

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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### The Old, Old Story of the Parent and the Apron-strings.

The recent reports of the discussions on the Autonomy Bill, and the resignation of the Minister of the Interior, ought to make it plain to some of the Eastern members in the Dominion Parliament that the West has got beyond the apron-string stage. As to the broad question of separate schools, we have our own opinion. Our objection to the educational clause is that the Federal Government is attempting, by it, to bind the new provinces to methods of education distinctly detrimental to the country, and have attempted to interfere with provincial rights in the matter of education as a whole, and as such are to be strongly condemned for that attempt to thus take out of the hands of the new provinces their inalienable right, a right handed down to all Britishers from the days of Magna Charta, and one prized by all, viz., to think for, act for, and govern themselves.

The incorporation of the educational-school clause in the Autonomy Bill is an act most un-British, and we regret to note that so many of the Eastern politicians sit mutely by and see the rights of the young provinces denied them. The British North America Act, Clause 93, reads: In and for each Province, the Legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to education" (vide Bourinot's "How Canada is Governed," page 306), subject and according to the provisions governing the provinces at the time of the union, which the Privy Council decided did not apply to Manitoba, and which applies even less to the Territories, which, at the time of the passing of the Bill in 1867, were a no-man's land, inhabited by the buffalo and the Indian, and occasionally traversed by the fur-traders of the Hudson's Bay Co.

While we deprecate strongly attempts to stir up religious prejudices, or sectionalism, north

against south, or east against west, the time has come when no lover of the principles of British Government can condone the attempt of the Government at Ottawa to fasten in leading-strings forever the people of the new provinces in the matter of education.

The wise old men of the older provinces have by their actions in this matter, awakened the suggestion that they have possibly reached Dr. Osler's age limit of usefulness, if the education clause in the Autonomy Bill is a fair criterion.

The attitude of Mr. Sifton and the Western members, so far, is worthy of praise, and we sincerely hope that no pandering to political expediency will prevent them insisting that the fullest measure of provincial rights be incorporated in the Autonomy Bill, so that the new provinces may not be unduly handicapped, either at the start or forever. Cut the apron-strings!

## Horses.

### How Have Your Stallions Wintered?

The statement has been made that following the two days of idleness on Christmas and the following day in Chicago, at least one hundred horses died from azoturia, commonly but erroneously called "spinal meningitis." It may be concluded that hundreds of other horses suffered less severe attacks of the same disease, and were saved by prompt veterinary aid, but many of them will be left weak and otherwise unfit for work for some time to come.

This is a disease common in large cities where hard-worked horses are given a few days' rest, and it also occurs in the country to a less extent. The appearance of disease, however, is but an indication of extreme enervation. Many horses must feel the effects, in weakened muscles and reduced energy, of prolonged rest during winter, after the steady work of summer and fall. This applies with particular force to stallions. Horses are naturally active, energetic animals, but many stallions are kept the whole winter in box stalls, with but a few hours' exercise each week. Such treatment must necessarily tend to reduce the vitality and stamina, atrophy their organs, and have a weakening effect upon the offspring. We are firmly of the conviction that most stallions do not get enough work or exercise for the good of themselves and their colts. Upon the subject of winter care of stallions, little has been said, and it is an uncomplimentary reflection that most stallions die during the idle season. In order to throw more light upon the best methods of keeping up the health of such animals, and to assist those who are annually purchasing such breeding stock, we offer our columns to horsemen to discuss this subject. Those who are invariably successful in bringing their stallions through the winter might take this opportunity of assisting their fellow horsemen in the management of their sires. Let us have some good horse-breeders' experiences.

### England Wants Canadian Horses.

The British Government has commissioned Mr. W. S. Spark to investigate the world's horse supply with the object of ascertaining where 10,000 horses could conveniently be purchased in case of war. Last year, Mr. Spark spent some time in the Argentine Republic inspecting the horses there in the interests of the British Government. In his report he declared against the Argentine horses.

The British War Department requires about 4,000 horses annually, and has authorized Mr. Spark to buy 500 of these in Canada. Two types of horses are required—one for cavalry, something the type of a heavy hunter; and another for artillery, which requires a heavier horse, one probably with a dash of Clyde or Shire blood. Horses of these types can be found on the ranges, and doubtless many will be taken from this source.

### More Stallion Laws.

The Minnesota Legislature is being urged to pass a law prohibiting the selling of stallions, unless they are paid for in cash. North Dakota and Wisconsin have given the law a trial, with the object, it is claimed, of protecting farmers from dishonest dealers. One of the striking features about this agitation is that it is not pressed so hard by the farmers who purchase stallions as by others who are interested in their sale. Laws of this kind would scarcely find much support in Canada, for, although in many cases horses have been sold on time for much more than their value, the people of this country are not in favor of laws that tend to restrict trade, and are rather averse to such paternal legislation. But what is wanted is reliable assurance that imported stallions are pure-bred, that the pedigree accompanying every stallion is genuine, and that a horse is not doped up for sale when

he has some constitutional unsoundness. Such misrepresentations have been known to exist, and if a government will undertake to protect its electors from frauds of this nature, which the purchasing public has little opportunity to investigate, there will be little complaint of the conditions governing the stallion business.

