

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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erature is "franked" at the public expense, doubtless on the ground that it contains information for the public.

The ½ cent per pound rate having been protested against as onerous, the Postmaster General at the session of Parliament just over introduced an amendment to reduce the postage on newspapers within the provinces in which they are published to ¼ of a cent per pound, while still charging half a cent per pound on those going from one province to another or out of the Dominion, and as we understand it, leaving the 20-mile zone still free, so that the ADVOCATE would have had the small free area, the provincial ¼ of a cent per pound rate, and beyond that the ½ cent rate—variety enough, in all conscience. The House of Commons passed the bill, but it was thrown out by the Senate bodily, for they could not modify it, it being held that an amendment would be one affecting revenue. If they have not the power to amend, they should have roused themselves a year earlier and thrown out the original measure. As a result the old injustice is still perpetuated.

It is lamentable that the postal administration that has shown such commendable energy in many directions, and has to its credit the introduction of the two-cent letter rate boon and Imperial penny postage, should be marred by a retrograde and petty newspaper postage policy.

The closer a journal or newspaper gets down to its constituency the more valuable is that paper to advertisers as well as to readers. The paper that merely attracts a glance at headlines or at pictures, or artistic effects, without winning personal interest and attention, followed by reading and careful reference or examination time after time, is of very little profit to advertisers, though the circulation may run into hundreds of thousands.

STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

The transition stage in Scottish agriculture through which we are at present passing is trying many usages and methods which had become hoary and venerable. The keenness of competition is driving the poetry out of agricultural life, and amongst the time-honored institutions about to pass away is the milkmaid. In the south the milkmaid is unknown, and the milkman has taken her place, but in not a few districts both milkman and milkmaid are awaiting. In this stress, men's eyes are naturally being turned to mechanical milkers, and several of these are on the market. Two were on trial at the recent show of the Royal at York, but the jurors declared that neither had sufficiency of merit to warrant an award being made. This is much to be regretted, as both are ingenious, and one patented by Mr. Wm. Murchland, Kilmarnock, is in constant use on farms in the west and southwest of Scotland. It extracts the milk from the teat by steady suction, and is thus devoid of the pulsating movement which accompanies the operations of the calf. This machine was awarded first prize a few years ago after an exhaustive trial by the Highland and Agricultural Society, and there can be no doubt in the mind of anyone who reads the reports of the jurors that relatively the decision was sound. Whether the absence of an award at the Royal, York, contradicts this is not known, but I should think it does not, for this reason: Awordedly, the Highland award was a decision on the relative merits of the competing machines, whereas the award at the Royal appears to have proceeded on the assumption that the judges were to make an award based, not on relative, but on absolute merit. The competing machines both in the Highland and the Royal trials had an extremely ingenious pulsating motion in the teat-cup which gives very much the same result as the intermittent suckling of the calf. Unfortunately, to obtain this motion somewhat intricate machinery is necessary, and while this is ingeniously contrived, it also makes it difficult to thoroughly clean the milking apparatus and tubes, and consequently the milk drawn by this pulsating machine was found to be of indifferent keeping quality. What really condemns these machines is the difficulty of keeping the mechanism clean, and although they embody an idea, until this difficulty be overcome they are not likely to prove an unqualified success.

Sheep-shearing by machinery has been fairly well established as a feasible idea, and there were two trials of such machinery at York. Both awards went to one house, the classification being for machines wrought by hand or foot and machines wrought by mechanical power. Such mechanism is likely to be pretty well known in Canada, and need not be written about in detail. So far no one has succeeded in applying the new electric-motive power to purposes of agriculture. Judging by what was seen at York, this is largely due to the fact that too many things are being attempted at first, and consequently the machines are frightfully clumsy. One such was on show at York, but it was so ungainly and unwieldy that it is far removed from the arena of commercial success. After all, there is no pressing need for undue haste in the application of electric-motive power to purposes of agriculture. The motor-car is very far from being a commercial success, and while no doubt the day is coming when the quick-acting economical motive power of electricity will be everywhere employed, the slower-going men who wait until they are able to see such power spelling success in a commercial sense will be the first to give it undivided support. A fatal blunder has been made by several agricultural engineers in placing new machines on the market embodying excellent ideas, but by no means matured, and so they have greatly retarded the genuine triumph of such inventions. There is luck in leisure here, as well as elsewhere, and the wise man hastens slowly.

