

## THE FARM.

## \$15 a Year Buys the Carbide.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Regarding acetylene lighting, of which I notice an article in March 4th issue by "A Farmer's Wife," the writer in the January number, giving cost per year of \$15 for carbide, is about right. Any ordinary home, with 20 to 30 lights, can be used freely for the above amount. There is no doubt but Mrs. No. 2 (Farmer's Wife) has a very poor generator. She mentions it as being a water-spray kind. This, no doubt, has a lot to do with the amount used, as this kind of generators waste a good deal of gas, and very few, if any, are being made to-day. We have in our house 23 lights; every room has a jet, even woodshed and cellar. In summer we use a three-burner gas range, and do all our cooking, which takes considerable gas. We have also a street lamp, which we light frequently on dark nights; and the past year we bought five drums of carbide, at \$3.50 each. We use a carbide-feed machine of 25-light capacity, made here in Athens. The light is fine, and we would not be without it for anything. I think if "Farmer's Wife" would change generators, and get the carbide-feed kind, she could use lights in every room, and cut her present price in two, and have better satisfaction. Acetylene is the best and cheapest light, I believe, yet discovered, and should be brought before the public at every opportunity. It is a fact, however, there have been some accidents with acetylene, but in almost every instance the fault is directly with the party taking care of the machine being careless or neglectful in some way, and the accidents generally occur with the old-style spray-type generator. I thank you for the privilege of speaking in favor of the white-light acetylene.

Leeds Co., Ont.

## Convenient House Plan.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am sending you a plan for a small house, in answer to query in a recent issue. A house in this neighborhood, nearly like this, proves very convenient. This can be varied somewhat to suit different tastes. It contains parlor, kitchen, dining-room, pantry, and two bedrooms. A swing-door is between pantry and dining-room. If I were the builder, I should do with one bedroom downstairs, and connect the other with the parlor by folding doors, and use the former for a living-room, which is much more pleasant than living in the kitchen. The dining-room should be by itself, and easy of access, so it could be left "set" all the time.

At A A A are bow windows; B, a colored window. The extra sink in the dining-room saves a lot of work in dish-cleaning. The dining-room need be built only one story high. This leaves the main body (W X Z Y) and the wing (M N O P) two parts easy of construction.

Hants Co., N. S. J. F. SHAW.

Throughout the middle and further Canadian West seeding operations began early in April, and a much larger acreage than was seeded in 1908 is expected to be covered with the drill.

at the Government's call. In any case, it is idle to talk about getting farmers to breed army horses for £30 apiece, at five years old. Farmers are not philanthropists; they cannot afford luxuries, and if the State is to be defended, the State must pay for the defence.

In connection with this question, one gentleman has advanced a humorous idea. He offers to lend the Government a big sum of money, at nominal interest, to establish horse-breeding establishments in England. He attaches the condition that 300 Hackney stallions should be used in these every year. The idea of mounting the British army on the produce of Hackney stallions is good (?). The man who makes such a proposal has doubtless plenty of money, but he has only a modicum of common sense. Hackneys have their own place in equine economy, and an occasional Hunter has been heard of having a Hackney cross in his blood. But the idea of breeding riding horses, chargers and remounts for cavalry and infantry from Hackneys is too superbly funny. The Hackney is a driving horse or he is nothing. It may be a good thing for driving purposes that he should have "riding shoulders," but the idea of making a riding horse out of a Hackney does not require to be discussed. Ireland is determined to have nothing to do with Hackneys, lest the value of the Hunters bred in Ireland should be impaired. This is intelligible policy from the standpoint of the Irish breeder, but nothing more need be said regarding it. At the London Hunter Show, the champion was an Irish-bred horse, and a lovely specimen of the riding horse at that. The most notable feature of the London Hunter Show of 1909 was the victory, in the produce-group competition, of a Hunter sire—that is, a horse which would not be accepted for registration in the General Studbook. The idea in orthodox horse quarters is that there is only one real breed in the world—the English Thoroughbred. A horse may have 18 crosses of Thoroughbred blood in his pedigree, but these orthodox persons brand him as a half-bred, because he will not register under Wetherby's rules. The Hunter Improvement Society registers in its Studbook horses with far less than eighteen crosses of Thoroughbred blood, and calls these horses Hunter sires. One of these horses easily beat all the Thoroughbreds pitted against him as a sire of groups at the recent show.

