

Stallion License the Means to Improvement.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reading your paper week after week, I have noticed a great deal of discussion regarding the proposed stallion license act. A few of the writers seem to be in favor, but more against. It seems evident to me that some of the writers are ignorant of the laws of our fair Province, or they would not say anything about the methods of carrying out such laws, nor would they ask such questions as "What is the Government going to do with the license fees collected?" "Who is going to collect such fees?" "And how do we know whether the certificates issued by the Government would be worth the paper they are written on?" Any intelligent person, who has any knowledge of our laws or by whom they are administered, will agree that our laws are second to none in the world. And I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that if our Government passes such an act, it will be properly adjusted and carried out. They also say that our importers do not bring out choice sires, and if they did, we have not mares fit for such horses. Now, if these men would just consider for a moment, they would see that the Government is looking for some means of improving our mares, shutting out inferior sires, and giving room for good horses. If we go on for the next twenty years in the same way that we have been doing in the past, how is our stock of mares to be improved or the standard of our horses to be raised? I certainly believe that if the Government does not take the matter in hand and assist us in doing away with scrub sires, our horses will degenerate instead of improving, because there are more scrub horses on the road every year. And if our importers would bring out some of England's or Scotland's choicest horses they could not sell them, simply because our farmers cannot afford to buy them and put them on the road against horses breeding for bull-service fees, and offering all kinds of inducements. Just so with the cattle men; a lot of our intelligent farmers have realized the fact that breeding scrubs is not profitable, but we still see some who stick to the long-horned, long-legged, hollow-backed mongrels, just because they get the service of a bull for 50 cents. These are the kind of men who always have what they call beef cattle to sell, and, after trying to do so all summer, they will nearly give them away in the fall, and say the bottom is out of the market. I hope the Government will pass a license and lien act.

Elgin Co., Ont.

ROBT. SPENCE, Jr.

McClary Going to Russia.

Dave McClary, the noted trainer and race-driver, has been engaged by the Austrian horseman, L. Schlesinger, who has been buying trotting horses in America, to train for a prominent Russian breeder and racing man.

Mr. McClary is a native of Middlesex Co., Ont., but has been a trainer and driver in the United States for many years. He has the distinction of being the first man to drive a harness horse a mile in two minutes in the history of the American trotting turf, and the horse that helped him to this great honor was Star Pointer, at that

time owned by the Chicago horseman, James A. Murphy, for whom McClary trained and drove for several seasons. For this exploit he is nicknamed "Two-minute Dave."

LIVE STOCK.

The Cattle Embargo Disadvantage.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having seen some opinions in "The Farmer's Advocate" and in other sources in regard to the embargo in Great Britain on Canadian cattle, I wish to say that these opinions, in my mind, need revision. It is assumed that the export of finished beef is the only part of the trade which will pay us. Granted. Then, how does the embargo help us. It would take a supreme effort of the imagination to think that killing inside of ten days after landing is to our benefit. The cattle are bruised and fevered after a sea voyage, and are unfit to be slaughtered. Besides, they might meet a bad market, and so entail a loss. If the dealer on the other side were unhampered, he could hold the cattle and dispose of them according to the requirements of the market. And as our cattle are known to be healthy and good thrivers, on account of change of climate or some other cause, the demand for them would be good, and the price would rise—a rise being very much wanted. According to returns from experimental farms in regard to finishing cattle at present prices, there is scarcely any margin, and on some classes an actual loss, and we are referred to the manure pile for our profits. The manure is good, but if we are to use this manure to produce more food for cattle to be finished and sold at an inadequate price, it is simply a recurring misfortune. Parties in this country who are in the business of finishing cattle object to the removal of the embargo. They know the price of stockers would rise, and so would the price of finished cattle—an advantage all round. The inference is that the average farmer is lacking in intelligence. But it may safely be left to them to know whether the sale of a stocker or a finished beef is more to their advantage. There is another branch of the trade which would be profitable, namely, milk cows. There is a continual demand over there for these. I saw a report from a dairyman over there that the best milk cows he ever had came from Canada. And another said that it is a necessity that they should have healthy breeding stock from Canada, as their herds in Britain are so badly infected with tuberculosis as to be in danger of extinction! There is a strong party over there fighting for the removal of the embargo, and we should wish them success. It would be suicidal on our part to handicap their efforts in any way. And I am glad to know that our enlightened and patriotic Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Sydney Fisher, is using his efforts to that same end. Wishing you every success in the conduct of your valuable paper.

