

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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VOL. XXXIX.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., MAY 12, 1904.

No. 607

EDITORIAL.

The Duty of the Veterinary Profession.

It might be assumed by some people that the entire cause for the lower standard of veterinary education in Canada rested with the veterinary college now in existence in the Queen City. Such, however, is not the case. Whatever may have been true in the past does not exonerate the profession from not taking a more active interest in the advancement of the profession. In other words, now that the University of Toronto and the Veterinary College have decided on a higher training in future, it is up to the veterinarians throughout Canada, and especially those in Ontario, to do something more than has been done.

No profession in Canada has been so lethargic, so utterly indifferent to progress, as has the veterinary profession, too many seemingly being contented with food and clothing, beyond which they did not care. That the profession had no social standing, and that to enter it branded one either as lacking in aims or with a predilection for liquor and fast horses, never seems to have dawned on the comprehension of many; consequently, the need for improvement was not heeded. The duty of the profession is therefore to get together and go to the Legislatures in the various Provinces and have enacted such legislation as will ensure no college being allowed to turn out veterinarians short of three years, and with the educational standing as laid in the University statute; and that no graduate from a veterinary college whose course is below the standing above mentioned be allowed to practice in Canada.

Then, many Toronto graduates go to the States to take up further studies, yet many of the three-year schools on the south side of the boundary are not what they should be by any means, being only nominally three-year schools with a corresponding standard; in fact, the only schools living up to their professions of high standard are the State-supported schools, such as Cornell, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Ohio. If, then, legislation is passed making it illegal to run a veterinary college of a standard inferior to the University statute, no hardship will be inflicted on the Toronto institution, which we understand will rise to the desired standard, but which could not be expected to raise the standard if colleges of the present low standards and type were permitted to exist and grind out graduates. Veterinarians, get together, put your shoulders to the wheel and your ducats into the hands of competent men to secure the necessary legislation at the next session of the Ontario and Territorial Legislatures.

Veterinary associations should not be condemned for contributing moneys for the erection of monuments to dead veterinarians, yet we hold that a monument in the form of legislation advancing the standard of veterinary education in Canada is much to be preferred; the dead past is gone, the living present is here, and the to-be-born future is drawing nearer, therefore concentrate on the desired end and fight (if necessary) until the requisite legislation is placed on the statute books.

Preparing for a Corn Crop.

The time will soon arrive when preparations for corn planting will be in order. This crop is steadily growing in favor in Canada, and most farmers now regard it as essential to the best success in feeding cattle, either for beef or for dairy production, while for young stock, as for all, it is, we believe, the cheapest and most economical fodder crop grown. The great amount produced makes it easily, when ensilaged, the most desirable of cattle foods, while in districts where it ripens uniformly the shelled grain is most profitable to sell or to be used for fattening purposes, and the dried stalks can also be used to good purpose as fodder.

Fall-plowed land intended for corn will be all the better for being harrowed and lightly cultivated any time after this date, to keep the soil friable and to conserve moisture, as well as to start the germination of weed seeds, that they may be destroyed by the following cultivation. If manuring has not been done in the fall, or by top-dressing during the winter or early spring, fresh manure from the barnyard, if not too long or strawy, may be worked into the land by surface cultivation, and the seed sown without spring plowing. We have seen splendid crops grown with this preparation. If the land must be plowed, let it not be too deeply; use the roller freely on the fresh-plowed land a few hours after plowing, and before harrowing and cultivating, as this will reduce the soil to a fine tilth quickly. If a heavy rain comes before planting-time, causing the soil particles to run together, cultivate and harrow again before sowing. For ensilage corn, the common practice is to sow with the grain-drill in rows, not less than three feet apart, and not more than one-half bushel of seed to the acre. One peck is enough, if the seed is sound and germinates, and comes up regularly. If it is too thick, and the plants should not be less than one foot apart, repeated harrowing after it is up will do the thinning to some extent. Harrowing after planting, before the corn is up and afterwards, has an excellent effect in cleaning the land of weeds, letting the air into the soil, and keeping the moisture in it, thus giving the corn a good send-off in the early days of its growth.

Many of the most successful corn-growers for ensilage, as well as for ripened grain, prefer planting in hills, three and a half or four feet apart each way, and cultivating both lengthwise and crosswise of the field, claiming that even for ensilage they get nearly as great bulk of stalks and much better matured corn, which is acknowledged to add greatly to the sweetness and feeding value of ensilage, and to its keeping quality as well. Planting in hills requires similar preparatory cultivation to that in drills, but the land must be marked off in squares, and the seed dropped at the intersection of these markings, or, better, two or three inches from it, by means of a hand planter, or by making a hole with a hand hoe, dropping the seed from the hand and covering with the hoe. In either case it is said to be a good plan to press the ground over the seed with the foot, firming it to hasten germination and to prevent crows from scratching out the seed. Owing to the United States corn harvest being late last year, and the season wet, much soft corn resulted. It will be well to be careful to secure dry, sound seed, and it would be prudent to test its vitality before the sowing season arrives, which

may be readily done by the simple practice outlined in an article on the subject on another page in this paper.

Managing Hired Men.

It may be safely said that the greatest difficulty in connection with the labor problem to-day is not merely in being able to secure laborers, but in managing them properly after they are employed. Few men are born leaders of their fellow men, it is true, but the ability to properly manage hired help on the farm may be acquired and practiced very successfully by the exercise of a little common sense.

There can be no doubt that a great many difficulties that arise between employer and employed are due to lack of intelligence on the part of the latter, and to overcome them is not, of course, altogether within the power of the manager of laborers. On the other hand, it is very true that some men will get a great deal more work and satisfaction out of an employee than will others.

To begin with, men should be taught to take an interest in their work. No matter whether it be deepening a ditch or constructing a farm building, the one who can be induced to feel that he is responsible for a work that is worthy of being well done, will do better work than another not so encouraged. In this connection, too, every farmer should adopt the habit of teaching his men how to do things. It is not necessary to wait until a certain piece of work is about to be performed, to begin an explanation of how it ought to be done. Every farm should be to the hired man a school of instruction, fitting him for better work and higher wages.

Another strong factor in teaching hired men to be interested in their work is the adoption of a system of regular work, and the time at which the day's labors should begin and end. In seed time and harvest, including threshing, there is every reason for rushing work at the highest possible rate, but if men are to work from daylight until dark they should know it at the time of their engagement, and be paid accordingly. Nature will only allow a man to do so much, and if he must be kept going for sixteen hours he can certainly not do an honest hour's work every sixty minutes.

While it is only the observance of a sound business principle that farmers be exact in insisting that their men do honest work according as they were engaged, yet occasionally difficulties arise through men being expected to do an unreasonable amount of work in a short time. The hired man should not always be treated as a mere slave. Encourage him to rise above the level of those who by choice would be all their days hewers of wood and drawers of water for others, and thus aid in developing in Canada an enlightened and homogeneous agricultural people. Our fields are broad, and our acres plentiful, and is it not best to be educating a fellow man to become capable of erecting a happy home of his own, and to cultivate more of the unbroken prairie, even if you should be at the loss of a good man? There can be no nobler ambition among men than to help another to a more useful life.