

THE WALKING HORSE.

Too many young farmers are talking about the trotting horse and we hear very little about the walking horse. Both are valuable in their way but the most valuable to the farmer is the walking horse.

Farm work has to be done with horses at a walk. A very little difference in the speed at which a team walks when at work will make a great difference in the amount of work done in a day. Too many farm teams are allowed to get into a slow, lazy way of walking even if they have no load. This habit becomes fixed and it is then almost impossible to stir up the team to a faster gait. Much of the work on the farm is light work, and while performing it the team can walk at a good pace. When commencing the spring work teach the horses to walk up good and sharp.

The best way to get a fast walking horse is to train him as a colt to walk as fast as he can without trotting. A colt generally wants to go as fast as he can, but the trouble is he is allowed to do this at a trot. On the walk he is made to go slow to cool off after a trot. It would be much better to teach him to walk fast first and don't allow him to trot until he has learned to walk as fast as he can without trotting. Train him to walk fast and make him keep on walking as fast as he can and the habit will soon become a fixed one. Such a horse will be worth 25 per cent. more for farm work than a slow walking one.

PLANT SUGAR MAPLES.

The first settlers found the land heavily timbered. To them a tree was something that stood in the way of returns from the land and it had to come down. Cut down the tree was their motto, and of course the children grew up with the same idea. Hence the great disrespect for tree life which prevails throughout the country. We have over-cleared the land, and on many a farm there is waste land that should never have been cleared. Now that it is cleared, it should be planted with forest trees again. The youth of the country must be taught to take better care of trees, to preserve them from destruction and to plant a tree for every one that is cut down.

There has been a great deal written just now about growing sugar beets. If the farmers would grow sugar maples on the waste places of the farm, in groves for shade for the stock, and in windbreaks to serve as protection for the house and barns, they would soon have a source of supply for sugar that would nearly meet the demands of the farm home for sugar, or if the product was marketed as syrup the proceeds would buy a very large share of the sugar needed. Most farmers could make the larger part of this sugar supply just as easily as they raise their own potatoes.

Where maple trees stand in a grove in the open they run much better than those in the forest. Fifty such trees should produce from 200 to 250 pounds of maple sugar. This would be about half an ordinary family's requirement of sugar. If the product is sold as syrup the returns will be somewhat larger.

Such a grove at the adjoining corners

of four fields would not take up more than a quarter of an acre, and besides the sugar product would be of value as affording shade for stock, as a wind-break and shelter, and as an equalizer of temperature and moisture. While maple trees do best in a grove, they will also do well planted in rows along the fences. There are many vacant places and corners in the woodland and on the farm that could be profitably set out with forest trees again. Nearly every woodlot will supply the necessary trees, or they can be obtained from some neighbor's woodlot. Why not plant a grove this spring? Why not fill up the vacant corners and open places of the woodlot?

BEES IN THE ORCHARD.

Many fruit-growers do not thoroughly appreciate the value of bees in an orchard or there would be more orchards with bees in them. Their value in an orchard was demonstrated in a most practical way at the Oregon Experiment Station some years ago. A few peach trees were forced into bloom in November and a colony of bees was placed in the house when the trees began to bloom. For some days, however, a heavy fog prevented the bees from working, although the flowers were open not a bee was seen upon them. The first bright day the bees set to work at once and remained at work so long as there was anything for them. The result was that not a peach dropped at the stoning season, the time all unfertile fruit falls. The crop was so heavy that it had to be thinned out. As a check test one tree was protected so that not a bee could get to it. On this tree all the fruit dropped at the stoning period. Bees and other insects have a duty to perform in the orchard, for which there is no substitute provided. This is the distribution of the pollen from flower to flower and from tree to tree. They insure success in the orchard and every fruit-grower should encourage the bees in their work by not spraying, or doing anything that would be injurious to the bees while the trees are in full bloom.

EARLY FORAGE CROPS.

Among the earliest sowings a farmer should make in the spring is a small piece of peas and oats for soiling. Prepare a nice piece of ground convenient to the buildings or to a pasture field, if it is to be fed there, and sow about an eighth of an acre for every ten cows. If the cows are to be kept entirely on the crop about half an acre will be required. Sow another plot every ten days for four or five sowings. Then sowings of millet, Hungarian grass and corn may be made.

A mixture of two bushels oats and one bushel peas; two bushels oats and three bushels peas; one and-a-half bushel oats and two bushels peas, and one bushel oats and three bushels peas are all good mixtures to sow; but of them all the first is probably the best. The Prussian blue pea, with either the Siberian, Banner, or Egyptian oats makes a very good combination for green fodder, and is recommended by Mr. C. A. Zavitz from extensive trials with them at Guelph.

TO MAKE DURABLE FENCE POSTS.

