

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL  
IN THE DOMINION.

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"  
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once is taken, and in view of the sources from which infection has come in the past, the report says that, in efforts to detect the cases of tuberculosis that exist to-day upon the farms of the country, attention may first of all be directed toward all herds of pure-bred cattle, whether of beef or dairy type; also herds where improved stock has been used for grading-up purposes. "Next in order should come all dairy cattle."

Is it unfair to say, in view of these opinions, that tuberculosis is an indoors disease? The other day the writer called at the city home of a young couple, which they bought new about a year ago. It is quite luxuriously furnished, and very snug. But the stuffy odor of the place, entirely unnoticed by its owners, of course, was proof that if it had not been quite so snug, the house would have been more healthful. Pity 'tis, but it appears to be true, that intensive breeding, feeding and care, requiring much effort and thought on the part of stockmen, lower the stamina of cattle and render them fit subjects for contracting and disseminating tuberculosis. The lack of ventilation in many dairy stables during March and April is simply deplorable to those who have thought for the health and sensations of the cows. It is more than questionable whether the fear of a lessened milk flow from a cool in-draft of air does not result, in the long run, in a much more serious lessening of production.

A section regarding "Sanitation" from the report, may well be quoted entire: "In the eradication of tuberculosis, it should be kept in mind that, in addition to protecting the animals against exposure to tubercle bacilli, it is desirable to make them as resistant to infection as possible. This can be done by stabling them in clean, disinfected and properly-lighted and ventilated barns, giving them abundant clear water and nutritious food, a sufficient amount of daily exercise in the open air, and attending generally to those conditions which are known to contribute to the health of animals. The daily removal of manure from stables, and water-tight floors and good drainage in stables, are urgently recommended. Young stock, particularly, should be

raised as hardy as possible, and should be accustomed to liberal exercise and living in the open."

### The Power of Spring.

Springtime comes again with uplifting force. It quickens nature and it quickens men. Truly has it been said that the silent forces are the mightiest—unseen, yet all-powerful. The thunderous plunge of Niagara is impressive, but it is nothing to the inscrutable hydro-electric current that lights cities and drives the wheels of mills two hundred miles away. We stand amazed before the storm, and when we talk of farm power we think of the steam traction engine, the wind-mill, or the gasoline motor; but if we would see real, magnificent force, the eyes must be opened during these spring days, when some mystical energy expands buds into flowers, unlocks the throats of every song-bird, enwraps with garments of green the gray twigs of ten thousand trees, whitens the fruit bushes in every township, drives up the grass on a thousand hills and pasture fields, recarpets the alfalfa plots, and the brown areas of winter wheat, and unfolds into living plants, to feed us for another year, the germs of ten million kernels of oats and corn, or helpless-looking garden seeds which, by faith, the trusting housewife commits to a mark in the soil in hope of a speedy resurrection. And Nature does not fail her. Spring is eternal. Life is in that brown husk; moisture and food are at hand, just waiting the generating warmth of the solar dynamo, 95,000,000 miles away, which makes no noise in lifting up the new world of 1911.

## HORSES.

The keen demand for good young mares, and the noticeable premium in price they command, as compared with geldings of equal weight and quality, indicate that Canadian farmers at last have awakened to the wisdom of keeping the good young mares at home to supplement the farm revenue by breeding a colt or two each year.

All the four horses purchased for "The Farmer's Advocate" farm are young mares of 1,400 pounds, or near it. With average good fortune, it is hoped to raise two or three foals per annum. Effort may be made to breed a couple of the mares to foal in autumn.

Is the horse business liable to be overdone in the near future? It is rather hard to say. Whether the present range of values will long continue, may be a debatable point. Evidently, demand has been stimulating breeding of late. However, there would still be money for the farmer in breeding the right class of draft horses at somewhat lower prices than good ones now command.

