

(feelers), their extremely large front wings as compared with the very small hind wings and long slender filaments, two or three in number, at the end of the abdomen.

The early stages in the life of the shad flies are passed in the water, where they remain from two to three years. These larvae are active creatures, with long, strong legs, and they breathe by means of gills. They feed upon the low plant forms known as diatoms and green algae. They may be found on the under surface of stones or on muddy bottoms. The larva changes into a nymph, and after feeding for a while in this stage it floats at the surface of the water, the skin of the back opens and the winged insect flies away. A peculiar feature in the life history of these insects is that there is a moult after the fly issues from the nymph stage. It leaves the water in what is called the sub-imago stage (imago being the term applied to a perfect insect), and it is the cast skins of this moult that we see hanging on fence rails, telegraph poles and other objects. The life of the adult is very short, being about three or four days. During this time they mate, lay their eggs and then die.

The larvae of the shad flies are a very important fish food, being largely eaten by bass, perch, catfish and numerous other fresh-water fishes. The adult flies are also eaten in large quantities by fishes.

The basswood trees are now in blossom, and they are a gathering place for insects of various kinds. Hither come the honey bees, wasps, flies and butterflies, to feed on the nectar which is held in the hollow sepals of the flower. In return for the feast of nectar, the insects bring about the pollination of the flowers. The stamens in the basswood are turned outward, so that the pollen from any flower is not deposited on the stigma of the same flower, but is carried by the insect visitors to another flower, where it comes in contact with the stigma.

The flowers of the basswood send out invitation to the insects in the form of a most delightful perfume, which is as attractive to our sense of smell as it evidently is to the insect.

Proper Co-operation.

By Peter McArthur.

Yesterday I got a letter that gave me a great deal of satisfaction, as it contained the first evidence I have seen that Canadians are becoming capable of self-government. Up to the present we have had the government of the people, by political parties for the interests that supply the campaign funds. Of course this has given us a stable form of government, though not of a kind that is recognized by historians or economists. Historians would regard such a government, as I have outlined, as a form of anarchy—and the history of the present age remains to be written. There is no knowing what the historians of the future may say when they come to sum up the forces that control the country. The popular impression is that under a constitutional monarchy we are enjoying a true democracy—a government of the people, for the people, by the people. It is well that this impression prevails for it is helping to educate the people to a proper ideal, but not until yesterday did I find any evidence that this ideal is being given a practical application. The letter I got shows that steps are being taken to conduct the business of the people, for the people, by the people. This is only another way of stating Lincoln's definition of government. The government of the people is most emphatically the business of the people. The terms are interchangeable.

As is entirely fitting, this letter was not received from anyone connected with government business. I doubt if the writer of this significant letter had any idea that he was helping to lay the foundations of a true democracy. He was merely attending to a simple matter of business in a direct and logical way. Here is a copy of the letter:

Jackville, Alberta, July 19th.

Dear Sir:

Sometime last fall or winter you mentioned that the farmers in your district had organized an association for the co-operative marketing of your fruit, of which you were secretary. Now, the farmers out West here have also been organizing, with the purpose of buying goods co-operatively. We have a branch of the United Farmers of Alberta here and have had some success in buying such articles as flour, salt and binder twine by the carload lot. Now we want to get a carload of apples next fall, and I thought your association would be a place where we could get a square deal. Kindly inform me if you could ship a carload of apples, and what varieties there would be a choice of. I suppose it is too early yet to quote prices definitely. Please hand this letter to the secretary of the Association if you no longer hold that office. I remain, yours truly,

W. L. SIMMONS.

Well, I am not the secretary, but I know where to find him. I shall take pleasure in handing

this letter to him, not because it will probably mean the sale of a carload of our apples, but because I am glad to be used as a go-between in an act that indicates the beginning of self-government. When people who want to buy organize so as to deal with people who want to sell, we are at the beginning of a new era in which capital will be a servant rather than the master, and in which the whole race of profit-takers will be wiped out. When people learn to deal with one another in that way, special privileges will be impossible and party government a tale that is told.

When we organized our Apple Growers' Association, I was not aware of any particular outburst of public spirit. We simply organized for the more or less selfish purpose of marketing our apples to the best advantage. We were just as eager as any private individual could be to get the best price going, and by being organized we hoped to get it. But there was no thought of getting to the consumer direct. We would simply have to do the best we could with the dealers, and get as much as we could for apples that might be retailed to the consumers of the West at three pounds for a quarter, or about \$18.00 a barrel. The best we could hope to do would be to take from two to three dollars a barrel for our apples, and let a lot of other people take profits on them before they reached the consumer. And now, behold, a group of consumers are offering to deal with us direct. It is quite true that we cannot hope to get any better price from them than we would get from the dealers, for these men are wide-awake buyers and they want the apples at our market price. But notice what will happen if we deal with them. If they give us the best market price of, say, \$3.00 a barrel f. o. b. Glencoe, for our apples, they can have these apples delivered at Jackville for about \$1.75 a barrel, making a total of \$4.75 a barrel, as against the present retail price of \$13.00 a barrel. There you have a saving of \$8.00 a barrel, and we are not wiping out the middlemen either. The secretaries of both our associations are being paid for their services as middlemen. We are simply putting an end to the burdensome waste of the present system of conducting business. And it is in this region of waste that all the trusts and mergers and Big Interests, that control political parties, have their existence. Instead of helping the work of distribution they are hampering it so that they may take profits at every step. But if the people learn to co-operate in buying and selling, it will not be long until they learn to co-operate in the manufacturing of all kinds of necessities. They will also help in the distribution of goods along co-operative lines, and when election time comes around they will probably reach a point where they will co-operate in putting in a useful government instead of fighting about it as we do now. At different times there have been letters in "The Farmer's Advocate" urging the formation of a new political party that would represent the farmers, but I cannot see that such a movement would do any good even if it were possible. But, as I see it, every advance along the lines of co-operation is a step towards better government, and the hope of the future lies in the organization of co-operative societies for both buying and selling, wherever possible. Competition is waste and monopoly is even greater waste, but co-operation means fair play and up-right dealing, and a general lessening of burdens. While co-operative societies were one-sided, that is, while they were organized solely for the benefit of a few buyers or a few sellers, they were having no appreciable effect on the affairs of the country. But when the organized buyers deal

