

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

TWO DISTINCT PUBLICATIONS—EASTERN AND WESTERN.

EASTERN OFFICE:
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:
IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BATHURST AVE. AND MAIN ST.
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

BRANCH OFFICE: CALGARY, ALBERTA, N.-W. T.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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Liked in Australia.

Dear Sirs.—Your paper is much admired by all those subscribers in South Australia of whom we know.

LINLEY V. G. GORDON.

College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky., U. S. A., formerly South Australia, October 15th, 1904.

Please find enclosed \$1.50, my subscription to the "Farmer's Advocate," which I gladly pay, as I think it is well worth the extra fifty cents to get it weekly.

Ingersoll, Ont.

THOS. A. NIXON.

The "Farmer's Advocate" is always a welcome periodical in our home, and the change to a weekly is highly appreciated.

WILLIAM WEBB.

Sarny, Ont.

Thanks to Thousands.

During the past year, more than in any other equal period, you, as readers, have endeavored to increase the circulation of the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" by sending in new subscriptions, and for your efforts in this direction we take this opportunity of expressing our thanks. Nor is this all we will do to show our appreciation of the goodwill and ready assistance of our readers. As an immediate and tangible evidence of our gratitude, we are having prepared for you one of the most beautiful and interesting Christmas numbers we have been able to produce, and as a continued reminder that the work of the readers of a paper in its behalf is work in their own interest, we will place in thousands of homes during the coming year the best all-round agricultural weekly and farm-home magazine printed in the English language, or any other tongue. It is a source of gratitude to us that our readers realize the value of the weekly "Farmer's Advocate" to such an extent that they help us to swell its circulation. It is work of a mutual nature, and work that we would like to see continued with fresh energy and enthusiasm during the remaining weeks of this year, and the coming months of the new year. We have confidence in our readers that this will be the case, and in anticipation of the same have procured a large supply of new and novel premiums. An opportunity to secure one of these is given on page 1547, and we would also direct attention to the announcement on page 1548. These offers are made to benefit our readers. Kindly accept them.

The Horrors of War.

The "Farmer's Advocate" has a strong and well-written editorial apropos of the appalling carnage now raging in the Far East. The editor calls up the terrible picture of a battlefield after an engagement: "Dismembered limbs, rigid bodies, with faces white and cold as stone, and glassy eyes staring up at a foreign sky; pools of blood; wagons laden with groaning, quivering masses of human flesh; men annihilated by the fall of a shell in the space of a single second—think of it!—human beings who, but a moment before, were in full possession of health of body and mind, able to till the earth, care for their loved ones, and rejoice in God's sunshine, smashed at one fell blow into a sickening splatter of blood and mangled bones! . . . And these are the glories of war." Our contemporary well asks: "Can humanity, in these dawning years of the twentieth century, hesitate over the question as to whether the prize be worth the horrible cost?" There ought to be but one answer, and yet, alas, humanity is not prepared to give it. But, thank God, it is becoming increasingly difficult for even the most bellicose and truculent of the nations to "cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war," and every invention and improvement in arms and appliances is hastening the day when war shall be no more. It seems a long way off, truly, but it is not so far off as it seems.—[Christian Guardian.]

Why Nitragin is Said to Have Failed.

Some time ago our readers will remember that cultures of germs favorable to clover and the gathering of nitrogen were put up in a commercial form, and great expectations arose as to the use of such cultures. Dr. Somerville, a noted British agricultural chemist, has outlined below the reasons for the non-success of soil or seed inoculation with the cultures, and indicates how the handicap is to be overcome:

The nitragin put on the market a few years ago was used in two ways, being either applied directly in the fields, or mixed with water and brought into contact with the seed before sowing. Under the former method of procedure an increase of crop was obtained only when the nitragin was used on land containing much humus. The explanation given for failure under other conditions was that the bacteria artificially introduced perished for want of food before the leguminous seed germinated and produced plants. Failures of the nitragin to effect an improvement in the crop when it was sprinkled on the seed was now believed to be due to the action of secretions produced by the seed in the early stages of germination. This difficulty was found to be got over by moistening the seed, and allowing it to sprout before the nitragin was applied, but, manifestly, such a procedure would always be difficult, and often impossible, to carry out in practice. The object, however, would appear to have been gained in another way, namely, by cultivating the bacteria in a medium that imparted to them the necessary power of resistance. Such nourishment might take various forms, but that which gave the best results consisted of a mixture of skim milk, grape sugar, and pepton, and it was in this medium that the organisms of the nitragin now distributed were cultivated.

