

Some Needs in Beef Raising.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

There can be no doubt regarding the desirability of improving the quality of our cattle, and thus increasing the supply of good cattle for beef purposes. I am afraid, however, that improvement will be slow until our markets become somewhat steadier than they have been for some years past. Many of our farmers have yet to learn the importance of properly finishing their cattle for export, and our system of marketing is not likely to improve this state of affairs. If the time ever comes when we have in Canada large abattoirs, such as they have in the United States, where farmers would market their own cattle, information regarding the desired type of animal would be more rapidly acquired. At the present time cattle are frequently sold several months before they are delivered, and while they are still in a comparatively thin condition. The buyer takes chances on the farmer performing his part of the contract, and very frequently the animals are not properly finished when delivered. This system tends to lower the general average of prices and, to my mind, is one of the great drawbacks of our development along this line. There are too many feeders who do not know what a properly finished animal looks like. On the other hand, we have a good many feeders who finish their cattle as well as could be desired for the very best market. These feeders, however, do not secure full pay for their efforts, because the large numbers of inferior cattle thrown upon the market tend to depress prices on the better grades. Just how this matter will remedy itself it is difficult to see, but I believe the establishment of large packing plants in different parts of the country would have a marked influence towards bringing about the improvement.

No doubt, as our country grows, capital will be forthcoming to place our beef industry on a similar footing to what it holds in the United States, and while we hear a great deal regarding the misdeeds of the beef trust in that country, at the same time these large packing concerns have done a great deal towards placing the industry upon a more satisfactory basis, and, by intelligent handling of the different classes of cattle, have been able to raise the general market price of all grades of beef cattle.

Ontario Agricultural College.

G. E. DAY.

Prices of Pure-bred Stock.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Having noticed an article in the "Farmer's Advocate" of April 6th, signed "Disgusted Breeder," in which he says that 97 per cent. of the prospective buyers want registered pigs from \$5 to \$10 less than market price, after figuring in the extra expenses he mentioned, such as registering, advertising, crating, etc. I have thought that to relate an experience I had some time ago, might throw some light on the subject, from the standpoint of a buyer, as there is generally two sides to a story. Some time ago I took a notion to improve my stock of pigs, so I looked through the "Farmer's Advocate," and finally decided to communicate with one of the advertisers. I did so, and decided to buy a pair of pigs, and was willing to pay the price asked. They were to be good, growthy pigs, and pedigrees were to be furnished with them. Part of the purchase money was to accompany the order, so there was no chance to send back the pigs without losing money. According to the pedigrees the pigs were 4½ and 5 months old, and weighed only 53 and 66 pounds, respectively. When they arrived they were a long way from what I had expected, and also a long way from what they ought to have been. However, I took the pigs and tried to make something out of them, but it was impossible; they neither grew nor got fat enough to look anything like pure-bred pigs, although I fed them as well as any pigs I ever had. If I had got pigs something like those mentioned by "Disgusted Breeder," I would have been quite satisfied. I have raised pigs from no particular breed (mongrels I would call them) that have done a long way better than those pure-breds, as I must call them, for the pedigrees were all right—at least they read all right—but the pigs did not correspond. I do not wish to throw dust on all breeders of pure-bred stock, but one dose of this kind of medicine generally does, and this may be the reason that some farmers do not wish to buy through correspondence, and it is a pity that some men get taken in in this way, for I think there are many reliable men in the business that sometimes have to suffer for the sins of others, and who really ought to receive patronage.

Huron Co., Ont.

DISGUSTED BUYER.

If You Want Anything

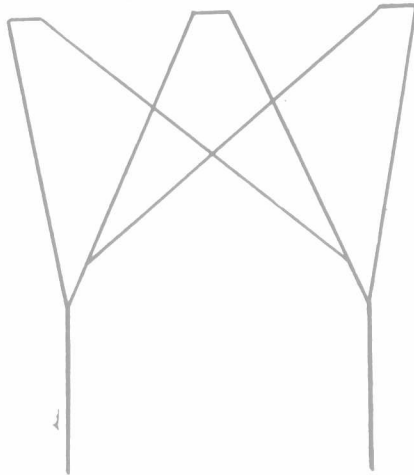
AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GET IT, AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE "WANT AND FOR SALE" COLUMN OF THE "FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE" WILL GET IT FOR YOU. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, LONDON, ONT.

FARM.

Lines for Three Horses.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

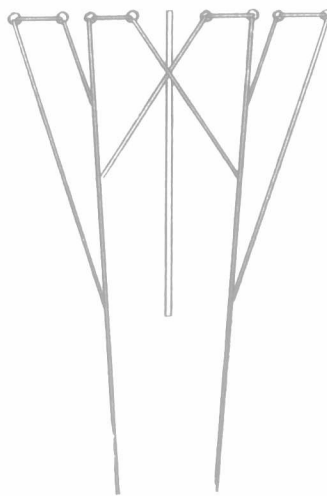
The cut below represents an arrangement we have used for eight or nine years, and it has been satisfactory in every way. We took a set of common lines, and put an inch ring on first cross-line, six inches below buckle. The second cross, or additional line, is



eight feet six inches long, with snap at both ends; the one end has a buckle, so the line may be taken up or let out. These lines may be snapped on or off in an instant, and when unhitching may be left on middle horse. The great advantage gained by these lines is that the driver has just the two lines to handle. We use these lines for three horses on the harrows, cultivator, binder, etc., but never on the plow. For three horses on the plow we use the common driving lines, and tie a line from the center horse's hames to outside horse's bit; but for four horses, which we use nearly altogether now, we use the driving lines on the outside horses (the cross lines, of course, go to the two center horses' outside bits), put a halter on the gee or furrow horse, then tie a strap from the halter to the other three horses' bits. It is surprising what control the driver has over four horses in this way, and they work with far more ease. I would rather (and I have plowed a good many acres this way) work four horses this way, any day, than two. If some of your readers who speak against working four horses would try it this fall, I believe they would suddenly change their minds, as I do not know one who has tried it that is not loud in its praise.

