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DOMINION.

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must be made to count. We think, then, there is reason for fearing that to place the festival of ingathering at a time when ingathering is still in progress is not only to misplace it, but would tend to a non-observance of the day altogether by those most interested and who form the bulk of our population. The result would certainly be one to be deplored.

We may have misapprehended the minds of the class we represent on this matter, and will welcome expressions of opinion by our readers on the subject. The farmers should be heard. We ask, then, is it desirable that the observance of Thanksgiving Day be continued? If so, what date is most suitable, and what form may its observance most appropriately take?

HORSES.

Tragic Death of Sadie Mac.

The opening day of the Grand Circuit races at Charter Oak Park, Hartford, Conn., on Sept. 5th, was marked by the death of Sadie Mac, the Canadian Queen, who dropped dead in the fourth heat of the \$10,000 Charter Oak trot. She fell about 200 yards from the finish, having gallantly held out until rounding the last turn. Sadie Mac seemed to have lost her strength just at the period when her driver was urging her to do her best, and, dropping to the track, rolled over and died instantly. A veterinary surgeon attributed death to a broken blood vessel, and horsemen who had been watching her declared that she had acted strangely all the afternoon. The gallant mare had met her Waterloo, failing to take a single heat of the four that were run. It was apparent from the outset that she was in the fastest company of her brilliant turf career, and she died trying to save her laurels. Sadie Mac was a big favorite in the first heat, but ran only third, and it was then that the big following of horsemen scented something amiss. At the end of the first heat she broke badly. Eight times she was led to score in this heat, and driver Frank Wilks, of the Chicago Farm, Gall, will

The tragic death of Sadie Mac, the Canadian Queen, was caused by Miss K. L. Wilks, of the Chicago Farm, Gall, will

be learned with much sorrow in harness-horse circles, not only in Canada, but all over the United States. Sadie Mac has had a short but glorious career, and it is to be regretted that she was taken off just at the time when supreme honors in the trotting world were apparently within her reach. That the speedy five-year-old daughter of Peter the Great was destined eventually to become the queen of the trotting world was the opinion of many competent judges. Until the day of her death she had only lost one heat this year, and had more than won herself out. Miss Wilks purchased Sadie Mac at the Smathers' sale in New York last year, paying \$15,500 for the great mare. Less than a month ago Miss Wilks refused an offer of \$30,000, and at the time declared that \$50,000 would not buy her. This year Sadie Mac trotted to a record of 6.02½. She was entered in all the 2.10 and 2.12 stakes throughout the Grand Circuit, and looked to have them at her mercy. Sadie Mac was insured in Lloyd's for \$15,000. She had won in the last month close to \$80,000.

Splint in Horses.

What is splint? There are various ways of answering that question. Many will say it is an enlargement on the inside of the horse's leg. Some will tell you that the leg is not enlarged at all, that it is simply a transformation of structure between the small metacarpal bone and the larger one. Others will say it is simply periostitis, which leads to enlargements afterwards. These are all reasonable solutions of what splint is.

The next question, to my mind, is, whether it occurs in the hind limbs or in the fore limbs most frequently. In reply to that, everyone in the room will probably say the fore limbs are more frequently affected than the hind ones. I should agree with that certainly, yet that it frequently occurs in the hind limbs I do not think any can deny. Now, why should it occur in the fore limbs more than in the hind? I will try to answer that in this way, but I will leave a lot of arguments open for you. It more frequently occurs in the fore limbs, I think, because the weight of the body is conveyed by the fore limbs, while the hind limbs are those which propel.

Then follows the next question: Why should it occur on the inner surface of the limb more frequently than on the outer? There is something to think about there. Of course, the general answer would be, because the inner side of the fore limb is more under the center of gravity. Some, thinking of the anatomy and structure of the fore limb, will tell you that one of the bones of the knee is absolutely supported by the innermost splint bone. To that I give an emphatic denial; it is not. But that is a theory. It more frequently occurs to the inner surface of the limb than to the outer, there is no question, but I do not think it is due to that. I think it is more due to the fact that the inner surface of the limb is more under the center of gravity. This brings us to the causes. Splint arises, no doubt, from concussion in a large majority of cases, and as a consequence of the inner side of the limb being more under the center of gravity, it is submitted to a greater amount of concussion than is the outer side.

That we have splint arising from other causes there cannot be a doubt, and frequently to the inner surface of the limb, which are not due to concussion. The horse striking it while in action will, and frequently does, give rise to the formation of splint on the inner surface of the limb. That it happens to the outer surface of the limb there cannot be any question; and then, in the majority of instances, I am of opinion that it is due to injury from external violence. It happens to the hind limbs, as I have said, and in the majority of cases it is due to injury then. It may be on the outer surface of the leg or on the inner. But I am not going to overlook one frequent cause of splint, and that is hereditary predisposition. If you breed from horses that have splint or bony enlargements of the knee of this description, you will usually find that the progeny are affected with this malady—splint. We may have splint as a consequence of neighboring inflammation. An animal may become affected with splint from an inflamed condition of the leg, which probably he was not disposed to hereditarily. We may have the condition as the result of rheumatism. Generalizing, I think those are the principal causes which give rise to this malady.

