

## Good Ideas Practiced.

Experience counts. We are always pleased to hear, either by letter or word of mouth, from those who have tried methods recommended in the paper. Such testimony is not only of direct value to us in estimating the value of new ideas, but is the very best means of inducing fellow farmers to adopt improved practices. A week or two ago, we had a call from S. Mitchell, of Lambton County, who went into the bush twenty-five years ago and has hewn out a practical success, following the best light available. He reads "The Farmer's Advocate," and profits by the teaching of its columns. He treated his seed wheat with formalin, and has scarcely a smutty head in the field. His seed corn was tarred, and thus protected effectually from the crows. Incidentally, he was inclined to think that tarring decreased the injury by wireworms, but could not speak positively on this point. In haying, Mr. Mitchell uses the latest machinery, including tedder and loader. He makes a point of air-curing as much as possible, instead of allowing the top of the swath to burn while the bottom remains green and tough. The tedder is used once, and if the hay is heavy, twice. If rain comes, it may be gone over a third time to jerk it up and shake off the moisture as quickly as possible. Our friend considers that good, bright, well-cured hay is worth two dollars per ton more than the kind of inferior fodder which so many make out of their grass. In stowing, the mow is kept level, and a quart of salt to the load scattered over the hay as spread. Different quantities of salt have been tried, but this amount is found to be the best. There is danger of adding too much salt for the good of the stock.

## Mare 45 Years Old.

An inquiry as to the limit of age of horses is reported in a German farm journal by Dr. Norner-Barensburg, who has collected information far and wide on the subject. According to his conclusions, thirty years would seem to be the equine equivalent for the human "three score years and ten." It is a good old age for horses, but many reach it, and not a few surpass it.

The oldest horse of which he could learn any definite facts was a roan mare, bred in the Government stock farm in Hungary, and she was at least 45 years old when she died. In 1852, she was assigned to Lieut. Theodore van Leyss, of Lemburg, serving in the Fifth Regiment of Uhlans. In the next year, horse and rider were transferred to the Twelfth Regiment, and in 1859 they made the entire Italian campaign together. At the battle of Magenta, the Lieutenant was cut off from his regiment by a body of French troops. His brave mare carried him to safety by an extraordinary leap over a stone wall.

In 1863, Von Leyss got into financial difficulties, and in the following year he was obliged to part with his mare to a comrade who used her as road horse until 1865, when she passed into the stable of a Major of infantry. With him, it is believed she made the campaign of 1866. Then Von Leyss, who furnished the facts to Dr. Norner-Barensburg, lost sight of her until 1873, when he found her serving as a cab horse in Vienna. He kept his eye on her after that, and in 1882 he found her drawing a delivery wagon for a manufacturer of paper boxes. Von Leyss by this time was in better circumstances, and he bought back his old friend and comrade to take care of her until her death.

This took place in 1892, when she was fully 45 years old, according to the stock-farm record. Down to the end, she was employed daily at light work. She was a well-set-up animal, with unusually clean-cut, graceful build and limbs. Two days before her death, she refused feed for the first time in her life. Her skeleton is now set up in the veterinary college in Vienna.

The great age she reached is all the more remarkable when her military experiences, including the hardships of two campaigns, are considered. Her biographer considers her career as establishing the advantage of allowing horses to become fully matured before they are put to work. No horse set to work while green, he thinks, could possibly have gone through so much and lived to such an age.

## GOSSIP.

## REMARKABLE GROWTH OF WEST.

A bulletin issued by the Census Department, at Ottawa, shows that in 1870 the population of Manitoba was a little over 12,000; in 1881, Manitoba and the Territories combined had 106,000, inclusive of the Indians, and in 1906, the population was 809,000.

In 1881, the area in wheat in Manitoba was 57,000 acres; in 1900, the whole West had a wheat acreage of nearly two and one-half millions, and a combined acreage in wheat, barley and oats, of three and one-half millions. In 1906, nearly eight million acres was in grain crops in three Western Provinces.

