

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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best hired help, but had less trouble keeping their
help.

The auto is working out a new social life in
the country. Farmers take little trips of a few
days in one direction or another with their
families, without great expense. The old aloof-
ness and isolation is being destroyed. They mingle
more with the rest of the people. They are made
broader men, more intelligent men, and better
citizens. It is making a new life for farmers'
wives; the isolation and loneliness of the farm
home is a thing of the past. Picnics at camp-
grounds, socials, theatres, chautauquas, all the
impossible things of earlier days, are now easily
attainable. Women can much more safely run
autos than they can drive spirited horses—an
auto seldom shies, at least, at other autos.

In Kansas, we read, they use automobiles to
run threshing machines, cream separators, circular
saws, corn cutters, and almost every other
machine requiring power. They are used to
carry milk, deliver butter and eggs, haul freight
to the depot, hurriedly bring the doctor or take
the sick many miles to the hospital. They have
contributed much toward the development of the
rural-mail routes. They are especially valuable
in developing good roads, for autos must have
good roads. Farmers going to town sometimes
hitch the road drag behind their car, put on a
little more power, and accomplish two things at
one time. With a team, this would not be pos-
sible.

The preachers are using them. They can an-
nihilate space, thus save time, and consequently
do more faithful work with an auto than a horse.
They find that the general ownership of autos
brings more people to church. It is less trouble
to get ready; it is pleasanter going, and the
horses are having their rightful rest.

Investigation shows that about one-half of one
per cent. of farmers buying autos have had to
mortgage to buy. Evidently, farmers are not
responsible for the cry that the whole country is
being mortgaged for autos. It also appears that
in those districts where autos are most common
in the country, the bank accounts of farmers
have been growing steadily; the auto has been a
contributor to prosperity, not a destroyer of it.
This is probably due to good reasons. Many
have found the upkeep of a car less than that of
a pair of big horses. One man figured that it
cost him \$166 to keep a team, while it cost
\$144.50 to keep the automobile, and the latter
did much more work.

Though the automobile has made certain

and definite progress as an aid to farming, the
fact remains that only the frontiers of its useful-
ness have been crossed. There are about six
million two hundred thousand farms in the United
States, occupying nearly half of the population.
About half of these farms are owned by the
operators. Yet only eighty-five thousand auto-
mobiles have been sold to farmers; so, only
about three per cent. of the farm owners have
them.

What will be the result when the great ma-
jority of our farms have automobiles, galvaniz-
ing the life and activities of fifty millions of
people? It will mean a dawning era of larger
agricultural efficiency; of higher spiritual, so-
cial and educational uplift for the rural worker;
of wider prosperity generally, for all the people
will share in the benefits. Together with the
rural free delivery and the long-distance tele-
phone, the automobile is working out a new life
and a greater usefulness for our farm popula-
tion.

Undoubtedly, reasonably-priced autos would
be a profitable investment on many Canadian
farms, as not a few have already proved, but
there is one feature which must not be over-
looked in considering the question, viz., that for
from four to five months in winter they would
not be of any service, on account of the snow.
But even then, they are worthy of serious con-
sideration.

HORSES.

The feet of the growing colt should be
watched, and if they do not wear evenly the
elongated portions should be pinched off. Allow-
ing the feet to grow out of shape causes an un-
even pressure on the joints and parts above, and
has a tendency to develop ringbone, spavins and
sidebones.

* * *

There is no inherent reason why horse-breeding
associations, organized among and by farmers,
should not advance that phase of farming to the
same degree that apple-growers' associations,
poultry-producers' associations, or the co-opera-
tive dairy factories, all over the country, have
benefited the industries with which they, respec-
tively, are related.

* * *

A wood floor may be made water-tight by
using two layers of matched plank, with water-
proof composition between them. A layer of
coal-tar roofing composition spread upon the bot-
tom layer, and a second floor of plank laid on
that, makes a water-tight floor; but, at best,
plank floors cannot be depended on for much
more than 10 years; they are less sanitary, and,
while the most common, are about the least de-
sirable of all.

* * *

In no branch of live-stock farming is sound-
ness more imperative than in breeding horses.
Cattle, sheep and pigs are sold in divers ways,
and blemishes or defects in conformation do not
depreciate their value like unsoundness in com-
mercial horses. Two horses of equal weight and
of the same age and breed will differ 100 per
cent. in value through imperfection of conforma-
tion or some unsoundness that is liable to de-
crease efficiency of industrial service.

* * *

The practice of tying narrow strips of some
red material around a horse's neck, as a means of
searing away the bot fly, is largely pursued in
Australia. It is claimed that the fly, which gen-
erally strikes up between the horse's front legs
and settles on its chest, will not do so while the
red band is there. Whether or not the color
has any intrinsic value, careful Canadian team-
sters have learned that there is a great advan-
tage in protecting the horse's jaws from these
insects.