Sheep breeders from all quarters held an international conference in York during the show. They consulted regarding many points of interest to their calling, their great idea being to do something to prevent fraud in connection with the sale and exportation of sheep. Some foreign and colonial speakers indicated a fear that a buyer did not always get the animal he purchased, and the problem was to discover some way in which fraud of this kind might be prevented. This is equivalent to the old search for an honest man, and the goal may be as difficult of attainment as in the other case. Sheep are not like horses; they cannot be described by specific natural marks, and yet it is beyond question that in quite a number of cases the horse buyer who came last may not have got the animal described in his certificate. How to prevent a similar course of substitution with rams is a much more difficult question, and the conference did not throw much light upon it. The best solution of the difficulty is to raise the moral tone of those engaged in this business so that without any external compulsion no man would dream of substituting one ram for another. Some may say that's the parson's job; and so it is, but it is everybody's job as well, and in this way alone lies hope of complete success in the cause upon which the Flockmasters' Federation is embarked.

"SCOTLAND YET."

Economical Horse Raising for Farmers.

The economic farmer who has sufficient work to do to justify him in keeping horses for that purpose is the man who can raise horses most economically, and with him the colt is a by-product, a net profit in the transaction. If a farmer has work for four horses, he can afford to keep five mares; or for two, he can keep three. Let them be good useful animals, of whatever breed, free from inheritable blemishes, and of good disposition. He should mate these with the best sires of the same breed in the vicinity, and should go to the trouble in connection with his neighbors of securing, either by forming a horse company or some other way, the services of a suitable horse in that neighborhood. He can use his mares right up to the time of foaling, provided they are put at ordinary farm work. They are then entitled to a couple of weeks' rest and can then be used during the summer at ordinary farm work, and with proper care he can grow the kind of a horse that farmers require. If any one fails to produce a colt in the spring, he can breed her for a fall colt, and in this way soon stock and overstock his farm with the kind of horses which the markets require. A good colt, well bred and well cared for, is salable at any time.

There are other farmers who are willing to buy these colts and grow them, for the very good reason that they can buy them cheaper than they can produce them. These are farmers that have a large amount of pasture, especially blue grass pasture, and are better prepared for grazing colts than growing them.

When the colt is coming three years old it should be sold, under ordinary circumstances, to the farmer who is mainly engaged in growing grain or for any reason wants young horses to work. These men keep them until they are ready to go to the city market, and can sell them at considerable advance on their cost.

The economical breeding and growing of horses is, therefore, the work of three or four different men. One man raises them as a by-product of his mares, another grows them for the consumption of his waste pasture, and the work is finished by the man who has light work for them to do and thus gets a profit on his work horses by reason of the advance in the price. This is the way horses are grown in France, to a great extent in Great Britain, and, in fact, in every other country. It is the way the business naturally develops—a sort of division of labor.

If any of our more wealthy readers see great profits in keeping brood mares for the sole profit of raising a colt, we ask them to do a little figuring. They can make their own figures, only they must not allow their imagination to run away with them. Make their figures honestly and they will soon convince themselves that we have in the above pointed out the only economic way of breeding and growing horses.—*Drovers' Journal.*

Swinelets.

The time to think about protecting pigs from a cannibalistic mother is a couple of months before they are born.

The pig is not half so filthy in his habits as man thinks it is, and to that fact the filthiness so often seen is largely due.

The too handy corn crib, with its abundant and cheap contents, often makes the sow so fond of her pigs that she devours them.

The properly fed sow is nearly always healthy, barring contagion or epidemic disease, and the healthy sow has no appetite for her own pigs.

If pigs were lost through any mistake or neglect last spring, recall the circumstance with a view to avoiding the mistake next spring.

The pig is a slow, sluggish, quiet fellow, and should not be hurried; not even in his eating, by reason of the very uncomfortable quarters he has to eat in.

What to feed, and how to feed, are important questions, but when to feed is equally important, and the when should be at the very same hour every day.

Foul, stagnant water, the leakings from stable or hog yards are sources of worms in hogs. The purer the water given them the less worms in hogs.

Mildly laxative, cooling, soothing, non-fattening foods given to the brood sow before the arrival of her little ones will make her love them enough so that she will not desire to eat them.

The man who thinks the hog the nastiest is generally the one who changes its bed the most seldom. The clean horse must have a fresh bed every day; the dirty hog often has to be thankful if it gets a clean bed once a month.

It will pay to save all the pigs possible in the spring, and to do that care well for the mothers a month or two before the little fellows arrive. Give the mothers milk-producing, not fattening, food; shorts made into a thick mush with clover-hay tea, occasionally ground oats prepared the same way, some roots cut up and a little oil meal scattered on them, is also good.

It is a question with some Canadian farmers whether they can raise a bushel of wheat cheaper than they can three pounds of butter. The writer has not had much experience in wheat raising, but he is of the opinion that it will cost more to produce a bushel of wheat than four pounds of butter; and of one thing they can rest assured, their land from which they raised the butter will be worth more at the end of twenty years than it will after they have taken off twenty crops of wheat.