

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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Dominion Exhibition Endorsed.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—“What say our readers?”—your editorial of April 20th on the subject of a Dominion Exhibition for Winnipeg—strikes a chord deep down in the realm of practical ideas. The promoting of such an exhibition in the metropolis of the West, as your article suggests, throws a bright light on the means of fostering our industries and developing our resources in such a practical and original manner as to set us all pondering on the best way to make an actual accomplishment of the “Winnipeg Dominion of Canada Exhibition.” The letter of L. S. L., which appeared in May 20th number, I have also read with much interest, and I have found therein much information which should be brought before every farmer and business man in this country. L. S. L. not only shows the feasibility of such an enterprise, but he shows it in that rare light so often neglected by public writers, in which the difficulties of the case are shown side by side with the means of overcoming them, along with the benefits to be derived from their conquest.

The magnitude of the proposed undertaking is great, but the benefits which would accrue to the Dominion would, I feel confident, be more than commensurate with the difficulties of organization. L. S. L. instances the success of the last Glasgow Exhibition, and sees no reason why such an institution should not be as great a success in Winnipeg. While agreeing with this writer on that point, I would wish to point out that, even should it not prove such a success as that of Glasgow from a monetary standpoint, yet the benefits which it could not fail to bring into the Northwest would be inestimable. I think L. S. L. overdraws the picture in writing of the ignorance of Canadian matters displayed by our brothers in the Old Country. The fact that the ignorance is displayed at all, shows a seeking after and a desire for knowledge. It is not apathetic, impassive ignorance, and our brothers are always accessible to the teacher. We have everything to gain by the spread of a true knowledge of our country, and nothing can spread that knowledge like practical demonstration. In an exhibition such as that under contemplation we should have

the concentration of all our resources, industries, and even possibilities, centralized, so that all it is possible to teach could be learned by a visit to it.

Portage la Prairie.

STOCKMAN.

Gold Medal for Brandon.

With a view to still further encouraging young stockmen to take an interest in live-stock judging, the “Farmer's Advocate” has decided to offer a gold medal for the farmer or farmer's son under twenty-five years of age who scores the highest number of points in the judging contest which will be held at the approaching Brandon Exhibition. The basis upon which the awards are to be made will be, in all probability, similar to the Winnipeg competition, as announced in May 5th issue of this paper.

This is the first year that a live-stock judging competition has been attempted at Winnipeg, but Brandon has already given the scheme a trial, and although the number who took part was not so great as might have been, yet a strong entry is expected this year.

It is not necessary that the competitor should have had a systematic training in stock-judging. Young men who have a desire to improve their knowledge of live stock can learn more by entering one of these competitions than by a whole year of general observation. Live-stock judging competitions have become prominent features of the leading American live-stock shows, and it is to be hoped that the stockmen of this country will use their best influence to encourage this movement, because the more the young men of to-day know of live stock the better it will be for the future interest of this country's stock trade.

Supporting the Shows.

Every year we are accustomed to read the announcement made by the management of exhibitions and shows that “this year's exhibition will be bigger and better than ever.” So familiar has this assertion become that we are impressed but little with its significance, and we go on our way to believe only when we have seen.

It will be but a few weeks until the principal exhibitions of this country will throw open their gates to educate and entertain those who believe in keeping abreast of the times. Winnipeg and Brandon people are again announcing special features, in addition to the regular show that should of itself attract large numbers to these points during show week. For some years both these exhibitions have been growing in importance and in magnitude, and when an improvement is announced this year the public may rest assured that something worth while will be offered for inspection.

No one would question for a moment the assertion that this country is enjoying a period of rapid growth. The progress which is being made in the development of this country gives every warm-hearted Canadian reason to rejoice in the policy which laid the foundation of our present greatness, and made such prosperity possible. It is sometimes forgotten, however, that our leading exhibitions have played a most important part in the encouragement of agriculture and live stock, as well as manufactures of different kinds. Our big shows are the chief indicators of progress. It is meet and proper, therefore, that we should expect Winnipeg and Brandon shows of 1903 to excel all predecessors, and the management in either case have assured us that the prospects are at present beyond all previous expectation. Nevertheless, everyone in the Province of Manitoba owes it to himself, if not to the show, to pay a visit to one or both of these exhibitions, of which this country has every reason to be proud.