### Retention of the Meconium in Foals.

The question is sometimes asked whether castor oil or linseed oil should be administered to foals that are constipated when about a day to a week old. One of the best veterinary advisers in Canada is emphatic in saying that the common practice of giving purgative medicines in cases of this kind cannot be too highly condemned. What is spoken of as constipation is, in newly-born foals, really the retention of the meconium. This is a substance which fills the bowels more or less at birth, and is in the form of lumps or balls of a dark, almost black, color, and of about the consistency of putty. Under normal conditions, the foal, shortly after birth, will be noticed evacuating a quantity of these little black lumps, and the evacuation will be repeated at intervals for about twenty-four hours, after which the color and character of the faeces change to a yellowish mass of a sticky character. Unfortunately, this normal evacuation does not always take place, and the meconium is retained. In such case, the proper treatment is not the giving of purgatives. Instead, the nail of the forefinger should be cut short, and it should then be oiled and carefully inserted into the rectum, and all the lumps that can be reached removed. An injection of warm water and linseed oil should then be given, and the operation repeated every few hours until the faeces become yellow, when danger is passed. It is good practice to mechanically remove in this way the meconium in all foals, without waiting for symptoms of retention.

### Should Horses Drink at Will?

We have this spring built a horse stable, and in front of horses' mangers is a long cement trough for watering horses. Horses can drink from stall. The trough has a lid to keep out dirt, which can be raised to let horses drink. There are also doors in front of horses which raise and fasten while feeding horses. Do you think it would be advisable to leave doors that horses may drink at will, or should they be watered at certain times? We all know it is natural for horses to drink after eating, but many condemn this, fearing the water has a tendency to wash feed out of stomach. What is your opinion? I remember once reading that in Denmark (I believe it is) it is customary to let horses have water while feeding, and it was claimed that broken-winded horses were practically unknown, and the fact was attributed to this. F. H. W.

Ans.—We should not consider it necessary, or even desirable, to have provision for the horses to drink every time they took a notion. These automatic watering devices are usually attended with disadvantages. Our own practice is to feed hay first thing, then attend to stables, grooming and harnessing, then water and feed grain. We prefer not to water immediately after feeding grain.

### Preventing Sore Shoulders.

A correspondent of the Breeders' Gazette, as the result of ten years' experience, strongly recommends, for preventing sore shoulders, lining the sweat-pad, or collar that comes next the shoulder, with pure white oil-cloth. Put the smooth part of it next the shoulder, lining the pad or collar all through, and sewing it in around the edges. The collars can be washed off and kept clean.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Stable Hints.

A card and brush should be kept and used in every cattle stable.

Five minutes will suffice to drive spikes in the walls to hang dung forks on.

The stable will look neater with utensils carefully hung up, time will be saved by having a place for things, and an ugly accident may possibly be avoided.

Regularity in the order, as well as the hour of milking, feeding and watering, is desirable.

Comfort pays.

Harsh words tell in the milk flow or the daily rate of gains.

You know how it feels to lie on a lumpy straw tick or mattress. A soft, even bed is appreciated by the cow or steer, as well as by yourself.

Littered alleyways spell waste, and bespeak the slovenly farmer.

Do not forget to put a few oats in the calf's feed-box. Calves will eat whole oats about as soon as anything, and perhaps nothing is better for them, especially when the milk supply is short.

Do not commence too early to figure the cost of the calf's daily feed of milk. You may get cheaper gains on cheaper feed, but you will have a cheap, runty calf on which subsequent feeding will not tell as it should. All babies of mammals require milk, and cannot get the start they should without a fair amount of it. It is extreme penny-wisdom to stint a young calf or colt or pig for the sake of a few quarts of milk. Immediate cash return is not everything. Look ahead.

There are a large number of scrawny cows being raised in the cheese sections of Canada for the lack of a little good calf-feeding.

Do not shrink from the tuberculin test. Welcome it as the sunlight, and utilize discreetly the knowledge it supplies.

To supplement skim milk in calf-feeding, nothing better than a handful of flax seed has been discovered. It may be simmered to a jelly, or merely scalded at feeding time.