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prejudice against turnips as a feed for milking cows, on the ground of their tainting the milk, has little foundation if they are fed after milking and in moderation, and the same objection may be urged against silage, as it is in some instances. Mangels, however, are free from this objection, are easily grown, yield abundantly, and keep fresh until grass grows. Ensilage from well-matured corn is excellent and cheap feed, and we commend its cultivation, but for the best results in feeding, we cannot afford to neglect root-growing, though, with the silo, we may well do with fewer roots than where silage is not provided.

Export Tax on the Farmer's Raw Material.

According to the Statistical Yearbook of Canada, the value of ashes exported from the Dominion in 1903 amounted to \$117,326. As most of these are used by American farmers, who pay transportation and middlemen's charges, and consider they are still getting good value for the money, it requires no expert to calculate that their potential value to the Canadian farmer must be at least double this estimate. Meanwhile, our lands are being gradually depleted of available potash that must be sooner or later replaced at three times the price for which we are now selling it in the form of ashes. How long shall we thus continue to enrich our neighbors with our own resources? Fertility is a raw material just as is timber or minerals—a raw material which, although extensive, is by no means inexhaustible, and which it therefore behooves us to conserve. It is universally agreed that of all forms of fiscal protection, export tax on raw material is by far the best. Why not place such a duty on ashes, so that if we cannot wholly stop the export of them, we may at least realize a revenue, instead of magnanimously permitting the American farmer to enjoy the benefit of cheap potash at our expense?

A similar argument applies to the by-prod-

ucts of the packing-house, for instance, bones, of which, according to the above-quoted authority, we exported in the same year (1903), 49,211 cwt., appraised by the customs at \$32,228, which figures, if they mean anything, indicate that a lot of phosphorus has been sold at a price away below its agricultural value.

Again, the agitation for an export duty on wheat could be quite justifiably met by a demand for similar customs toll on by-products of the mill. It will be no difficult task to persuade the stockmen and dairymen of Canada that the 351,641 cwt. of bran that left our ports would have been better fed at home than sold to competing stock-feeders in the United States and Great Britain. For years the Canadian manufacturer has been clamoring for cheap raw material and conservation by fiscal legislation of the supplies we have. Is it not time the farmer had a schedule framed in his favor, and what better move is there than an export tax on fertility and feeding stuffs?

An English lord, in conversation with his head gardener one day, said: "George, the time will come soon when a man will be able to carry round the manure for an acre of land in one of his waistcoat pockets."

To which the gardener replied: "I believe it sir, but he will be able to carry all the crop in the other pocket."

HORSES.

Care and Feed of the Mare at Foaling.

We have been asked for information on the feed and care of a mare for two weeks before and two weeks after foaling. The subject is both timely and important, as upon this period depends in a very large measure the development and value of the future horse. The younger an animal, whether it be a colt, calf, pig or lamb, the greater the effect of favorable or adverse conditions upon ultimate development.

The food and care of the mare during foal development is likewise important. A great many colts are born handicapped by ill nutrition, and such colts are permanently stunted. Good feed after birth cannot make up for pre-natal starvation, nor for setbacks at birth. Good after care may alleviate, but can never overcome this handicap. From the above it is sufficiently clear why the mare should be well nourished and cared for from the time of conception till she is through suckling her foal. This does not mean that she should do no work; on the contrary regular exercise and moderate work will improve her health, harden her muscles, and increase the chance of getting a hardy, strong-muscled colt. With precautions, then, to prevent slipping, severe strain or injury in backing, the mare may be advantageously worked up to within a day or two of foaling. Some horsemen work her until signs of immediate parturition, but the plan is not to be commended.

The feed during the last two weeks will depend, of course, upon the exercise. Good hay, consisting of part clover, should be supplied. Clover is rich in protein, which is needed to nourish the foetus. It is also laxative and conducive to the mare's health. The grain feed should consist of oats and bran, with an occasional evening feed of boiled oats or barley. As foaling approaches substitute more and more bran for oats, till the former constitutes about one half the grain feed. Give the dam a daily bran mash, and pure, moderately cool water, in small but frequent libations.

Anticipate parturition with a warm, roomy box stall—light, and free from drafts. See that there is no manger in which the foal could be dropped during a standing delivery, and use plenty of clean dry bedding. It is a good plan to sprinkle a little lime on the floor before bedding down the stall.

