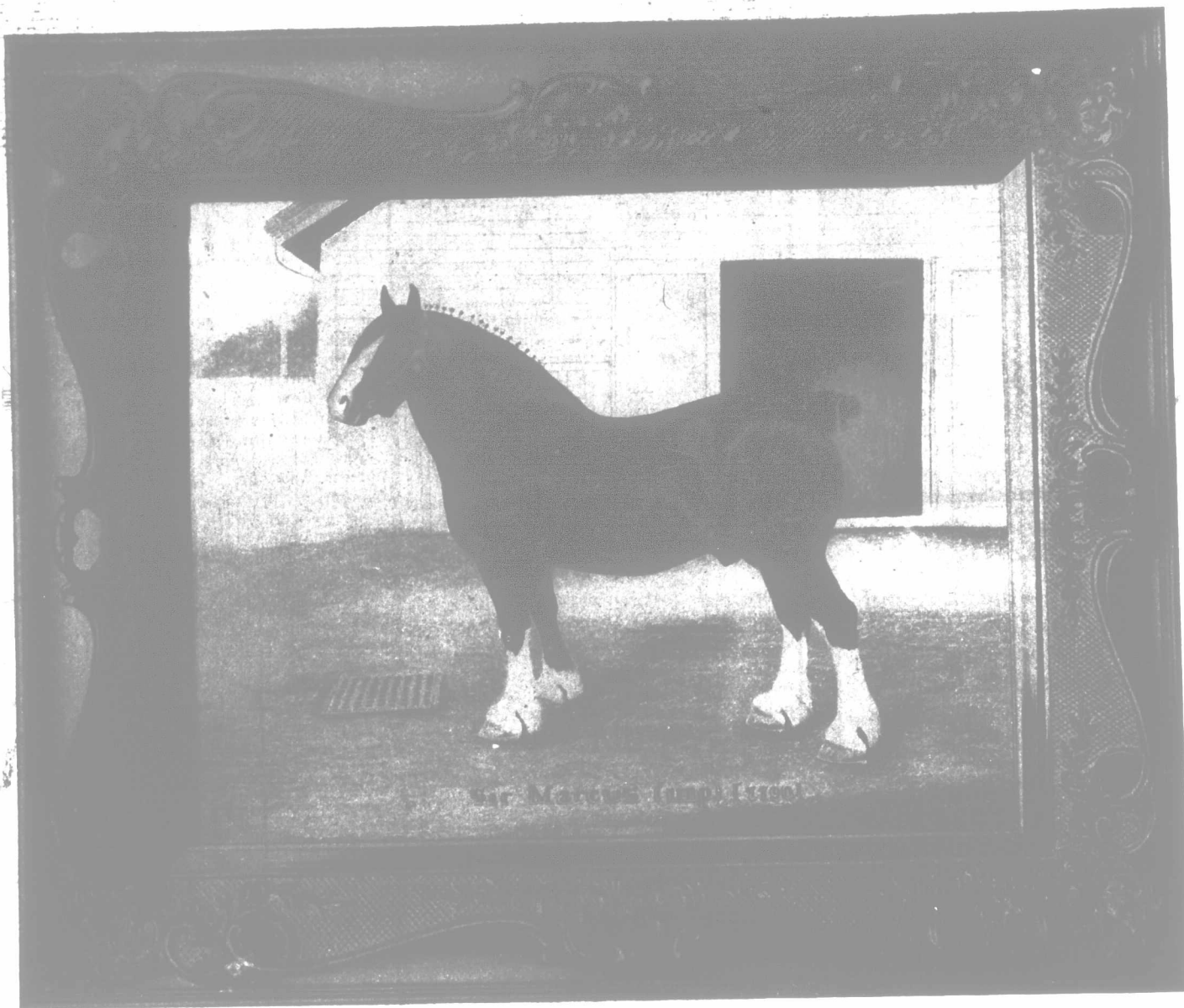




SIR MARCUS, IMP. [7790] (13205).

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Veterinary.

WEAK KNEES.

Four-year-old horse, kept loose in box stall, and driven a little once or twice weekly, has weak knees. One is worse than the other. G. A. McC.

Ans.—Your horse, no doubt, is congenitally weak in his knees. He would no doubt do better if he had regular exercise. All that you can do is to keep him in the box stall, and give him his food on the floor. Remove mangers and feed boxes. Have a moveable box to feed grain and feed both grain and hay off the floor. Blistering, etc., does no good. V.

