

## Some Thoughts on Horses

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In a weekly paper I read the following:

"Does the feather on the leg of the Clyde and Shire give a true indication of the quality of bone and skin beneath, or is it only one of the fads that has grown up without any basis.

"Dr. Smead states that the English and Scotch are lovers of hair on the legs, while from the point of view of horsemen on this side of the water the feathery leg business has been followed too far. He says almost daily he is asked for remedies to cure ailments which the surplus hair has been the means of causing."

Now according to my experience in the past, the feather on the leg of the Shire gives a true indication of good breeding. The true horseman, either English or Scotch, loves a nice feather on the legs of a draft horse. It is as necessary to the beauty of the horse as the main and tail.

Surplus hair is not feather. Wiry and coarse and curly hair denotes mongrel breeding.

A few words concerning the judging of general purposes horses, I consider the general purpose horse should be judged in the team, in single harness and under the saddle.

It is impossible for a judge to tell whether the horses are capable of fulfilling the different services the name "general purpose" calls for, by seeing the team travel about twice around the show ring. I also consider the judges that are sent around by the government should have a standard set as to type, style and action, thus creating a uniform class of general purpose horses.

Man.

EDWIN JACOBS.

## STOCK

*Discussions on Live-Stock subjects welcomed.*

### Foot-and-Mouth Disease

The present outbreak of this disease in the United States, and the blocking of all shipments of live-stock from certain States of the Union into Canada, have attracted the attention of the agricultural community, and have resulted in several inquiries as to the nature of this disease.

Foot-and-mouth disease, also called Aphthous Fever, is a virulent and contagious disease of cattle, sheep and swine, young animals being particularly susceptible.

Symptoms.—The general symptoms are usually slight fever and lack of appetite, and in milch cattle there may be some diminution of the milk flow. These troubles are quickly followed by eruptions of the mucous membrane of the mouth, the skin between the toes, and of the skin of the udder and teats. The eruptions or pustules in the mouth may be on the lips, palate or tongue, and they soon burst, exposing a red, inflamed area, and profuse and continued salivation follows, often glairy—like white of an egg—and sometimes bloody. The animal finds much difficulty and pain in eating, rumination is impeded, and the breath becomes fetid.

The pustules on the feet and udder are usually smaller than those of the mouth, and on breaking, ulcers usually form, and in the case of the feet, extend under the horn. From exposure to mud and filth, further infection occurs, and the hoof may be entirely shed. Sheep in such a condition will often walk on their knees. In acute cases the disease extends to the respiratory and digestive tracts, and death occurs in five to six days. The majority of cases, however, are mild, and respond to proper treatment, and the animals recover in about two weeks.

Infection in Man.—The disease attacks man, and there are many cases of such infection taking place. Such cases usually occur from drinking the milk of infected animals, and the symptoms are somewhat similar in man to those of animals. A very good example may be instanced during the prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease in Berlin, Germany, in 1895. A considerable number of milk consumers in that city suffered from fever, with the characteristic eruption on the tongue and mucous membranes of the mouth, which, on bursting, left very painful ulcerations. The acute disease lasted for five days, and left a sense of great weakness for a time. The celebrated pathologist, Virchow, who made an investigation, unhesitatingly pronounced it to be foot-and-mouth disease.

Cases of infection through butter, buttermilk and cheese made from infected milk, are also on record.

Few affections have been the object of so much bacteriological research, but so far the organism which causes the disease has not been found. In 1896 the German government appointed a commission to investigate the causes of the disease. In 1897 they reported that they were unable to find any casual organism, but from their experiments they were of the opinion that the disease was caused by an invisible microbe, or, in other words, the organism was so minute that even the most powerful microscopes could not reveal its presence. Since this discovery, a number of investigators have reported on certain other diseases produced by invisible microbes.

Prevention.—The usual measures taken to prevent the spread of the disease is to arrest all movements of stock in the affected districts, to exclude all visitors, and quarantine all who attend or are brought into contact with the infected animals.

In Europe, such measures are rigorously enforced by the sanitary police. The writer remembers, on one occasion, whilst taking a walk in the vicinity of Berne, Switzerland, being stopped by a policeman, who informed him that should he pass a certain point, he would have to remain in the district for ten days, as foot-and-mouth disease was present in that locality.

Disinfection must be carried out thoroughly. Many governments endeavor to stamp out the disease by the slaughter of all infected animals, paying the owners some compensation. This is the method the United States government is carrying out. All infected herds are slaughtered, and the owners are indemnified to the extent of two-thirds of the appraised value of the cattle, in some cases the State paying the rest. The cost of disinfection is also paid by the Federal government. Naturally, the cost of dealing with such an epidemic is enormous, and the secretary of agriculture is asking for an emergency appropriation of \$500,000 for this work.

The last epidemic in the states occurred in 1902, when 4,461 animals were killed, and the owners compensated to the amount of \$128,908.57. This outbreak lasted eleven months.

### Steers Pay the Man that Likes Them

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Your editorial and also the letter by "Producer" on "Cattle Raising" in the November 18th issue, has opened up a way for one's thoughts these long winter evenings after the chores are done.

