

points to a need for protective measures being taken. Why not have the introducer register his variety, giving details as to origin, where grown for five or six years with yields under certain conditions for each year, detailed characteristics of plant and product, particulars as to time required to mature and other details that should be known before the new sort is offered at staggering prices?

MY OPINION ON SOME MATTERS NUMBER 3

I HEAR OF CONVENIENCES ON THE FARM

"I have a windmill on the well up the lane and now have dandy, good water in the house, barn and hog pen, simply by turning a tap." This was the news a young chap conveyed to me the other day. The speaker was married less than a year ago and had taken over his father's farm. I am a particular friend of his father, and years ago advised him to do what his son did within a few months after assuming control of operations on the old place. It was an easy proposition, as far as providing water supply for all the buildings was concerned; but it meant the expenditure of some energy in digging the ditch and also, what was more objectionable, the paying out of a few dollars for windmill, piping and fittings. Now the father is not afraid of work—never was, but he seemed to consider that the old well and a shaky pump had accommodated his father and it could accommodate him. It was a means of getting the water where it was needed. If he had been afraid of work he would have objected to spending so much time every summer shaking the pump handle in a blistering sun. He was in a position, financially, fifteen years ago or more to install facilities as good as those now put in. If he had opened his purse, about three months of summer weather would have satisfied him that the outlay was worth while.

In my opinion there are few districts in Western Canada, particularly in the older settled parts, where many farmers do not neglect to provide reasonable conveniences. They forget that time is money, and prefer to keep their money in pocket or bank; they toil away in the old style and then pronounce farming a drudgery; they talk so loudly of the undesirable features of farming that their sons and daughters leave the soil for positions in the city.

My advice is: Do as this son has done. Spend a few dollars in providing a water supply that is as handy for the housewife as it is for stock, and make both as convenient as existing conditions render possible. Then there are dozens of other conveniences that can be provided. They cannot all be put in at once, but the intelligent man who studies his soil and practices thoroughness generally stands a few dollars to the good each year. The conveniences can be provided in the order of urgency. In a few years he will have a home that he is proud of—there will be no tendency on the part of members of the family to run away to a city job.

"AIRCHIE McCLURE."

The Cost of Living

The majority report of a special committee of the United States Senate appointed to investigate the causes of the increase in the cost of living in 1910, over the cost in 1890, has been published. A minority report differing in many details is expected.

Among the causes enumerated as contributing largely to the great advance in prices of staple products are the following:

- Increased cost of production of farm products by reason of higher land values and higher wages.
- Increased demand for farm products and food.
- Shifting of population from food-producing to food-consuming occupations and localities.
- Immigration to food-consuming localities.
- Reduced fertility of land, resulting in lower average production or increased expenditures for fertilization.
- Increased banking facilities in agricultural

localities, which enable the farmers to hold their crops and market them to the best advantage. (It was found that this not only steadied prices but had a tendency to increase them).

Reduced supply convenient to transportation facilities of such commodities as timber.

Cold storage plants which result in preventing extreme fluctuations of prices of certain commodities with the seasons, but by enabling the wholesalers to buy and sell to the best possible advantage tend to advance the prices.

Advanced cost of distribution.

Organizations of producers or of dealers.

Advertising.

Increased money supply.

Over-capitalization.

Higher standard of living.

These conclusions were arrived at after a careful investigation into conditions connected with 257 commodities. General wholesale prices advanced 14.5 per cent. The percentage increase in important classes was: Farm products, 39.8; food, etc., 19.7; lumber and building materials, 19.6; miscellaneous commodities, 14.7; cloths and clothing, 12.0; fuel and lighting, 6.9; house furnishing goods, 5.3; metals and implements, 3.6. A decline was shown for drugs and chemicals amounting to 2.9 per cent.

Dealing with increased cost of food products the report says: "The supply of government available land for general farming has been materially reduced and the ranges are being rapidly cut up into homes for settlers. The cost of producing live stock has materially increased with the disappearance of the range, which necessitates producing cattle on tame pastures and high-priced lands."

Labor difficulties are discussed and it is stated that wages have not advanced as rapidly as have prices. Regarding the tariff the report says that it was no material factor in causing an advance in prices during the past decade.

