Clover to Prevent Pigs Crippling.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I have read with great interest during the past winter a number of letters regarding rheumatism in pigs and the different opinions of the writers. Some think it is due to stone stables or cement stables; some think it caused by sleeping on cement floors; and others believe that feeding too much shorts or other heavy feed is the cause, but whatever the cause it is a known fact that there were hundreds of crippled pigs last winter which caused a great loss to their owners for they are no good while suffering from the disorder and I have noticed in other years that if they live until spring comes and you can get them out where they can pick some grass or clover they gradually recover and they can be finished off for market during the summer. But a great many of them do not live that long, so I think that what appears to cure them, should be a very good preventive of the trouble and that is the reason I am trying to let your numerous readers know what I think will prevent the trouble. I will give you the experience of four farmers all living on adjoining farms. Between us we have fed, since last fall, over 100 pigs. Two of these farmers have cement stables under their barns with cement floors, one has plank about 6 inches off the floor the other has just the cement for the pigs to sleep on. Mine is a stone stable with cement floors with a gutter through the pen to keep it dry; the other is just a frame shed on the west end of the barn and very cold with a cement floor. The first three have the heat from about twenty cattle in each stable, the last gets no other heat at all, and out of over 100 pigs of all sizes in these four pens we have not had a sign of stiffness. Now we attribute our success or good luck as some call it to the fact that we have all fed clover in some form ever since last fall. We take a barrel, a linseed oil barrel is good, and we mix one half cut clover and half meal of some kind by measure. I take a pail full of the clover and a pail full of meal until the barrel is about three-quarters full then fill with water until we can stir it all together thoroughly. We try to have from one feed to one day's feed mixed all the time. We feed this until about three weeks or a month before they are sold. During the last month we used less clover and more meal. This makes excellent feed for growing pigs or brood sows and it certainly cuts down the expense of the feed bill. I would advise any farmer who has not tried it to make arrangements this summer and try clover next winter. What we prefer most is to save alfalfa very green, A good plan is to cut a piece of the finest clover (as the coarse stalks are not so good) coil it up as soon as it is a little dry to prevent the leaves from dropping off, and as soon as it is ready put it in a handy place to get at in the fall, then run it through a good cutting box, cutting it as fine as possible or where the hay is put out of the mow sometimes we get a lot of leaves which fall off. Try this plan and I think you will be satisfied with the result.

Huron Co., Ont. J. H.

Automobiles, Farm Machinery and Farm Motors.

The Storage Battery.

Although it is a very vital part of an automobile, the storage battery is not thoroughly understood by many motorists. The functions it performs are extremely necessary, and so, too great a measure of attention cannot be given. Because the battery concerns electricity, it does not find as many students as it should. There is nothing about it very mysterious, however, and perhaps in a brief, popular way we can present information that may prove valuable. Because a storage battery wears with use, there is every reason for careful maintenance. You can lengthen the life of a battery and you can shorten it just as you desire. The plates in a battery are covered with a solution known as "electrolyte". This is a combination of sulphuric acid and distilled water. For the best operation, a specific gravity of 1.270 to 1.300 should be maintained. Perhaps it would be well to explain that by specific gravity is meant the weight of a substance in comparison with water. Pure water is always used as a unit by which to measure the specific gravity of other liquids, and so it is referred to as 1.000. You will now understand what we mean when we say the specific gravity of the electrolyte should be from 1.270 to 1.300. To be perfectly plain, it should be about a quarter to a third heavier than water. Concentrated sulphuric acid is 1.835 and distilled or perfectly pure water is used to reduce the gravity. Never use any water that has touched metal. Perhaps the best way to get the distilled water is to gather it in some earthenware vessel during a rainstorm.

