

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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great improvement in the appearance of a crop, preventing the ripening of weeds, and making harvesting and threshing much pleasanter. Those who are so unfortunate as to have their fields infested with wild mustard and ox-eye daisy are subjects for sincere commiseration, for these are persistent producers, hard to get rid of, and requiring a persistent warfare for their eradication. For the destruction of the first named, spraying with bluestone solution presents a practicable means, which has been adopted by but few. For the destruction of the daisy there seems to be no practical method but repeated cultivation and hand-weeding. Herds of pure-bred stock are more plentiful in this district than in most, the beef breeds of cattle, Shorthorns and Herefords, predominating, while excellent flocks of Lincoln and Leicester sheep are found on many farms. The quality of the land being favorable to maintaining permanent pastures, many farms have been seeded almost entirely to grass, and cattle are being grazed for the export beef trade, though not as many by one-half as the pasturage would profitably carry this year. The complaint is common that enough good cattle cannot be secured, and the grass is going to waste. The problem of securing a sufficient number of suitable cattle is one that seriously confronts feeders and grazers throughout the country, and the wonder is where they are to come from, as very few calves are being raised, and they not generally of a good beef type, the neglect to use pedigreed bulls of the beef breeds being yet far too common. If an increasing number of farmers go into the business of grazing, instead of general farming, there will be fewer calves raised, while dairymen rear only heifers sufficient to replace worn-out or unprofitable cows, and the question, "Where are the steers to come from?" is a pertinent one. A pleasant feature of Middlesex and adjoining counties is the many considerable stretches of woods that have been preserved, and the numerous wide-leafed trees left in the fields to afford shelter to the ground from the summer sun, while the general planting of trees by the roadsides and

about the homesteads has been generously practiced, adding much to the beauty of the country and of farm homes. The roadside trees in many places are being utilized instead of posts on which to fasten woven wire fencing, narrow strips of lumber being first nailed to the trees and the wire stapled to these—a considerable saving of expense now that suitable posts are so costly and difficult to secure. Where there are not lines of trees iron posts are in some instances substituted, with what satisfaction we are unable to state.

In this section of the country, as in others, it has occurred to the writer that many farmers in choosing a location for their barns and other out-buildings have made the mistake, from an artistic point of view, of placing the barn in line with or nearer to the road than is the dwelling, instead of keeping it in the rear of the house, or, at least, further back from the road. The effect of a well-planted and trimmed foreground to the house is often sadly marred and spoiled by uncouth outbuildings and a barnyard filled with manure nearer to the road, forcing themselves upon the view of the passer-by. This objectionable effect might generally be avoided by a little forethought when new buildings are to be erected, but where a mistake has been made, perhaps the best that can be done is to hide the manure heap with a high-board fence, and plant a row of evergreens to grow into a screen in the years to come. Another common mistake is the failure to provide an entrance door at the back or end of the stables to avoid the necessity of plunging through a dirty barnyard every time one goes to the stable.

A run by rail through the fertile counties of Perth, famous for dairying, corn ensilage, and silos; Waterloo, undulating, picture-que, and settled largely with thrifty people of German extraction, noted as the first to introduce in this country bank barns with an overshot shed, good farmers and feeders generally, and Wellington, famed for fat stock and big turnip fields, we come to sturdy, substantial Peel County, the native place of the writer, where the evidences of recent prosperity in high-class new houses and barns is more striking than in any other district we know of. The soil in this country is generally a rich clay loam, shading in some places to heavy clay, and in others to sandy loam. In the fifties and sixties of last century winter wheat was the leading crop here produced, the yields being often from 30 to 40 bushels per acre after a summer-fallow, which was the common custom in those days. Later, from the continuous cropping, the yield became less, and the U. S. barley market, at big prices, tempted to devoting too much of the farm to that crop, which was profitable for the time being, but left little of fertilizing material to go back to the land. Many farms were thus greatly impoverished, and when the McKinley Bill shut up the States market many people imagined that the best days for farming were past; but the loss of that market proved, in the end, a blessing in disguise. If the style of farming then in vogue had been continued, the power of the land to produce that cereal would soon have been reduced nearly to the vanishing point, unless more stock was fed and a rotation of crops, including clover, adopted. The barley market having failed them, the more prudent farmers turned their attention to dairying and the feeding of cattle and other stock. The export trade in live animals for the British market opened a profitable outlet for these products, with the result that from growing clover and feeding most of the rough grains on the farm lands that were once considered of little value have been restored to fertility and productivity, until in recent years as heavy yields of grain as in the years of the virgin soil have been common, and even in this year, when fall wheat, from winter-killing, is generally a partial failure, the crop in the greater part of this county is uniformly good, promising a yield of thirty bushels or more, and other crops in proportion, proving that the fertility of the soil, if fairly treated, is practically inexhaustible while clover looks good for two to two and a half tons an acre, and pastures are going to waste for lack of sufficient stock to consume the grass, although many are stocked with steers bought in the Toronto stock-yards, that are growing rapidly into money. The complaint, however, of a scarcity of decent-quality cattle is common here, as in the West, and farmers are facing the fact that good stockers are getting more and more difficult to obtain; while the unwelcome truth is apparent that unless good bulls are more generally used the reputation of our export cattle must seriously suffer and a pleasant and profitable branch of farming will languish. J. C. S.

