

### Raise Stock.

An English authority writing about the live-stock situation in Britain, says it behooves breeders to do all in their power to save breeding cattle, sheep and in fact females of all kinds of stock. Many excellent dairy cows, he says truly, are fed off to the butcher in the very prime of life and usefulness. This is a very serious form of waste. "If we husband our resources by economizing in provender of all kinds (but not in stinting food to stock which is false economy), by saving our breeding animals and by raising as much young stock as we can now there is the opportunity, no doubt we shall pull through these troublous times."

While everyone cries "raise wheat" the stockman should "raise stock."

## FARM.

### Apples and Corn.

By Peter McArthur.

Apples, apples! did you ever see such apples? Our orchard is loaded this year with big, clean, highly-colored, perfectly formed apples. We have an even better crop than we had two years ago when Mr. Clement had charge of the work. This does not mean that we have improved on his methods so as to get better results. By no means. We still take off our hats to him as our horticultural expert, but luck was with us. Of course we did the spraying carefully, but that was all. The pruning was never completed properly and we did not work the land this year. A visiting scientist said that orchards left under sod gave more highly-colored apples and to that tip I inclined a willing ear. It meant that I could have scientific backing for leaving the orchard unplowed—a wretched job—and I left it as it was. As it had been manured plentifully for two years there were indications that it was running too lustily to wood, so I had a chance to dodge that job also. But I put in extra licks on the spraying—for I couldn't find anyone who could offer a good excuse for neglecting that part of the work. We gave the regulation three sprayings with a spraying of Nico-Fume for the aphids thrown in. As a result it is practically impossible to find a worm hole in the apples—and they are even free from the cutting of the side-worms. The Baldwins and Peewaukees are free from scab, but I regret to say that a lot of the beautiful Spies are affected. They got a thorough spraying but the scab is there. Having watched the trees closely I noticed that the pest came suddenly along in June. A fourth spraying might have kept the apples clean, but I couldn't give the time for the work. Still it is a wonderful and satisfactory crop. There is not so large a set of fruit as there was two years ago, but the apples are better distributed over the trees, much larger and more highly-colored. That is, the average apple is larger. We had Baldwins, Kings and Pippins two years ago that weighed over a pound each and I doubt if we can beat that this year, but all the apples are far above the normal.

\* \* \* \* \*

According to the reports that have reached me there is a wonderful crop of apples all over the province but the question of selling is causing a lot of anxiety. In this respect, luck seems to be with me again. This year I asked permission to drop out of the Association for the purpose of trying out a scheme of selling directly to the consumer and avoiding the middleman and it looks as if the scheme were going to work. When the early harvest apples were ready, I put a small advertisement in a Toronto paper, offering to sell apples by the box, or barrel. I received a lot of enquiries, but just then the war broke out and only a few orders were confirmed. When the excitement had subsided a little I got a number of orders, but in the meantime a sudden wind-storm had shaken down the apples. Fortunately we did not have many and the loss was not serious, but people who saw the advertisement wrote to ask about winter apples and already I have booked enough orders to cover most of my Spies, Greenings, and Baldwins. I am selling the Spies for \$2.50 per bbl., F.O.B. at the nearest station. This is for No. 1's. I am selling the other varieties for \$2 per bbl. Considering the prices that are reported in the papers I have no reason to be dissatisfied with these prices. The only thing that is worrying me is the Peewaukees. I shall have about seventy barrels of No. 1's and as yet I have had no orders for them. They are beautiful apples and I think they deserve a much better reputation than they have in the trade. When properly matured they are good for both eating and cooking. But people do not seem to know them. However, I think I shall manage to sell them all right, for a friend in New York wants a car-load of Ontario apples and I am expecting to make a deal with him. If the year had been normal I could have tested out my scheme much better, but with the apple trade in its present state city people want to buy Spies and nothing

else. As my advertisement costs me only two dollars I can afford to put in another in a week or so and see if I cannot clean up my whole crop. I had intended to make the prices a little higher on account of getting rid of the middleman, but this year a man is lucky to get any kind of a price. I hear of good apples being sold at forty cents a barrel, the farmer to pick and haul the apples. There is not much profit in that price.

