

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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a scrub, and it is at best a short-sighted, if not a sordid policy, to scatter such seed stock, especially when it can, by the use of the knife, be made nearly as valuable if sold on the butchers' market, which is its proper place. In the meantime, superior young stock can be procured at moderate prices, and the popular formula for the improvement of dairy herds, "breed, feed, weed," if adopted by breeders of other classes of stock as well, will be found to redound to their credit and profit. And, as before remarked, the present time is peculiarly favorable for the introduction of such a policy.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PIONEER.

The following well-deserved tribute to the pioneer, and mild rebuke to those who have forgotten his services, his character and his achievements, while lauding eminence to the skies, was quoted by T. McGillicuddy at the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Convention, from Tom Watson's "Life of General Jackson":

"The historian, the orator, the painter, have been eager in the duty of blazoning the deeds of our pioneer missionaries, lawmakers and soldiers. The names of these heroes live, and deserve to live, in letters of light upon the records of our country. But to our pioneer farmers justice has never been done. Theirs was a combat calling for every soldierly trait of Capt. John Smith and Miles Standish. The patient courage which swung the axe in the depths of primeval woods was no less heroic than the bravery which made the musket conquer. The toil of the warrior's march was slight by comparison with the homely but exhausting work of preparing the soil for the sowing of seed. The arrows of the red men were not more deadly to the soldiers than the fevers which rose from the swamps and pulled down the settler as he struggled to open out his farm. The story of the pioneer plowman is one of dauntless courage, of quiet heroism. He found this new world a wilderness, and he has well-nigh made it a garden. His axe, his spade, his hoe, his muscle, his brain, his very heart and soul, have all been enlisted in the work. Never once has he

gone begging to the doors of legislation, asking for special favors. Never once has he lied to the Government and the people for the purpose of securing a selfish advantage at the expense of his fellow man."

CONSTITUTION OF SHORTHORN BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, announced to be held in Toronto next month, a new constitution and by-laws for the government of the Association, a draft of which has been printed for circulation, will be presented to the members present for consideration, and for adoption in so far as approved. To facilitate the business of the meeting, it will be well for those contemplating attending to secure from the Secretary a copy of the draft of constitution, in order to study its provisions, and be prepared to discuss them intelligently. The limited time usually devoted to the business of the day of the annual meeting, it is well known, is insufficient for digesting such a document as the one in question, and unless sessions are extended beyond the usual bounds, it will scarcely be possible to give it the calm consideration its importance demands. Presumably, the Executive have devoted careful consideration to the interests of the Association in the preparation of the draft submitted, but, from a casual reading of its provisions, we incline to the opinion that, to the pranks and file of the members, it will appear that a superabundance of official machinery has been incorporated, much of which might be eliminated and more simplified, to the profitable working of the Association, and with a very considerable saving of its funds, which might be used to much better advantage in the interests of the breed than by payment of the expenses of so many officials and large committees. For instance, the list of officers calls for the election of a president, a first and second vice-president, a secretary and treasurer, a registrar, a vice-president for each Province of Canada, a board of fifteen directors, delegates to exhibitions and fairs receiving grants from the Association, representatives to the National Record Board, an executive committee of five members, and an auditor—in round numbers, about forty, irrespective of office clerks, whose expenses, when on duty, must, we presume, be met by the Association. The plan outlined for the election of vice-presidents for Provinces, by means of a vote by mail, will require careful scrutiny and safeguarding, as the opportunities for abuse of the privileges available may lead to most undesirable complications. It would certainly appear a simpler and safer and less-cumbersome scheme should be found within the range of possibility, and one quite as practicable for representation of the Provinces. These are but a few of many points in the composition of the draft constitution which appear to call for criticism and improvement, if not for bodily deletion.

By way of omission, we note the absence of any provision for the publication of a Record of Dairy Performance of officially-tested cows. This might and should properly take the form of an appendix to the herdbook, and in it should be registered cows duly recorded in the regular volumes which have, in official test, under the supervision of Government officials, given yields of milk and butter-fat, within twelve-months' testing period, equal or exceeding a minimum standard, to be set by the breed association. Provision might also be made for the registration of male progeny of officially-tested dams and female ancestors. This Record-of-Performance scheme is of the utmost importance, for in this day of official testing of dairy cows, Shorthorn breeders will never develop much of a trade in dual-purpose stock till they are prepared to go in for the testing of their cows and publication of the records in black and white. Provision for such testing and recording should be instituted without delay.