The attention required by the mare prior to and during delivery has been so thoroughly covered in these columns by "Whip" that anything further here would be superfluous, but we cannot refrain from adding a plea to spare the mare for a few days after the colt's birth. Foaling is necessarily accompanied by a more or less severe constitutional disturbance, and time should be allowed for the system to resume its normal tone before subjecting it to the double tax of work and milk secretion. When the dam is put to work, shut the colt up in a box stall, and allow it to suck at as short intervals as possible, taking care always that it is not allowed with the dam while the latter is heated. The mare must be fed with particularly good judgment. Commencing with a bran mash, she should be gradually raised to her full feed, the quantity of oats being increased as she is called upon to work. When grass comes, a bite of something green will

stimulate milk flow, improve her condition, and keep her blood cool. The more natural, congenial and wholesome the conditions, the greater the chance of getting a strong colt, and the less likelihood of requiring interference or administration of medicines.

Constipation in Foals.

Constipation, or retention of the meconium in foals, is probably responsible for more fatalities than any other abnormal condition. During foetal life there is an accumulation of faecal matter in the intestines. This is dark, almost black in color, of a gummy, sticky nature, and exists in lumps, and is called meconium. Under normal conditions its expulsion commences soon after birth, and continues at intervals, and is all expelled in twenty-four hours or less, when the excrement becomes yellow. The passage of yellow excrement indicates that the meconium has all been expelled, and the faeces now passing are the excreta from nourishment taken after birth. While retention of the meconium may occur under any and all sanitary conditions, it is more frequently observed in early foals, whose dams have been fed on dry fodder and had little exercise during the winter. The foals of mares that have had regular exercise or light work, and been fed liberally on soft, laxative, easily-digested food, do not so frequently suffer, but the condition is liable to occur even under these circumstances, and is not by any means unknown in late foals, whose dams have been on grass for a greater or less length of time before parturition. Again, the condition is very liable to occur in the foals of dams from whom milk has been escaping for some time before parturition. The first milk or fluid that escapes from the mamma of a female after or shortly preceding parturition is of a different character, both as to appearance and constituents, from real milk. It is of a clear, viscid color, and resembles oil. It contains a greater percentage of fat than milk, and hence has a slightly laxative action. Its function is to nourish the young animal, and at the same time exert a slightly laxative action upon the bowels. It is called "colostrum," and if from any cause the young animal is deprived of it, there is greater danger of retention of the meconium than under other conditions. At the same time, it must not be understood that it is necessary, or even desirable, to substitute purgatives when the colostrum is absent. The administration of purgatives in such cases, unless in very small doses, usually complicates matters and renders incurable, a condition that in all probability could have been successfully if properly treated. The meconium, as stated, exists in lumps of a tough, gummy nature, about the consistence of putty. In the majority of cases where it is not spontaneously passed, these lumps, with which the rectum is full, are so large that the little animal has not sufficient muscular power to force them through the anus. In such cases it is obvious that purgatives will have little effect, as they act upon and render fluid the contents of the anterior intestines, increase the backward action (called peristaltic action) of the same, but have little or no action upon the contents of the rectum. We can readily see how this, by increasing the action of the anterior intestines, without removing the obstruction to the escape of faeces which exists in the rectum, will increase distress and lessen the hopes of successful treatment. Hence we should be very careful about dosing the foal with purgatives or laxatives, but depend largely upon mechanical treatment. The symptoms of necessary interference are plain. The foal will arch his back, elevate his tail, and make ineffectual attempts to defecate. At first the distress is not great, but as time goes on these ineffectual attempts will become more frequent and longer continued; he becomes restless, rolls on his back, takes little nourishment, becomes tucked upon in the flank, grinds his teeth, becomes weaker and weaker, suffers intense abdominal pain, looks around to his sides, and eventually expires.

TREATMENT.—As stated, purgatives should seldom be given. When the first symptoms are shown, the attendant should oil his forefinger, get an assistant to hold the foal, introduce the finger carefully into the rectum and remove all the lumps he can reach. In the meantime the foal will press, and as the meconium is removed by the finger, a fresh supply is forced into the rectum, and it is not unusual to be able to remove a pint or more at one operation. An injection of a liberal supply of soapy warm water, or warm water and raw linseed oil in equal quantities should then be given, and in the course of 2 or 3 hours the operation should be repeated, and every few hours, until the faeces become yellow. When the meconium continues to reach the rectum and can be removed with the finger, it is not wise to give any medicine whatever by the mouth, but when this is not the case, it is well to give an ounce or two of castor oil or raw linseed oil, the former preferred, but in no case should drastic purgatives—as aloes—be given, except in very small doses, as diarrhoea is very easily excited, and very quickly weakens the foal. I consider it good practice to remove the meconium in this