoms require the application of muscular stimulants and irritating topical applications as smartly rubbing with camphorated liniment, frictions, massage, etc., and where a battery can be procured, the application of a slight degree of electricity appears to give good results. The activity of the bowels should be encouraged by the administration of a slight purgative, as six drams aloes and two drams ginger, followed by two-dram doses of nux vomica two or three times daily. If necessary, when recovery is taking place, the patient should be assisted to his feet, or even raised by slings, and as soon as possible given walking exercise. "WHIP."

The Conformation of the Drafter.

The following from the Live-stock Journal (London, Eng.) will be of interest to horse-breeders generally:

"Everything in its place, and its requisite size and strength, is the idea of the builder of a ship. No power in fuel is to be unnecessarily wasted. She must hold to sea with the minimum of repairs, attain the maximum of economy consistent with speed and delivery, and keep out of the dry dock. One looks for something like this in the modern draft horse, no matter of what breed. Its load may be light and its voyage short, yet, all the same, it has to get through its work somehow.

"Is proportion duly studied? We come upon horses at times which are absolutely undefinable as to knees. These, on the other hand, are abnormally developed at the hock. Thigh muscle is conspicuously absent from most of our stallions, from a reason easily explained—we do not put our stallions in the yoke now. A real good knee is an absolutely essential lever for heavy street work. It is very easy to repeat such