

## HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsworthy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

**AN IMPORTANT MATTER.**—Sir,—Permit me through your columns to call the attention of the powers that be to the importance that exists for improving our breeds of horses in this province. These, I regret to say, have been much neglected in late years, and the animals now raised, with some few exceptions, are a poor weedy stock, scarcely suitable for our home market, to say nothing of outside markets. The importance of improving our breeds of horses was never more apparent than it is at present. The English Government are desirous of procuring a number of suitable horses for remounts and artillery purposes, and they have authorized Col. Goldie, the Staff Adjutant General, to purchase a large number in the Dominion, but I am afraid that the Colonel will not find nearly so many suitable horses in this province, as he would have done had the stock been kept up to what it was some years ago. There was a time in the history of this province when our farmers had a chance to breed from first-class thoroughbreds, and then Nova Scotian horse flesh was of a higher type than now. Traces of this good stock can be found even to-day, but it has been greatly degenerated, by being crossed and recrossed until we have nothing but weedy stock not even suitable for the plough. If this state of things is to be remedied, the province should at once purchase several thoroughbred English stallions, sound in every particular, of large bone and substance, not less than sixteen hands high, and with an undoubted pedigree, such as would be recognized by our horse-breeders. The province should likewise import several Norman Percheron and English shire mares. By crossing these breeds with the thoroughbreds, the produce would be horses suitable to the needs of the army; their speed, endurance, weight and bone, would in fact be sufficient for all purposes; and our farmers would find that in such salable stock they could make a handsome profit. Were the thoroughbreds to which I have alluded imported this summer, we should be placed upon an equal footing with our sister provinces in competing for a trade which promises to greatly develop in coming years. Already New Brunswick, fully alive to the need of improving her horse stock, and realizing that both in England and on the continent there exists a good market for first-class animals, has imported several stock horses of the classes referred to.

If our Nova Scotian Government will take the initiative in this matter, it will deserve the gratitude of all those who are interested in seeing our stock improved. I trust you will send a copy of your paper containing this letter to Mr. Fielding, and also to the Legislative Committee on Agriculture, so that the question of improving our stock may be brought definitely before the Legislature during its present session. In conclusion I would like to call the attention of these gentlemen to the French law with respect to horse-breeding. In France all owners of stallions are obliged to have a Government license, and a veterinary surgeon is appointed as an inspector in every district. This effectually prevents breeders being imposed upon by owners of unsound animals, and the result is that the French stock has been greatly improved, and is considered equal to the best that is to be found on the continent. I trust that the burden of work imposed upon the government and legislature will not be so great as to prevent their giving this matter attention during the present session. If we allow the years to slip by, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island will take advantage of the trade, and Nova Scotia will get a reputation for not having horses suitable for the market, in which case it will take her many years to overcome the prejudice thus established. Yours,

HORSEMAN.

**IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.**—Many farmers complain that they cannot afford to purchase first-class stock; but if they would only try and improve their breed from those which they own, they would, in a few years, instead of owning scrub cattle, have a herd of really excellent grades. Farmers should think twice before selling their best calves to the butcher. It is all very well to imagine that you can replace these for less money by purchasing from your neighbors, but this is a mistake; butchers, as a rule, understand their business, and they are quick to buy up calves in good condition, and show in bargaining for the lean ill-conditioned young animal. Hence, a large percentage of the calves that are kept for raising are those which have been unsalable; and these, when grown, are comparatively inferior animals. You may not be able to purchase thoroughbred stock, but you can take advantage of those owned by the county, and keeping over only the most promising-looking calves, you can improve your stock at a comparatively small outlay. A Colchester farmer, who is fully alive to the value of good stock, writes that he is surprised that so few farmers recognize the importance of raising only good animals. He says a poor steer or a poor heifer will cost as much to feed, and require quite as much looking after as well-bred animals, which would be much more profitable to raise; and regrets that so many of our farmers are tempted by what they consider a good offer to sell their best calves. The cheapest and most sure way for a farmer without large capital to improve his herd, is first to breed from the best, and second, to carefully select those calves which he intends to raise.

