

Wheat Midge.

A correspondent, Wm. Serson, has sent in a sample of winter wheat which is badly affected with the wheat midge. He reports the insect working in wheat in the vicinity of Ridgetown, in Kent County, and that it appears in Dawson's Golden Chaff, while a field of Niger wheat does not seem to be attacked.

The adult of the wheat midge (*Diplosis tritici*) is a small yellow fly, and, with certain other midges, the larva, which is a red weevil, is found working in the seed of its host-plant. It was first noticed in England in 1795, and is reported to have been introduced into America, near Quebec, about 1819, and became so bad from 1828 to 1835 that it is said many fields of wheat in New England were abandoned. About 1890 very great losses were experienced, but, except for an outbreak about 1898, there have been no very great outbreaks in Canada during recent years.

The adult fly is a small, two-winged insect of the same order as the Hessian fly, and about one-tenth of an inch long. It is yellow or orange in

color, and appears in the wheat fields about the middle of June, when the wheat is flowering, or shortly before harvest time. The flies deposit their eggs in the florets of the wheat heads. The eggs hatch in about a week, and the young larvæ or maggots burrow into the kernels which are just being formed. The young larvæ are reddish-orange in color, and about one-twelfth of an inch in length. The larvæ require about three weeks to become full-grown, at which time they enter the ground to pupate. They remain in the ground in the pupal stage over winter, some in cocoons, and some without these protections. They come out as adults the following spring or summer. This insect sometimes attacks rye, barley, and oats, as well. Some observations seem to point to there being two broods per year, but in most cases it is believed that there is only one brood.

The injury is done by the larvæ to the forming embryos in the wheat heads. The young kernels are robbed of their milky juice, and the grain shrivels so that the heads are very imperfectly filled. Moisture is favorable to its operations, while drouth is inimical to it. The insect is especially active on damp days and at night. The larvæ have great vitality, and those which have not abandoned the wheat heads at harvest time

are taken in with the crop, and have been known to survive for months without food or moisture.

This is one of the pests that cannot be subjected to an immediate remedy in the field. With this, as with many other insects, prevention is more to be relied upon than cure. The most highly recommended practice is that of deep plowing of the old wheat fields immediately after harvest to bury the larvæ so deeply in the ground that they are imprisoned and cannot escape the following year. To kill those which are harvested with the crop, the chaff and screenings from wheat of infected fields should be burned promptly. Rotation of crops is applicable to this insect, and is valuable where the fields are isolated from fields that have been affected the previous season. It is stated that early-maturing varieties are less liable to become infested than those ripening later.

Just why the particular variety mentioned in the opening paragraph should be resistant, even when growing with infested plants, is not just clear, unless it be a particularly early variety, because this insect seems to be no respecter of varieties, and, where present in the field, it can be expected to attack any one of its host-plants. However, if a resistant variety has come to light, so much the better.

GOSSIP.

At the annual sale of Shorthorns in the Royal Show grounds at Norwich, 22 bulls sold for an average of \$255, and 10 females for an average of \$290. The highest price was \$1,250, for Mr. Hosken's red yearling bull, Cornish Monarch, purchased by Mr. Duchesne for South Africa; \$1,050 was paid by Col. Duncombe for the Edgcote Shorthorn Company's roan yearling bull, Edgcote Hope. The highest price for a female was \$685, for Mr. Hosken's heifer, Golden Wreath 2nd, taken by Mr. Duchesne.

Jas. A. Watt, Salem, Ont., has recently returned from the Old Country, where he purchased a selection of Shorthorns and Clydesdales from noted herds and studs. From G. Harrison's Gainford Hall herd he purchased Gainford Marquis, the undefeated calf of 1910, and twice winner this year as a yearling. Gainford Marquis is probably the greatest yearling ever brought to Canada, and has a record of eleven first prizes over there, and never being beaten. Mr. Watt, in his advertisement, offers for sale a few extra good heifers.

Hickman & Scruby, Court Lodge, Egerton, Kent, England, exporters of pedigree live stock of all breeds, ordering a change in their advertisement in July 27th issue, write: "You will be pleased to hear that we are getting first-rate results from our advertising, especially in horses of the draft breeds, of which we are shipping large numbers to your country. We have recently purchased the champion two-shear Romney ram for \$1,500, for J. W. Harding, of New Zealand. This is a record price for the breed, and shows how popular this breed is becoming in all parts of the world."

