

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

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trade that has been advantageous alike to Canadian breeders and the American sheep industry. Meanwhile, there will be a silver lining in the cloud if it means the more thorough exploitation of our local markets for rams by Canadian breeders, and the founding or reinforcing of farm flocks, to reap the advantage of the prevailing high prices for mutton and lamb, owing to the scarcity of sheep in the country.

INDEX TO ISSUES JANUARY 2ND TO JUNE 25TH, 1908.

By dint of no small expense and effort we compiled and published in last week's number of "The Farmer's Advocate" a complete alphabetical index of the articles and illustrations occurring in the first volume of 1908, comprising issues January 2nd to June 25th, inclusive. A new feature that will be much appreciated is the index to the chief features of the Home Magazine Department. The pages containing the index have been placed in the back of the paper, and may be readily removed by those who wish to have their volumes bound, and the index inserted in the front of the book. The encyclopedic character of the contents of the first twenty-six issues of the year are attested by the fact that the index includes seven and a half pages of compactly-arranged headings, and numbers over two thousand titles of articles on all subjects, from the Apiary Department to the Quiet Hour. Subscribers who preserve indexed files of "The Farmer's Advocate" from year to year have a better assortment of ready reference information on Canadian agriculture than can be obtained in a bookstore.

A GOOD DICTIONARY.

I thank you so promptly for the dictionary that you have so promptly sent. It is very good.
Bruce Co., Ont. F. McBALDWIN

HORSES.

HOW MANY COLTS?

How many colts will a stallion get in the natural lifetime of the average horse? is a question asked an exchange, and the answer given is: "The trotting stallion Sweepstakes, a son of Hambletonian X., sired 665 foals, beginning in 1869 as a two-year-old, and continuing through twenty-three seasons. The largest number of foals credited to him in a single season was fifty, in 1876, and the lowest twelve, that number resulting from his first season, and also in 1895. Eleven pairs of twins were born to him, and all died. Hambletonian X. in twenty-four seasons sired more than twice as many foals as Sweepstakes did. In one year he served 218 mares and brought 217 foals, a record that has never been equalled by any horse in the world, so far as history goes."

The author of the Horse Book, a recent publication, says of the famous Clydesdale stallion MacQueen (imp.) [462] (5206), (foaled in 1884, imported in 1886 by Graham Bros., Claremont, sired by MacGregor, by Darnley, and winner of the championship at the World's Fair, Chicago, in 1893): "In eight seasons he served 1,717 mares, and begot 1,078 foals. As he stood at \$15 to insure in 1899, he covered 182 mares and got 94 colts, earning in that season \$1,410; and in the seven years following he begot 984 foals, at \$20 each, amounting to \$19,680—a grand total of \$21,090 for his eight seasons' work. The highest number of foals sired by him in one season was 172, from 261 mares served, and his smallest quota of foals in one season in seven years was 123." The author, in closing the reference to this great horse, says: "Verily he merits the title I bestowed upon him, 'The Matchless MacQueen.'" These figures are of much value as showing that an old horse may be capable of doing extensive and excellent work in the stud, and that a really good getter is a gold mine.

THE WINNIPEG HORSE SHOW.

The Fourth Annual Horse Show at Winnipeg met with cold, wet weather, and, as a consequence, the attendance was somewhat interfered with. The show of horses, however, was a revelation to everyone. The acme of perfection in all classes was represented. Heavy harness horses that have carried off premier honors in New York and Toronto are now owned in Winnipeg. What is considered one of the very best Kentucky saddle horses seen at any of the American shows headed her class; roadsters which for style and speed are capable of taking a place in any show-ring were on exhibition; heavy-drafters such as Winnipeg people had never seen before came before the judges, and the pony classes were full to overflowing. In the three years since the horse show was first inaugurated, nothing in the City of Winnipeg or the West has shown so much improvement as the horseflesh. The show is serving a distinct function. To give the winnings in the twenty-odd classes is out of the question. The keenest interest was taken in heavy-harness horses suitable only for going short distances, with extreme style and action.

The Galt Horse Show, an annual event of interest to a large section of Western Ontario, was held on June 18th and 19th, and was quite the most successful of the series, the entries being more numerous than at any of the former shows, and the horses of a superior class, being largely from Toronto and the district around Galt. Among the largest exhibitors were Messrs. Crow & Murray, Geo. Pepper, and H. C. Cox, Toronto; A. Yeager, of Simcoe; E. Langdon Wilks, Galt; E. F. Seagram, Waterloo; and numerous local horsemen with smaller entries. This show is well supported by the people of the district, and has had a potent influence in the improvement of horse stock of the adjacent counties.

