

of fresh air admitted and foul air removed, could be doubled or trebled without much cost, without reducing much the inside temperature, and certainly to the advantage of the stock stabled therein.

Good Farming Competitions

The summer season of 1910 no doubt will find Good Farming Competitions prominent in the educational programs conducted by departments of agriculture in Western Canada. This has proven to be a popular line of work. When properly managed, with enthusiastic men to arouse interest locally and competent judges to make the awards, much good results to the community. The friendly rivalry developed induces clean farming, and encourages the adoption of one or more of what have been considered minor side lines, as well as the improvement of the home surroundings and the general appearance of the farm. Such changes increase the value of the farm and benefit the community at large.

Past experiences reveal one circumstance that is difficult to meet. In some localities it is desirable to continue the competition from year to year. Would-be competitors, or those who competed the previous year, however, refuse to enter because of the fact that the award previously made indicated that they would not stand a chance of winning. In some cases the highest score has been so much above the others that there is room for the suggestion that farms securing the first placing cannot compete again for two seasons. This of course would not disqualify these farms in a provincial competition, provided such were held in the meantime.

Wake Up the Live Stock Associations

Several years ago the Manitoba live stock associations made representations to the transportation companies regarding the carriage of pure-bred live-stock, and as these requests were adjudged reasonable by the companies, and were also shown to be in the interests of the carriers by improving the stock, and, therefore, increasing the values of the freight carried, they were granted. So far so good; but the association must not stand still. For years the associations have grumbled amongst themselves regarding the poor demand for purebred stuff, or the difficulty in making sales. Finally the government (Dominion) was persuaded to help them out by financing auction sales of pure-bred stock, principally bovine males. This, however, was not the real reason governing financial and other help by the state — the idea was that by assisting in a greater dissemination of the blood of the pure-breeds, the live stock of the country would be improved and all benefit by it.

For years the live stock associations fancied themselves as the cream of the farming community, and, as a result of this mutual admiration attitude, went to sleep and took no thought for the morrow. Briefly, the breeder of pure-breds saw or thought of no market beyond one for the few bulls, boars or rams he had to sell; that, and seeing the prize lists of various shows were rich enough engaged all his attention in the association. The markets for the commercial grades of stock were entirely overlooked; no attention was given or interest shown whether the producers and sellers of commercial stock were making a profit or getting a square deal. If, therefore, selfish interest is the only stimulant which will affect the live stock associations, these bodies ought to know that on the success of the producer of commercial stock depends their welfare.

If the producer of swine, sheep or cattle for the flock is making no money, he will not be very enthusiastic over prospective purchases of the

pure-bred males. Once this idea is thoroughly grasped a move on the part of these associations towards agitating for better market facilities in the West, may be expected. Municipal abattoirs will be recommended, as a means of properly caring for the local trade and as a way to save on the cost of slaughtering, to improve the quality of the article sold, and as a further means to check the rapacity of the middleman stationed at the abattoirs (packing houses). Consumers will thus be safeguarded against diseased cattle, slink veal and the other abominations incident to an uninspected meat trade.

SASKATCHEWAN.

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One of the features of a tariff is its tortuousness, its intricacy, and the exceeding great difficulty of getting at the facts. If there is one great ethical argument in favor of free trade, it is that it destroys the tissue of falsehoods woven about a tariff.—Dr. J. G. Rutherford.

Farmer Versus Engineer

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

The writer of the article headed "Fame and Fortune on the Farm," in your issue of January 19, expressed the opinion and belief that he would have been better satisfied, more contented and had ready cash to show for his work, had his boyhood wish been granted and he become a locomotive engineer instead of a farmer. I have been at both and know the disadvantages of railroading. There is scarcely an engineer to-day, but would gladly exchange places with any successful farmer.

My own case, for instance, indicates which occupation offers the best opportunity for a young man to make a home for himself. Four years ago I started firing on a train. I fired nearly three years, and ran an engine for one year, was temperate in my habits, always contributed to any benevolent society asking for money, or to a fellow in distress, worked steadily, made all the money possible, and saved about \$500, which is a good average for a railroader. The time I started on the railroad my oldest brother took a farm on shares in Saskatchewan and to-day has 18 horses, 16 cattle, implements necessary for working a section and a quarter of land, which he also owns, and a cash account of \$2,000, all made from the land.

