

GOSSIP.

E. C. H. Tisdale, of the firm of Hodgkinson & Tisdale, Beaverton, Ont., is on the ocean with a large importation of Percheron stallions and mares.

CLYDESDALES AT EDINBURGH.

Clydesdales were well represented at the Edinburgh Show, the second week in June. In a very good class of two-year-old stallions, A. & W. Montgomery's black colt, Coronation, by Royal Edward, by Baron's Pride, was a popular first. Alex. Clark was second with Newton Paragon, by Everlasting. In a big class of yearling colts, T. P. Somerville was first with Scotland's Favorite, by Royal Favorite, and out of the noted mare, Pyrene, by Baron's Pride. Messrs. Montgomery were second with a son of Everlasting.

HOLSTEINS AND TAMWORTHS AT AUCTION.

On June 30th, as advertised in this issue, 15 registered Holsteins, mostly females, a few young bulls, sired by the richly-bred Mercena Mechthilde; 30 registered Tamworths, and a number of Carriage and Clydesdale horses, the property of Collyer V. Robbins, of Riverbend, Ont., will be sold by auction at the farm two miles from Perry Station, M. C. R., three miles from Marshville, Wabash R. R., and three miles from Fenwick, T. H. & B., sale to commence at 12 o'clock. Forenoon trains at these stations will be met.

CLYDE FILLIES BY AUCTION.

At the village of Chatsworth, on Friday, June 30th, 1911, Dr. T. H. Hassard, of Markham, will sell by auction, unreservedly, 24 imported Clydesdale fillies, 16 of them two years old, 4 of them five years old, 2 of them four years old, 1 yearling, and 1 foal. This is one of the best lots of fillies ever offered for sale by auction in Canada. Up to a big size, with abundance of quality, and carrying the best blood of the breed, daughters and granddaughters of champions, and many of them high-class show fillies, they have the ideal of draft character, coupled with faultless underpinning. This sale will offer one of the grandest opportunities of the year for farmers to strengthen their breeding operations, which to-day is probably their most profitable line in mixed farming. Chatsworth is on the Owen Sound branch of the C. P. R. Visitors leaving Toronto on the 7.50 a. m. train will arrive at Chatsworth at 12.14. The terms are six months, with 6 per cent. interest.

LAST CALL FOR HUNTER'S AYRSHIRE SALE.

The dispersion sale of the noted Ayrshire herd of 130 head, property of Robert Hunter & Sons, to take place on Wednesday, June 28th, at their farm, at Maxville, Ont., a station on the Ottawa and Montreal branch of the G. T. R., should attract the attention of breeders of Ayrshires, and dairymen generally, as never before has such a large and high-class herd of the breed been brought under the salesman's hammer in America. The announcement in the catalogue states that the sole reason for the sale is the owners' recent decision to retire from farming, and that they are already negotiating for the sale of the farm, and expect to give possession by the middle of July. Seventy of the animals to be sold have been imported this spring, over 100 are imported, or from imported sire and dam. The herd has a splendid prizewinning record at leading shows, and an equally splendid record of performance at the pail, while the stock sires and young bulls are of the highest class of type and breeding. Every animal will be tuberculin-tested. The oldest male will be only eight years, all in the offering are only eight years, all are registered in both the Canadian and American Herdbooks. The catalogue shows the splendid breeding of the herd. The terms are cash, but credit will be given with approved security. Note the date, June 28th, and plan to see the dispersion of a grand herd of this grand breed of dairy cattle. The owners have a first-class reputation for fair and honest dealing, and every animal offered is guaranteed to absolute sale. Trains will be met on morning trains on day of sale. See page 1039, in issue of June 15.

TRADE TOPICS.

PEEP SIGHTS FOR DRAINAGE.

LEVEL.—Anyone who has ever tried sighting along a spirit level has experienced the blur which, on some days, makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to sight accurately for any considerable distance. To overcome this difficulty, Prof. Wm. H. Day, the drainage expert of the Ontario Agricultural College, devised a simple pair of peep sights, by means of which an accurate sighting for 100 feet can be easily made under any ordinary conditions of atmosphere and light. It was Prof. Day's hope that these could be made to order by any tinsmith, but tests showed that the sights as thus made were not so accurate as they should be. He accordingly arranged with a tinsmith in Guelph to make them in quantity, with a special machine, so that he would be able to direct farmers where they could be obtained. H. Occomore & Co., of Guelph, Ont., is the address from which these peep sights can be ordered. A great many pairs have been sold and used with excellent satisfaction. We have a pair ourselves, and it is wonderful what an assistance they are in getting an accurate reading, especially on a bright, hot day. They are valuable on a level for other purposes besides drainage. It is a matter of gratification that we are able, through our advertising columns, to direct our readers to a means of obtaining these sights, which soon pay for themselves times over. See advertisement, and write to-day.