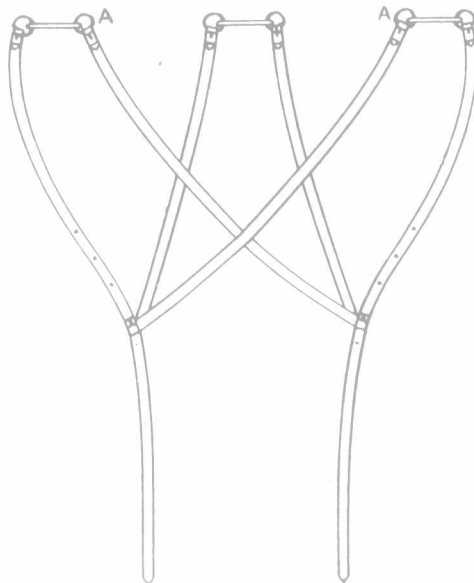
FRANK H. WESTNEY.

Ontario Co., Ont.



Lines for three or four horse team.

Regarding the three-horse lines, a drawing of which I send you: Take the regular team lines, and fasten, as shown in cut; then take two tie straps, fasten them



on at A, cross them over center horse's back, and fasten into buckle.
JOHN MEDD.
Ontario Co., Ont.

Organization of a Telephone Company.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of April 13, "Subscriber" asks for information concerning rural telephone system in good working order. I will try to inform him how we proceeded to build the Central Dufferin line, of which there are fifteen miles of wire. It is expected that eleven miles will be added this summer.

We registered as an "association, limited," believing it to be just as secure and satisfactory as a corporation, which it has proven to be, and having the advantage of being considerably cheaper. A charter of incorporation costs \$100, while the expenses in connection with the method adopted by us costs \$30.

When enough money has been subscribed to build the proposed line—ours cost \$50 per mile—a board of provisional trustees are appointed, who, with the assistance of a solicitor, will draft a set of rules or by-laws for the control and government of the line. When these are drafted they are subscribed to by all subscribers of the original list, who sign their names in the presence of a notary public, whose duty it is to have the rules and appended names duly registered in the county registry office; when that is done you are in a position to issue stock sheets, let contracts, etc.

I would recommend that one of the by-laws should provide that the number of shares be unlimited, as this would permit extension at any time. The means we took to have the names signed in the presence of a notary public was to have the subscribers meet at a certain time at different points along the proposed line, where the solicitor met them in groups.

When placing telephone poles, they should number from 32 to 35 per mile, and be, in ordinary cases, 22 feet long, at highway crossings 30 feet, and at railways 35 feet, or of a sufficient height to prevent any possibility of contact with telegraph, electric light, or other wires. I will be pleased to answer, if I can, any questions from "Subscriber" or others that will encourage the establishment of rural telephone systems, as we think it is the best thing that has been introduced into the County of Dufferin.

G. R. McWHIRTER.

Dufferin Co., Ont.

The Changes of the Moon.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I copy the following from the Canada Farmer, May 15th, 1866, which I consider an admirable answer to the question asked in your columns of April 6th inst, page 517, by "Subscriber," Brooklin, Ont. This is the answer given by editor of Canada Farmer, in reply to a similar question from a Columbus reader. It seems remarkable that the both questions should come from the same district (Columbus being but four miles from Brooklin), and nearly forty years between.

"We had almost trusted that the age of abject superstition, to which your enquiry is only appropriate, had passed away. It is stated by medical authorities that the persons whose minds have become morbidly unsound, are, at certain times, appreciably affected by lunar influences, hence the term lunatic. This fact may probably explain the strange delusion under which 'many farmers' labor in regard to sowing certain kinds of grain. Science and common sense agree in saying to the farmer—sow your seed in regular season, when the soil is in proper condition, and never mind the moon."

F. H. WESTNEY.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Nitro-culture Cost.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I do not understand from your subscriber's question whether he desires to know the cost per acre of preparing these Nitro-cultures, that is to say, the cost of manufacture in our laboratory, or the actual cost to the farmer after the culture is put into his hands. I am not able to state definitely what these Nitro-cultures will cost us. Exclusive of labor, however, the materials are very cheap, and the greatest cost to us is for mailing expenses. The cost to the farmer is practically nil, as all he has to do is to pour the contents of the bottle we send into a measured quantity of water and sprinkle it on his seed, and allow it to dry, which takes only an hour or so, and then the seed is sown in the ordinary manner, so that the expense to the farmer is practically a few moments of time.

F. C. HARRISON.

Ontario Agricultural College.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your premium knife. I think it a splendid knife, and thank you very much for it. I have been a subscriber to your valuable paper for two years, and like it better than ever, and am trying to get others to take it.

Yours truly,—

CHAS. LOUDON.

West York, Ont.