## TORONTO'S HORSE PARADE.

The fifth annual Open-air Horse Show and Parade, held in the Queen City on Empire Day, was this year the most successful of the series. No fewer than 700 horses, representing 46 different classes, were marshalled and judged before 10 a. m., and afterwards took part in the parade, while about 500 vehicles, ranging from the daintiest rig to the most ponderous coal wagon and water cart, made up the procession, which was witnessed and admired by many thousands of citizens and visitors. The parade occupied 40 minutes in passing a given point, and the horses were of a class in their various sections of which any country might well be proud. At the close, the prizes were presented by Premier Whitney and Mayor Coatsworth, an interesting spectator being Dr. Goldwin Smith.

## THE DON JERSEYS.

A few hours spent among the Don Jerseys, the property of Messrs. D. Duncan & Son, Don, Ont., a few miles out from Toronto, will certainly be richly enjoyed by lovers of the beautiful. Such was the privilege and pleasure of "The Farmer's Advocate" representative a few days ago. The farm is easily reached from Toronto by the Canadian Northern Railway, whose station, Don, is on the farm, and quite close to the buildings. This is the oldest-established Jersey herd in Canada, and certainly one of the very best, as no money was spared, coupled with the keenest Jersey judgment in the selection of sires, thus continuously keeping the herd up to the highest standard of excellence. The herd, as we found them, was in grand condition, with hides as yellow as saffron, and hair as soft and shining as silk. The main stock bull is Golden Lad of Thorncliffe 62318, a bull with prizes enough to his credit to make a covering for his body, and an exceedingly richly-bred fellow, having no less than five distinct crosses of that great cow, Sultana, in his pedigree. He was sired by Imp. Distinction's Golden. His dam, Nita Belle D. (imp.), was a noted prizewinner, besides having a butter record of 21 lbs. 1 1/2 ounces in 7 days. As a sire, he has had few equals in the breed, his get being very uniform and true to type, and great milkers, daughters of his having milked 37 1/2 lbs. a day at first calving. Second in service is Fontaine's Boyle 73493, rising two years of age, and last fall, as a yearling, he won first at Toronto and London. He was sired by the famous Golden Fern's Lad 66300, one of the greatest Jersey sires that ever lived, one of whose sons, Flying Fox, was sold for \$7,500; another, Eminent 2nd, for \$10,000, and still another, at T. S. Cooper's recent sale, sold for \$10,200, and scores of others for fabulous prices. His dam, Nunthorpe's Fontaine, was imported by T. S. Cooper, and sold in 1903 for \$1,035, and pronounced as the greatest Jersey cow in the United States. This bull is a model in type, full of character, and a show hulk from the ground up. Limited space forbids individual mention of the great cows in the herd. As producers, it is sufficient to say that, on ordinary feed, with ordinary care, actual test shows that many of them are making regularly from 12 to 16 lbs. of butter a week; while as a show herd they stand second to none in the Dominion. As at present, there are a large number of first, second and third prizewinners at Toronto and London in the herd; cows that are now giving 47 1/2 lbs. of milk a day, and capable

of keeping it up for months. Among the younger females are a number of one- and two-year-old heifers, a grand lot indeed; practically all sired by the stock bull. In young bulls for sale, the supply is limited, as the demand on this herd for herd-headers is exceedingly heavy. Still, there are one or two about ready for service, bred from heavy and persistent milking dams that are show animals with a brilliant array of honors to their credit. Young bulls so richly bred will soon go. Write the Messrs. Duncan, to Don P. O.