## MEAT TRADE IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

Keen debate is going on here regarding the situation in the meat trade. The decay of cattle imports is a startling phenomenon for our sapient municipal rulers in Glasgow. They have built splendid new wharves and lairages at Merklands, and the cattle do not come. The shipper from Canada and the United States declines to send cattle to Glasgow. The butchers here, some years ago, made a ring, and constituted themselves a court of appeal, forbidding any member of their company, on pain of ruthless boycotting, to purchase or bid for cattle or sheep or pigs offered for sale in any market in which representatives of co-operative stores were allowed to purchase or bid. This restricted the area of competition among buyers. Consequently, after losing heavily for years, the shippers have at length abandoned the field, and the Glasgow authorities are left to chew the bitter cud of remorse for their supine attitude towards the boycott. Several prominent members of the butcher trade are on the Town Council, and they manage to dominate its policy in this particular. So far as farmers are concerned, this probably operates to their advantage, rather than their disadvantage. For years they have been clamoring for a dead-meat trade in cattle brought overseas, and now, without legislative intervention of any kind, they seem likely to get it. As the imports of live cattle have decreased, the imports of dead meat have increased. But it is said the sources of supply are not the same. The Argentine is largely responsible for the dead-meat supplies, and in the United States the future is being viewed with a measure of apprehension. In spite of these omens—favorable to the British farmer, as one would suppose—the meat trade at present is not in a good way. Prices rule low, the demand does not seem to increase, and, in spite of symptoms of revival in some departments of trade, live-stock quotations show a steady fall. All this is somewhat puzzling, and at present we don't quite know where we are. At the same time, feeling as between farmers and butchers is running high, on account of the demand by the butchers for an express warranty of soundness with each fat animal that they purchase. Because of their determination to enforce this, matters in some markets have come to a deadlock. The situation is strained to a degree, and the North of Scotland farmers have formed themselves into a Defence Association.

## WHO PAYS THE DUTY?

The question of the incidence of a tariff rate is being argued here in connection with the exportation of potatoes to the United States. Uncle Sam puts on a tariff of 38s. 11d. per ton; and, as we had a bumper crop and little disease in

1908, some farmers and merchants have been shipping to the United States. The duty imposed by the intelligent, mean-spirited Yankee is almost equivalent to the price per ton that the farmer here can obtain for his potatoes. Consequently, Uncle Sam's children are paying from £5 to £5 10s. per ton for potatoes, an abundant supply of which could reach him at the much easier figure of from £3 to £3 15s. per ton, if it were not for his irrational tariff. He pays it himself, but its existence prevents many here from shipping who would gladly do so. The United States would consume plenty of British potatoes if they could get them at a sufficiently cheap rate, but most people are disposed to fight shy of food which costs £5 to £5 10s. per ton.

## SHORTHORN SALES.

We have had quite a number of Shorthorn sales lately in the North of England. Prices ruled fair. The South American buyers were the best operators. They purchased the best at all the sales. Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser & Co., Limited, opened a new sale at Darlington on March 11th, and a week later, Messrs. Thornton & Co., London, conducted their usual spring sale at York. Another sale takes place shortly at Beverley, in Yorkshire, and a very notable sale will be held at Caledon, Co. Tyrone, Ireland, on 16th inst. This will be the most notable sale held for many a day. The dispersion of so noted a herd as that of Caledon is a matter of widespread public interest. The great bull, "Sign of Riches," made the Caledon herd, and the constituents of the existing herd are wholly Scots.

"SCOTLAND YET."

