

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE DOMINION.

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How to Raise Good Litters.

After the pigs are farrowed we give the sow nothing for twelve hours. Then begin with water and bran, gradually increasing the feed for a week, when, if the sow has done well, she should be on full feed. What I mean by full feed is not all the sow can eat, but enough feed to produce all the milk the pigs can take without injury. Sows differ in their characteristics, and to feed them intelligently the feeder should be acquainted with these characteristics. Many pigs receive a backset early in life, that they never fully recover from, because of the careless way their dams were fed.

Just as soon as the pigs manifest a disposition to eat, we let them into a place where the sow cannot follow, and give them some fresh skim milk with a little shorts added. As soon as they have learned to eat, we feed them quite liberally shorts and barley chop mixed and fed dry, with plenty of water to drink in a separate trough. When the pigs are two months old I shut the sows up in another building, and feed them nothing but dry grain and water for a week. By this method there is generally no trouble with their udders, and it also allows the pigs to keep their own pens and all the outdoor exercise they have a mind to take. We then feed wheat and barley, ground fine, with a little flaxseed meal added, and soaked from one feed to another. Care must be taken to regulate the grain feed to suit the wants of the pigs. When the pasture is plentiful they will need less, and *vice versa*, but when the pastures are over-succulent, as they are sometimes in wet seasons, an increase in the relative quantities of meal fed will be found an advantage. The meal and grain are fed in the pens morning and evening, but not at noon, and when pigs cannot be let out on pasture, they should get a portion of green food every day, selecting, of course, from what may be in season. When it is not convenient to feed them green food twice a day, it may be given as the noon meal.

By having good stock to start with, not keeping too many together, using good grain, common sense in caring for them, and feeding liberally, as above indicated, it is no trouble to make young hogs weigh from 175 to 200 pounds at six or seven months of age.

Crystal City,

W. L. TRANN.

Northern Alberta for Stock Raisers.

A trip up the Calgary and Edmonton road to the northern terminus at Strathcona, is a revelation to the Easterner of the possibilities of that country. Although under the temporary disadvantage of a series of heavy rainfalls, the depth of rich black, almost inexhaustible soil, the bluffs and streams, the rich grasses, etc., show conclusively that as a stock country this territory is hard to equal. The cattle are all in good condition, and are a speaking testimony to the nutritive properties of the grasses. With a cool climate and moist soil, one is not surprised to learn of Edmonton oats winning at Paris. Dotted along the line are numerous little villages, each claiming superiority for its district. In the Olds district, the land appears freer of brush than further north, and is eminently adapted for stock-raising, little attempt being made to grow grain. From the railroad can be seen fine houses, evidences of the district's wealth. At Innisfail, further north, the land takes on a different appearance: more bluffly and suited to mixed farming. At this point is a large Government creamery, at which the patron's cream is made up into butter at a cost of four to five cents a pound. The contributors are paid every month ten cents a pound on their butter, the balance coming at the end of the season, when the cost of manufacturing is deducted. The benefit to the farmers and small towns can be imagined by the monthly distribution of cash.

Midway from Calgary to Edmonton is the thriving town of Red Deer, surrounded by a typical stock-raising and dairying country. A Government creamery and a sawmill indicate the leading industries of the district.

At Lacombe the character of the country changes markedly, being flatter, although east of the town a few miles is a beautiful country on a gentle slope. As referred to in the Gossip column, Lacombe is the great center of the pure-bred herds of cattle. Oats is the principal grain marketed, for which provision is being made in the erection of a fine elevator. The land varies from a sandy loam to a black loam. The settlement here is mainly Canadians. At Ponoka, about twenty miles north, Americans have gone in in large numbers. Some large-sized timber is floated down to the sawmill there. This is also a mixed-farming country. The town is situated on a rise of ground, the soil seeming to be somewhat sandy. Wetaskiwin is another creamery point and oat-raising center, two elevators being erected here. A large Government creamery is located here also, to look after the dairying interests. This spot seems a favorite with settlers, and all nationalities are rushing in, the soil being of much the same general character as the previous points. Between this point and Ponoka, to the south, is a beautiful country, part of which is included in an Indian reserve, the station being Hobbema. Leduc is another thriving town, with elevator and other facilities for business. Frenchmen are quite numerous in this neighborhood, dairying here again being the mainstay. At Strathcona, the present terminus of the line, large elevators and oatmeal mills are located. The country around is very fine, the soil being very deep and rich. The country close around is well settled up, and one hears of big crop yields, 100 bushels to the acre of oats being a common yield. A drive of three miles, necessitating the crossing of the iron bridge over the Saskatchewan, brings one to the old town of Edmonton, modern in its appointments, electric light, telephones and schools. Here a person can see the gold dredge at work, and the Hull-Gallagher packing houses. The soil here is of the same tenacious character as that south of the river, and is as productive, as is demonstrated at the fairs held here. In the vicinity are noted districts such as Horse Hills, Spruce Grove, Clover Bar, and Lac du Bie. The settlement extends for miles north of the town. Judging from appearances, a person would say that for farms close to the railroad, dairying will pay, owing to the proximity of the creameries, while back from the road ranching can be carried on. Some of the towns have very flat sites, and unless great care is taken with regard to the night soil, the wells and stagnant pools will receive a sad baptism of typhoid, an experience some Manitoba towns with similar sites have gone through years ago. In a country where land is so plentiful and cheap, it is hard to understand why townspeople will crowd so close together, and thus prove a menace to their own health, besides making the insurance rates so high. Such close quarters cannot be made attractive in the way of lawns, gardens and trees. Children, of course, are to be seen all along the line, and the main agricultural structure of nearly all the villages is the modern schoolhouse. Education is the great force, after all!