HORSE

Observations on Horse Subjects

A few weeks ago whilst reclining on the doorstep of a grocery store in a local option town in Manitoba, waiting for a train on which to get some place where we could change our cash for hotel accommodation, there came down the street, around the corner and up to the livery stable, something that sure was a sight for the gods. A native vouchsafed the information that it was So-and-So's "stud horse," so we strolled over to the livery to size the brute up. The man in charge said he was a Percheron and the route bills gave the added information that he was the "celebrated Percheron stallion —." He was a ewe-necked, flat-ribbed, rough-legged brute, unregistered, fairly well filled for heavy draft work, but for the important business of perpetuating the species, absolutely without a draft quality that would warrant anyone with enough common sense to come inside when it rained in using him to foal their mares. However, as we thus cogitated a farmer drove up with a good-sized, chunky mare showing Clyde descent, and business at the "night stand" soon opened. This farmer's excuse for using such a delapidated specimen of "equinity" was that none of the purebred stallions in the district could get his mare in foal and he was giving her a trial with this brute to see if she could be brought into breeding again. Inquiry elicited the information that the mare was 9 years old and had raised three colts. For the past two years she had been bred to registered stallions without being foaled, so this year the owner was breeding her to this "celebrated stud horse" in the hope that he might break the run of bad luck. From the number coming to this animal it looked as if a lot of mares in the neighborhood required something to change their luck. We would rather think that than believe that the owners of said mares had not sufficient intelligence to know they would never get colts worth more than horse meat prices from such matings as this. As we remarked once before "there is need in this

country for the more rigid inspection of stallions and the suppression of such enterprise as the owners of the "stud horse" in question was engaging in. Without registration laws as rigid and clear-cut as some on the statute books of states to the south, our horse breeders have succeeded in producing grade draft horses that in size, quality and general excellence are superior to anything found in America, but there always will be some who will persist in breeding to anything that is cheap, and these kind need to be prevented from indulging their vice for what they get from scrub breeding merely lowers the average excellence of all the horses in the country. If they won't quit breeding to such brutes, make them. That is our theory; make it as hard as possible for good-for-nothing "entire" horses traveling publicly.

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Barrenness results usually from an abnormal condition of the genital organs, from the presence in these organs of the germs of contagious abortion, from acid secretions, from retention of the afterbirth, diseased condition of the womb, or from advancing age. Luck does not figure one iota. If the mare is healthy and her organs normal she will produce foals, if the stallion she is mated to has power to reproduce. If a stallion is foaling a high percentage of the mares he is mated to the owner of any female bred to him, especially if she be bred two years in succession without being foaled, has reason to suspect that the mare is at fault and he should have her examined by a competent veterinarian. Many of the conditions that prevent impregnation may be remedied; none that we know of can be removed by breeding to a scrub stallion with the idea of changing the luck. It is time such hallucinations ceased to be indulged by mare owners. As Johnstone says in his Horse Book: "There is no hocus pocus to be invoked when mares are to be got with foal." Believe it, there isn't.

EQUITANT.

The International Horse Show

OUR ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE

The fourth International Horse Show was the most splendid of the series at Olympia, London. Fully £10,000 was spent on decorations. The roof of the hall was a delicate sky blue, and the walls were beautifully flower decked. A beautiful terrace ran the full length of the hall. At one end was a grand representation of Lowther Castle, with a fine green lawn in front. The arena itself was a mass of banked-up blooms.

The horse show was instituted to encourage to develop good horse breeding. How well it has done this is evidenced by the fact that each year the task of the judges becomes more difficult. The multitude of classes has developed to a bewildering array, and space will not allow of a detailed list of winners.

Perhaps the greatest interest of all was excited by the judging matches between army officers of different nations. For the King Edward Cup teams were entered from England, France and Belgium. The Belgians won, with France second and England third. In another competition for jumping in pairs the competition were finally placed in the following order: France, Belgium, United States, with Canada and England equal for fourth and fifth places. The Canadian competitors were: Messrs. Crow & Murray, of Toronto.

The supreme driving event of the show is the "Marathon" for the gold challenge cup offered for best four-in-hand over the course from Bushey Park to Olympia. Ten teams turned out—the pick of all the driving horses. Alfred Vanderbilt's four greys won the cup. E. H. Brown's chestnuts were placed reserve. The distance is 10½ miles, and Mr. Vanderbilt's time was 40 minutes. As he won the cup last year it now becomes his property.

The last day of the show is Cup Day, when the winners of various events come into competition for champion honors. The Montreal Cup, for championship of single harness horses, 14-16.2 hands, was taken by Judge Moore's "Flourish," bred by Sir Gilbert Greenall, of Warrington. The Philadelphia Cup for a similar class, but over