

## ANOTHER VOTE FOR MR. McKNIGHT'S PLAN.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been reading with a great deal of interest the different breeders' views re licensing of stallions in your valuable paper. To my mind the views in the letter written by Mr. S. J. McKnight, Grey Co. (issue, March 28th), fills the bill the best I have seen yet—for the Government to impose a fine of not less than one hundred dollars on the owner of any stallion offered for service at a fee less than fifteen dollars. A man can afford to travel a good horse at that price, but at no less. The owner of the scrub stallion, having to raise his fee to that price, would soon be out of business, as farmers and breeders having to pay the same for both would certainly use the good stallion in preference to the bad one. Now, most farmers to-day are good judges of horses, but the trouble is some of them think that five dollars saved is five dollars made, and do not stop to consider what the difference would be in the value of the colt at four or five years old. I do not think it right to pass any law that after a man goes to the trouble of getting a good stallion, and paying a big sum of money for him, that he should have to pay a license before he can offer the stallion for service.

I am glad you have given a page to this important question, and I feel sure the Ontario Government will do something to help the owners of good stallions, and encourage the others to get better ones.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

FARMER AND BREEDER.

## LIVE STOCK.

## CONTAGIOUS ABORTION IN DAIRY HERD.

My cows abort in from ten to eighteen weeks after service. Some abort a small calf in a sac; in others it apparently rots away, a thick, yellowish mucus being observed for three or four weeks from a time about eight weeks after service. I would like to hear through "The Farmer's Advocate" from parties who have had experience with and have conquered this pest. There is not a particle of accumulated filth in my stable. I have cement floors, and lots of fresh air. How should I disinfect? Should I syringe out the interior of cows' hind parts? Please give directions. How is this disease communicated from one cow to another? Will switching their tails carry it from cow to cow? Could a man be prosecuted by law who would send his herd of over twenty cattle (diseased with contagious abortion) to a point twenty miles away, and have them sold in another party's name by public auction, thereby scattering the disease into probably twenty herds? Where can I secure a first-class published work on this disease? Would the summer season be a better time to fight the disease than the present?

DAIRYMAN.

In answer to the legal question put, we would say that the man has rendered himself liable to criminal prosecution, as suggested, and also to civil action for damages at suit of the party injured.

Contagious abortion is not one of the diseases dealt with under the Animal Contagious Diseases Act. The nature of this disease is not thoroughly understood, nor have scientists in any country reached an agreement as to the prophylactic measures most likely to secure its eradication.

The following measures have previously been recommended by Dr. Rutherford, Veterinary Director-General, as being advisable:

1. Strict isolation of all reacting animals.
2. Destruction by fire of the foetus and its envelopes.
3. Thorough cleansing and disinfection of the stables occupied by pregnant cows. This is most effectively performed by thoroughly scrubbing all woodwork with hot water and crude carbolic acid, the latter in the proportion of 4 to 5 ounces to each bucket of water, to be followed by the application of a lime wash, to which one pound crude carbolic acid to each five gallons has been added. If the floors are of earth, it is well to remove four or five inches of the soil and substitute fresh therefor. Admit fresh air and light into the stable, especially when empty.
4. Sponge at least once a day the vulva, thighs and tail of each pregnant cow with an antiseptic solution, such as creolin, 1-30, in soft water, or a 1-1000 solution of corrosive sublimate (perchloride of mercury) in soft water.
5. Keep the floors clean and sweet, using lime freely.
6. Be careful in the use of bulls. Any bull which has served an aborting cow is a source of danger to the rest of the cows. Many herds have become infected through the stock bull having served some infected cow, and thus contracted the disease. The disease is most insidious in its nature, frequently getting into a herd from the purchase of a cow which has aborted the previous year.

Affected cows show no external sign of disease, the first evidence being, generally, the abortion itself. The best way to get rid of the disease, where it is practicable, is, undoubtedly, to feed

off all breeding stock, especially if not pure-bred, and restock after careful and thorough disinfection of the affected premises. Internal administration of various remedies, notably pure carbolic acid, well diluted, in doses of from one to four drachms every two or three days, has many advocates who are certain as to its utility.

