

state; nor would I advise some to come any time—although I myself am well satisfied—because many people would find that although the pioneer's Robinson Crusoe kind of life is very fine in the dim distance, it is quite a different thing in reality. The romance soon wears away. But I shall give you as correct an idea of the country as I can, and you may then judge for yourself. In the first place, then, you must remember that the country drained by the Saskatchewan is larger than France and Great Britain and Ireland combined, so that any description I may give you of this part may not apply to others. The general aspect of the country is what we call "broken," and is not unlike the vicinity of Banford in appearance, but our virgin soil is of course richer. The heavy clay prevents the escape of water, and consequently every hollow place holds a little pond. Vegetation is very abundant. A kind of grass called Blue Joint, and Vetches or Wild Prairie grass, are especially abundant, sometimes reaching above the horses' backs. From this you will readily understand that it is a magnificent stock country. In my estimation it surpasses in this respect the famous Bow River country. The Chinook winds give them some assistance when the wind is blowing from a westerly direction, but at other times their climate is quite as severe as it is here, and as the grass in that locality is short, they are at a loss for hay, of which we have an abundance. Horses winter out, and I think the West Highland cattle would do well without feed, but I would prefer shelter for both. The climate is severe, the thermometer ranging as low as 65° below zero since I came here, but, although more dangerous, the decrease from 10° below is hardly felt. We have an abundance of wood on our claims for fencing and firewood, but not for building purposes. I have sufficient on my place even for building, but none of my neighbors have. On the north side of the North Branch there is an almost unlimited supply, and with a little labor this becomes available for settlers. The only serious drawback which we suffer from is the want of a market, but this will very soon be remedied. The Hudson's Bay Co. have been able to navigate Hudson's Straits for over 200 years with ships that were little better than tubs without losing a single vessel. If this route were opened, Prince Albert would be as near Liverpool as Toronto now is, and it would then be the distributing point for the greater part of Northern North America. The Government are delaying the opening of this route in the interests of Eastern Canada, under the pretence of exploring it, but it must be opened soon nevertheless. As a grain growing country the Saskatchewan is as yet untamed. Mr. William Miller has been here for eleven years and has had good success, but the majority of our farmers are too slovenly to succeed. The natives have been too long accustomed to an easy life to be successful at this their first effort. I feel confident that for stock raising of all kinds its success is beyond dispute. As a grain raising district I have not such strong faith in it, but feel sure that we can easily raise enough for our own wants. If you could only visit this country I am sure you would like it. Traveling on the prairie is not near so fatiguing as it is generally supposed to be, and the exceedingly healthy climate seems to more than make up for the fatigue.

Glanders in Cattle.—Please tell me if cattle will take glanders by feeding in the same pasture that glandered horses have been feeding on.—Subscriber Austin, Man.

[Glanders have never been known to affect cattle.]

Farmers' Clubs—Shorthorn Milkers.—Acting on the advice given in the ADVOCATE some time since, we, in February last, organized a Farmers' Club in School Section No. 8, Dawn, known as the North Dawn Farmers' Club, with 15 members, John Small being elected President, Peter Knight, Vice, and John Hale Sec-Treas. Meetings held in School House on Thursday evening on or before full moon. Though hardly to be called farmers as yet, being in a new settlement, with our oldest resident only located about seven years, still we are making a good show, and we expect to have good farms some time in the future, as the land through this north part of Dawn cannot be excelled in Canada. The subject for discussion last meeting was, "How can we best improve our stock for dairy and other purposes?" and we concluded that the best way was that the Club get a thoroughbred Shorthorn bull. Now here we want a little advice. 1. Would it be better for us to get an animal with or without a pedigree? We think pedigree costs money, and money is hard to get. We believe there is considerable speculation and some humbug about this pedigree business, and that we might get just as good stock without it. Would you also give us the address of some stock raiser whom you can recommend as an upright honorable man, one whom we can trust to send us what we want.—J. H., Dawn, Ont.