HORSES.

What about clipping or singeing the horses that have heavy coats and must work?

* * *

Brush the dust and cobwebs out of the window, and, if necessary, get in new glass.

* * *

Always try to have the teams well matched in gait, whether or not they match in color or size.

* * *

See that the floor in the stalls is level and free from lumps or knots. It may need a new plank or leveling up to insure dryness.

* * *

Much depends upon the treatment and care given the colt's feet when he is growing; flat feet, contracted feet, corns, quartercrack, sidebones, etc., may all be avoided by regularly paring the hoofs to a level surface.

* * *

Breechiness is a habit in most horses, and is most generally learned in the fall, when the whole farm is given over to stock to range over. The first lesson is usually taken over a low fence, a foot or two high; then a higher bar is cleared, and so on, until a colt of a venturesome nature will attempt a fence of almost any height, when he then becomes a positive nuisance if allowed in a field. It may be some trouble, but it is the proper thing to do, to not let the young horse stock have an opportunity of trying their first jump. Maintain good fences about the horse pasture at whatever expense, and so avoid the annoyance of a breechy horse, who not only gets into mischief himself, but also teaches other stock his own evil habits.

The Horse and the Cars.

The horse that is not afraid of the first electric car he meets is a freak. He lacks equine spirit, and displays a woeful want of assertiveness so essential to a truly natural horse disposition. Yet, horses must be brought to know that cars will do them no harm, and that their rumbling noise is no more hurtful than that of the farm wagon. There is one certain way this cannot be done, and this method is so obviously irrational that we were surprised when recently we saw an apparently intelligent horsewoman practicing it upon an ordinarily well-broken driver. Strange this irrational method is the one most naturally, or, at least, most humanly, employed. Its details are something like this: Electric car approaching, horse otherwise steady becomes more and more animated, begins to look for means of escape; driver tightens reins, seizes whip, gives a domineering command just as the car flies by, horse all in a tumult, begins to realize he is not hurt, and that a car is harmless, when suddenly the whip cuts him across the flank, the bit tears across his mouth, and, to his bewildered senses, the car has suddenly become transformed into an instrument of torture, which attacks him from behind, and from which the only escape is to bound away, irrespective of consequences, but at every bound the whip descends upon the terror-stricken brute, until he either succeeds in getting away or the driver brings him under control, but he has his remembrances of a trolley car, and a horse's memory can generally be depended upon. Thus a horse that is otherwise well-broken becomes absolutely dangerous upon a road where cars are likely to be met, until, by a process of elimination, he has come to discern more clearly between the acts of his driver and those of the car, and even when he has discovered that the car is harmless, he very often learns to regard it as a signal for more punishment. Fortunately, all drivers do not adopt this absurd method of teaching horses the harmlessness of cars. The man or woman who knows the horse nature, first shows the horse there is nothing to fear by being kind and gentle, and by keeping the temper under control. The horse very largely models his behavior according to the example of the driver, and, in time, if not abused when meeting cars or other unfamiliar objects, will soon lose his fear of them.

The Fast Walker.

The fast-walking horse, all other things being equal, is the most profitable horse for the farmer. There is too little attention paid to the walk in selecting a sire, and just as little when choosing a brood mare. A team of horses with a clean step and a clever gait will cover nearly fifty per cent. more ground in a day than a slow pair. This in comparison means considerable economy in time, and in money as well, when expensive hired help has to be used for driving.

When breaking the young colt to harness it is very important that he should be hitched by the side of a fast walker of good manners. By being induced to step out for some time after first leaning to the collar, the young horse may be to a great extent led to acquire a desirable gait. Slow walking, like other objections to some