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DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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Gambling in Wheat Options.

The recent flurry in wheat prices, and the causes therefor, may not be as well understood by some of our readers as by others. The ups-and-downs of prices did not indicate that the value of wheat had risen or fallen in a corresponding degree, but was just the outward and visible sign that despite the coldness of the weather, the lambs were being closely shorn.

The soil of the West is fertile enough to ensure good returns for the investment of capital, in the form of labor and brains, and there are numerous openings throughout the country for a person with a talent for business to make money, yet the get-rich-quick virus is in the blood of many, a virus which results in the lose-money-and-character-fast disease. Undoubtedly, a few cleaned up some thousands in the deals put through; the losers, who could ill afford it, were many.

The disease of speculation is very prevalent, and to those affected recently we would give two excerpts of worldly wisdom, culled from "Letters of a self-made merchant to his son." They are: "The wheat-pit is only thirty feet across, but it reaches clean down to hell!" and "The net profit on nothing is Nit!"

It is risky enough to speculate in wheat when you have the wheat in your granary; it is reprehensible when you speculate with that wheat and have not paid all your bills; but it is downright foolishness to play with the fire, in the form of options in a market manipulated by shrewd, and, shall we say, unscrupulous operators. The sucker is fair game, so the world says, and you cannot protect a fool against himself!

Best Investment.

C. H. Parmelee, M.P., Waterloo Advertiser, Waterloo, P.Q.: "I like the weekly form of the 'Farmer's Advocate,' which is easily Canada's leading farm paper, and I wish more of the enterprising and intelligent farmers of the townships would become regular subscribers. It would be the best investment they could make."

HORSES.

The Feet of Canadian Horses.

If the recent Spring Stallion Show at Toronto did nothing more, it at least demonstrated the better shape of the feet of the imported horses, as compared with the Canadian-bred. Not that the feet of our home-bred horses are decidedly faulty, but it is plainly evident that they are very much inferior to those of the Scottish- and English-bred horses. The defect is particularly noticeable now, for the reason that the feet of the Clydesdales are, if anything, rather too large and flat. However, the feet of our horses are too small, not full enough about the hoof-head, and too perpendicular. So marked are these characteristics, that if one had no other means of determining the nativity of certain classes at our show, he could decide with comparative certainty by simply glancing at the feet. Broad, full, sloping hoofs minimize the probability of side-bones, laminitis, and other diseases of the feet, and if there is any country in the world where these diseases have a tendency to develop it is in Canada, where hard gravel roads are so common.

The horses' feet, perhaps more than any other part of the body, are subject to environment, and amenable to intelligent care. Low, moist pastures in England and Scotland, and high, dry lands and climate in Canada, probably in a great measure account for the difference in the shape of hoofs of the horses of those countries. Certain it is that moist soils tend to develop a wide foot; but we believe there are other influences at work in the Old Country to secure well-shaped hoofs. Mr. Robt. Ness, of Howick, P. Q., incidentally touched upon this point when addressing a gathering of horsemen at the recent show in Toronto, and strongly advised breeders to pay attention to the growth of the hoof all through the growing period of the colt's life. A broken, uneven sole, and long, projecting walls in many cases are responsible for diseases of the feet and hocks afterwards appearing in the horse. In the Old Country the hoofs are pared and trained with the greatest care. In fact, the foot is the all-important part of the horse among the best breeders. In Canada it appears that greater care than is given in the Old Country is required to produce hoofs of the best shape and quality.

When Inbreeding is Advantageous.

When a breeder mates a mare with a stallion that is a near relative to her, the number of common ancestors the produce will have, will be much less than one will have that was produced by parents not related. This is one of the advantages to be obtained by inbreeding, provided the ancestors to which inbreeding is practiced are of the right kind. When one can mate two individuals of great excellence, possessing constitutional vigor and no inherited forms of weakness, knowing that they are descended from ancestors of much the same kind, tracing to a common ancestor, there need be little fear of evil effects following. Inbreeding is dangerous when animals lacking constitutional vigor or that possess undesirable traits in common, or that are descended from a common ancestor marked by some serious fault, are mated. There cannot be too few crosses to faulty ancestors, while on the other hand there may be very many crosses to ancestors of the right kind; in fact, this kind of inbreeding not only fails to show any evil effects in the individuality of its product, but it gives to the breeder a greater proportion of animals possessing with uniformity the particular qualities he is desirous of getting.—[Torse World.

A Homemade Condition Powder.