A "Home" Paper.

The "Farmer's Advocate" is a welcome paper in our home. I like the Home Magazine Department very much. I know the "Farmer's Advocate" is prized very much since it became a weekly paper, and that money paid for it is a good investment to a farmer.

Grey Co., Ont. MRS. JOHN DUNCAN.

HORSES.

A Fixed Type Wanted.

Col. Lawler, who has been through Canada buying horses for a special purpose in the British army, says that although he has been over this country from New Orleans to Lake Superior, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, he has failed to find the horses he wants—coal-black geldings or mares, 15.2 to 16 hands, weighing about 1,500 lbs. They must be "breedy," well set up, with good appearance.

Last winter Mr. W. S. Spark described this class of horse to a meeting of horsemen in Toronto, showed us illustrations of the type, and when asked to state the breeding of some of them, disclosed some wonderful circumstances in the science of horse production. One horse, a particular favorite, had the blood of the ordinary Canadian farm mare, Clydesdale and Thoroughbred commingled in just the proper proportions, but Canadian breeders can hardly be expected to follow that line of breeding. No doubt there is a large place for the type of horse Col. Lawler wants, but we haven't got him, and about the most likely source from which such horses can spring is from the road horse stock we have on hand now, through careful selection with the object of securing more size. In the horses that are to be found upon the roads and streets in Canada to-day is foundation material for one of the most useful breeds of horses ever evolved, and intelligent selection, persistent breeding and an honest studbook are the requisites necessary to the fixation of the type.

Likes Fall Fools Best.

An article, "Provide for the Colt," in a recent number of the "Farmer's Advocate," reminds me that I have raised twenty-three colts without having the misfortune to lose one from any cause, and have never had occasion to administer a drop of medicine. Last year I had a foal come in September, and never raised so fine a one before. If I were a young man again, I would have all my foals come in the fall, then I could provide for them as I would like. In summer time it is almost impossible to give them the care they require. For my last fall's colt, I made a box 12 x 18 inches, and 6 inches deep, and put in some ground oats, bran, and a little oil meal and some sweet apples cut in small slices. He was delighted with that bill of fare, and when he got to be three months old I cut hay and mixed the meal with that. He had exercise every day in a paddock. At seven months I prepared him for weaning. I let him suck three times a day for the first week, twice the second, once a day the third week, and he never lost an ounce of flesh. Elgin Co., Ont. R. JONES.

The Show Type of Shire.

Is there such a thing as a show type of Shire horse? The question may well arise, in view of the somewhat puzzling results of the show-ring, where not infrequently the breeder wonders whether or not the dray market and the show-ring have anything in common. There are still breeders who desire to see most things sacrificed for weight, and however laudable their purpose, it is to be feared that in these days weight is not everything. It is becoming more and more evident that in the judging of Shires in the show-ring judges begin at the foot, and where ten years ago a foot would be considered passably big, to-day it would be discarded as either too narrow or too shallow. True, in the olden days, when white legs were of smaller consideration than they are now, the hoof was of tougher material. There is nothing like a good blue hoof for wearing, and old breeders well understood the fact. Nowadays, however, beyond an occasional remark upon the color, there seems to be little objection even to the white hoof, which on the arid plains of America and in hot and dry countries very rarely stands the wear and tear. Here in the show-yard the white leg is of great assistance, and many a mare has been penalized because she has failed to show that little bit of finish, which white silky feather and catchy markings so vividly impress upon the memory.

Distinctly there is a show-yard type of Shire in so far that a white leg is looked upon as a valuable asset. Of the hoof it may be said that there is practically consonance with the requirements of the town markets, although naturally the desire for white legs has brought with it the concomitant exchange of a blue hoof for a white one, which most breeders will agree is not altogether most profitable. Then, again, one meets with fewer straight-hocked Shires in the show-ring than one was wont to do in the past. To-day the cry is all for quality, and if we mistake not the tendency seems to be to sacrifice even a little substance for quality. This, however, is by no means the fault of the breeder. It is extremely difficult to get activity and great substance combined in the one animal, and while there are plenty of animals which exemplify it, it will be readily admitted that the great majority do not. The town trade now runs on the lighter active horse, which can do its five or six miles an hour, where hitherto three to four was considered good enough. The show-yard, therefore, is not so much out of line with the draft market as some people would have us believe.

Then in the quality of the limbs anything like a