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JUNE 7, 1906

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

919

|                                                                                          |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Loss on operation of winter steamers<br>(million-dollar investments) .....               | \$150,000        |
| Depreciation, at 10% .....                                                               | 100,000          |
| Insurance .....                                                                          | 100,000          |
| Subsidies paid steamers .....                                                            | 20,000           |
| Subsidies paid telegraphs .....                                                          | 7,500            |
| Salaries and contingencies .....                                                         | 50,000           |
| Int. on \$1,000,000, at 3% .....                                                         | 30,000           |
|                                                                                          | <b>\$167,500</b> |
| Int. on Island Claim for non-fulfillment<br>of contract, allowed yearly since 1901 ..... | \$ 30,000        |
| Int. on new claim .....                                                                  | 150,000          |
|                                                                                          | <b>\$180,000</b> |
| Extra earnings P. E. I. R. ....                                                          | \$101,000        |
| Extra earnings I. C. R. ....                                                             | 150,000          |
| Earnings of Tunnel .....                                                                 | 100,000          |
|                                                                                          | <b>\$351,000</b> |
|                                                                                          | <b>\$998,500</b> |

### CONTRA ACCOUNT.

|                                                       |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Int. at 3% on \$10,000,000, cost of tun-<br>nel ..... | \$300,000        |
| Up-keep and depreciation .....                        | 30,000           |
|                                                       | <b>\$330,000</b> |
| Annual balance in favor of Tunnel .....               | <b>\$668,500</b> |

Thus it will be seen that we are asking for nothing unreasonable in asking for a tunnel. The indirect benefits to Maritime Canada we cannot now take time to demonstrate, but they must be self-evident.

A. E. BURKE.

### Rules Must be Observed.

It is astonishing how many correspondents fail to comply with the conditions laid down in the standing publisher's announcement on the second page of reading matter of each issue of this paper. Then, too, we have dozens of unanswered questions in hand that do not bear full name and address of any subscriber on our lists. We have anonymous contributions on various questions from people who are not subscribers, nor, so far as we can ascertain, sons, wives or daughters of subscribers. If all people would comply with the requirements of the publication they seek access to, they would save themselves and the editors much trouble.

An Oxford County subscriber, who writes regarding the appointment of expert judges at the fairs, omitted to sign his name. We cannot give attention to anonymous communications or enquiries.

## HORSES.

"Any prospect of horse values declining within the next five years?" was asked an Ontario horse dealer a short while ago. "I don't see how they can," was his reply. "Manitoba and the Northwest will take all the surplus horses we can raise, to say nothing of those required for railroad construction in Eastern Canada. The outlook for the Canadian farmer who is raising horses is bright." The above, we believe, pretty nearly expresses the general opinion on the subject.

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While there is no objection to working the mare suckling a foal, it is important not to overheat her, nor to expect her to do as much work as if unencumbered with the sucker. Milking uses up food and vitality. So does work; and the best nurse is pretty sure to have her milkflow decreased by too severe demands on her energy in the field. Since every bit of growth the suckling colt puts on increases his size when mature, it is of the utmost importance that the dam have a chance to nourish him to the full extent of his needs. Oversize is not a common defect of Canadian horseflesh. We need all the weight we can get, especially in draft stock. Give the colt a good start.

### The American Saddle Horse.

A breeder, contributing to the third volume of the "American Saddle Horse Register," and writing of the American saddle horse, says:

"The first requisite to be considered in a saddle horse is the quality of being sure-footed; the second, that of a kind disposition, coupled with a good mouth; third, courage and ambition; fourth, the conformation of a weight carrier; fifth, gaits and manners. Neither the first qualification, nor the order in which it is placed, will be disputed. No stumbling horse should ever be mounted. Almost every person who has seen a horse knows the meaning of a kind disposition to a certain extent, and none can possibly appreciate it more than the rider. The saddle horse should, by all means, have a level head, and no one thing has tendency to produce this more than a good mouth. When drawing in the reins on a start, there should be a perceptible yielding of the lower jaw, followed by a steady pressure, wil-

lingly given in such a way that the rider may at all times "feel" the horse's mouth, and the absence of a desire to pull or lug should be marked. The mouth is many times the root of all evil, and the thought of its influence upon the horse's disposition should never leave the rider's mind."

### Side-check and Over-check.

A subject which deserves more attention than it usually receives is the matter of check-reining horses. The unsightly over-check is still used on many horses which should no more wear it than a man should wear high-heeled boots, and every physiologist knows that is injurious. From casual observation, we should say that about one horse out of fifty is improved by the over-check; most of the rest are made uncomfortable and unattractive by it. The effect of an over-check is to cause the horse to hold his nose out till his face approaches the horizontal position. This at once destroys the beautiful natural arch of the neck, and gives the animal a stilted carriage, painful to the admirer of equine contour. It is, moreover, a torture to the horse, for, in order to ease the pressure of the rein, he holds his head as nearly as possible in line with the axis of the cervical vertebrae (bones of the neck), giving the unnatural appearance described above, and making it necessary to have the check inordinately short to keep the head elevated to the desired height, which, by the way, is nearly always unreasonable.



