

HOME AND FARM.

A recent debate in the House of Commons, England, discloses the satisfactory decision of the military authorities not to entirely abandon the purchase of remounts in Canada, but to continue it on a limited scale experimentally. In this connection the *Canadian Gazette* advises the introduction of thoroughbred stallions into Canada, if horses are to be bred on this side of the Atlantic for the English army. The idea is a good one, and might be turned to practical account by the Maritime Provinces breeders, who, being so much nearer the English market than their brethren of Ontario and the "Far West," could raise remounts at a lower selling price and yet make greater profits, owing to the cost of transportation from the west. Our climate, too, is even more suitable for the perfection of the horse than is that of the prairie provinces.

E. J. K.—We cannot give you better general advice than the following:

The time to lay the foundation of a superior horse is in the first twelve months of the life of the colts. Take care of the weanling and you will have a well developed yearling, and, if your breed is not absolutely "scrub," a good and sound horse. Progressive breeders do not allow colts to shift for themselves. They assist the growth and development of the young animal with milk, and due proportion of oats and hay, with regular exercise, and above all, sufficient shelter. Feed the mare well after foaling with a liberal amount of grain. If the flies are bad as the season advances shelter her during the heat of the day, and give her the range of succulent pasture at night, but house her if it turns cold. A foal may be fed a little grain at from a fortnight to three weeks old; of course it is best for the young digestive powers if it is crushed. Wean at from four to five months, and take care it has a sunny and sheltered yard when out of the stable in the ensuing winter.

A prominent breeder of trotters in the States has made experiments in this direction. One colt was allowed to test the common idea that the freezing process is hardening, and was allowed plenty of opportunity to shiver in the open. The result was stunted growth, and he grew up "a pocket edition of a trotter," standing but a shade over fifteen hands. With his brother, the general course we have indicated was pursued, with the result that he grew "a powerful and rangy horse of 16.1 hands, and weighed more than his sire." Of course the whole thing is a matter of common sense.

J. H. C.—Yes. Your communication appears to have been delayed, and the season is passed to render comments available for this year, but points may be doubled down for next. We think more might be made out of maple-sugar than is made. As in everything else, care and skill and attention to what seem small points will assuredly pay. We give you the following, which we have only just opened. It seems to us that our farmers scarcely make the most of spontaneous natural production, which a little thought and attention might utilize to greater profit. For instance: Why do we import American home-made pickles, and pay a heavy duty on them, when our farmers have it, we should think, in their power to make enough for home consumption themselves?

"The sugar industry of Vermont, in its importance, reaches not more than half the proportions to which it might attain, and the quality, as a whole, is far inferior to what it should be, and what it might be, with but little extra expenso, though we are fast improving, and in a few years may reach the maximum. But when I see the grand old rock maples taken from our already sparse woodlands and sold for a mere pittance, it seems like wanton desecration.

Many people are erroneously educated as to the quality of this luxury, thinking that it must be dark in color, and of a strong, smartly taste to be desirable, while that which is pure in color and flavor is considered a fraud. If this luxury could be properly and honestly placed before the people in all the markets of our country, the demand for it would be largely increased and its value greatly enhanced.

Without assuming any new discoveries in the process of manufacturing, I wish to emphasize a few essential points necessary to the production of a first-class article. Cleanliness and dispatch are the important requisites; the apparatus, from the spout to the syrup-can, must be clean. It is just as necessary as it is in the dairy. The necessity for dispatch in the work is because the sap changes rapidly after dripping from the trees, especially in warm days; so the sooner it is reduced to syrup the better. Strain the sap and syrup *four times* in the operation; first into the gathering tub, then into the sap holder, next out of the evaporator, and lastly from the pan when finished. A skillful hand is necessary to successfully operate the evaporator. There should be a brisk, steady fire all the time to keep the liquid boiling rapidly so that it will pass steadily along through the evaporator without any lingering or simmering intervals. To do this, *dry wood* is indispensable. To avoid the settling and scorching of the malate of lime in the rear end of the evaporator, which would impart an unpleasant flavor to the syrup, I draw it off before this substance forms and finish in an old-fashioned galvanized iron pan. In completing the work in the small pan, after the syrup begins to boil keep it boiling *rapidly* until finished.

A good article for keeping syrup is a tin can with a cap lined with cork, which, when screwed tightly down, shuts out the air quite securely. Syrup kept in this way can be reduced to sugar at any time of the year, and when the article is first-class you have a luxury fit to set before the most fastidious."
—H. W. Walker, in *New England Farmer*.

OUR COSY CORNER.

SOME SMALL ECONOMIES.—Few people like to economize, and one reason is, perhaps, that many believe that to be economical really means to be

stingy, while in fact the two qualities are as unlike as possible. Very often economy puts it into one's power to be generous, for the gain that comes from proper care will often permit the willing hand to minister to the needs of others. True economy is seldom to be learned by rules, although they may assist; but experience is generally the teacher and often its lessons are hard. But the subject is worthy of study for the results that will surely follow—a fact that is often forgotten amid less important affairs. Economy to the general woman does not mean what shall be done with the surplus in the treasury, or how to dispose of certain stocks or bonds, but how to make last season's gown do service this season, and what shall be done to make baby's soiled blue kid boots look presentable. These questions are really of greatest importance, for while the disposition of the money of the nation may interest the statesmen or banker, it does not enter the home question or bring wrinkles to the face of the housewife and mother.

The baby, being of most importance, deserves first consideration. If the soiled shoes are of a light color, a bottle of bronze varnish will change them to a glistening brown, and they will really be much prettier than if they were originally. Bye-the-bye, instead of getting the small boy patent-leather shoes, it will be an economy to get calf-skin and varnish them, applying three coats and allowing plenty of time for each coat to dry. By this means the admired glossy effect is obtained without the danger of a cracked surface.

Appropos of shoes, it must be remembered that if one has several pairs of nice low shoes, heavy enough for outdoor wear, it is quite permissible to wear them in cold weather, drawing over them a pair of buttoned stockings and gaiters. The gaiters should be black.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, Mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle.

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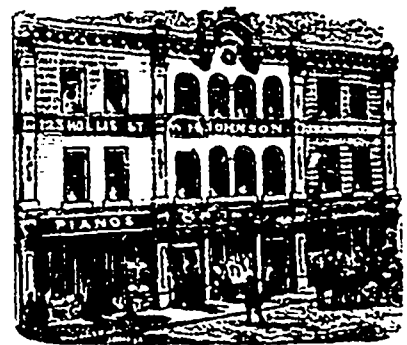
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