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of idleness in the limited sized box, or, worse still the small stall and the continual feeding on artificial food. Even the crack sire, worth thousands, with his box so arranged that he cannot hurt himself, looks a prisoner between four walls; and does that sort of existence prolong his life or make him more prolific? It does not do to take the risks in regard to animals of so much value, such as were advocated by the late Mr. Mytton, but there might be some modifications in that direction. There should be the summer residence and the winter one for stallions, if possible, and for those of very great value; special attention ought to be paid to the comfort of both. It might be that finer horses would be bred under better thought-out systems. There are more bad tempered horses than there should be, and more stable vices, such as wind-sucking and crib-biting. Horses, as a rule, do not live out their natural terms of life, and there is less pleasure in keeping them if they are not regarded as sensible, intelligent animals, imbued with extraordinary powers of memory and of affection, if they are not eradicated by abuse or mismanagement."

STOCK

Loco Poison.

A press report announces the discovery of the active poisonous principle of the loco weed, and by experimentation it is expected that a specific antidote will soon be found.

Wants Suggestions re Stable Plan.

A correspondent in Saskatchewan asks for suggestions as to the style of barn and stable he should build to accommodate about twelve horses and from forty five to fifty cattle, all the stock to be fed from the front. Over the stable he prefers a barn about twelve feet high and would like to know whether a timber frame or studding would be more satisfactory, and economical. He also would like opinions as to whether a long narrow barn is more substantial and easier built than one almost square. Inasmuch as these are questions upon which there is a great variety of opinion, it would be to the interest and edification of many readers if those having had experience with different types of barns would discuss their merits.

In practise it has generally been found that wooden walls for stables are more economical and satisfactory than are those of other materials, unless there happens to be a supply of sand and gravel in the neighborhood so that concrete can be used without too great an expense. For the barn frame it all depends which can be had the more cheaply, timbers or studding, both are equally substantial and, if the sheeting is painted as it should be, there is little or no choice between the practice of boarding horizontally and perpendicularly.

Neither extremes in length or width are as satisfactory as a medium oblong barn.

When some of our readers have expressed their opinions upon barn and stable arrangement we will be pleased to publish plans illustrating the

most popular methods of stable building, and shall endeavor to draft a plan applicable to the special case of our correspondent who has opened this discussion.

FARM

"Is It Possible?"

Under the caption "Some Gems from the Sessions of the Royal Grain Commission Held at Winnipeg," Mr. T. W. Knowles of Emerson sends the following "sparks."

* * *

"There is the freest kind of competition between buyers at all points."

* * *

"No farmer would sell 1 Hard or 1 Nor. for 2 Nor., he is not so silly."

* * *

"The sending out of prices from my office to one of the buyers at each point is not done to control prices but to create harmony among buyers; it does not affect prices, as no farmer would sell his wheat if he did not get what it is worth."

* * *

"No elevator can handle grain at less than one and three quarters cents for cleaning, fifteen days storing, and insurance, except at a loss."—From the evidence of Mr. Fowler, secretary of the Grain Dealers' Association.

Bridges Should Be Built to Carry Engines Necessary to Agriculture.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Would you allow me a little space in your paper to explain or express my opinion as regards the affair of threshermen having to provide themselves suitable planks for crossing culverts and bridges with their threshing outfits? Do you not think it would be a great deal better if such culverts and bridges were made strong enough, so that there would be no danger of any ordinary threshing outfit or steam traction going through them? I have an opinion that all culverts or bridges under eight feet wide should be built of such material so that they would stand the strain of any steam traction engine, in fact, I think any and all of the bridges now erected in our province should be of such dimensions that any such engine could cross in safety, and would call your attention to the fact that the bridges that are at present being built from time to time are such that some of them are scarcely safe to cross with a load of grain, to say nothing of a threshing outfit. I would suggest that the bridges of our thoroughfares be such as are built by the railroad companies so that no risk or loss of life may be looked for by any steam traction engine crossing the same. The day is at hand when such bridges of such dimensions are required, for it is a very risky business to put a threshing outfit through a creek or stream of water in this country, as some of us are already aware of to our sorrow.

I trust that our government will look into this matter and see to it that all such culverts and bridges are properly constructed, and that no fine may be laid upon any thresherman, and they may be free to cross upon any and every bridge or culvert without the use of any private plank or any other obstruction whatever.

Will some other threshermen give us their opinion also?
THOS. LINTON.

Believes in Assisted Passages to British Farm Laborers! So Do We!

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of November 28 you publish a letter on the dearth of labor of all kinds in Canada. Whilst all are agreed that there is a serious scarcity I do not think that many will agree with the writer, who suggests Japanese immigration. The first qualification necessary in a farm hand is that he be a teamster able to look after and drive horses, and I have never yet heard of the laborers of the Orient being horsemen.

I am, however, perfectly in accord with your sentiments as expressed in the foot note of the letter by Henry Deby. Last winter I spent in one of the eastern counties of England amongst some of the best farmers in the world. There are thousands of men there who have no hope to better their condition so long as they remain on the old sod, who would be more than willing to throw in their lot with us in western Canada.

What is needed, however, to get these men will in some cases be assisted passages and in all cases a more vigorous immigration policy amongst the agricultural classes.

I should say that in the larger cities where our immigration officials are stationed I believe that Canada is well and favorably known. But in the smaller towns and villages (and this is where the best agriculturists are) all emigration is left to the booking agents. These men are just as likely to advise Australia as Canada to any intending emigrant.

A vigorous campaign pushed amongst these people, the advantages of the country pointed out to them by men who have lived and made a success here, and in some cases assisted passages, would bring us lots of men who would ultimately make us the best settlers.

Another point; I think if the free homesteads were not brought so prominently forward it would perhaps be better. Too many incompetent men at the present time rush West, take their homesteads and immediately begin to part with what little money they have buying horses, oxen, machinery or lumber that they don't know how to use when they have it purchased. They very often get fleeced and, when they find it out too late to do any good, they sour on the country. Many times I have heard young Englishmen who are getting along well out here say, "I would not advise any one to come to Canada."

I should say that the best thing a man who says that can do is to sell his stuff and get right back to the Old Land himself.

PHIL. M. ROBINSON.

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Point is given to one objection to the publication of the Swine Records in the present form of quarterly, paper covered books, by the recent enquiry of the Dominion Agriculturist for spare copies, he being short several to complete the volumes for binding.



MR. T. JOHNSON'S FARM IN THE BEAUTIFUL SWAN RIVER VALLEY.