The May number of Ideal Ideas, a monthly concrete bulletin published by The Ideal Concrete Machinery Co., is just to hand, and announces the result of their prize competition for the most artistic construction made from Ideal Blocks. There were several hundred entries, photographs with entries being received from all parts of the world. Sixteen prizes were awarded, ranging from \$100 for first prize, down to \$10 each for the last six prizes. The first prize went to a firm in Scotland, and the building was a fine house, with a cement-block fence in front. The fourth prize also went to Scotland. Canada secured six of the prizes, India and the Philippines one each, the remainder going to United States entries. From the photographs of the winning buildings, it is quite clear that the Ideal concrete blocks can be used for almost any kind of building. The prizewinning constructions range from the plain, neat, farm silo, to the large, spacious factory, the trim, neat office building, the massive banking house, and a great variety of styles in up-to-date, artistically-planned residences. The entire pamphlet goes to show the great variety of uses of Ideal concrete blocks, and people contemplating building would do well to look into this matter.

GOSSIP.

HOLSTEINS AT AUCTION.

A large number of pure-bred and grade Holstein cows and heifers, the property of R. E. Gunn, of Beaverton, Ont., will be sold by auction on July 3rd, at the be sold by auction on July 3rd, at the Union Stock-yards, Horse Exchange, West Toronto, as advertised in this issue. Look for further particulars in next week's advertisement.

\$10,000 FOR A HOLSTEIN CALF.

At a contribution sale of Holsteins by various breeders at Syracuse, N.Y., June 8-9, 212 head sold for an average of \$433.85; the top price of \$10,000 being realized for the 7 months' bull calf, bred in the Brookside herd of Stevens Bros., burdened with the ponderous cognomen, King Segis Pontiac Alcaltra, a son of King Segis Pontiac and K. P. Alcaltra, which fell to the bid of John Arfman, Middletown, N.Y. Another bull calf sold for \$1,725, and a third for \$1,250. Two cows brought \$1,000 and \$1,500, respectively.

Wife—I suppose if you should meet some pretty young girl you would cease to care for me?
Husband—What nonsense you talk! What do I care for youth and beauty? You suit me, all right.—M. A. P.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

3rd.—In Veterinary questions the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

4th.—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

SMOTHERING BINDWEED.

Have three small patches of bindweed. Would it be advisable to try to smother it out with straw? One patch is 30 or 40 feet square.

Ans.—We cannot advise attempting to smother such large patches with straw. Unless the pile extends far beyond the borders of the patch, the weed will simply spread across and come up around the edges of the straw. Cultivate every five days for a summer with some implement that will prevent the plants showing above the surface.

SOW AILING.

One of my sows got a bad cold, which has left her so stiff she cannot walk. Has she rheumatism? Would you kindly tell me how to treat her? W. J. T.

Ans.—The sow may have a case of rheumatism. Pigs are hard to treat, and about the only thing to do is to keep her pen dry and clean and feed on light feed, as a little skim milk and shorts. It is necessary to keep the bowels open, and for this a drench of one pint of raw linseed oil is sometimes used. Care must be taken in drenching not to strangle the hog. A rope in the mouth, holding the head up, is about the only method of drenching.

GAIN OF STEER.

What will it cost to make an ordinary grade beef two-year-old steer gain 100 lbs. in weight, feeding him: Clover, two feeds per day, at \$8 per ton; straw, two feeds per day, at \$2 per ton; chop, mixed peas, oats and barley, equal weight, six to eight pounds per day, at \$25 per ton. Have neither roots nor silage.

L. T. T.

Ans.—This depends largely on the individuality of the steer. Cheaper gains would be made if a little succulent feed were available. If the steer weighed 950 lbs., it would require about 24 lbs. of dry matter per day, and this could be supplied by feeding 8 lbs. of the oats and barley, 15 lbs. of clover hay, and 6 lbs. of oat straw, which would mean a daily cost of about 16½ cents. A pretty big gain would be 2½ lbs. per day, and at this rate 100 lbs. of increase would cost, approximately, \$6.60.

SIZE OF SILO.

There are a few farmers in the Wyevalle community that are going to build concrete silos this summer. Which is the better size for a farmer of 100 acres, keeping thirty head of cattle, to build: one 12 feet across by 25 feet high, or one 10 feet across by 30 feet high? Which keeps the corn better? How many tons will each hold?

