

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
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WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

peopled with natives of the shores of the Atlantic,
who know that they could not go back and better
their positions in life. Their influence is gradu-
ally drawing others westward, and the benefits
which Canada, as a nation, would receive from an
exhibition at Halifax are indeed infinitesimal
when compared with the same attempt in British
Columbia.

Bridges, Threshing Engines, and the Roads.

One of the results of the roadwork system fol-
lowed in many municipalities is that the bridges
and approaches built are only fair-weather struc-
tures, going down or washing out in times of
stress. One of the occupations hard hit by the
construction of such flimsy structures is that of
the thrasher, who is indispensable to the farming
community, and yet who is hampered by the in-
competence, ignorance or parsimony that exists
in some municipal councils. While it is not
feasible for the municipalities to have every
bridge on their roads capable of carrying the
heavy engines now in use, yet the bridges on the
main roads should be built strong enough to
carry any traffic likely to travel those roads. The
trouble has been that the roads and bridges de-
partment of many municipal councils have spread
their appropriation out too thinly, and instead
of doing some good work have done a lot of work
of a temporary nature and inferior workmanship.
We can point to localities where bridges have
been washed out repeatedly, not because the floods
each year have exceeded those of a previous year,
but because the councils, taking no heed to previous
warnings, have built the bridges as they did be-
fore. With cement available at reasonable figures,
and stone at hand in large quantities in many
municipalities, there is no reason why the coun-
cils should not start to build permanent bridges,

although necessarily, owing to the cost, few in
number each year.

It will be necessary to employ a competent
civil engineer to prepare plans, estimates, etc.,
because no body of ratepayers have any right to
pay for experiments set on foot by amateurs, a
proceeding some councils are not altogether
guiltless of. The roads built by the Romans
hundreds of years ago are in good use yet in
Great Britain. The bridges on Old Country roads
are built to withstand heavy traffic, and it is time
our municipal officers looked further ahead, so
that they build structures not for next or the
following year, but for the next fifty years or
more.

Horses.

Weaning Foals.

The age at which colts are weaned depends
considerably on circumstances. If the mare is
needed to work, I think it is wise to commence to
wean the foal at about four months old, but if
the mare be not required for such purposes, and
is in good condition, it is better to allow the foal
to reach five months before commencing. In some
cases, the foal is allowed to suckle until six or
seven months, or even older, and where the mare
is not worked, nor bred again, it probably does
her no harm, and is all the better for the foal.
But when the mare has been bred again we should
consider the welfare of the future as well as the
present progeny, and if we do, I think we must
conclude that it is better for both dam and
prospective foal to wean the present foal at, at
most, five months, in order to give the dam reason-
able time to recuperate and to give proper
nourishment to the foetus in utero. I think a
little consideration will tell us that it is too
great a tax on any mare to sustain herself, a
foal five to seven months old, and a foetus well
advanced in utero. However, the age at which
the foal should be weaned must be decided by the
owner, and the question then arises, how should
it be done? Of course, the foal should be pre-
pared for weaning, by being taught to eat grain,
before the operation commences. Chopped oats,
with a little linseed meal occasionally, or regularly,
especially the oats, are certainly the better grains
for the purpose. We will suppose the foal has
been accustomed to grain. When we consider
that even though he has been given grain, he de-
pends largely for sustenance upon the milk of his
dam, and, in my opinion, the usual habit of wean-
ing, viz., separating dam and foal, and not allow-
ing them together again until the mare has
ceased to secrete milk, and the foal to look for it,
is irrational and harmful to both. We will all
admit that, with any animal, sudden changes of
diet and usage are dangerous, and it is reason-
able to suppose that such treatment would be un-
wise in the case of a foal. The future usefulness
and value of a foal depends to considerable ex-
tent upon it being kept in good condition the
first year of its life, and when weaned in such a
sudden, I might say heroic, manner, it is seldom
he does not lose flesh and condition by being
suddenly deprived of his natural food, the milk,
and by fretting for his dam. Then, again, the
dam suffers, and unless she be a poor milker, or
from long-continued activity the mammary gland
has become almost inactive, she will suffer from
inflammation of the gland, unless well looked
after and milked more or less regularly for a few
days or longer. In such cases the milk is
wasted, while the colt is in need of it and would
be much benefited thereby. My idea of the
proper method of weaning is somewhat as fol-
lows: Place the foal in a comfortable box stall,
without boxes or mangers into which he can rear
and hurt himself, have all doors and windows so
high that he cannot get his fore feet over or in
them, feed him off the ground, give him all the
good hay, clover preferred, and chopped oats he
will eat. It is well to pour boiling water over
a feed of chop in a vessel, cover it up, and allow
it to stand a few hours before feeding. Give a
feed of this night and morning, and it is good
practice to mix a handful of linseed meal with it
three or four times weekly. He may have whole
oats at noon, or the chop three times daily.
Teach him to eat carrots, and give him one or
two at noon each day. Allow him all the water
he will drink at least three times daily. If
practicable, it is good practice to have water
before him all the time. The hay should be fed
off the floor, and the grain either in a movable
box, that will be removed each time after eating,
or in a small box nailed up in a corner of
the stall, at the proper height. If the stall be
of considerable size, he will take sufficient exer-
cise the first few days, after which he should be
turned out in a paddock for a few hours every
few days. The mare should be either tied in a
stall or turned in a box. Some think she should
be removed out of hearing of the colt, but I don't
think so. She, of course, should be well fed and