## NATIONAL RECORDS CORRESPONDENCE.

Reference having been made in these columns recently to inconvenience and misunderstanding regarding the person to whom correspondence in connection with the National Live-stock Records should be addressed, the Secretary of the Record Board has kindly favored us with a letter of explanation, the substance of which is as follows, and which will, it is hoped, make more clear the situation and the reasons thereof: "Ever since the Records have been in Ottawa it appears there has been much of confusion through correspondence in this connection being addressed to Mr. Henry Wade, sometimes sent to Toronto and forwarded by him to Ottawa, and sometimes addressed to him at Ottawa. The reason for this was that for a long term of years, people have been accustomed to forwarding matter of this sort to Mr. Wade, and all the forms which were sent out and which were in the hands of breeders, had Mr. Wade's name and address on them, and even at the present time there are a large number of these old forms continuing to come in. After the Records were removed to Ottawa new application forms, giving information as to the addressing of correspondence, were sent out to all persons whose names could be procured as likely to record stock. As

quired if correspondence addressed to H. G. Wade, Registrar Canadian Live-stock Records, could not be delivered to the office, and was informed that, according to the postal law they had to follow the written instructions. If correspondence were addressed to Mr. Brant, and his name were printed on all the forms, if at any time there should be a change, the same difficulty would be encountered, only in a much more serious form than in the case of H. G. Wade, as Mr. Wade would have only a certain amount of the correspondence addressed to him at the Record Office. There is no inclination to prevent the general public from knowing the name of the accountant. All letters sent out from the Record Office are signed by that official. It was thought to be a matter of convenience for those who have correspondence with the Record Office, as it is thought that a permanent address will be found more convenient than addressing an individual who might at any time decide to withdraw from the office.

## LIVE-STOCK RESEARCH.

## O. A. C. EXPERIMENTS ON COST OF PRODUCING PORK.

The annual report of the Agricultural College, Guelph, recently issued, contains Prof. Day's summary of the experiments with live stock conducted at the College during 1906. We shall consider in this article the part of the report covering the experiments dealing with swine-feeding.

The work was an essentially practical undertaking, being of the nature of an attempt to determine the cost of raising pigs from birth to marketing, or, in other words, to find out what

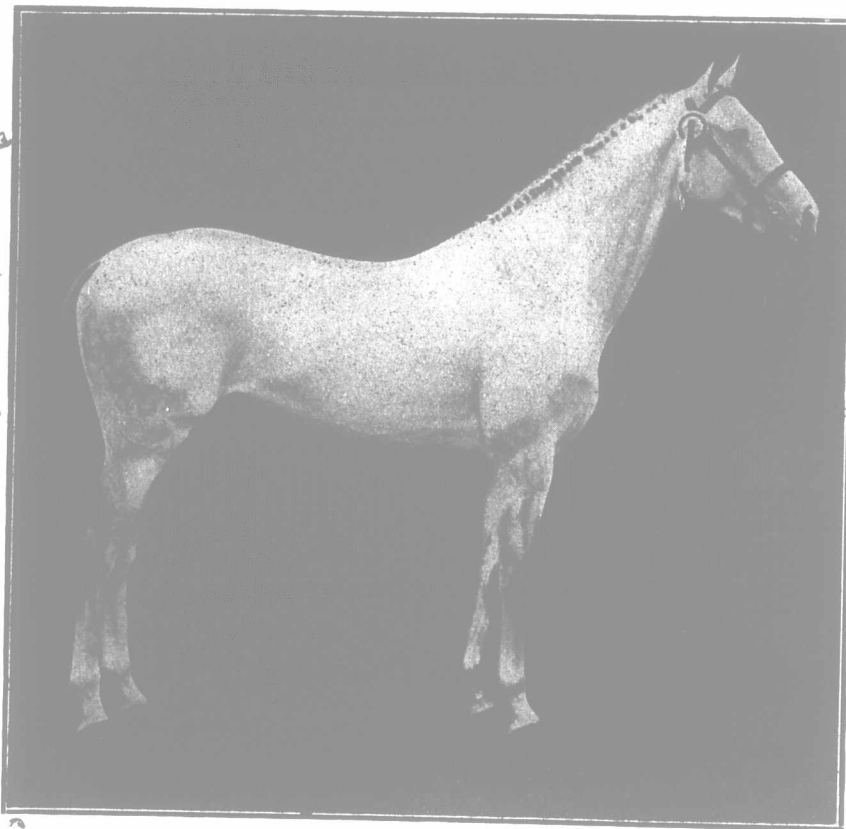
it was likely to cost, under average conditions, to produce a pound of pork. To obviate the possibility of controversy, the question of the valuation of foods was first considered. The valuation of purchased foods presented, of course, no difficulty, but in the case of home-grown foods the question was necessarily more complicated. Having regard to the fact, however, that the trouble of cleaning and marketing is avoided, and that these foods contain usually a great deal of small, unmarketable grain and seeds; remembering, too, that it is possible, by a judicious selection of the lower-priced feeds on the market to materially reduce the cost, it was thought that a valuation of \$20.00 per ton for meal should be considered well within reason. In the matter of other foods, skim milk was valued at 15 cents per cwt., and roots at \$2.00 per ton.