When a crop, whether of grain, hay or animals, has been made, it is the worst possible policy to sell it injudiciously. Marketing the produce is half the battle. A farmer should use as much judgment on this point as on any other.

**EGGS SHOULD BE SOLD BY WEIGHT.**—Any one visiting the country produce markets in Halifax must be surprised at the number of eggs which are offered for sale at this season of the year. The hundreds, yes, thousands of dozens which are sold every week, are bought up readily; and the city housekeepers, who, during the severity of the winter, have had to depend upon the supply of eggs laid down in the autumn, or who have had to pay fancy prices for eggs which had the name of being "fresh," although they oftentimes proved not to be so, are thankful to be able to again buy genuine fresh eggs at moderate prices. Another thing that strikes one in visiting these markets is, that eggs are still sold by the dozen at the market price, without any regard whatever to their size. One city dealer has made a new departure by selling his eggs at so much per pound; this is the true method upon which eggs should be bought and sold. It is just to both buyer and seller; and were it to become a general practice, those who have taken the trouble to raise good breeds of fowls would reap a fair reward. As it now is one dozen eggs laid by the ordinary native hens fetch the same price as an equal number of eggs laid by a thoroughbred Brahma or a Leghorn hen. This is not as it should be.

Never cut down a tree in a field that is to be cultivated, but dig around it and cut off the roots, when it will fall over and the stump can be removed at once. A stump in a field or garden is as bad as a rock and harder to dig out, but if taken out with the tree the job is not a difficult one.

The farmer's wife has to do a greater variety of things than most people who work for hire. There is no word comprehensive enough to cover all her occupations. If the woman devotes her life to beautifying the domestic circle, giving up her taste for out-door pursuits, she should at least have the wages of appreciation. The farmer's life is the natural life, while others are artificial.—Miss Emily A. Brunnell at South British Farmers' Club.

A fair estimate will certainly make twenty miles a day the average of a farmer's walking. Up about daybreak, the farmer goes to the barn, fudders his cattle and spends an hour moving to and fro and returns for breakfast, having walked at least three miles before this duty is performed. If he goes to the field and ploughs until noon and gets over half a acre with a 7-inch furrow on a 10-acre field, he covers ten miles; then walks home half a mile to the barn, then to the house, making in all near or quite eleven miles; repeating this in the afternoon, and fuddering and doing up chores until sundown, he completes twenty-five to thirty miles in a full day's work.

It said that the celebrated Bakewell, who has done much to advance the agricultural interests of England, once advised the young farmers to "spare no pains to know what they are doing." This may be accomplished by associating with other farmers, and learning their methods, their successes and failures. Many new ideas can be obtained by a friendly interchange of thought. Success in agriculture demands a fair knowledge of all the real improvements in husbandry, of labor-saving machinery, the preparation of soils, of manures and their application, but when the knowledge is obtained, the judicious use of it is important. Much can be obtained by associating with other farmers, and by observation, and much by the reading and study of agricultural literature. The farmer who hopes for success without keeping up with the times, will be likely to discover an important mistake.

The idea that every farmer or farm operative can successfully use farm implements and machinery is a serious mistake. If a machine is properly set for work, the greatest bungler may perhaps for a time run it successfully, but it is far better that the operator of a machine understand all its parts, their relative importance and dependence, so that he can watch every movement and avoid breakage or injury. A valuable machine may be seriously injured by breakage of some part that a skilled eye would have avoided by seasonable attention. Let labor be reasonably skilled.

Columbia, Conn.

WM. H. YEOMANS.

There is one pretty sure index to good farming, and that consists of the condition of the farm from year to year, by way of comparison. Because a farm is producing large crops is not of itself an evidence of good farming; some peculiar modes may be adopted that will, by a robbing of the soil for a time, appear to be profitable, but which in the end prove otherwise. Many farms are put through a sort of *skinning* process, which renders them poorer year by year. Any system which will rob the farm is bad farming, and should be abandoned.

Farmers must look for their profits in reduced cost rather than higher prices.

**ADVICE TO MOTHERS.**—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP," and take no other kind.

## A CARD

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, etc., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the Rev. JOSEPH T. INMAN, Station D, New York City.