The instrument used to determine the specific gravity of the electrolyte is called a hydrometer syringe. This mechanism consists of a closed glass tube with a long stem of small diameter, inside of which you will find a graduated scale. The hydrometer floats upright in the electrolyte and the figure at the surface indicates the gravity. A hydrometer syringe does not cost much and is absolutely essential if there is any plan you purpose instituting for the safe-guarding of your storage battery. If your gravity goes below 1.250 it will be necessary to charge the battery with direct current. Alternating current cannot be used as it will cause injury rather than benefit. However, if an alternating current is the only one available, you must, of necessity, provide apparatus for converting it into a direct current. It is very easy for you to decide when a sufficient battery charge has been inserted for you will notice that all the cells are bubbling uniformly, and you will also be able to determine that the specific gravity and voltage of all the cells have reached a maximum, when you know that for a period of five hours they have ceased to rise. Even a novice can tell when the battery is out of order because a number of conditions cannot fail to assert themselves. The lamps may be burning dimly or the hydrometer readings may indicate exhaustion.

Should the electrolyte be spilled out of the battery, it is a simple matter to return a proper proportion of concentrated sulphuric acid and water in order to supply enough liquid to cover the plates. You know just exactly what specific gravity is desired and before filling with the liquid you will have to determine that the proportions are accurate. It is a good policy to put a little water in your battery every week and maintain a positive level. In the winter time, owing to atmospheric conditions, there is not as much demand for water as there is in the summer when temperatures are high. When the weather is cold, always add your water just before running the car and if the thermometer is very low, start the engine before adding the water. You will, of course, understand that water is lighter than sulphuric acid, and so if it is put in a battery that is to remain quiet for any length of time, freezing is bound to take place because the water will remain upon the surface and not mix. When the engine is running, the electrolyte is thoroughly mixed with the water as the charging current produces gassing. We would remind you that the filling plugs should always be kept in a state of perfect purity. Cleanliness cannot be too rigorously enforced. All of the connections also should be as tight as possible. A dirty battery is not an efficient one, and it is effeciency that we must constantly seek.

AUTO.

Canada's Young Farmers and Future Leaders.

Preparing Entries for the Fall Fairs.

In less than three months the fall fairs and exhibitions will be in full swing. The professional exhibitors have already commenced preparing their exhibits. In fact, some commenced last winter to train and fit their stock for this fall. Experience has taught them that where they come into competition with breeders of high-class stock they must have their animals as nearly perfect as possible in every detail. They breed so that the entries in the junior classes will be of an age to show to best advantage. The mature animals are looked after in a manner that will put them in high condition. In every class of stock, even to pigs, it is necessary to train the animals to stand in a position that will show their good points favorably. Many choice animals have suffered defeat in the show-ring because their owners failed to give them the necessary training. Cattle and horses should be well halter broken. A judge can hardly be expected to pay much attention to stock that is constantly jumping around. It takes time for stock to acquire show-ring etiquette. To see a line-up of cattle or horses that are veterans in the show-ring, one cannot help but think that the animals understand the importance of position. Constant training has brought this about. It is not so easy fitting stock for exhibition as it would appear at first glance. It is an art acquired through years of practice.

Boys and young men of to-day will be the exhibitors of the future and the importance of their position can only be realized when it is remembered that the show-ring to a large extent sets type for the community. To be successful at large exhibitions it is necessary to go through a period of training in fitting and showing for local fairs. Everything must have a beginning and the township fair is a good place to start in the exhibition business.