In the district where I now live two-thirds of the farmers are worth between \$40,000 and \$50,000 and some are under 40 years of age. They have social meetings in the school houses in the winter, and have debates which are interesting and instructive. Do you wonder at me resigning from the service of a railway company, while still only a young man, to again take up the healthful, profitable and honorable occupation of farming?

Sask.

H. H. COOK.

HORSE

Thick Crupper for Switcher

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

Will give you my experience with a switcher. I have a gelding that had the habit very bad. I tied his tail for about two weeks, and found that it only aggravated him more, as he would get it loose sometimes and catch the lines, and start kicking, and it took considerable time to get things in order again. So I wrapped the crupper with strips of old bags until it was four or five inches thick, and let him switch, for he could not hold the line, as the crupper was too thick. I drove him both single and double with the same crupper in the summer of 1908, and when the flies were gone in the fall, I took it off, and he has quit the switching, and has not tried to hold the line since. He will be five years old in the spring, and worked last summer the same as any other horse.

York Co., Ont.

E. F. WOOD.

Millet for Horses

Is millet a good winter feed for horses? What time should it be sown and on what kind of land? Should it be drilled, or sown broadcast? Do you recommend any particular variety?

Sask.

M. W.

Ans.—Millet of all kinds should be grown on moist rich loam, summer-fallow preferred. The seed is small and should be drilled in near the surface for the seed will not stand deep sowing. The best time to sow is between May 15th and 24th and proper amount 23 pounds per acre.

The most suitable variety for this country is Hungarian Grass. This kind is leafy, productive and of fine texture. In preparing the land be sure to harrow well; otherwise weeds will choke out the millet.

Cut the crop in August before the fall frosts; bind in small sheaves and stook until well cured; then stack. It should not be fed in large quantities to horses. One or two sheaves per day is sufficient. It is strong feed and it will prove injurious if fed in unlimited quantities.

M. A. C.

S. A. BEDFORD.

Our Scottish Letter

Recent weeks have been eventful among Scots horse-breeders. We have had the annual stallion show at Glasgow, the annual meetings of the Clydesdale Horse Society, and a great legal trial regarding the ownership of Baron o' Buchlyvie 11263, the most outstanding of the second generation of living Clyde stallions. We also are having a shipment of some 30 or 40 Clydesdales to Canada entering the Dominion at St. John, N. B. The buyers are spread all over the Dominion, from Ontario to Alberta and so far the shipments for 1910 have been in excess of those for the same period of 1909. Regarding the society, little need be said. It is one of the most prosperous agricultural institutions in Scotland. It has now a capital of over £5,000 (nearly \$25,000), and its council are investing this month £1,000 in Canadian bonds. The president said, at the meeting, that this was an acknowledgment, in a small way, of the indebtedness of the home breeders to Canada for the hearty support you give to the Clydesdale breed. The gold medals offered by the society appear to be greatly appreciated by your breeders, and the home breeders are very glad to acknowledge in this way what Canadians are doing for us. Disappointment was expressed at the meeting, at the decision of the executive of the Canadian association with respect to the horses, Sir Henry 13200, and Braidie Prince 12871, and the hope was expressed that the Canadian association will recognize the expediency of rescinding a resolution which confers no benefit on anyone in Canada, and inflicts a great injury on the owner of Sir Henry 13200 in this country. Here we cannot believe it possible that all the members of the executive committee of the Canadian association are aware of what has been done. The light bay horse is in Canada, and he is Braidie Prince, and not Sir Henry.

The stallion show at Glasgow was worth going far to see. Quite a fair number of good horses were exhibited, but the eagerness of societies to secure horses for stud purposes long in advance of the show, has robbed it of much of its old excitement. About ninety entire Clydesdales were hired for service in 1910, some of them a year ago and more, and already four are under hire for 1911. These four are Messrs. Montgomery's Scottish Crest and Pride of Blacon, both sons of Baron's Pride; Mr. Kilpatrick's big horse, Dunedin, and Mr. Taylor's big horse, Sir Dighton. The fact that these four horses were characterized by unusual weight and substance, and that they have been hired by societies which have hitherto been content to take second place, is significant of a determination among breeders to get up the weight and substance of their Clydesdales. The champion of the show was William Dunlop's two-year-old colt, Dunure Footprint 15203, a big colt, which last year pretty well held his own against all comers.