An American Gaited Saddle Horse.

as is the tight-waist lacing which ladies practice in obedience to the decree of fashion. We have nothing to say against the check-rein on horses, nor the corset on women, but we object to the extremes. A few horses are improved by the overdraw; for instance, those which naturally arch the neck to excess, holding the nose in too close to the neck. An over-check will rather improve the appearance of such a one, on the same principle that it detracts from that of those with the opposite habit. Some claim, also, that a ewe-necked, trotting-bred single roadster looks better with the over-check. That is a matter of opinion, perhaps. It is a fact that liverymen generally use the over-check on the most of their single harness. One explained to us lately that it was because nearly all the single harness was now made that way. He admitted that it was not comfortable for the horse, and, personally, he was not partial to its appearance. Another compared the over-check to the docked tail, and said both were affected for much the same reason which induced men to endure the inconvenience of high starched collars. They seemed to think they "weren't in it" without following the fashion in these matters.

All agree that the over-check is useful in controlling a hard-mouthed horse, or one that is inclined to take the bit in his teeth. Let it be relegated to this use, and, for the trustworthy, tractable horse, may it go speedily out of style. Take note of this point, and compare the effect of the above two kinds of check-reins on the horses that come under your observation.

### A Constant Lover.

I have taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for over twenty-eight years, and love it still.  
Taunton, Ont. W. J. LANGMAID.

### A Fallacious Theory.

An Englishman writes of a much-discussed theory as follows:

The theory of saturation is one which, partly, no doubt, owing to its incorporation in a book on breeding race-horses, has obtained world-wide credence. In the words of Mr. Bruce Lowe, the prophet, if not the propounder, it is defined as follows: "Briefly put, it means that with each mating and bearing the dam absorbs some of the nature of actual circulation of the yet unborn foal, until she eventually becomes saturated with the sire's nature or blood, as the case may be." This theory is so nearly identical with that of Telegony, or the Influence of the Previous Sire, that we may as well take the two together. Telegony is, as a rule, considered to be the result of influence on the germ cells alone, whereas the definition of saturation implies an actual change in the organs and tissues of the dam. That the first sire, or a previous sire, does exert some influence on the future progeny of the female, is universally held and acted upon. Farmers all over the country firmly believe that, by putting a mare first to a Thoroughbred, they ensure "quality" in her future progeny by a heavier sire. Among all classes of breeders, too, the belief that the production of a mongrel or crossbred will spoil a female in future for the pure breeding of her own kind, is strongly held. Many instances of the appearance of puppies resembling previous sires could be quoted, but we do not attach much importance to these so-called authentic cases, all drawn, curiously enough, from the kennels, be-

cause, owing to the peculiar habits of the dog, the paternity of a litter is often open to doubt. The whole matter is of much interest and importance to naturalists and breeders, and has so recently been the subject of investigation and controversy, that a repetition of a story of the origin of the modern belief in Telegony may not be without interest.

In 1820 Lord Morton communicated "a singular fact in natural history," in a letter to the President of the Royal Society. Being the possessor of a male quagga, he mated him with a young chestnut, seven-eighths-bred Arab mare which had never been bred from before. The result was a female hybrid. The mare subsequently passed into the hands of Sir Gore Ouseley, who bred from her on two occasions by a very fine

black Arabian horse a colt and a filly. These colts are described and pictured as having the character of the Arabian breed, but both in their coloration and in the hair of their manes they bore a striking resemblance to the quagga. Both were bay and possessed dorsal stripes, stripes across the shoulders, and dark bars across the back part of the legs, and their manes were said to be entirely or partially upright. This seems conclusive proof enough, as far as it goes, that the quagga had "infected" the seven-eighths-bred Arab mare, and until recently it was accepted without question. One point, however, is worth investigation. Could the "very fine black Arabian horse" have been pure-bred? It is generally held by those most qualified to judge that such a thing as a pure black Arab does not exist. If this is so, the colts produced by the chestnut mare may have been thorough mongrels instead of fifteen-sixteenths Arabian blood, in which case reversion or the reproduction of an ancestral type of coloration would not be surprising. In any case, with this lapse of time, we must not pin too much faith to this example of apparent Telegony as proof of the soundness of the doctrine. Such authorities as Captain Hayes, Spencer, Romanes and Darwin believe more or less firmly in the influence of the previous sire, while against them we find the opinion of Professor Ewart, Weismann, and a number of German breeders.

One would have thought that definite information would have been obtainable from mule breeders in the United States and France, but some accept the infection of the germ theory, while others affirm that they have never seen any evidence of its influence. It is suggestive that, as a rule, certain mares are kept specially for mule breeding alone, and are seldom, if ever, allowed to breed their own species after producing a hybrid.

The thanks of breeders are certainly due to