When horses are allowed to run wild during winter, or when they are required to do but a small amount of work, they invariably get out of fettle, and just before seeding there is generally an effort made to get them into good working condition. Frequently, in spite of extra care and liberal feeding, they do not respond to the efforts of the feeder as rapidly as desired, and resort is then had to some kind of condiment or condition powder. Sometimes these powders are actually required; in other cases they do no particular good. Recognizing the need or demand for these condiments, the Agriculturist at the Central Experimental Farm, G. H. Grisdale, has prescribed the following: Five pounds each of ground corn, oats and bran, five ounces of oil-meal, dessert-spoonful of gentian, a teaspoonful of iron sulphate, and one-half pound of salt. Feed about a pound at a feed. This mixture has been used with good effect in the farm stables at Ottawa, and Mr. Grisdale claims performs all the functions of a first-class high-priced condition powder.

Before beginning to feed this condiment, the horse should receive a mild purgative, generally a good bran mash or boiled barley after fasting will be sufficient. Good food should then be given, with plenty of exercise and thorough grooming. These preparations, it should be re-

membered, are not recommended for constant use, but are merely a tonic and stomachic to assist the horse to make more economical use of the food eaten.

STOCK.

Should Go to St. Louis.

Sir,—On opening your Feb. 25th issue, I was pleased when reading what Mr. D. C. Flatt had to say about the change of attitude shown by Canadian stockmen regarding a national live-stock exhibit at St. Louis. The thought uppermost in my mind is, will it pay our breeders to quarrel with good customers? Let us think otherwise as we may, the fact remains that in the hands of Canadians generally, and Ontario in particular, lies the future development of the pure-bred live-stock business of this continent; that is, providing they seize their opportunities and aim constantly at supplying the demand in such a way as to promote trade. Canada may be to this new world what Britain is at present to the whole civilized world.

But can we ever hope to reach the possible, if, as Mr. Flatt states, the advertising of our flocks and herds is "left to a few straggling exhibitors" who may venture to World's Fairs such as St. Louis is to have? Why the change of front, I cannot understand. I have heard much and read but little as to why our associations have decided not to show. Mr. Flatt questions as to number of exhibitors "present when action was taken to dispense with the grant." That I cannot answer, but on good authority may state that at the Sheep-breeders' annual meeting at Toronto there was but one breeder of Shropshires, and that one was in favor of a national exhibit, and the using of the allotted grant.

The Americans have hitherto been the best customers for our best qualities of pure-bred stock, and also for some lines of block animals. The trade has been profitable, and was largely increased by the displays from Canada at open-to-the-world expositions. How it is that breeders in their sober senses would turn around and by their actions say we don't want that trade and are better without it, is to me a mystery.

So far as I can learn, regulations governing the showing at St. Louis are the same as those in force at the Chicago International. In exhibiting at the latter four years, ever since the said exhibition was organized, no complaint of unfair treatment or hardship incurred from rules and regulations or judges has been heard from exhibitors. It would, therefore, be interesting, and possibly instructive, if those who have so deliberately refused to accept of the Government grant will kindly explain, FREELY AND FULLY, why the refusal, and what the benefits they expect to result from the stand taken, to our live-stock trade with the States.

Fairview Farm.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

Warbles in Cattle.

Warbles or grubs are the larval form of the ox bot-fly or heel-fly (*Hypoderma lineata*). The grubs or warbles are noticed as little lumps or bunches just beneath the skin of the back. Directly over each warble there is a small pore or opening in the skin through which the grub breathes.

LIFE-HISTORY.—The adult heel-fly or warble-fly is a little larger than the common house-fly. In the latter part of the summer she deposits her eggs upon the hair of cattle in the region of the heels. The presence of the flies among cattle causes much annoyance. The animal licks the part and the larvae are taken into the mouth. From the throat or gullet the small larvae bore their way through the tissues until they locate beneath the skin of the back, where they increase in size quite rapidly, so that the lumps are large enough to be noticed by the latter part of December or early January. In February or March these larvae or grubs work their way out through the small hole in the skin, fall to the ground, burrow into dirt or litter, pupate, and some weeks later transform into adult flies.

TREATMENT.—Treatment should begin as soon as the warbles are noticed upon the animals' backs. Most of the warbles or grubs can be destroyed by putting turpentine, kerosene, crude petroleum or mercurial ointment in or on the opening through the skin directly over the warble. If the opening is very small, it should be enlarged by using a smooth, pointed stick. A machinist's oil can, having a slender nozzle, furnishes an excellent method of applying the medicine. By running the cattle through a chute they can be treated quite rapidly. They should be examined in about ten days, and any that escape the first treatment should be destroyed by a second; or better, squeezed out and crushed; or they can be crushed beneath the skin by pinching the lump, or killed by inserting a pointed wire or large, blunt-pointed needle. It is important that any grubs squeezed out or escaping naturally should be destroyed, or they will transform into adult flies.

Kansas Ex. Station.

N. S. MAYO.