directly with the organized sellers, we get a demonstration of the proper and most economical distribution of commodities that cannot help being of the highest educative value. The basic idea of government is co-operation in conducting all the business of the country, but the aim of the party system is to divide the people so that a few may profit. I would really have to write a book to explain all the significance I find in this little incident, but the best I can do is to ask the meditative reader to consider the fact, that in the little co-operative deal in which I have the honor to have a finger, the producers will undoubtedly get the highest market price, and the consumers will get their apples for about one-half or perhaps one-third the price they would have to pay in the ordinary course of business. The waste that takes place between the producer and consumer in every department of life is probably about the same, and the result is a privileged class who can take unearned profits because they have capital. The beauty of co-operation is that in a great measure it takes the place of capital, and where it does not it still reduces it from the position of master to servant. Let the good work go on. Let the producers organize to produce and sell, and the consumers organize to buy. Then let them get together, and the first thing you know the plain people will be in control of the business and government of the country. Of course it will take time, but we have started in the right direction, and sometime things will work out right.

THE HORSE.

It is not too late yet to breed the mare. Better success often follows with breeding a little late than too early.

Good colts are a good advertisement for the stud. Bring them out and show the world what you have. It will pay.

Lose no time from this time forward in the preparation and training of the horses and colts for the show season now approaching.

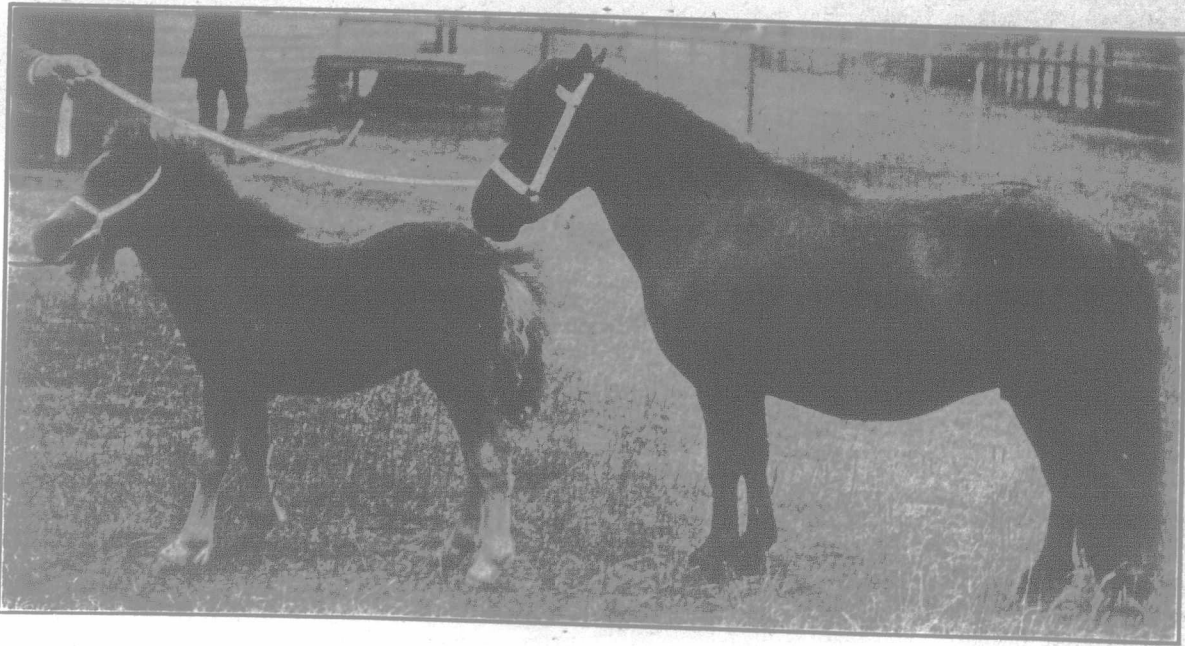
A subscriber draws attention to an error in the period of gestation of the mare as it appeared on page 1290 of our issue of July 24th. It should have read 340 days in place of 240 days.

Our Scottish letter this week points out that the big gelding is about the best advertisement for a heavy-draft breed of horses. Let us produce more of them.

After all there are only a few real toppers, and when a stallion of this class comes into a district, even though his service is held at a high figure, it will generally pay to breed to him.

Notwithstanding the fact that many people have been prophesying lower prices and a slow demand for horses during the coming year, the big stallion owners of Ontario report very successful seasons this year.

Take a look at the colt's feet. It is not wise to let the youngsters run all season without attention. While they are young their feet need attention as well as when they reach working age.



A Nice Pair.

Shetland pony mare and foal. First and champion at the Royal Show, Bristol, Eng.