It is the duty of every young man if he has reasonably good stock on the place to fit it for the local fair which requires support of all stockmen in the neighborhood to make it a success. Without live stock most exhibitions would fall flat. Give the neighbors an opportunity to see what you can produce on the old farm and by reason of coming in close touch with other exhibitors you will no doubt pick up information that will aid you in further preparing your herd for shows. There is no reason why two or three men should drive their stock from fair to fair all fall, "copping off" the greater portion of the prize money. In every community there are animals that would compete favorably with the best usually brought out if they were given a little fitting and training. The writer knows of local fairs that have been greatly improved by the young men helping in the management and bringing out the best stock they had on the place. While they were not very successful the first year in the show-ring, they profited by their experience and came back the following year and were able to get to the top in several classes. This had the effect of waking up the old exhibitors who were used to having things their own way, and encouraged other young men to make entries. Stronger competition is not only good for the fair but it has a tendency to improve the quality of live stock kept in the community. The ambitious boy doesn't like to see the other fellow get ahead of him, consequently he secures good stock, trains and shows it. At many fairs there are classes for amateurs so that those starting have an opportunity of winning some prizes. However, the prize should not be the whole aim. The educational value ought to be considered. Look over the home stock and see if there is not something that could be shown. It may be a team of horses, a colt, or the driver, or possibly some of the cattle, sheep or hogs could be put in condition and trained in readiness for the show season. Maybe you could make several entries in the poultry department. Think it over and decide on what you will show in time to permit of training and fitting. Don't do like some have done in the past—just take the animals because they happen to know that certain classes have very few entries and they will run a chance of making a little money. Be a sport; fit your stock and make it worthy of you and of the farm. If you fail to get near the top you will at least feel that you have done your best. Be a good loser and remember that it is more honor to stand fifth or sixth in a class of eight or ten, than to get the red ribbon without competition.

The stock to be shown this fall may require a little more feed than that furnished by the pasture field, a little grooming may be necessary, and it is essential to train the animals to do what you want them to. Lead them around and bring up in line with their legs squarely under them. By doing this a few times they get to know what is expected of them. Have a talk with some good stockman who has been successful in strong competition. He may give you pointers which will prove of great value in putting on the finishing touches before the fair.

Those who have no live stock to exhibit may show grain, vegetables or fruit. Not much can be done in preparing these until harvest time. Then select the best portion of the field, cut the mature grain, thresh it and keep it separate from the main crop. Of course this necessitates extra work and some may think it isn't worth the bother, but the training in selecting and exhibiting is worth more to a young man than mere dollars and cents. A considerable quantity of grain, potatoes or roots is necessary from which to pick the bushel or whatever amount the prize list calls for. The work entailed in picking out material which meets your ideal is considerable, as all who follow the exhibitions know. The same is true with fruits and small vegetables.

With scarcity of help many do not care to undertake anything which makes extra work. However, a little time might be found to prepare a few entries for the local fair. The stock will be the better for it even if they are not exhibited. There should be something worthy of being shown, grown or produced on every farm. If there isn't it is time a change was made in the methods of farming employed. If parents do not take an interest in such things there are few who would object to their boys and girls becoming interested; in fact, most parents encourage it.

If every young man entered one or two animals or exhibited a few samples of grain, roots, vegetables or fruit, what a difference it would make to the fair, and if each exhibitor learned a point or two about breeding, fitting and showing stock and put their newly-found information into practice it would tend to increase their interest in farming and make it a more profitable occupation. If every young man could and would fit an animal that would look good in the local show-ring this fall, it would have a great influence on the live-stock industry of our country. Look the stock over carefully and see if some of it couldn't be fitted for exhibition. Remember, it isn't a bit too early to commence preparation for the fall fair. Do your best and, if defeated, try, try again.

Aiming at Owning a Farm.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE."

One hundred acres of fairly level, well-drained, clay loam is the size of farm I would like to manage. I would prefer having ten acres of wood-lot at the back of the farm and the other ninety acres divided into five fields of fifty acres each, and one twelve-acre field, leaving three acres for garden, orchard, yards and laneway. The reason I prefer a farm of this size is that I could do the work myself, with the aid of labor-saving machinery, when hired help is not available. I would arrange to change work with a neighbor when harvesting the crops. This size of farm would not necessitate so large an investment as would a larger acreage, thus leaving more money for equipment and stock.

I would buy one or two pure-bred, dual-purpose Shorthorn cows; these along with four or five grade