\* \* \* \* \*

The spell of fine warm weather we are having also accounts as good luck for me. On account of planting a young orchard I was late in planting my corn and for a time I thought it would not have a chance to ripen. I planted seed secured from Kent and it seemed as if the stuff would never stop growing. There is a wonderful crop of stalks and it is well pared. And now this warm weather is bringing it on with a rush. Already some of the ears are glazed and a few days more of warm weather without frost should put it beyond danger and give the biggest yield of corn there has been on the farm for many years. The corn was planted in the young orchard and the extra working it got before planting doubtless helped it. A clover sod had been plowed down last fall and then a coat of manure was put on in the spring. After the trees were planted, the field was disced half a dozen times before the corn was planted. After it was planted there was a dry spell and it seemed as if it would never start growing, but when it started it seemed as if it would never stop. Even the hills that I re-planted early in July, where the crows and blackbirds had been at work, are as tall as the rest, though the ears are not

the arrest nerves close the outlets from the lobules, and prevent the milk entering the tiny ducts which convey it to the sinus or milk-cistern, located in the lower part of each quarter of the udder and the upper part of each teat. Once the milk reaches the milk-cistern, the cow has little control, as the teat canal, or duct leading from the sinus to the end of the teat is closed by a sphincter muscle, which is involuntary,—that is, it is not under the control of the will of the cow. Once the milk is collected in these reservoirs in the upper part of each teat, unless there be an obstruction in the teat canal, in the form of growths, the milk is reasonably sure of getting the milk, if the cow will stand still long enough to allow of her being milked.

Some cows are so nervous, and hold up the milk so frequently, with or without cause, that the best thing to do, is to get rid of them—sell them for beef or as canners, but not to another dairyman as this would be unfair and dishonest, although it is possible that another person might be able to handle the cow all right. Some milkers are so rough and unsympathetic while milking, that the cows are all "set on edge" almost before the milking begins. Other milkers are so kind and sympathetic, that the cow is soothed, and will commence "letting down" the milk before the pail can be got under the cow to catch the milk. This is one difference between a good and a poor milker. A person who knows can tell a useful person, for milking by the manner in which he or she approaches the cow at milking time. Assuming that the cow is kindly treated and has no good reason for "flying off the handle" as farmers say, is there anything which can be done to prevent this

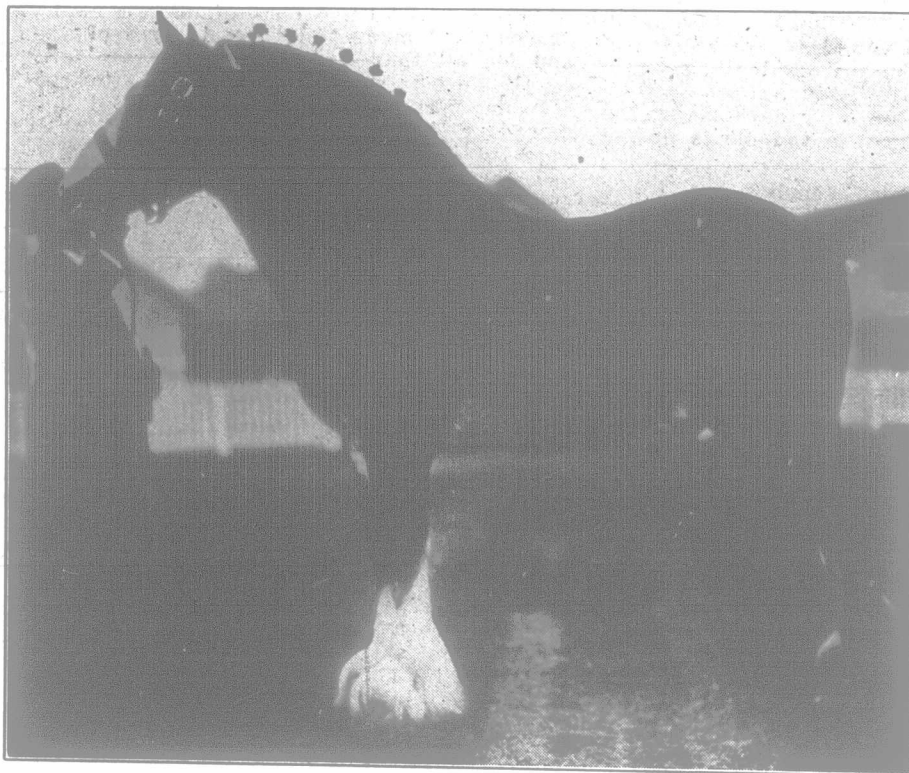
withholding of the milk? When we come to remedies, we need to bear in mind that we are dealing with a case of "nerves." Again we look to the human species for an illustration.