The following is given as a good plan to make fence posts last longer than they generally do. In the first place the timber should be cut in mid-winter, split, and allowed to season under cover. Now burn the lower end of the post so that it will have a coal showing from the lower end to six inches above the ground when set. Then saturate the burned part with hot coal tar. The posts are ready then to be set. If not wanted immediately let them stand under shelter with the black end down. It is claimed that posts fixed in this way will last twenty times as long as those of the same timber cut and set green and without being burned. The extra cost of fixing them will not be two cents a post.

CLOSING EXERCISES AT THE GUELPH DAIRY SCHOOL.

The closing exercises at the Provincial Dairy School, Guelph, for the last term, took place on March 23rd. There has been the largest attendance this season of any since the school started. The number on the roll was 110, 19 of whom were ladies. This number was made up of one from New Brunswick, one from Nova Scotia, three from Quebec, one from Manitoba, one from the North-west Territories, one from Liverpool, England, and one from New York, the balance being from Ontario. This speaks wonders for the reputation of the school and the good work it is doing towards higher education along practical dairy lines.

The students of the term just closed showed their appreciation of the efforts of the staff in their behalf by presenting a nicely worded address at the closing which was suitably replied to by Professor Dean and other members of the staff. The utmost good feeling between teacher and pupil has prevailed during the term and the expressions of gratitude contained in the address can have none other than a good effect upon all concerned.

The large attendance of ladies this

year is worthy of note. The number present patronized the home dairy, where special instruction was given in home butter-making. This department should be filled every year by the girls from our dairy farms. There is a demand for good butter all along the line, from the home dairy as well as from the large creamery, and those who make it must be fully equipped.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

BOOKS FOR THE FARMER.

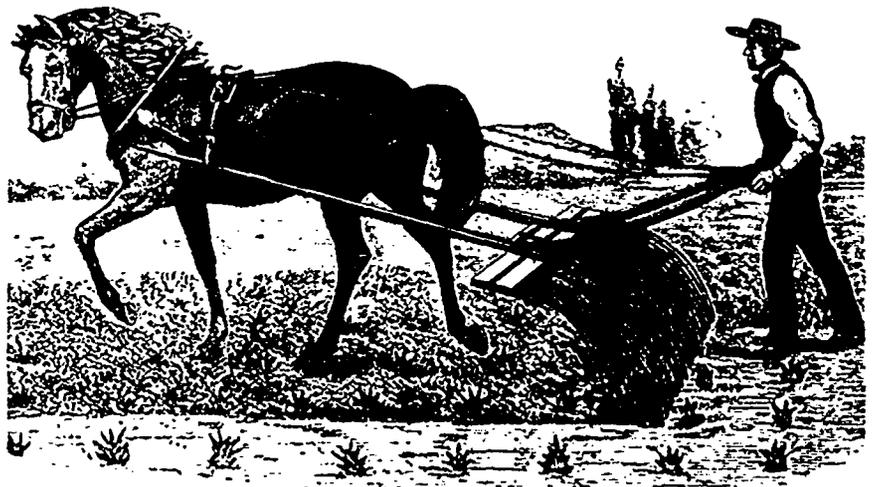
Teefy Mulcahy, Orillia: Please give me the names of good books on the raising, feeding, breeding, and care of horses, cattle and sheep; where can I get such books? Please give me the address of some one who has a good saddle mare for sale or one in foal.

Ans: The best work covering the breeding, feeding and raising of horses is "Horse Breeding," by J. H. Sanders, price \$1.50. "Feeding Animals," by Stewart, is a good practical work, price \$2.00. "Feeds and Feeding," by Professor Henry, Madison, Wis., and noticed recently is a capital work, price \$2.00. "Cattle, Breeds and Management," by Wm. Housman, is a very useful work, price \$1.25. "Stock Breeding," by Manly Miles, price \$1.50; and "Cattle Breeding," by Warfield, price \$2.00, are two reliable works on cattle breeding. "The Shepherd's Manual," by Stewart, is perhaps as reliable a work on sheep as there is published, price \$1.50. All of these books can be ordered through FARMING.

Perhaps some of our numerous readers can tell Mr. Mulcahy where he can get a good saddle mare.

Paint the garden trellis, etc., now, don't wait until you are too busy to do it. Also give the porch floor, the door steps, etc., a coating of good drab, buff or ochre-colored paint.

All paint for outside work should be mixed only with raw linseed oil and a little Japan to dry it. Never add turpentine or varnish to outside paint, neither kerosene oil or benzine, etc. It is poor economy to use poor paint.



The above is an illustration of a "Weeder," manufactured by Messrs. David Maxwell & Sons, of St. Marys, Ont., for the season of 1898. It is not a new instrument, however, and has been in operation for some years in Canada and the United States. It is highly praised by all who have used it and seen it used on both sides of the line. There can be no doubt that it is the most effective implement for destroying weeds without any injury to the crop. We can recommend it to every farmer. Directions for the use of the weeder are furnished by the manufacturers.