[We are pleased to hear from the Secretary of this Club, and should be pleased to hear from all farmers' clubs organized in the same way. It will afford us great pleasure to aid them in every possible manner. There is a good deal of humbug about the pedigree business, it being to the interest of speculators to attach more value to it than it is worth, although there is considerable risk in getting a bull without a pedigree. Individual merit must go with it, otherwise the pedigree is worse than useless; for then the weak points are sure to be transmitted, while they are not so apt to be transmitted where there is no pedigree. You may attend some of the leading shows and select an animal upon its merits, but stock fed for prizes are apt to be useless, and many of our best stockmen do not show at all. The names of our most reliable breeders will be found by consulting our "Breeders' Directory"

on the last page of the ADVOCATE and our advertising columns, to whom you may write; but if there is a member of your club who is a good judge of cattle, it would pay you to send him out among the breeders and let him select a good pedigreed bull, but not an expensive one. Let him also examine the ancestors and the offspring of the bull. Fifteen or twenty dollars spent in this way will be more than saved in the extra value of the bull, and in the satisfaction of knowing that you have made the best possible bargain. See also that the breeder does not pamper his stock or raise them too tenderly. Middlesex and Wellington are leading Shorthorn counties. Get a bull belonging to the Bates or Cruickshank strain of blood.]

U-necked Horses.—Would you kindly publish in your next issue how to prevent a horse from getting U-necked, that is, becoming hollow on the neck where the collar rests, and how can you raise the neck after it has become hollow. I have a three-year-old colt affected.

[Many horses have become U-necked by being overworked in the harness while too young. There is no remedy, but by keeping your colt in good condition his appearance will be greatly improved.]

Swollen Legs.—Will you please give me some information as to what to do for my horse. He swells badly on the hind legs when he stands in the stable—one worse than the other. It has been coming on him for the last five years. He is eleven years old.—H. J., Madoc, Ont.

[Give a purgative ball once every 10 days, and every night give 1 drachm saltpetre and 2 drachms sulphur in soft feed. Groom well and give regular exercise. This condition is frequently caused by neglect in keeping the legs clean, although it sometimes originates in impure food, and some breeds have a predisposition to it.]

To Reduce Swellings—Lampas.—1. Would you kindly answer through your columns the following questions? I have a mare which foal d last June and filled very badly on both sides. She improved for a week or two, but now gets no better. The swelling is still bad on one side. The mare is on grass, thin, but doing no harm. I have been giving her a little alum and saltpetre mixed twice a week. What can be done for her? 2. What is the best treatment for lampas? My horses are much troubled with them.—L. Q. C., Millward, Alta.

[1. Bathe the swelling with warm water and apply a mild ammoniacal liniment. Give also a light purgative drench, and every evening put a drachm of saltpetre in feed. These remedies can be procured at any drug store. 2. Scarify the swelling with a lancet, and give iodide of potassium in drachm doses every night in feed.]

Orchard Grass—Quack Grass.—1. Does orchard grass make good pasture for cows? 2. When is the best time to sow the seed, spring or fall? 3. What is the best way to kill quack grass.—E. A., Union Springs, Ont.

[1. Orchard grass makes capital pasture for cows; it starts earlier in the spring and lasts later in the fall than any other grass. 2. All depends upon the season. Grasses are usually sown in the fall and clovers in the spring. 3. Various modes of destruction have proved successful. The main object is to keep leaves from forming above ground until the roots have perished, and the best and cheapest way of doing so depends upon the quantity of grass and the nature of the soil. It has often been effectually exterminated by planting a root or corn crop and keeping the ground perfectly clean; but in bad cases a more effectual way will be to plow the land deep in spring, stir the surface once a week throughout the summer with a gang plow, and then plow in the fall the same depth as in the spring; the next season a root or corn crop should be planted, followed by clear cultivation.]