First of all, let me say if we study the Advocate market report, we don't need to waste time with those butchers who drive around looking for snaps. Some of those fellows came around our place last summer, when I was in the field about a mile from the house. They ordered the folks to send some one for the cattle as they wanted to buy them and they would bring me home.

I had just started summer fallow, so I asked them what they were paying for good steers; "Oh, from twenty-five to thirty dollars, for good ones" and they would pay a good big deposit on them and take them away in about a month or six weeks. Very generous, weren't they? That kind of buyer hurts the cattle trade by making you believe the bottom has dropped out of the business and that they were paying all that was in it.

I was beginning to think I was going to have my steers on my hands until the market was stocked by the ranchers, but one morning a butcher came along wanting cattle, paid me forty dollars a piece and we drove them to town that afternoon.

To realize all our steers are worth, we must study to have our stock of whatever kind, ready to put on the market at certain times of the year, when we expect prices to be good. If we are stall feeding we must have them ready by the end of April or the beginning of May, so they will be on the market when the frozen meat is done. If we have been feeding outside in the shelter of a bluff (which I believe is as good a way as any) we must get them away, before they get the grass, as they will run the beef off themselves quicker than we can put it on. If we are finishing on the grass, we must get them on the market in August or before the middle of September, that is, steers of a weight to ship, 1200 to 1400 pounds. It is not hard to get them fat on the grass if they have been well wintered.

Those steers I have just mentioned were never in the stable, except the first winter when they

were rising one year old. My steers have the straw stacks for the first part of the winter and unless very stormy get no hay until the new year, when we feed hay in the morning and hay and oat sheaves in the afternoon. We aim to have them full before night so they will rest well. They go to the spring for a drink when they like, but when very cold, we generally take them to it once a day.

We try to get a cow to raise two calves, which is sometimes rather hard to do. (If we have ten cows, we milk five when we can feed the skim milk to the pigs.) In getting a second calf to suck, some cows will fight hard, but it is generally an older calf we want to put with her own, and, if she is driven into the stable before she calves, we take the afterbirth and rub it along the calf's back and tail, so she will commence licking it, and generally that is all that is required. Sometimes when they get out she will give it "fits" but the little fellow will soon get up to the dodge and keep back until the other one gets started to suck. Even if they don't get a full drink they turn out better than skim milk calves. I think it is better to tie all calves up for a while at the first and let them to the cows twice a day, the handling does them a lot of good. When they are put in the stable in the fall they do not lose flesh like one that has never been tied. We had some this fall that when tied up were as wild as buffalo. Set a pail of water near them, they would bawl and send the pail flying, the consequences were they failed in flesh while the others gained.

Right here is the secret in raising beef for market, keep the calf beef on, and feed liberally from calves to finished ripe beeves. The first year of the steer's life is the time when he wants to be well fed and watered. The second fall or early winter they should be dehorned and they will crowd in closer together and be more comfortable.

The majority of the cows on the farm are on the small side and to get steers fit for export, we must use a bull of the beef type which will give us a good square built steer, that fills the eye, as the points which are judged by sight rather than by touch are the ones most depended upon by buyers in this country.

Wheat may be king, but beef is the imperial flesh food of the race and we may expect the demand for good beef to be as constant as that for any other product of the farm and I think that beef production will be rewarded with fairly constant and reasonable profits to those who have a liking for mixed farming.

"Elrick Farm," Sask.

ALEX DUNCAN.

### Two Cows

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I notice in reading your ever-welcome paper that considerable difference of opinion exists regarding what is a "dual" purpose cow or breed of cattle. Theoretically or scientifically, I would not attempt to dispute ideas already advanced by many contributors on the subject, but from an everyday practical point of view I venture a few remarks and illustrations. Some writers claim that there is no economic condition in a dual purpose cow, it must be a "speciality." If two individual cattle only are considered (one for beef and one for dairy) and no intention of cattle rearing in its different lines or forms is supposed to be carried on (as the case would not be with many farmers) then the extremes of either would be an economical condition, but a farmer may want to raise the steers, sometimes he wants milk and butter, sometimes he may sell a veal. I have not yet seen the conditions where a farmer keeping a bunch of cattle could always regulate to have his cows come in fresh just when he wanted them. If he keeps the same herd all the time, he will have to take them at any time. That is my experience anyway. If a cow comes in just when a farmer is going to be excessively busy, he may prefer to leave the calf on the cow for a time. Say she calves in August and he doesn't want to do any dairying till October or November. If he has a two purpose cow, or strain of cow, he has the option of several chances. The excessive milking qualities will not be so prominent that the udder will need any care except what the calf can give. When the season advances, he may want to dairy and he has the calf, a good veal or the makings of a good steer and a cow ready at the pail. If she has a female calf it has got a good start. Now if he had a one purpose cow he would have had to milk (if a special dairy animal) or there would probably be trouble with the udder. If the cow got in such a condition that the calf could keep the supply in check she would so fatten it (if female) that the special dairy tendency of the offspring would be somewhat impaired. If she had a male calf it would not be good veal and never make a good beef.

Take the other extreme—a beef matron. What are the farmer's chances when he want to dairy? She probably hasn't even enough to feed her calf. I will tell you an experience of my own. I have one cow a dual purpose on, in my way of thinking, that