Now, is it a cause of unsoundness? This is a rather important point, which I want you to speak about. Is a horse with splint an unsound horse? I certainly think he is, and particularly so if the splint has existed for any considerable time. I am of the opinion that there are very few horses of six or seven years old which have not got splint. It may not be that they have enlargements there, but they have got a transformation of the tissue which connects the small metacarpal bones to the large ones. And that absolutely is splint. But if you condemn every horse with a splint of that description, you will have very few sound ones.

Does it give rise to lameness? Certainly it does, in very many instances, and it more fre-

quently gives rise to lameness in the early stage of the malady than in the later stage, simply because associated with the early stage of splint you have an inflamed condition of the periosteum.

I will now pass from that to the treatment. We have recourse to firing, to blistering and to periosteotomy, as well as some other lines of treatment. But I will first allude to those I have mentioned. We have got a line of treatment which we call subcutaneous periosteotomy. This consists of making an opening in the skin, passing in a periosteotomy knife, cutting down upon the periosteum and dividing it, an operation I have performed hundreds of times, and with very good results. The late Mr. John Roalfe Cox put an idea into my head which is useful, namely, that instead of going to the trouble of making two openings in the skin when you pass in a seton needle, separating the skin from the surface, and then pass in the periosteotomy knife and cutting down, he suggested that the knife should at once be placed on the surface of the skin and cut down on to the so-called splint. Now, by that means you save a great deal of trouble, and you avoid a great deal of blemish.

Burning down on the splint with a pointed iron is another way of producing the same effect; you destroy the periosteum, and so liberate the part. Firing—and by that I mean line firing—for splint is only required in very bad cases; that is to say where the enlargement is very considerable. Then line firing becomes necessary to bring about bondage on the external surface of the enlargement.

There is another remark I want to make, and that is as to diagnosing lameness from splint. We have many cases of lameness in the fore limb. In a case of navicular disease the animal usually goes better the further he goes. In a case of splint lameness, however, he usually goes worse the further he goes. There is a peculiar action in splint lameness which, when the eye has been educated to it, is easily recognized. It is that when the animal puts its foot down he puts it outwards to get it on the inner surface of the limb. Then by manipulation you find out where there is an amount of tenderness on pressure to the inner surface of the limb, with an amount of heat. And, let me tell you, you must not use the inside of your hand when you want to determine this. The inner side of your hand will frequently deceive you. It is the back of your hand you should use when you are trying to determine the sensible temperature of a surface.

STOCK.

The Canadian National Exhibition.

The result of enterprise is progress, and the reward of progress is patronage. This was forcibly illustrated last week by the twenty-seventh Canadian National Exhibition, which, stronger than ever in exhibits and attractions, was attended with a generosity unprecedented in its history. Bountiful harvest prospects, harbingers of good times, delightful exhibition weather, and the best annual fair on the continent, proved a combination irresistible both to country and city folks. Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4th, the grounds were simply packed, the total admissions on that day being officially computed at nearly 115,000, and by Wednesday evening it was announced the attendance had equalled the total of last year, with three days still to the good.

The Irish Guards Band proved a great drawing card, while the entertainment programme throughout was fully up to the standard expected by those to whom the expression, "as good as Toronto," has for years been a synonym of excellence. When we pause to consider the immense number of Canadians who have visited these grounds during the past quarter of a century, to say nothing of the patronage accorded other shows of a similar character, the increasing public interest is a marvel, and speaks volumes for the virility of the management and the inherent merit of the institution. All Canada is proud of its success, and all Canadians rejoice in its prestige and wish it the prosperity which such a potent educational influence deserves.

The agricultural features reviewed below require bare mention here, but it may be remarked that in most classes, particularly in live stock, the standard of past years was maintained as to numbers, while in average excellence of exhibits the advance was perhaps greater than ever before. It is noticed, also, year by year, that visitors exhibit a perceptibly greater knowledge of the various breeds and classes of stock, showing that the lessons of the fair are having their effect, not only on competitors, but on spectators as well.

There is this satisfaction about reporting Toronto Fair, that little criticism can be offered regarding appointments or administration. The Midway was as inoffensive as a Midway is liable ever to be, banishment being the penalty of two or three "shows" whose "spielers" were complained about to Manager Orr, and throughout the fair was morally wholesome. There is, however, one reform to be made which, we believe, would be appreciated by the visiting public