

MAY 11, 1911

land, on the Continent of Europe, and in North America.

In the horse of to-day there are only four hoofs, but in Eohippus (the Eocene horse) there were fourteen hoofs, four on each fore limb, and three on each hind limb, and, in addition, a vestige of the first toe (pollex) on the fore foot, and of the fifth toe on the hind foot. The limits of space forbid further exposition of the evolution of the horse at the present time, but it may follow in a future issue.

The Solomonic Mule.

Those who have worked both mules and horses declare the former have horses beaten to a frazzle when it comes to real self-saving discernment. In the South, they say it is not safe for darkies to work horses in summer, as they will drive the willing workers to death, but a mule knows how much he can stand, and won't do any more. This fact lends point to the following skit from an American paper, the Wichita Beacon:

"Do you know the wisest living thing on four feet?"

"It is the flop-eared old boy with the rat tail which has a sort of paint brush on its far end, at whom we all poke fun, who has more genuine gray matter in his head than any \$10,000 Thoroughbred horse ever had."

"Put Ned, the mule, in a railroad construction camp—where he can outwork a horse twice his weight and half his age!"

"He has a green driver this morning; and Ned doesn't do much in the way of work. He's 'next.'"

"He has an old-time mule-skinner behind him to-morrow, and he nearly works his head off, for again he's next!"

"In the West, contractors who build railroads make extensive use of what is called the Fresno, a sort of wheel-scraper which carries an enormous load of dirt, and which no three horses or three mules should be asked to drag."

"Take Ned and two of his brothers and hitch 'em to a Fresno, and see what happens. Experienced or inexperienced, your driver will have more trouble than he knows what to do with. Legs will get over tugs; tugs will become unfastened; reins will get twisted, and if they're not twisted they'll be held tight under Ned's stiff tail—all because of the uncanny wisdom of Ned."

"Again, you have done the square-deal stunt and four Neds are hauling the hard-pulling Fresno. Everything goes as smoothly as clockwork until about 11.57 a. m. One Ned stops still in his tracks; all four Neds stop. You don't know that it is almost noon, but in about two minutes the cook down in the mess tent rings the dinner bell."

"If you don't work mighty fast unhitching those Neds, they'll take you, Fresno and all, to the barn."

"Ned is the most enthusiastic unionist living. He simply will not work overtime. Why, he is the only living thing which receives a square deal in Pennsylvania coal mines!"

"Of course, Ned is a freak, which may account for his smartness. Nature didn't intend to have any mules; 'twas a Missouri planter who conceived the idea."

LIVE STOCK.

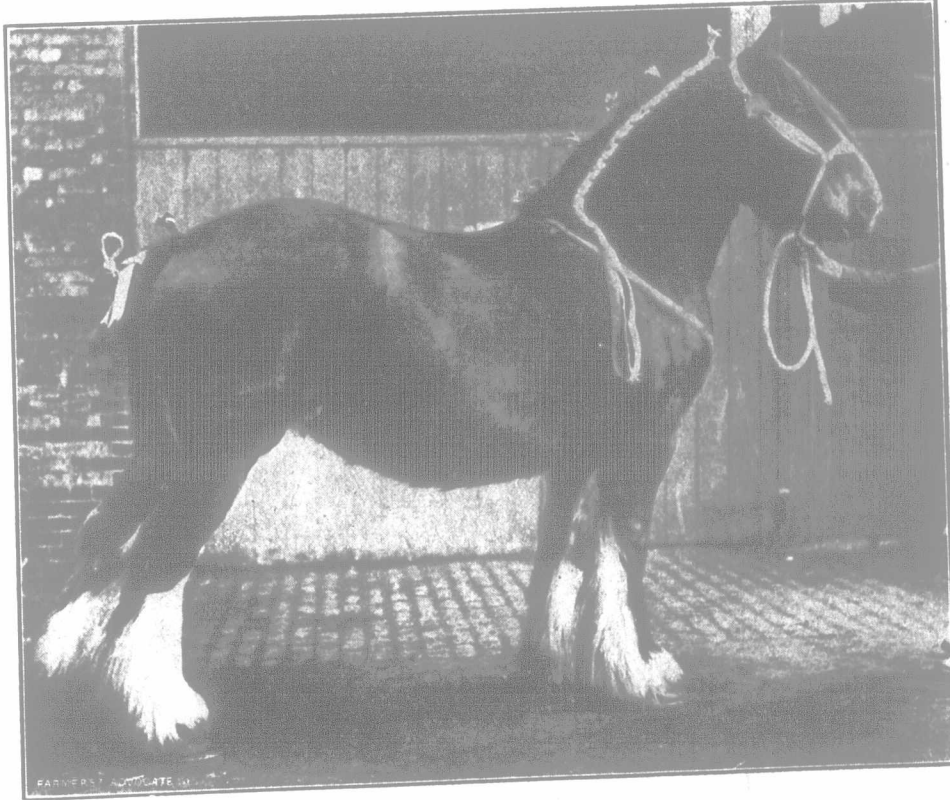
Contagious abortion.