Protect your forest while you have it, for when it is gone you will be utterly hopeless. Yours is the last great wild, and if you squander it your children's children will sit in the sun beside silent streams that are murmuring musically to-day.—(C. Warman, before the Canadian Club.

HORSES.

LAMENESS IN HORSES.

NAVICULAR DISEASE.

Navicular disease, often called coffin-joint lameness, is a very common disease, especially in the lighter classes of horses—those that are used for roadwork, either in saddle or harness. The navicular or coffin joint is situated within the hoof, hence the name "coffin joint." It is formed by the articulation of the lower end of the small pastern bone with the articular surface of the bone of the foot with the navicular bone (a somewhat shuttle-shaped bone), placed immediately behind the joint, with the long axis transversely placed. The flexor tendon of the foot passes over the posterior aspect of the joint, immediately over the navicular bone, before becoming attached to the os pedis (the bone of the foot). The disease under discussion consists in inflammation being set up in the joint. In well-established cases the inflammation causes an alteration in structure of both bone and tendon, the fibrous covering of the bone becomes destroyed, and a form of decay is established, and the bone and tendon become united, the normal condition being the playing of the tendon over the bone in somewhat the same manner as a rope plays over a pulley.

Causes.—In many cases there is doubtless an hereditary predisposition, not altogether due to conformation. Horses with short, upright pasterns are predisposed, on account of conformation. This is readily understood from the fact that concussion is greater than in horses with oblique pasterns. Ordinary concussion from travelling on hard roads is doubtless the most fertile exciting cause. Irregular exercise is also often noted as the cause. Horses that are used only occasionally, those that often stand in the stable (especially in dry, hot weather, when no means are taken to supply moisture to the feet) for several days without exercise, and, when taken out, are driven fast, then allowed to stand for a variable length of time, then given a fast drive again, etc., etc., frequently suffer from the trouble. The dry and somewhat hot condition of the feet predispose to the disease, and concussion acts as the cause.

It must be understood that horses are liable to a sprain of this joint. This does not often occur, and when it does the patient will show sudden lameness, when, if the trouble be diagnosed, the patient given rest, and moisture kept to the foot by poulticing or standing in a tub of cold water, he will recover, as from other sprains. The joint being surrounded by horn, local applications to the joint cannot, of course, be practiced. The symptoms of "navicular disease" are very insidious. The trouble may be developing in one or both feet. Lameness is usually irregular. The patient will be noticed slightly lame, probably the driver cannot readily decide whether or not he is going lame, or he may show suspicious symptoms when first brought out, but soon goes sound, and the driver may decide that he was mistaken in suspecting lameness. Then, he may go sound for a variable time, then show suspicious symptoms, or probably decided symptoms, then again go sound, etc., etc. The intensity of the lameness varies greatly without apparent cause. An examination of the foot and leg will not reveal any cause of lameness, and the horse stands sound. After a variable time the symptoms of lameness become more decided and constant, and the patient will be noticed pointing the foot when standing, but even now he will go practically sound after being driven. The symptoms increase, until he will show lameness all the time, will step short with the lame foot and stub the toe, wearing the toe cork off quickly. An examination at this stage will usually reveal the foot smaller and probably deeper in the heel than its fellow, and there will be more heat in the foot, but this is very hard to detect. The patient is supposed to show tenderness upon pressure exerted upon the hollow of the heel with the thumb, but I have never seen this symptom well marked. There being an absence of apparent cause of lameness in any other part of the limb, the symptoms having been more or less as described, and the foot having become smaller than its fellow, is usually considered sufficient reasons for diagnosing "navicular disease." We may say that we are forced to judge largely by negative symptoms. When both feet are diseased, the step will be short and groggy, the toes stub, and toe-calks wear off quickly, and, when standing, the patient will point one foot and then the other, and will often be noticed to be inclined to canter, rather than trot. Both feet being diseased, there will not be a difference in size, as they will both have become smaller than normal, but this will, in most cases, be hard to determine.

Treatment.—If treatment be adopted during early stages of the disease, a cure may be effected; but if the disease has advanced until there is alteration of the structure of bone and tendon, a cure cannot be expected. In such cases, the symptoms may be allayed, to considerable ex-