When a child cries, some persons tell the child to stop crying, or it will be whipped. In most cases this excites the child more, and if the threatened whipping takes place, there will be more crying. The wise parent, in many cases, will give the child something to eat, or something to play with, which takes the attention of the child from the fancied or real grievance and soon the crying stops. We are aware that this does not work in all cases but what is the explanation? A matter of soothing irritated nerves, by means of pleasing the same or other nerves.

Many of the ills of mankind originate in the mind or brain which is the centre of the nervous system, hence there is a strong element of truth in healing through the mind.

But to come back to our cow, which has been holding up her milk all this time we were taking an excursion into the human realm. Cows are fond of eating. They probably spend more time and take more pleasure in eating than in anything else during the whole period of their existence. The simple plan of giving the cow something to eat while she is being milked, will often overcome the trouble entirely. On two or three occasions we have purchased a cow from an owner in town, where the usual practice is to give something to eat while the cow is being milked, in order to make her "stand" quietly more especially where the cow is milked on the street or in a yard after bringing from the pasture field. Our own practice is not to give anything to eat, as a rule, while milking, as we think it is better to have the cows concentrate their minds on milk-giving rather than on eating at the time of milking. However, we have found in the case of the cows mentioned, they would not "give down" their milk unless they had something to eat while being milked, so we humored them in fact it pays to "humor" a good cow, unless her demands become too excessive and too expensive.

Another plan we have seen recommended, is to place a bag of salt across the loin of the cow while being milked. We never tried this, nor do we consider there is any special virtue in a bag of salt, as compared, say, with a bag of oats, but the explanation is probably in the fact that the weight across the loins takes the atten-



Marathon.

Clydesdale stallion; first in class at Toronto, and champion at London, 1914. Owned by Jos. Telfer, Milton, Ont.

likely to ripen. Altogether I have had as much luck with my corn as with my orchard and if it holds out until the corn is harvested I think I shall have to declare a special Thanksgiving Day, without waiting for the official one later in the season. It is better to be born lucky than rich—though I am planning next year, not to depend so much on luck, but to do better farming. At the best, luck is uncertain.

## THE DAIRY.

### Cows, "Holding Up" Their Milk.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Some dairymen are greatly troubled with cows "holding up" the milk. One correspondent writes that one cow has "dried herself up" by this plan and several others are doing the same thing.

This is a peculiar condition that is difficult to explain, and more difficult to remedy. The theory of explanation is, that the outlets from the gland lobules where secretion of milk takes place, are opened and closed by means of voluntary muscles, which are under the control of what are called "arrest nerves." We have a similar condition in the case of a person turning pale, or becoming "white as a sheet," when something unusual happens, or when a person becomes what is called "scared." The "arrest nerves" close the arteries through which the blood circulates, and the person "looks like a ghost," because the blood has stopped circulating. In like manner, if for any reason the cow becomes frightened, nervous, or in any way disturbed more than usual,