

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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suffer want. In a democracy, this is a first essential. In other forms of government, one or two great men may have power to correct mistakes and put in motion wise policies that centuries do not unsettle. A part of the price of self-government is the acceptance of that high office and imperative duty, as a whole, by the people themselves. They must know, they must weigh, they must act. Only as they form and give effect to wise decisions can the nation go forward.

"If this patriotic gospel is to make headway, it must be by just such organized missionary work as is to-day begun. It cannot go on and conquer if imposed from without. It must come to represent the fixed idea of the people's mind, their determination and their hope. It cannot be incorporated in our practical life by the dictum of any individual or any officer of nation or state in his official capacity. It needs the co-operation of all the influences, the help of every voice, the commendation of nation and state that has been the strength and inspiration of every worthy work on American soil for one hundred and twenty years."

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

Fifty-seven thousand pounds per annum for 50 years is the sum which the recent Committee of Inquiry have decided upon as being necessary to a proper state-controlled scheme of reforestation in Ireland, and the great question now is whether or not the Treasury will sanction the expenditure. The inquiry was of a very exhaustive and convincing character, and no delay in getting the report into publicity, which was quite in keeping with the pressing urgency of the subject. The report is backed up by the unanimous approval of all classes in the country, and the county councils are anxious and willing to co-operate with the authorities; large areas of land are now to be had cheap, owing to the land being transferred under the Purchase Acts, and there could be no more opportune time for tackling in a serious way the great problem. The Committee's findings, in

that they detail the condition of Ireland from the forestry point of view, were not unexpected. They gave, however, impress of authority to the oft-repeated contentions (1) that the subject has been deplorably neglected by successive governments, with the result that now we have the lowest forest area of any country in Europe, save one; (2) that no better time than the present could be found for commencing to remedy this state of affairs; (3) that an area of at least one million acres of woodlands is essential for the agricultural and industrial requirements of the country; (4) that a comprehensive scheme would, in the end, prove a sound investment, and that it is only by Government money that the work can be properly coped with. They fixed the annual expenditure at the sum mentioned above, viz., £57,000 for 50 years, and estimated that, if no unforeseen circumstances arose, a return, at the end of that time, of 4½ per cent. would be obtained; and further stated that the Department of Agriculture could act as the Forestry Authority.

The money is the great difficulty now, but, with such a vigorous and persistent advocate as Mr. T. W. Russell, M. P., the Department's Vice-President (who appointed the Committee), hope exists that the finances will be forthcoming—perhaps not so much as is asked for, but at least something to get the work started. This is Mr. Russell's hope, but would it were his well-founded assurance!

VETERINARIANS AND THEIR INTERESTS.

In every live-stock-raising country, veterinary surgeons are a necessary body. They have been figuring with extra prominence of late in the United Kingdom, and in connection with a movement which has not served to excite the enthusiastic sympathy of the farming public. The interests of the profession are protected by Acts of Parliament passed in 1881 and 1900, but the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons recently decided to have some amendments made in these measures. Their suggested alterations contained a couple of objectionable clauses, which farmers have not been slow to speak against. They wished to make it an offence, punishable by a fine not exceeding £20, for anyone but a member on the register of the R. C. V. S. (annual subscription of one guinea) to call himself a veterinary surgeon, or to use any name or title signifying that he is a veterinary surgeon, or is qualified to practice veterinary surgery or any branch thereof. In another case, they would make it illegal for anyone but one of their registered, qualified men to practice veterinary surgery or any branch thereof for fee or reward. The trouble lies in that phrase, "any branch thereof," for it is held by some that it would prevent a farmer getting his helpers to perform even the commonest of simple operations, such as tailing lambs, castrating, assisting during parturition, etc.; and, further, it would keep many a man, qualified by experience, if not by a college, from carrying on his work as a "professional" castrator, and many men make a specialty of this class of work. The outcry against these drastic proposals was so spontaneous and so vigorous that the College recently announced that they had decided, "owing to the misunderstanding that had arisen in the public mind," to delete the second of the clauses named from their proposed amendment. Still, there remains something of a suspicious nature in the clause which they retain, and if they wish to enjoy public sympathy and confidence, they should at least not go so far as to rob an experienced castrator, say, of his business, by striving to make it illegal for him to pursue his practice under the title of castrator, that being a branch of veterinary surgery. Further modification may take place before the whole Parliamentary procedure is complete. The R. C. V. S. are apparently anxious for those yearly subscriptions of a guinea, but they must not be allowed to have matters all their own way, ignoring altogether the rights, liberties and convenience of farmers. No one denies them every protection from imposition and unfair competition, but they must not forget that in this world we have not only to live, but to let live.