WESTERN FAIR AS A LIVE-STOCK EXHIBITION.

The Western Fair at London, Ont., as an Agricultural and Live-stock Exhibition, is second to none in Canada to-day. Exhibitors of live stock report large sales of their prize animals while at the London Exhibition. Surrounded as it is by a large agricultural district, London affords a large field for prospective buyers of prize animals of all kinds. The management of the Western Fair, having realized this, have year after year been adding to their live-stock prize list, until, with the increase given this year, the magnificent sum of \$18,000.00 has been reached, all of which may be won by exhibitors this year. Another feature in connection with the Live-stock Department which the management have adopted is, that if the stock shown is worthy, and prizes awarded by the judge in charge, all will be paid, whether there is competition or not, as it is considered a hardship to withhold prizes from an exhibitor simply because, through no fault of his, there may not be competition in a particular section. The prizes offered in the Hereford class of cattle this year are particularly attractive. Through the kindness of the Hereford Association, \$200.00 was granted this year, which was duplicated by the Exhibition management, in addition to last year's list, making the

prizes in this class away in advance of any previous year. Prize lists, entry forms, and information of all kinds regarding the Exhibition, will be promptly given on application to the Secretary, A. M. Hunt, London, Ontario.

Breeders will do well to turn to the advertisement in this issue of the Quebec Minister of Agriculture, who wishes to secure 200 pure-bred sheep and 100 pure-bred swine.

John A. Boag & Son, Queensville, Ont., importers of Clydesdale horses, landed home on July 6th with a new importation of 14 Clydesdales, three stallions and eleven fillies, all of which are up to a good size, and have lots of quality, and they will be pleased to show them to anyone wanting such stock.

PRIVATE SALE OF PIONEER AYRSHIRE HERD.

W. F. Stephen, of Huntingdon, Que., Secretary of the Canadian Ayrshire-breeders' Association, owing to pressure of work of the Association and of agriculture in the community, has sold by private contract his 150-acre farm and his Springbrook herd of 40 registered Ayrshire cattle, to Gilbert McMillan and Matthew Leggat, two young Scotchmen who have been identified with Ayrshires in Scotland and the United States for some years. The herd is claimed to be the oldest-established Ayrshire herd now existing in the Province of Quebec, having been founded in 1869, by the late Jas. Stephen. It is gratifying to know that this excellent herd, which has been bred for production, is to be perpetuated, and the new owners, who take possession on August first, will have the best wishes of Ayrshire-breeders and dairymen generally for a successful career in their enterprise.

IMPORTED CLYDESDALES AT AUCTION.

On Friday, July 28th, as advertised in this issue, H. G. & J. L. Clark, of Norval Station, G. T. R., Peel County, Ont., will sell at auction, without reserve, 14 imported Clydesdale fillies and 1 imported stallion, personally selected for breeding, size, and quality, such as the Canadian market calls for. The farm is but a few minutes' walk from the station, which is only six miles from Brampton, C. P. R. and G. T. R., and three miles from Georgetown Junction, G. T. R. The terms of the sale are easy, and the offering will afford a good opportunity for securing young mares that should make good breeders of high-selling stock. Two imported Shetland ponies are also included in the sale.

TRADE TOPIC.

"A Farmer's Field Test," or "Experimental Errors," is the title of a booklet written by B. Leslie Emslie, and distributed by the Dominion Agricultural Offices of the Potash Syndicate, 1102-1105 Temple Building, Toronto, Ont. The booklet is a reprint of an article written for "The Farmer's Advocate," in which it appeared April 13th, 1911. Like all Mr. Leslie's writing, this brochure is concise, clear, and characterized by admirable literary style.

GOSSIP.

SOME COMING SHOWS.