The efforts to bring about greater intimacy between Canada and the other parts of the Empire by extending the distribution of Canadian newspapers continue to bear fruit. Sarawak, Transvaal, Zanzibar, Gambia, Ceylon and British Honduras have just replied to the Postmaster-General's note, and all signify their willingness to receive Canadian newspapers for distribution when these are posted in Canada at our domestic rates.

Horses.

Bone Diseases of Horses' Legs

(Continued).

SPLINTS.—The cannon bones are three—one large and two small. The large bone extends from the knee to the fetlock. Its anterior surface is somewhat round, and its posterior surface flat. On each edge of the posterior surface is a slightly roughened portion, extending rather more than two-thirds the length of the bone from the knee downwards. The splint bones, somewhat tuberos above, gradually taper towards their inferior extremity, and terminate in a small tubercle or bulb. These bones are attached by ligaments to the roughened surfaces on the posterior surface of the large bone. They articulate with the bones of the knee above, but have no articulation at their inferior extremity. The disease known as splints is caused by inflammation being set up by concussion or direct injury (usually the former) between the large and small bones, the periosteum and the ligamentous attachment between the bones become involved and destroyed; an exudate, the result of inflammatory action, is thrown out; this becomes converted into bone, uniting the large and small bones, and usually leaving a larger or smaller protuberance of hard, bony material, visible to the eye and easily felt. In the fore limbs splints are usually seen on the inside, and more frequently on the outside when the hind limbs are affected, but are occasionally seen on either or both sides of either limbs. In some cases we see what is called a double splint, showing on both sides of the limb, and in such cases there is usually a connection of ossified material extending from one side to the other; this interferes with the action of a ligament, called the suspensory ligament, and in some cases causes permanent lameness. Unless a splint is double, very close to the articulation, or very large, it is not usually considered an unsoundness. In many cases splints do not cause even temporary lameness, while in others lameness is quite severe during the inflammatory stage, but disappears on the subsidence of the inflammation. Young horses are usually affected. It is seldom we see a case of splint lameness in a horse over five years old, but we occasionally see even old horses affected. I may say that few horses (especially those that have been driven or worked before arriving at maturity) reach adulthood without having splints, and they sometimes appear while the colt is quite young, even in its first year; but in the majority of cases they have become absorbed to such an extent as to be invisible, and in many cases not detectable by manipulation, but the ossific union between the large and small bones remains for life. In other words, a horse that once has a splint will always have it, although it may not be detectable either by the eye or with the fingers. The lameness of splint is usually characteristic. In most cases the horse will stand and walk sound, or nearly so, but when jogged will show well-marked lameness. This is usually noticed in the early stages, before any enlargement can be detected, but manipulation and pressure over the seat of splint on the affected limb will cause pain; after a time an enlargement can be noticed. In other cases the enlargement is noticed without having been preceded by lameness. Where no lameness is noticed, it is doubtful whether treatment should be given. Friction with the hand or blistering may hasten absorption, but as a rule natural absorption will result until the visible enlargement disappears. When lameness is present, treatment should be given. This consists in locating the seat of the trouble, then applying either hot or cold water to the part for a few days to allay the inflammation, then, if lameness has not disappeared, a blister should be applied. In some cases it is necessary to fire and blister, but this should be done only by a veterinarian.

RINGBONES.—Ringbones appear in either fore or hind limbs, and are caused by inflammation being set up (usually by concussion, possibly by direct injury) in the cancellated tissue of the bone; this extends and involves the compact tissue; as a result an exudate is thrown out; this becomes ossified, forming what is called an exostosis (a bony enlargement). Ringbones appear between the fetlock joint and the hoof. If affecting the shaft of a bone only, not involving either the pastern or the coffin joint, they are called “false ringbone,” and do not cause lameness. If involving the pastern joint, it is called “high ringbone,” and if the coffin joint be affected, it is known as “low ringbone.” In either case lameness will be more or less severe. In many cases the exostosis (enlargement) is noticed only on one or both sides of the limb; this is sometimes spoken of as “sidebone,” but it is a misnomer, as sidebone is a disease of another character and involving different structures. Whether the disease under discussion appears as a prominence involving the whole or part of the circumference of the limb, it is properly known as ringbone. The lameness caused by ringbone is often noticed before any enlargement is apparent, and this is especially the case in low ringbone. The lame-