THE SEASON.

When the year opened we got some fine days, but with February began a period of wet and work-retarding weather—something like last year, indeed. April, towards its close, was very badly behaved, and its exit took place after a violent wintry outburst. Since May came in a marked improvement has occurred, and, with the advent of warmer weather, growth is making some headway. Pastures, though fresh and green-looking, are not very well covered, the grass being without substance, and grain is coming on but slowly. The absence of really warm growing weather is responsible for the backwardness which is everywhere apparent. Much will depend on the next few weeks, as to whether the outlook will be bright or dark. At date of writing, things are a long way behind, even for an average year. Live stock have come through fairly well, but lack of keep compelled several farmers to sell off stores earlier than usual. The result is that now there

is a great scarcity, and prices are going unusually high. Feeders across channel are sighing for Canadian stores; but it will take a lot of sighing to assure the authorities that their admission would not entail risk of disease introduction; and the recent outbreak in Scotland has reminded them and us all, of the tremendous upset and disturbance that would follow such a calamity.

The lambing season, in spite of the harsh weather, is favorably spoken of by flockmasters throughout the country, especially by those in favored localities and those who took the precaution to provide adequate and nourishing food to their animals.

"EMERALD ISLE."

HORSES.

MARES TO A STALLION.

"In the matter of allowing a two-year-old stallion to serve mares, experience teaches that from eight to ten will not interfere with his development in any way if he is full-fed," writes J. H. S. Johnstone, in "The Horse Book." "Colts of this age are usually sure. Only those which are well developed and vigorous should be permitted to serve. The two-year-old colt may be allowed to cover about one mare every 5 days. For a three-year-old, the limit should be from 25 to 30. A horse will average about three covers for every foal he begets, if he is reasonably sure, taking mares as they run through most country districts. If a three-year-old gets half his mares in foal, or 15, he will make about 45 covers, or about three to the week for the 15 weeks of the season. This makes about one every two days, not counting Sunday. For a four-year-old, from 40 to 50 mares are enough. He may make a slightly longer season, or about 115 days, and if he gets 25 foals, he should make 75 covers. This is about three every two days. A mature horse should be limited mostly to two covers daily, perhaps three at a pinch, but never more, and then seldom. It is better to be conservative in this business of breeding mares. Remember that it is the number of foals begotten that in the end pay the bill, not the number of mares covered."

FOREIGN OFFICERS TO COMPETE AT THE INTERNATIONAL.

Judging by the press notices, the International Horse Show, at Olympia, in June, is to be more international this year than ever. It is given to understand that arrangements have been made for the attendance of a large number of Continental officers and others, who will compete for the valuable prizes to be offered. Mr. Frank F. Euren, the secretary of the International, went to Italy recently, and visited the Rome Horse Show at Tor di Quinto, Rome, where there were 50 competitors in the first class, composed of Italian, Belgian and Russian cavalry officers, most of whom, it is said, will be seen at the Olympia.

In connection with the Rome Horse Show, the competitors there are required to ride their horses 50 miles across country (not racing), return to the show-ground, and rest 1½ hours, ride around a stiff steeplechase course, with 10 jumps. On the second day, the same competitors ride around another steeplechase course, with 17 most severe jumps. The authorities at Olympia will not be able to provide such a test, but the requirements will be severe enough to guarantee an interesting and exciting contest, and many well-known Italian, Belgian, French and Russian officers will compete. A novelty of the show will be the parade of these competitors before the events begin.

IMPORTANCE OF EXERCISE.

Exercise is indispensable to the maintenance of muscular energy and tone. Men engaged in sedentary employment are unfitted for severe, long-continued bodily exertion. Even a hard-working farmer's muscles will become comparatively soft and flabby during a week's enforced occupation of the sick-bed. Lassitude induces weakness.

What is true of the human muscles, applies likewise to the horse. A fat, unexercised stallion cannot be expected to have firm, hard muscles, and it stands to reason that an habitually flabby condition of the muscles, especially at time of service, is detrimental to the begetting of the high potentialities of muscular vigor, health and endurance in the offspring. Stallions should be generously exercised all the year round, not merely at the walt, but at real work, heavy or fast, according to the nature of the breed to which he belongs. It is especially during the breeding season, when he has to travel along his route, it is not practicable or desirable to impose upon him the necessity of a long ride, but at this and all other times, if possible, he should be afforded. What applies to the stallion applies, also, to the mare and her foal. It will not do to expect a horse to maintain perfect condition and health if he is idle in the stable for from one to three months now and