* * *

In putting in concrete floors in stables, the
bottom should be filled up so there will be no
danger, even in flood time, of water coming in.
If the stable is in a low place, fill in ten inches
or a foot of earth, and then lay the floor. If the
location is high and dry, the floor may be laid
on the ground surface. On a firm foundation, a
thickness of four inches of concrete, mixed in the
proportions of 1 of cement to 8 of gravel, or
crushed stone, faced with a mixture of 1 of ce-
ment to 2 of sand, trowelled on smoothly to the
thickness of half an inch, will make a satisfactory
floor.

* * *

A New York paper notes that, at the closing-
out sale of a livery stable in New York a few
days ago, livery horses that cost the owner \$150
apiece seven or eight years ago, and that he had
worked steadily as long as he owned them, were
sold in many instances for \$200 and \$250, so ag-
gressive was the bidding for everything in the
sale. Prices for horses ranged from \$40. to
\$305. Eleven of the best ones brought \$2,685.

an average of \$244, while the average for all, in-
cluding good, bad and indifferent, was \$140,
which shows that the automobile does not seem
to have spoiled the market for livery horses in
the City of New York.

The Winter Care of Weanlings.

The process of weaning has no doubt in most
cases now been completed, and many foals are in
their winter quarters. That the care and food
these foals receive during their first winter have
a material influence upon their ultimate value
and usefulness is a conceded fact. Weanlings
that become thin and somewhat stunted for want
of proper food, or other causes, seldom make as
good animals as they otherwise would have made,
notwithstanding the care they may receive in
after years. As to what they should be fed,
little difference exists, as hay and oats must
chiefly be depended upon to provide the necessary
nutrition to produce growth, but the quantities
of each and the form in which it should be fed
require consideration. Care should be taken to
see that whatever is fed be of good quality. We
seldom, if ever, see a weanling suffering from
overfeeding, provided he gets regular exercise.
With few exceptions, it is safe to give them all
they will eat, both of hay and grain, always
provided they are given a reasonable amount of
exercise. Clover hay of good quality is more
palatable, and gives better results; at the same
time, where such cannot readily be procured, good
timothy hay is satisfactory. Hay should be fed
in reasonable quantities three times daily. When
we say "in reasonable quantities," we mean in
such quantities as the animal will eat with ap-
parent relish. As with grown horses, we con-
sider it wasteful and harmful to keep food before
the animal all the time. There should be at
least a few hours between feeding times, in which
the colts should not have food within reach.
Where possible each colt should be provided with
a box stall, but where two or more colts are of
about the same size they may stand in the same
stall, provided they do not quarrel and one boss
the others. We think the hay should be fed off
the floor, instead of in mangers or racks. This
forces the colts to get their heads down, as in
grazing, which tends to prevent development of
weakness in the knees, and also tends to
strengthen knees that may be congenitally weak.
As to the quantity of oats that should be fed
opinions differ. Some claim that great care
should be taken to not overfeed, while we claim
that few colts will eat enough to do harm. How-
ever, it is wise to be cautious, and study the
individuality of each animal. The ordinary colt
of the light classes can with safety be given a
quart of oats three times daily, while colts of
the heavier classes should be given more. Some
claim to get the best results by feeding the grain
whole, others mix a little bran with it, while
others mix a little cut hay or chaff with it. We
prefer rolled or chopped oats. In fact, we think
we get better results from feeding rolled oats to
horses of any age or class, whether used for
slow or fast work. The following plan has given
good results: Take the quantity of rolled oats
we intend to feed and mix with a small quantity
of cut hay or chaff; put into a pail and pour
boiling water on it at night; cover and let stand
until morning, when it is fed. Then another
feed is prepared in the same way for the even-
ing's meal. For a change, the midday meal may
be whole oats, or dry, rolled or chopped oats.
In addition to this, we like to feed a few raw
roots, as a couple of carrots, or a sugar beet or
turnip, given with the midday meal. We also
consider it good practice to give a feed of bran
with a handful of linseed meal, at least twice
weekly, either as an extra, or in lieu of the grain
ration mentioned. The colts, of course, should
be supplied with all the good water they will
drink, at least three times daily, and where it is
expedient to allow free access to water at all
times it is better.

We consider regular exercise essential. This
may be given by turning out into a field or pad-
dock for a few hours daily, or by leading behind
a rig or by the side of an older horse, but it
should be given in some way. Foals that do
not get exercise may become fat and look well,
but the muscular and respiratory development
cannot be satisfactory. An advantage in giving
exercise on the halter is the fact that the educa-
tion of the colt is going on. We may say that
the more handling the colt gets the better, as a
young animal that is being handled is always
learning something. We assume that the hand-
ling is being done intelligently. In addition to
the feed and care mentioned, attention should be
given to the feet. While the greater part of the
time is spent outside on bare ground, the wear
on the feet about equals the growth, and they
remain in a normal shape, but when the greater
part of the time is spent in a stall, and especial-
ly if that stall be not regularly cleaned, the
growth is much greater than the wear. The toes
become long, the heels high, and soon tend to
come together below the frog; the feet become