The cost of the maintenance of the pregnant sow was not definitely determined, but an approximation was arrived at which will scarcely be

doubted to be other than fair and satisfactory. The difficulty was found in the fact that pasture and many foods of practically no market value serve largely to maintain the sow while she is not suckling a litter. It was thought, however, that an estimate of 75 cents per month would be a reasonably average allowance. If the sow raises two litters per year, and suckles each litter six weeks, there will be left about nine and one-quarter months of maintenance between litters, amounting practically to \$7.00, making an amount, therefore, of \$3.50 to be charged against each litter.

A young grade sow depreciates little in value while suckling a litter, provided she is well cared for, and no allowance was made for such depreciation. Nor was any allowance made for interest, a matter of very small proportions in pig-feeding; nor for risk, which may fairly be eliminated in the average of a number of litters. To further simplify matters, labor was charged against manure, as is usually done in cases of this kind.

In an average of twelve litters, the average number of pigs to a litter proved to be 6½, and the average cost of feeding sow and litter during the six weeks' nursing period was \$3.74. These litters were bred in various ways, and included pure-bred Yorkshires and Tamworths, and crosses between Yorkshires, Tamworths and Berkshires. The ration fed was composed mainly of middlings and bran, in the proportion of 2 to 1 by weight. Sometimes a small proportion of ground oats was



Flambeau.

Thoroughbred stallion. A King's Premium winner.

well as giving information on these forms as to how the correspondence should be addressed, addressed envelopes were sent out with these forms. Notwithstanding this, the old forms still continue to come in, and correspondence is still addressed to Mr. Wade and sent to Ottawa.

This being the case, as there are bound to be changes in the ordinary course of events as time goes by, it was thought it would be better to have some permanent method of addressing correspondence which would not require to be changed. It is not a matter only of the correspondence being addressed in this way, but it makes considerable difficulty sometimes in the case of cheques, postal notes, express orders, drafts, etc., being made out in favor of an individual.

A number of applications for registration of Shorthorns up to the present time have been addressed to Mr. H. G. Wade, the late registrar for that breed. Mr. Wade has lately resigned, and is now located in Montreal. Before going to Montreal, he left instructions at the Ottawa Post Office that correspondence addressed to him should be forwarded to Montreal. The result is that the accountant of the National Records is receiving a lot of correspondence which comes to Ottawa, is forwarded to Montreal and then returned to the Record Office, which probably makes a delay of two days before being received at the Record Office, by which time the certificate should be returned and in the hands of the applicant. Mr. J. W. Brant, the accountant, en-