Ans.—Neither silo is large enough. The silo 12x25 feet would hold about 55 tons, the other about 50 tons, perhaps a very little more. For a herd of 30 cattle, stable-fed for 200 days, 55 tons of silage would provide a daily feed of about 18 pounds per head. Making some allowance for spoilage and settling, it would probably work out that you would have only 15 or 16 pounds of silage per head per day; that is, if spreading it over the estimated period of 200 days. Thirty to thirty-five pounds per head per day is not too much to count on, unless a large proportion of it is young stock. We would counsel building not less than 12x30 feet, and would seriously consider 35 feet. On our own 112-acre farm, we are planning for a silo something like 14 or 15 by 40 feet, the exact dimensions not having been decided as yet. Of the two sizes you mention, we would rather prefer the deeper one, as it keeps the silage better while being fed off from day to day. The more rapidly the surface is lowered, the less deterioration there is in the daily-exposed layer. The wider silo would be, however, rather more economical to build.

HOLIDAYS FOR HIRED MAN.

Have had a little dispute between master and man on the farm as to the number of holidays a hired man can claim during the year, after doing the necessary chores.

W. C.

Ans.—The hired man may claim as holidays, after doing necessary chores, Sundays, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labor Day, Christmas Day, and, possibly, henceforth, the King's Birthday, together with any other day appointed by official proclamation as a holiday.

HENS DYING.

Have 25 White Leghorn hens. Feed them mixed oats and barley in the morning, wheat at noon, mixed oats and buckwheat in the evening; give them fresh meat twice a week; lots of gravel and ashes. Could you tell me the reason why they pick the feathers off, and then eat the flesh off the hind part until the hens die?

C. T.

Ans.—Some hens seem to get an abnormal appetite, and endeavor to satisfy it by eating feathers. Where only a few hens offend in this way, it is advisable to watch them and kill them, thus preventing further trouble. Lice, and lack of meat food, are assigned as causes. Some hens will not dust themselves, even if given the chance, and it is well to be sure no lice are present. Milk to drink is also recommended for this, and in an article in "The Farmer's Advocate," issue of April 6, 1911, W. E. Williams recommends the use of sulphur in the drinking troughs, and in the mash fed, as a preventive and cure for this trouble.

LIGHTNING RODS.

Have the glass balls that are placed on lightning rods any value outside of ornament, or with an idea to catch the electric current by their glittering appearance? The reason I ask this question is, that a passing agent, noticing that one of the globes on the barn was broken, wished to replace it for the fee of \$1 and endeavored to convince me that the globe was placed there for the purpose of insulating the standard from the rod proper, and also that the quicksilver, when melted off, was an indication that the rod had been struck. I asked him how the homemade rods got along without any globes, and he got heated, and declared there was no barn rod in the manner which I have often seen described in agricultural papers, and that rods so constructed would only be another lightning trap. I have never actually seen any homemade rods in operation, but I do not see why they would not work if properly grounded.

J. B. T.

Ans.—Homemade rods are giving good satisfaction without the glass balls, and insulation is not believed in now, therefore the glass balls are of very little use, and can be very well done without.

PERMANENT PASTURE—YEAST TREATMENT—REMOVING PLACENTA.

1. What grasses would you advise sowing in a boggy field for permanent pasture? It is very difficult to drain, as there are very deep holes, which, however, dry up later on in the season.
2. Please give the yeast treatment prescription for injection in case of cows failing to get with calf.
3. Would removing the placenta by hand hurt the genital organs so that a cow would fail to conceive?

G. A. McC.

Ans.—1. For such land as this, Prof. C. A. Zavitz recommends: Orchard grass, 4 lbs.; meadow fescue, 4 lbs.; meadow foxtail, 2 lbs.; red top, 4 lbs.; timothy, 2 lbs.; alsike clover, 3 lbs.; white clover, 2 lbs. Two pounds of Kentucky blue grass might be added.

2. The yeast treatment recommended by Dr. Peters, of Nebraska Experiment Station, is simple and inexpensive. Take an ordinary two-cent yeast cake and make into a paste with a little warm water. Let this stand in a moderately warm place for 12 hours, then add 1 pint of lukewarm, freshly-boiled water; mix, and allow to stand 12 hours longer. This mixture should be prepared 24 hours before the cow is expected to come in heat. Inject into the vagina as soon as oestrus is noticed, and breed just before the heat period is over.

3. No; not if care is taken in the operation.