At the annual gathering of the Irish Shorthorn Breeders' Association, Rt. Hon. Fred Wrench discussed the subject of contagious abortion. Rather more than a year ago he had had an outbreak of that disease in his Shorthorn herd. He had tried every known remedy, and had applied to every known authority for information, with the result that this season one cow picked calf, but all the others, including those that aborted, had fine, healthy calves at foot, and he had no reason to fear any further disaster. To have stamped out such an outbreak, and to have brought a herd round to such a good breeding condition in one year seemed to him a great performance.

He took no credit for it himself, but awarded the whole praise to the Irish Veterinary Department, who backed up and assisted in every way by the Veterinary Department in England, their instructions being most ably carried out under Mr. Hedley's directions, by Mr. Norris, than whom he was convinced there was no more practical authority on the form of cattle disease in Ireland. These instructions had been to disinfect the cows inside and out, to spray all buildings thoroughly with carbolic acid, and to have the infected cows immunized with vaccine, and to have the infected cows immunized with vaccine, and to have the infected cows immunized with vaccine. He had learned to regard the above as the sole formula for dealing with abortion in cattle. He had no faith in the administration of any of carbolic acid or in any remedies that had been recommended. As a precaution, he had his sound animals vaccinated after they had been vaccinated, and also the heifers that he intended to breed from, with the satisfaction of the results. He did not find it necessary to

widely known in Ireland that abortion was a disease which could be stamped out, and that they were fortunate in having a Veterinary Department which had been thoroughly successful in his case in dealing with it.

Matthew Hedley, F. R. C. V. S., said the plan of the Veterinary Department in battling with epizootic abortion was to get as many herds as ever they could find, and duplicate their work. At present, there were about 600 head of cattle under observation in connection with the abortion inquiry in Great Britain, and about 200 in Ireland. The results, so far, had been extremely encouraging. The material they used for immunizing was not, like tuberculin, "dead"; it was very much alive, and great care had to be exercised in administering it, so as to avoid giving it to cows that already were free of the disease. In the case of such, it would cause them to abort. Those engaged in the work were not satisfied that treatment for immunizing was sufficient. It was necessary to insist that all hygienic measures be taken, and isolation, also, should be carried out. He did not say that during their lifetime they would be able to claim that abortion had ceased, but they could hope to say that they had materially reduced it. The loss to Ireland from abortion could not be estimated, and one great difficulty was that they did not know in every case where the disease existed. But they had ground to hope that they would greatly reduce its ravages, and bring it under control. In dealing with this disorder, the Veterinary Department were given an absolutely free hand, their only instructions being to do everything possible to obtain the mastery of the disease.



Misty Morn.

Shire mare, six years old. First in class 16 hands, and under 16 h. 2 in., London Shire Show, 1911. Sire Birdsall Menestrel.