## Retention of Afterbirth.

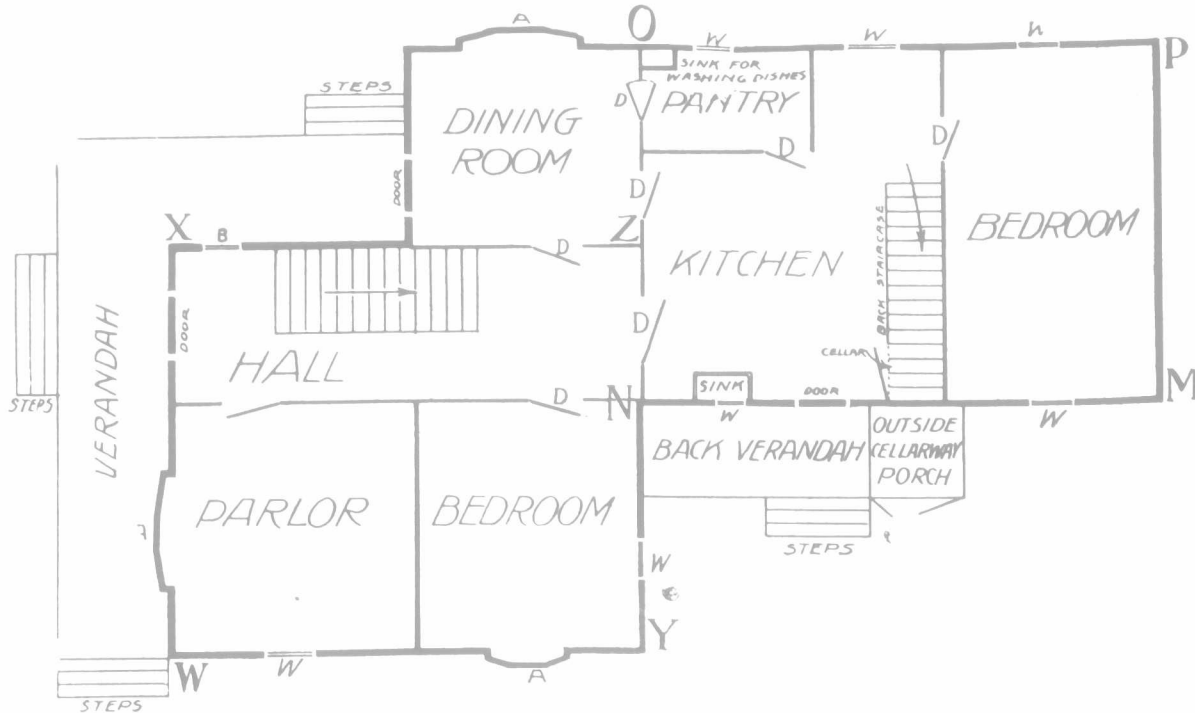
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of the first of April, a subscriber asks the cause and prevention of this trouble. When I was a mere lad, we had in our part a horse and cow doctor. He was not a qualified veterinarian, but knew a thing or two. His advice to prevent this happening was to feed the cows a pint of raw oats daily to each cow for at least two weeks before calving, and there would be no difficulty with the afterbirth. I have put it in practice and found it good, having no difficulty with this trouble. This cure would not do for present troubles, but would apply to future ones. The remedy is a very cheap one.

## ANOTHER SUBSCRIBER.

Pictou Co., N. S.

[Note.—We fear our correspondent has construed coincidence as cause and effect. He has tried the "preventive," so-called, and has had no trouble with retention of afterbirth; but what does that prove? How does he know that the oats prevented a single case of the trouble? A couple of years ago a subscriber wrote in to say that he had warded off retention of the afterbirth by feeding daily for some time prior to calving a quart or so of whole wheat. Another alleged preventive adopted by some feeders consists in feeding about two quarts of roasted oats a day. It is probable that what little virtue, if any, there may be in these practices consists in improved tone of the system, and possibly an emollient effect upon the membranes and internal organs generally. For this purpose, we should expect a handful of flaxseed meal daily to have more benefit than a pint of oats. Our veterinary editor states that retention of the afterbirth is met with in cows under all conditions, and that no authority has as yet been able to give causes or satisfactory treatment.—Editor.]



Plan for Convenient Country Residence.