With the Institute Workers.

The opening meetings of the summer series of Farmers' Institutes, which began on July 2nd, were not generally largely attended. The weather conditions were unfavorable, roads bad, summer-fallow and other urgent work pressing on the farms, and in some districts the celebration of Dominion Day exhausted the interest and enthusiasm, and we fear also that in some cases local secretaries had been remiss in their duties and failed to properly advertise the meetings.

The meeting held at Carman on July 2nd, at which the speakers were Miss Maddock, of the Ontario Institute staff, and Provincial Veterinarian S. J. Thompson, was not largely attended. Good meetings were, however, held on the following days at Miami and Morden.

Miss Maddock is a clear, pleasing speaker, and her easy manner gives assurance that she knows what she is talking about. At Carman she took for her subject, Bacteriology. In Ontario, she said, there was a great awakening, not only among the farmers, but among the farmers' wives, and women's Institutes are being organized in a great many districts. The reason for this revival of interest was that the Institute workers were now making a science of the work, and the agriculturists realized that science, instead of being a word to be afraid of, simply means a thorough knowledge of our work. When we realize the forces of nature with which we have to deal, our work, instead of being mere drudgery, becomes interesting. Bacteriology is a science closely related to agriculture, and directly affects many branches of farm work. Bacteria belong to the vegetable kingdom. They are very insignificant in size, but have wonderful powers of development in numbers. Some are beneficial, some are harmful; they are everywhere, in the air, in water, and in milk, and to understand something of the conditions in which they develop is of great benefit in carrying on one's work. In dairying, for instance, warmth, moisture and impurities favor germ development, hence the necessity of cleanliness, hot water, fresh air and sunshine. In the home, from cellar to bedroom, cleanliness and fresh air are the essentials of good health and good living. Miss Maddock enlarged upon the importance of these principles in the dairy, the house cellar, the bedrooms, giving good advice on the care of the sick, indicated briefly some of the salient points in connection with domestic economy as applied to the farm, and, in response to enquiries, spoke on the care of the cream separator, and went more fully into some details of home-dairy management.

Dr. Thompson spoke on contagious diseases of animals, selecting a few of the most common. He described the symptoms of blackleg, and pointed out the importance of burning the carcasses of all animals dying from this disease. He strongly recommended vaccination as a preventive, and stated that the Dominion Government now supplied the vaccine at cost.

Lump-jaw is not a contagious disease, but is conveyed into the system by the fungus, being picked up with grass, etc., where it may have been deposited from the discharge of an affected animal. Once in the mouth, the fungus may find lodgment in a decayed tooth or a sore, and then the disease rapidly develops. Taken in time, it is easily eradicated by the use of iodide or potassium. Fleming's Lump Jaw Cure may also be useful in early stages. It is unlawful to sell diseased animals, and bad cases should be killed and destroyed.

Swamp fever is very like typhoid in the human subject. Medicine is of little or no use without nursing. Give quinine in one-dram doses; plenty of milk to drink. Whiskey is also useful as a stimulant. The limbs should be well hand-rubbed and bandaged, and, above all, give plenty of fresh air and gentle exercise. Keep up the strength of the patient—don't physic or bleed. The Doctor said swamp fever was caused by feeding swamp hay and using swamp water. In those districts of the country where horses are fed on cultivated hay and straw, they are never troubled with this fever.

Glanders was also fully described, so that it might be detected in the early stages. Mange, lice, ticks, etc., were also discussed, and the free use of any of the well-known washes recommended, and the importance of repeating the application three or four times to insure killing all the eggs and leaving the animal clean.

The advisability of isolating any suspicious case of disease in any of the domestic animals was dwelt upon, and the necessity for cleanliness and fresh air in stables was emphasized.

Hens suffer from heat and will not do well in a hot, sunny yard. Trees and bushes give the best shade, but weeds are better than nothing. Put up an old door in an airy corner, if you have nothing better. Renew their water several times a day, and keep their drinking vessels clean.