## TRADE TOPIC.

## THE SUCCESSFUL HAY LOADER.—

On the seasonable subject of haymaking, The Dain Mfg. Co., of Preston, Ont., write us: "A modern loader should be easily attached and detached to and from the wagon. It should be built wide at the back and narrow at the front. It should rake absolutely clean as it goes along. It should have a certain amount of flexibility to give to the unevenness of the ground, dead furrows, water furrows and ditches. It should have provision made for overcoming the effect of any wind on the hay in reaching the wagon. The modern loader should be constructed on such principle that when the hay once reaches the wagon, it is left there, and should not require a man to be constantly required to throw it from the back to the forward end of the load. Imagine a machine of this class, and you have the Dain, which will save any farmer the price of it in a very few years, the work being done by the horses. We have many examples where one man has put away eight and nine loads in half a day by using the modern machine and the proper rigging in his barn."

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

## Miscellaneous.

## PROTECTING MULBERRIES FROM BIRDS.

I have a large mulberry tree, about 20 feet high and 15 feet wide, and literally covered with berries. Is there any way of protecting fruit from birds?

P. A. M.

Ans.—The only suitable means of protection is to envelop the tree tops with mosquito netting. Another good plan is to use a gun freely, not so much with the object of killing the birds, which, on the whole, do more good than harm, but rather with the object of frightening them away till the fruit is picked. To protect cherry trees, some have planted wild fruits nearby, claiming that the birds will choose these in preference to the domestic varieties.

## BARREN STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

Seeing in my strawberry patch a good number of healthy plants not bearing, but putting out healthy runners, I should like to know what is the cause of their not bearing, and if the young plants will be the same as the mother plants.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—In any strawberry patch where the plants set runners thickly, there may be found plants which do not bear fruit. Different varieties vary much in their ability to throw out runners. Those which throw out but few runners usually produce strong, vigorous plants, nearly all of which bear fruit; whereas, vigorous-running kinds, such as Warfield, Haverland, and the Old Crescent, make so many plants that they crowd thickly, and cannot all produce fruiting crowns. One of the leading American strawberry-growers advocates thinning out the plants in such plantations to allow those left room for full development. This is quite practicable in small plantations, but in larger plantations the cost of thinning would considerably add to the expense of the crop. It is not best to use these barren plants in setting out new plantations, for this increases the tendency to barrenness in the new plantation. In planting, it is best to select strong, vigorous plants, with well-developed fruiting crowns, even though they may not be allowed to bear fruit the first season. H. L. HUTT.

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**PRIVATE TREATY—HACKNEY STALLIONS FOR SALE—P. Crawford, Glasgow, Dumfries, Scotland, has, in addition to the usual big lot of OLYMPIAN STALLIONS, suitable for foreign buyers, about 30 first-class HACKNEY STALLIONS, two to six years old, ranging from 15 to 16 h. h., specially selected, and got by such sires as Roadster, Garston Duke, Polonius, etc. Quite a number of them were well up in the prize lists at the recent London and other shows.**

The following transfers to Ontario breeders have recently been recorded in the American Holstein-Friesian Herd Register:

Beulah De Kol Ononis, Cassadaga Dewdrop, Sadie De Kol Ononis, W. K. Taber, to J. W. Richardson, Caledonia.

Bessie Fairmount, H. E. George, to Ira Beme, Hawley.

De Kol Butter Girl Madrigal, H. E. George, to Samuel Elliott, Tweed.

De Kol Mantel, Frank W. Ames, to Gordon H. Manhard, Manhard.

Jane Ykema, H. E. George, to Robert Shannon, Shannonville.

Johanna Ruth De Kol, H. E. George, to Samuel Elliott.

Johanna Sarcastic De Kol, H. E. George, to Alfred Curtis, Willetsholme.

Marion De Kol Fairmount, H. E. George, to E. H. Hinckley, Wolf Island.

Sarcastic Lad Johanna Belle, H. E. George, to Alfred Curtis.

One of the most interesting competitions at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, second week of September, will be for a prize offered for a string of ten horses. Horses competing must have been exhibited in the breeding-ring and must be the bona-fide property of the exhibitor. The first prize is \$100; the second prize, \$50.

Many men owe the grandeur of their lives to their tremendous difficulties.—C. H. Spurgeon.