Commenting on the foregoing, the Scottish Farmer says: "One thing which is bound to awaken confidence in the Irish Veterinary Department is the modesty of its head. Mr. Hedley's statement of the work of his Department is admirably fitted to awaken confidence in the final results of the Royal Commission on Abortion. With something like 800 head under observation, and undergoing the same treatment as the herd of Mr. Wrench, there must be some results which will prove beneficial to the cattle-breeding industry. The process is one of disinfecting the cows inside and outside. IZAL was found to be the most effective agent for this purpose. The whole of the buildings were sprayed with hot lime, and all the cows were treated with anti-abortion. At the task of attacking the disease appears unflinchingly formidable, but, when fairly faced, difficulties vanish, and a success such as has attended Mr. Wrench's herd is worth making a big sacrifice to attain."

Defective Wool Handling.

One of the leading woollen manufacturers of Canada, who make a specialty of fine, white products, writes "The Farmer's Advocate" that they use Canadian wools, exclusively. They find that the unwashed wool washes out whiter than the fleece-washed wool, and makes a nicer blanket. For fine lines, the Down wools are especially well adapted. Lack of uniformity is a fault of the Canadian wools, however, and the bulk of what they receive shows the result of careless handling. Nine-tenths of the Canadian fleeces are tied up with binding twine, which damages the wool, causing serious trouble in the spinning process. Then, large quantities are filled with

burdocks, chaff and other foreign substances, while late shearing is claimed to be responsible for much second growth and matted or cotted wool, causing a heavy shrinkage in manufacture.

THE FARM.

Keeping Pork.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In answer to W. M. Lea, re keeping pork through summer, would say, if he would get some perfectly sound paper flour bags, place a little clean hay in the bottom of the bag, then place in the ham, pack a little hay around the ham, to prevent it from touching the bag, tie tight, and hang up in a dark, dry place, he will not be troubled with any crawlers. Have tried the plan for several years, with success.

Halton Co., Ont.

N. F. LAWRENCE.

Width of Silo.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In the April 27th issue of your valuable farm paper I notice an inquiry as to silo from D. W. Clark. I am a young farmer, but might say I have had a great deal of experience in this line. My father is a well-known dairyman and Jersey breeder, and we have been using silos for a great number of years. A 16-foot silo is by all means too wide. In the coldest weather in winter it is all right, but when the warmer weather of spring comes on, the silage will be a little spoiled on top, in spite of all you can do.

We keep over 60 cows at present, and would not build a silo more than 14 feet over. Allow me to suggest that your correspondent put his silo six feet into the ground, and he will find it keeps much better in warmer weather. Also, one can press a great deal of corn in the bottom six feet of a silo, if he has the height. There is no silo that will surpass the cement-block silo. The hollow wall prevents freezing.

WILFRED SILCOX
Elgin Co., Ont.

Note—Sound advice, all except the suggestion to build six feet under ground. Do not do this unless the stable floor is low enough to admit of the bottom silo door being within 3 or 4

feet of the silo floor. We were in a silo lately, the bottom of which was six feet or more below the bottom door, and the owner is heartily sick of this feature.—Editor.]

Sandy Fraser's Jump.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Na doot ye will be thinkin' I maun be deid, gin I hae no' been writin' tae ye for some time. But yon's no' the reason. It's something mair serious than that. It was juist that I didna' hae anything o' muckle importance tae tell ye. It's an unco' sad state o' affairs when a mon comes tae sic a pass as that. Ye will be thinkin' that I was deid' like the bear, an' hae been denned up for the winter, and am juist noo comin' oot tae tak' a look around.

Weel, this is a braw time o' the year, onyway. It's eneuch tae wauken up an auld chap like me tae see the grass startin' up again an' tae hear the birds singin' an' the calves bawlin', and the bony things that tell us that we are at the beginnin' o' anither season o' plantin' an' sowin' an' the hundreds o' tasks that are gaein' tae keep us oot o' mischief for the next sax months.

It's the time o' year we should be makin' oor guid resolutions, an' it wad be a muckle mair appropriate time tae hae the year begin than on the first o' January, when ilka thing is frozen up solid, an' there is no sign o' a beginnin' or end tae anything.

I ken, Mr. Editor, that ye will appreciate the force o' this, noo that ye hae taken tae farmin' yersel'. It will be the beginnin' o' a new phase o' life for ye, onyway. I will be wishin' ye luck, an' may the wark o' yer hands be as prof-