Perth Co., Ont.

AN OLD FARMER.

[Note.—That removal of the embargo would tend to better prices for finished beefs, is admitted all round. That it is desirable for the encouragement of a stocker trade, we fail to see. The experimental work which shows the narrow margin of profit in finishing exporters makes out a worse case for the man who sells stockers. Recent correspondence published in these columns tends to the same conclusion, and the series of articles by Prof. Grisdale, now running, are calculated to throw further light on the stocker question. At the same time, while to our mind promoting an export stocker trade is undesirable, we would not go the length of arguing for any artifices on our part to prevent it, preferring to let the law of supply and demand work out itself. In fact, for the reason stated at the outset, embargo-removal would be generally approved, but the whole question is one for Britain to deal with, and inasmuch as Canada is probably gaining indirectly almost as much as she is losing directly through the restriction, we strongly urge the desirability of keeping our hands out of the political affairs of the Old Country. Let us reserve our influence and diplomacy for issues of greater net consequence to us.]

It is true there is an active anti-embargo party at work in Great Britain, who desire Canadian feeders, as in the old days, to make a handsome profit finishing them, even using a great deal of imported feedstuffs for that purpose. With regard to "bruised" and "fevered" cattle, it is only fair to the steamship service and persons concerned in the export trade to say that our cattle land at British ports in excellent condition, feeding well en route, as a rule. One of our editors, who personally saw several thousand head landed last summer at the Liverpool and London lairages, found none disabled or injured in any way, but exactly the reverse. They have the option of three or four markets, and appear to sell for what they are worth, as per supply and demand. The chief trouble with Canadian cattle is that they do not show the breeding and finish to top the market, ranking, we regret to say, much below the United States cattle. The various charges and commissions levied during the progress of the steer from the Canadian stable to the British abattoir is what eats into the profit of our feeders, and our Old Country friends know how to tack on their share of toll, even if the steer went as a stocker, to be finished in the stable of some "Canny Scot."—[Editor.]

Care of the Sow and Litter.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In winter, as the price of pork has advanced to such an extent as it has at the present time, it becomes us farmers to interest ourselves and do everything in our power to make a success of the business. While it is necessary to keep the brood sow in good condition, it is not wise to overdo it, as is done in many cases where losses are experienced. A little extra feeding after weaning, up to the time of mating, and a week or so longer, can be safely done, after which a liberal supply of roots, mangels, or sugar beets (preferred), with a reduced grain ration.

Exercise is very essential to the welfare of the dam as well as the expected progeny, hence the run of the yard in daytime and a comfortable place to sleep in are advisable. A strawstack answers well, if convenient. Again, a short time before farrowing she should be brought into warmer quarters, and fed on a mixture of bran, shorts, crushed oats and milk. Feed in moderate quantities, in order to produce a supply of nourishment for the little visitors. When the time of their arrival is at hand, it is very important that a caretaker be at hand, especially if the weather be cold. The old-fashioned way of taking the little fellows away and putting them in a box till all are at hand, and carrying them to the stove in the kitchen, can be very successfully substituted by the caretaker having a warm, dry horse blanket at hand to spread over the sow and little ones, where plenty of natural heat and nourishment are available.

A great deal more could be said along these lines, but time and space will not permit.

Much harm may be done by feeding too sparingly, but a good deal more harm is done by overfeeding, as the young porkers are very delicate in the early stages.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

A. D. C.

Tobacco Decoction for Lice.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I saw a question, "What will kill blue lice?" I have used tobacco, boiled strong, and the cattle washed with it, that kills the lice very quickly. It will make the cow sick if she is allowed to lick the parts within one or two days after the application.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

D. J. SMITH



The Old Country Anti-embargoist's Case in a Nutshell

British Matron.—"That last sirloin was so good, Mr. —, I will not eat any but home-bred meats. Send me another just the same; it was Prime Scots, you know."

Butcher.—"Well—er—yes, much the same, ma'am; its grandpaw was all—Scottish, but—er—it was born in Canada."—[Apologies to Punch.]