Highland and Agricultural, at Inverness, Scotland, July 25 to 28.
Dominion Exhibition, Regina, July 31 to August 12.
Cobourg Horse Show, August 15 to 18.
Edmonton Exhibition, August 15 to 19.
Canadian National, Toronto, August 28 to September 13.
Central Canada Exhibition, at Ottawa, September 8 to 16.
Vancouver Exhibition, August 28 to September 4.
Quebec Provincial, at Quebec City, August 28 to September 5.
Western Fair, London, September 8 to 16.
Miramichi Agricultural Exhibition, Chatham, N. B., September 11 to 15.
Victoria Provincial Exhibition, Victoria, B. C., September 26 to October 1.
Provincial Exhibition, New Westminster, B. C., October 3 to 7.
New York State Fair, Syracuse, N. Y., September 11 to 16.
Brandon, Man., July 24 to 28.
Sherbrook, Que., September 2 to 9.
Frederickton, N. B., September 16 to 23.
P. E. Island Provincial, Charlottetown, September 26 to 29.

TRADE TOPIC.

Secretary McMahon, of the Central Canada Exhibition Association, is advised from the office of the Canadian High Commissioner in London, Eng., that the Ottawa Fair is attracting wide attention in the Old Land. For the first time, special circulars have been sent across the ocean, and they will be placed in the hands of interested parties through the High Commissioner's office. The directors have just completed the widest distribution of prize lists and lithographs ever made for an Ottawa Fair, covering especially a broad territory between Quebec City and the Sudbury district. The increased premiums for horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, make pleasant reading for agriculturists.—W. Gilchrist.

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.

Veterinary.

COW HAS BRAIN TROUBLE.

Cow acts very strangely when she comes into the stable, throws her head back to her shoulders, seems to act as though she takes a fit or blind staggers, chews her cud all right and gives a good mess of milk, but doesn't keep up in flesh very well.

C. H.

Ans.—Your cow is suffering from some form of brain trouble, possibly due to the excessive heat of the past week or two.

Keep her in the stable during the heat of the day. Give her 1½ pounds of Epsom salts, mixed in a quart of water. If symptoms do not abate under this treatment, give her 1-ounce doses of chloral hydrate night and morning dissolved in a quart of water.

V.

KNUCKLING.

Have a valuable four-year-old Clydesdale gelding that is slightly knuckled on pastern joints. How should he be shod to avoid getting worse? Prescribe treatment re bathing with liniment to tone up the muscles, etc. At present he is shod with high heel calks.

FARMER.

Ans.—This condition is nearly always due to a faulty conformation, the pasterns being too short and upright. Nothing much can be done for the weakness. He should be shod with plates without calkins when it is possible. In winter, the calkins should be as short as possible, and all the same length. Application of liniment will do little or no good.

V.

LEG SWOLLEN.

Four-year-old heavy mare swelled in front leg for a month; is swelled around ankle and up to knee. I bathed it morning and night for a week with cold water, but did not seem to do any good, so turned her out on pasture, but did not go down any only between knee and ankle a little. She is a little lame when trotting. She has never been hurt. Would heavy drawing cause anything like that?

H. E.

Ans.—Your mare has probably suffered from an attack of lymphangitis. Get one ounce each of spirits camphor, spirits ammonia, and methylated spirits. Mix, and add 8 ounces of water. Apply the liniment twice a day to the enlarged part of leg.

V.

A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE.

Mare, six years old, has colt about five weeks old, bred twelfth day after foaling; swelled from vagina down to udder about one week after breeding; broke about the thirteenth day; run about ten quarts of corruption; still keeps running, and is swelled from udder right along belly up to fore flanks, four or five inches deep now; has been that way four days; noticed a little swelling the time the other broke; noticed a yellowish discharge from vagina a few days after breeding. Mare feeds well; have taken foal off her.

T. W.

Ans.—Your mare is suffering from a contagious disease contracted in all probability from the stallion. Keep the sores washed clean with soap and water, and apply two or three times a day the following mixture: Fifteen grains corrosive sublimate mixed with 8 ounces of water. As a rule, this disease can be successfully treated. Keep the patient away from other mares for some weeks.

V.

WHAT'S IN A NAME.

"I don't like your heart action," the doctor said, applying the stethoscope again. "You have had some trouble with angina pectoris."

"You're partly right, doctor," said the young man sheepishly; "only that ain't her name."—Ladies' Home Journal.