### Watch the Mare at Foaling Time.

(Continued.)

We, of course, assume that the mare is provided with a comfortable box stall of sufficient size. This should be thoroughly clean and well bedded, and if there be an absence of feed boxes, mangers, etc., all the better, as these are more or less in the way, and in some cases mares foal while standing, and there is a danger of the foal dropping into one of them.

If the mare show symptoms of nervousness on account of the presence of an attendant, he should remain out of sight as much as possible. If the act of parturition take place in a normal manner, he should not interfere, but if complications arise he should endeavor to correct the fault. It is not uncommon for the mare to lie down with her croop so close to the wall that delivery cannot take place. In such a case she must either be forced to rise or be shifted into a favorable position. If the labor pains have been frequent, severe and long for considerable time, and still no visible progress has been made towards delivery, the attendant should roll up his shirt sleeve, oil arm and hand well, and endeavor to ascertain the nature of the obstruction, whether it be malpresentation, nondilation of the os uteri, or other causes. If he has sufficient skill to rectify matters he should do so at once, and if not he should secure more skillful assistance as soon as possible, as ignorant or unskillful interference will, in all probability, complicate matters and render successful interference beyond reasonable hope.

In many cases, after more or less prolonged pains, an easy birth takes place, and it is not uncommon in such cases, where the membranes have not ruptured, for the fetus to be born enclosed in them, and unless immediately liberated will perish from suffocation. So soon as the circulation of the blood from the dam to the fetus ceases, the latter must breathe or perish, and in this case it cannot breathe, because it is enclosed in a complete sac. Instinct is supposed to teach the mare to liberate the fetus, by tearing the membranes with her teeth, and this is sometimes done, but in the majority of cases she lies for a few minutes after delivery, and in the meantime the fetus suffocates. The attendant must cut the membranes, liberate the fetus, and attend to the umbilical (navel) cord. He should remove all mucus from the mouth, nostrils and eyes of the fetus, and if the dam is still inactive, he should rub it well with clothes or wisps of straw until it becomes dry. This rubbing, or the licking of the dam, when she will attend to it, stimulates circulation by the friction, while if the foal be left alone the circulation remains sluggish and respiration weak. In regard to the umbilical cord, if it remain unbroken during delivery it should be promptly attended to. Here instinct is again supposed to operate, and teach the dam to bite it off; but we find that extraneous aid is often necessary. The attendant should be prepared for such emergencies, by having at hand a knife and some strong soft cord. He should tie the cord tightly around the umbilical cord, about one inch below the abdomen, and cut it off with a scraping motion of the knife about an inch below that. He should also be provided with a bottle of the solution of corrosive sublimate, 1½ grams to the ounce of water, and should dress the navel with this as soon as possible, and four or five times daily until healed, in order to prevent the entrance of the germ that causes joint ill.

**SUSPENDED ANIMATION.**—In some cases the fetus, following either a rapid or prolonged birth, is apparently dead, but the activity of the circulation can be detected by placing the hand just behind the left elbow and feeling the beating of the heart. If respiration be not established quickly the little animal will perish. Respiration, under normal conditions, is established by what is called a "reflex nervous action." The young creature is more or less suddenly ushered into the external air, which is usually much cooler than its former habitation; this acting upon the skin causes a gasping, which is continued by regular respirations. When this fails to act, it can be aided by slapping the fetus with cloths wrung out of cold water, or even throwing cold water upon the fetus, and by spreading and closing the fore legs of the animal, and by breathing into its nostrils or forcing air into them with a small bellows. Many foals perish from this cause, and at least a reasonable percentage of them could be saved by prompt and rational attention.

**WEAKNESS OF THE OFFSPRING.**—Many foals are so weak and helpless when born that even a few hours' inattention will prove fatal; while if they are attended to and assisted to their feet and held up until they get nourishment from the dam, in at most an hour after birth, and every half hour or so afterwards, until they gain sufficient strength to help themselves, they will do well. It usually requires two men to do this, and if the dam be restless, a third is needed to hold her.

**VICIOUS DAMS.**—Some mares, and especially those with their first foals, are so vicious with them that unless interfered with they will destroy them. This viciousness usually soon passes off, but close attention is required at first. In most cases all that is required is for an attendant to hold her with a bridle, and another attendant place the foal in position to suck. In