if necessary, put to work. She should be taken
to the colt at least three times daily for a week,
then twice daily for the second week, and once
daily for the third. If the secretion of milk has
nearly ceased now, she and the foal should
not be allowed together any more, but if the
gland be still quite active, the daily visits should
be continued for some time longer. In this way,
the change for both dam and foal is gradual,
the foal is not suddenly deprived of its
nourishment, but the change is gradual,
hence he is not so liable to lose flesh and condi-
tion, and, not being suddenly deprived of the
company of his dam, he does not fret so much.
The dam does not suffer from congestion and in-
flammation of the mammae, and the milk that is
secreted, instead of being wasted, continues to
nourish the colt. At the same time, the regular
and gradually decreasing number of times in
which the milk is drawn daily gradually lessens
the activity of the gland, and, eventually, secre-
tion of milk ceases. This method, of course, en-
tails more time and attention than the ordinary
method of weaning, but we think the benefit gained
more than pays for the trouble. "WHIP."

A Well-bred Thoroughbred Comes to Western Canada.

The Scottish Farmer is authority for the in-
timation that Mr. Joseph Johnston, of Medicine
Hat, is the importer of the Thoroughbred stallion,
The Coon, a four-year-old sired by the great Per-
simmon, the property of His Majesty the King.
We had the good fortune to see Persimmon in the
stables at Sandringham two years ago, and were
impressed, not only by his race records and
prizes won (the Derby, St. Leger, etc.), but by his
size, masculinity, quality and conformation. The
Coon is a beautiful animal, rather under fifteen
hands, with capital bone, and is to be used to
cross on native mares to get polo ponies. The
Coon is half-brother to Siever's great race mare,
Sceptre. Persimmon, it will be remembered, is
by St. Simon, out of Perdita II., and is full
brother to Diamond Jubilee and Florizel II.

Farm.

A Word to the Girls and Boys.

The question of a college education is probably
making you do some thinking, as to what you
want and need and where to go to supply those
wants. Until the Macdonald Institute was
opened at Guelph, the farmers' daughters wanting
a special college education had to go to the
ladies' colleges, etc. Now, however, the Guelph
institution is open, where courses in dressmaking,
millinery, cooking and dairying can be obtained,
with the additional advantages of college life.
Tenders are now being called for by the Pro-
vincial Government for an agricultural college
building, but the time is too short to allow for
the construction of the necessary buildings to per-
mit the inception of an agricultural college course
in Manitoba this winter, consequently the farm-
ers' children will need to look to the east or
south for agricultural college training this season.
Guelph opened on September 13th for the two-
and four-year courses. The short courses open
in January next. Wisconsin opens the first week
in December for the fourteen-weeks course. Iowa
has a short course of two weeks' duration next
January.
Plan to make a start for one or the other of
these institutions this fall. A course at the col-
leges will broaden your view of life, in addition
to putting you in possession of valuable facts.

Watch the Machine.

With the probability of a lot of light grain, the
farmer will need to watch the separators closely,
and see that the grain does not go out through
the blower, in place of into the bags.
Threshing by the bushel will not be as profit-
able to the thrasher as other years, if all reports
of the grain yield and quality are true.
Have an extra barrel of water around in case
of fire from the engine, and in case such starts in
the stubble get after the blaze with wetted bags.
Do your part at the machine, by having teams
there to take the grain away, and also be there
to watch the tally. By being on the ground you
can see whether the grain is being properly
cleaned as well as threshed, whether any of the
grain is going out into the pile, or whether the
straw is going through unthreshed.

More and Better Issues.

Too often when a paper increases its number
of issues it deteriorates, but the opposite seems to
have occurred as regards the "Farmer's Advo-
cate," which is better than ever.

W. J. L. HAMILTON
South Salt Spring, B. C.