Never before in the experience of horsemen have so many blanks for lien notes been carried by stallion men in the Canadian West, says "The Farmer's Advocate," of Winnipeg. Loss in previous years has made the lien note a necessity. Reliable men should not object to giving a lien if it is asked for, for, after all, it is to protect the honest man from having to pay the debts of the never-pays.

To those who have not visited the range country for some years, the extent of the change from cattle to horses is said to be almost incredible. The promise of a large market by the settling up of so much new territory is more enticing than cattle markets have been for some years.

CHANGING STALLIONS.

Occasionally we receive inquiries like this: If A breeds his mare to B's stallion, and then takes her to C's before the end of the season, can B collect? This is one of the forms of looseness in connection with the business of horse-breeding. Practically all route bills stipulate that mares must be returned regularly to the horse, and if not the owners will be charged insurance fee. Very few stallion-owners enforce this regulation if a man changes his mind and decides that he does not want to raise a colt; but that does not alter the validity of the claim. When a man takes a mare to a stallion, he practically enters into a contract to do a certain amount of work toward getting his mare with foal, and unless he does it the stallion-owner may collect. The only defence the owner of a mare would have in patronizing the second horse in the season would be that the first horse was proved useless or dangerous, or otherwise unfit by not being as well-bred as his pedigree represented him.

LIVE STOCK.

THE MILKING-SHORTHORN MOVEMENT IN BRITAIN.

It is none to the credit of the Dominion Short-horn Breeders' Association that it should be so tardily lagging behind in the matter of establishing a Record of Dairy Performance in connection with its herdbook. The English breeders have taken up this matter in earnest, and the following letter, in the Irish Agricultural Gazette, by A. T. Matthews, who writes, if we mistake not, from across the Channel, shows that the Old Country breeders are away ahead of ours in comprehending the economics of milk and beef production. After paying a gracious compliment to the Jersey breed, Mr. Matthews says that the Shorthorn must in the main be the (British) milk-seller's cow, and then proceeds:

"One of the best of recent movements has been, in my view, that which commenced about seven years ago, for the restoration of the Shorthorn to its old pre-eminence as a yielder of milk. The success of the dairy farmer depends on whether his cows are really good at the pail, and during much of last century Shorthorns, as a breed, were losing ground in this respect. The fault lay, as usual, with the leaders of the Shorthorn interest, i. e., the pedigree breeders, who bred persistently for beef points, the result of which policy was so evident in the loss of milking capacity that farmers became afraid to buy a pedigree bull in case he should ruin the dairy. Yet few will deny the value of purity of descent in a sire, provided that the line of that descent leads directly to whatever characteristic is desired. In other words, the dairy farmer or milk-seller wants his bulls bred, on both sides, from stallions of abundant milkers, and the more of these crosses a sire possesses, the more certain he will be to produce profitable dairy cows. A good milking pedigree is just as desirable for the breeder of first-class dairy stock as one which registers descent from animals of symmetrical shape is for the would-be winner of prizes in the show-ring.

"Now, ten years ago there were no such bulls to be had. Show-yard judges had shown such preference for beef points for so many years that the ancient renown of the Shorthorn as a milking breed was becoming only a memory. Happily, the magnitude of the loss thereby incurred was seen before it was too late, and a few well-known breeders agitated the Councils of the 'Royal' and other big societies for special prizes, to be given for pedigree milking Shorthorns. They succeeded in this, and a good deal more. They founded the Dairy Shorthorn Society, which has since given a wonderful impetus to the cultivation of the deep-milking properties. In the very few years which have since passed, a number of owners of valuable pedigree herds have resolutely made an abundant milk yield their chief study, and already a marked success is attending their efforts.

"The consumption of fresh milk in this country, vast as it is, is still rapidly increasing, and likely to do so. There is, therefore, a future for its production worth providing for, and I submit that the best way of doing this is for the dairy farmer to rear his own stock, to use no sires but such as can show a milking ancestry for at least two or three generations on both male and female side, and to weigh and register every drop of milk given by each cow. In selecting a sire, it is the worst possible form of economy to miss the right animal for the sake of a few pounds, and the proper weeding out of poor milkers can only be done by aid of a well-kept register. Finally, I make bold to say that there is no reason whatever why any farmer's herd should not, in the course of time, be brought up by skillful management, to an average of 800 gallons per annum. There are many pedigree cows on record which have given over 1,000 gallons."