Bot Flies—Lousy Cattle—Restoring a Horse's Mane.—Kindly answer the following questions. 1. Are the "grubs" in a cow's back injurious to her and how can they be prevented? 2. Our cattle get very lousy while stabled in winter; what is the best remedy? 3. We have a three year old colt that has her main badly spoiled by the poke; would you advise me to cut or shingle it?—A. C., Wendigo, Ont.

[1. You will find full particulars about the warble fly in our issue of last May. These grubs are irritating to cows and so reduce the flow of milk, and the hides in which grub holes are found are depreciated in value. The grubs should be destroyed by puncturing the wound by a hot wire or needle. If allowed to escape they will turn into flies and injure the cattle the next season. 2. There are numerous remedies, but a strong solution of tobacco water is usually the most convenient, being careful not to apply it all over the body at one time. 3. Clip off all the mane and let it grow evenly.]

Curing Hops.—Please inform me how to cure hops. Is it proper to gather them green? Will first frost injure them?—W. H. Y., Mount Forest, Ont.

[For curing hops a special building is required containing a furnace, usually termed a hop kiln, the size being in sympathy with the extent of the hop-field. The stove-room, with stone, brick, or plastered walls, occupies about half the building, and over it the drying room is placed. The ceiling of the stove-room, or rather the floor of the drying-room, is constructed as follows: Joists are laid as in other buildings, and wooden slats 1x2 inches placed across on edge, 2½ inches apart. A flax or hempen carpet, loosely woven (leaving the spaces between the threads about one-sixteenth of an inch apart, so as to allow the air to pass through freely), is spread over the slats. On this the hops are placed for drying, and, when dry, they are removed into the stove-room, which occupies an adjoining part of the building. The hops should be ripe before picking, but if the plantation is large and the laborers few, the picking may commence a little earlier, that is, when the seeds commence to harden. When the hop is ripe, the seed is hard and of a purple color; but it soon afterwards turns brown, when the quality becomes depreciated, and the weight lightened by the dropping out of the seeds. Hops are sensitive to frost, and it should be avoided by every possible means.]

Stock Notes.

Constipation kills a great many hogs, says Col. Curtis. It takes the form of piles, staggers, megrims, fevers and colic. It is not epidemic, but the same causes which will make sick one hog, or cause it to die, may also affect more, so that the diseases have the appearance of an epidemic, whereas each case rested on the same violation of nature's laws. I have no doubt that hogs have pleurisy as a result of colds.

President Delano says an effort may be made to knock off the protection of wool at the next Congress, and he wants the names and post office address of all the officers of all State and county associations, and also the names and post office address of all wool growers in each State who desire information on this subject—the object being to distribute from time to time among such persons, information calculated to keep wool growers informed as to the progress of all efforts affecting their interests. Send names to C. Delano, care of Edward Young, No. 119 Maryland avenue, N. E. Washington, D. C.

The result of the judging in the "group contests" at the recent prominent English shows has occasioned considerable comment. On this subject a correspondent of the Chamber of Agriculture Journal, London, says: "The most important stock incident of the Bath and West of England show was, no doubt, the triumph of the Herefords in the breed family class, open to any breed, and the throwing over of the Shorthorn group, which had in it Mr. William Handley's celebrated bulls, Hovingham and Self Esteem 2nd. These had, with a four months' calf called Royal Hovingham, waged a similar contest at Waltham Abbey the preceding week, and conquered Mr. Price's group of animals which at Brighton were elevated into the position of taking first prize. Here, then, we have another instance of those singular reversals by different branches of show-yard judges which make our system of judging so much a farce. The anomaly becomes all the more singular from a group of Sussex cattle having the second prize, and a group of Devons coming in for reserve, while the Shorthorns which were first at Waltham Abbey, have no notice taken of them whatever. Both the Sussex and Devon groups were certainly very deserving, and headed by well-known animals which have taken several prizes, including Royal ones."

(Continued on page 318.)