

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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the Provincial Secretary when he said: "Everybody but extremists is agreed that, from every point of view, physical or moral, practical or humane, prisoners must be put to productive work. The problem is to reduce the competition of convict-labor to a minimum, and especially to reduce the proportion of prison-made goods that are sold in the open market." The farm has accomplished this. It offers opportunity to utilize the work of the mechanics in making and repairing all kinds of machines and implements used. Architects, engineers, carpenters, masons, machinists, laborers, blacksmiths, all find profitable, congenial, health-giving employment on the large farm. Stone-quarries, rock-crushers, etc., aid to give diversified work. "The fresh-air cure for criminals" is a success. Prisoners who have no real occupation are taught useful work and go away better men, fitted for life's battles, physically and morally. Is it not much more desirable to teach these men something to help them in after life than to make them eke out their terms behind iron bars and walls of stone, to leave the prison dejected, morally degraded, and worse fitted to meet the problems of everyday life than when they went in? "Reformatory" is the word, and reformation is the aim of prison labor on the farm. It is doing its work and as the scheme progresses better things will come. "The boys," as the prisoners are known to the officials, enjoy comparative freedom, appreciate it, learn how to work, which will ensure them profitable employment when their terms expire, and go away useful men.

In the neighborhood of London a large number of corn-distributing pipes for filling silos have been made this year after the pattern of the one illustrated in The Farmer's Advocate of August 29th. Users of them have been more than pleased. That one little idea is worth double the subscription price to many a reader.

Any Education Better than None.

"Since the question of schools is up again, and you have pointed out what, in your judgment, are the defects of our present system, I fear that some will be using your arguments as an excuse for keeping their children out of school, which would be too bad. With all its need of improvement, the schools give an education a million times better than none at all, and, further, it is the best country parents will likely have an opportunity to send their children to. I should like you to say some things clear and plain on the need of making the best use of the school system we have."

This letter from a Niagara Peninsula reader, L. C. Wilde, is appropriate and timely. By all means let us make the best of what educational facilities we have until better ones are provided. Nothing has ever been published by The Farmer's Advocate with a view to disparaging education. We believe in it heart and soul, first of all for the personal culture and power and enlarged capacity for both private and public service which it confers. These benefits must never be ignored.

While some few men receive fairly broad education with little or no schooling, most of them realize vividly the handicap of their early deprivation and almost invariably see to it that their children are provided with the best training the schools can furnish. While there is in some quarters failure to appreciate the opportunities for self education that are open to youths of discernment, calibre and application, it is to be said that the vast majority of children require for normal mental development the advantage of systematic discipline under the authority and guidance of a trained tutor. Otherwise the precious hours of plastic youth are frittered away to inconsequential purpose, and the untrained young man or woman soon finds himself or herself under the necessity of earning a living hampered by a very circumscribed sphere of usefulness and deprived of any considerable chances of subsequent self culture save at the expense of vast exertion, which, as a matter of experience, is seldom put forth. Pathetic beyond words to describe was the remark of an old laborer with whom we were talking one day. A more than ordinarily observant man, he realized keenly his limitations. Asked to receipt his wages, he excused himself thus: "I can't sign my own name. I'm the most ignorant fellow you ever saw. I can't do nothing but dig."

Get education by all means, get all you can afford, and get it while you are young. Youth is the time to learn. Memory loses its grasp with age; faculties become gradually set and increasingly harder to exercise along new lines. The child uneducated is handicapped for life. The late A. P. Ketchen, favorably known as an Institute speaker, once said in an evening address: "If I had a son I would want to start him out in life with three things—a sound, healthy body, a good education and an empty pocketbook." Mr. Ketchen was right.

HORSES.

Straw is plentiful. Use sufficient bedding.

It is a good plan to keep salt in front of horses at all times.

Clean and oil all the plow harness before storing it away for winter. It will add to its life of usefulness and also to its appearance.

Winter is a good time to train the colts. However, when training or "breaking" is once commenced, daily lessons should be given until the colt is thoroughly "broken."

As the rush of work slackens reduce the grain ration. No horse should get as much grain when idle as when at heavy work; neither should the horse have all his grain feed cut off when work stops. Cut the ration down gradually.

Where at all possible, arrange to tie the colts which are running two or more together in a box stall while they eat. No two eat at the same rate, and it is necessary, especially with the grain ration, that each colt gets his allotted share.

Most farm-work horses are rather thin at this season, and it never pays the owner to place a thin horse on the market. Fat may or may not be a desirable quality in horses, but nevertheless it sells them.

Straw is often used as a winter feed for idle horses, and the practice is, under some conditions, justifiable and profitable, but only good clean, bright straw should be used. The water-soaked, dusty, discolored straw so common this year is not fit to feed horses.

Over-exertion one day, followed by several days of enforced idleness, is one of the common causes of faulty action. Action improves with use, provided the use is well-balanced. Regularity is important in work as well as in diet, and in exercise in the yard as well as in grooming.

Horse stables do not require to be over-warm. Horses stand a lot of cold without injury, but drafts are dangerous. If the stable is well-ventilated, a blanket will protect from the cold, even if it is at times somewhat severe, and a cold stable, well ventilated, is much to be preferred over a warm stable, lacking in fresh air.

Frequent and copious rains during the haying and harvesting months caused a large amount of dusty, and even musty, feed, both grain and roughage. It is doubly necessary that great care be taken in feeding the horses this winter. Great care should be exercised in starting them on this feed during winter idleness, and such hay should be dampened with lime water.

To Tell the Age of a Horse.

There are things which we may reason out, and others which to be remembered must be in a sense memorized. One of the latter is the method of telling the age of a horse. Most of our memories work best to rhyme, and the Aberdeen Free Press has used the rhyming method of telling the age of a horse. Here it is:

To tell the age of any horse
Inspect the lower jaw, of course,
The six front teeth the truth will tell,
And every doubt and fear dispel.

Two middle "nippers" you behold
Before the colt is two weeks old,
Before eight weeks two more will come,
Eight months, the "corners" cut the gum.

Two outside grooves will disappear
From the middle two in just one year,
In two years from the second pair.
In three the "corners," too, are bare.

At two the middle "nippers" drop,
At three the second pair can't stop,
When four year old the third pair goes,
At five a full new set he shows.

The deep black spots will pass from view,
At six years from the middle two,
The second pair at seven years,
At eight the spot each "corner" clears.

From middle "nippers" upper jaw,
At nine the black spots will withdraw;
The second pair at ten are white,
Eleven finds the "corners" light.

As time goes on the horsemen know
The oval teeth three-sided grow;
They larger get, project before,
Till twenty, when we know no more.

Stumbling in Horses.

Every man who has driven horses has had more or less trouble with stumbling. On this very important subject James McDonough, D. V. S., of Montclair, New Jersey, read a paper before the State Veterinary Association sometime ago, and it recently appeared in the American Veterinary Review.

The term "stumbling," as applied here, is considered by Dr. McDonough as misleading, as it would lead one to believe that the cause existed in the free limb, while as a matter of fact it will be found to exist in the fixed or supporting limb. We have different kinds of stumblers. Some horses will make what we call a "miss step," some will fall to the extent of striking one or both knees against the ground, while others will plunge forward, striking their nose and face, or even to the top of their heads. While this difference in stumbling is merely one of degree, it nevertheless is deserving of attention. When a horse stumbles, the toe of the free limb comes in contact with the ground at a time when it is being extended or carried forward as shown by the mark found upon the hoof at that point. There-