Miscellaneous.

CAPACITY OF SILO.

1. How many tons would a silo eight feet in diameter and eighteen feet high hold?

2. How many cows would it feed from 1st November to 1st May?

3. How many acres would it take to fill it? Corn here averages 100 bushels per acre.

4. Would $\frac{1}{2}$ inch round iron be sufficient for hoops, first hoop six inches from bottom, next two three feet apart, and remainder four feet apart? J. E. L., Welland Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. Such a silo would hold only about 16 tons, and owing to the large amount of walls and surface in proportion to volume contained, the chances are that the silage would not keep extra well, and that there would be quite a considerable percentage spoiled, or at least deteriorated. Moreover, it is so shallow that in order to feed cattle from it from November 1st to May 1st, such a thin layer would be taken off daily that the layer

beneath would almost spoil from day to day. We would recommend making it not less than 24 feet deep; better 26.

2. A round silo, 8 x 18 feet, should provide a fair daily allowance of silage for four cows for six months, if it could be made to keep with such slow feeding. Would advise feeding six or eight cows from it, not commencing till after Christmas.

3. An acre of good corn should fill it.

4. We think so, but would suggest spacing hoops somewhat as follows: First hoop, 16 inches from bottom; second, two feet above the first; third, three feet above second, increasing the distance gradually from that upwards.

LIGHTNING-RODS ERECTION.

1. I want to put up lightning-rods on my barn, and have already asked questions, and seen quite a lot in "The Farmer's Advocate" about rods. I have the wire to make it the way you said to, but, as I have a large cupola or ventilator at each end of my barn, would you advise one to circle the rod out around it and back to the peak, and lay the rod on a cork and staple it right to the peak of the roof and put each end of rod down about six feet in ground at ends of barn?

2. Would cork and staples do to fasten the rod down the ends of the barn?

3. Will the insurance companies allow me to put them up? J. W. F.

Ans.—1. Yes. Your question suggests the proper way to do it. Lightning-rods should not go up over a cupola and down again, but be passed around on the level. Avoid very sharp turns.

2. Certainly.

3. No insurance companies, so far as heard from, have any objection to lightning-rods, but on the other hand, favor their erection. Some companies, indeed, have discussed the question of giving specially favorable rates where buildings are properly rodged. T.

UNTHRIFTY SHEEP AND PIG.

I have wintered a number of sheep, but they have got very poor since lambing. I fed them beaver hay and bran, with turnips, the first part of winter; the latter part clover hay, ground oats and bran, and turnips. I have a ram which has been very poor all winter; he is a very small eater. I have tried every plan to fatten him, but have failed. What would you advise doing? I also have a boar pig which is a very small eater; in fact, I have to change his food every day to try and get him to eat. He also has what I think is rheumatism in the hind legs, when getting up seems very stiff, afterwards seems all right. His food consists of bran, shorts, peas, corn, and refuse from kitchen. What would you advise doing with him? J. L.

Ans.—The feeding stated for the latter period, if fairly liberal in quantity, should have given better results. Beaver hay, we should judge, is unsuitable for sheep feed, and they may have run down in condition while living on that fodder, to such an extent that the drain on the system of lambing and nursing has reduced them further. It may be that they have been afflicted with worms, but, if so, the droppings should show their presence. If they have many ticks on them, these would account in part for the failing condition of the flock. The fresh, young grass will probably help to restore them to better condition. They should, however, have some clover hay and oats and bran once or twice a day for a couple of weeks, after having access to grass. The hog should be allowed liberty to go out daily for exercise in a dry and sunny place and eat grass. The peas and corn, if fed liberally, would account for the stiffness of limbs. Substitute ground oats for these. A purgative of half a pint of raw linseed oil, given in feed, or as a drench, would probably be helpful.

Fire Chief Wallace, walking down street the other morning, met an old friend who lives on a farm a short distance out in the country.

They got to talking about fires. "George," spoke up the man from the country, "supposin' one o' them fire plugs was to get froze up one of these cold nights and you couldn't get any water. What'd you do then?"

"Oh," says Wallace, "there's no danger of that. Every water plug in town is tested two days before a big fire, and if it's found frozen we put a man to work thawing it out."

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