

# THE FARMERS ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL  
IN THE DOMINION.

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"  
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ments and the marketing of his produce. No fewer than 100,000 farmers are now so organized in some 907 societies, including creameries, credit banks, agricultural societies, etc., having a turnover of about \$13,528,870 in 1911. Better farming methods are introduced, and social relations developed.

According to George C. Chamberlin, United States Consul at Cork, the total import and export trade at Irish ports in 1910, the latest year for which statistics are available, was \$636,970,015, as compared with \$611,601,510 in 1909, an increase of \$25,368,505. The imports were valued at \$316,538,948, and the exports at \$320,431,067. These statistics include the trade with Great Britain and the colonies and the foreign countries.

Ireland is becoming prosperous, and the records of 1911 show signs that at last the long and deplorable exodus of Irish people to other lands, chiefly the United States and Canada, is now on the wane, and the agencies in bringing this about are ownership of the land and improved and organized methods in farming. What is good for Ireland will be a good policy for other countries similarly conditioned to pursue.

## Perils of Prosperity.

"Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you," was the disturbing thought once flung by the Greatest of Teachers into the curious ears of a thronging multitude keen for personal benefits. Nor is it yet a worn-out maxim. As farmers and live-stock husbandmen, we might to purpose write it over the stable doors as a stimulant to eternal watchfulness of detail, and a warning against the lip honey of commendation. Most people like the path of easy endeavor. But full barns and bursting bins breed self-sufficiency, laxity, carelessness, wastefulness, that presently require the guiding check-rein of adversity to discipline. The woe is no unreality. Let not that escape us.

Great breeds of cattle have been created out of the conditions of need that stirred genius in the

men of Durham, Yorkshire, Aberdeen, Ayrshire, Holland, and the Channel Islands. The restless energies of America seized upon their plastic creations as instruments of production and fortune-making. Halcyon days are not always the best days. The very reverse may be true, as the citation declares. Artificial surroundings designed to stimulate milk production or fat formation promote the conditions of or predisposition to disease. Before they are aware, stockmen find themselves in death grips with the widespread peril of tuberculosis. In a halcyon year, on the eve of great competitive assemblings of pure-bred live stock, with unusual prospects of exportations to the Americas, the dread spectre of foot-and-mouth disease suddenly stalks from Ireland to England, and paralyzes the business for a season. The suddenness and seriousness of the disaster has roused the British authorities into action, re-imposed the Canadian quarantine, and emphasized the tomfoolery of independent local administrations in contagious animal diseases, as the Scottish Farmer vigorously points out.

When some breed of pure-bred live stock is in its plamy days, the temptation is to take full advantage of the swelling breeze and sell anything that can find admission in the National Records. The knife is sheathed, and the unfit live on with the fit to perpetuate their disappointing weaknesses and bring down the scorn of venturesome amateurs on pedigreed scrubs. One of these in a neighborhood will sometimes work more mischief than a generation will suffice to undo. As if that were not enough to fill to the brim the cup of iniquity, the unscrupulous, if rumor is to be trusted, have not hesitated (rarely, let us hope) to slop it over by clothing with a sheep's skin the mongrel wolf that soon rends the innocent purchaser. A certificate of registration is a good document just in so far as it guarantees the transmission of inherited individual excellencies; but the more popular the breed at any given time, the greater need is there for a self-denying ordinance on the part of breeders to plan for future security in their herds, and on the part of the rank and file to acquire, in so far as it is possible to judge, the evidence of performance in the breeding individual, as well as the official parchment, duly attested from Ottawa.

## HORSES.

No feed is likely to pay better than what is invested in the foal.

It is the extra strain that ruins joints and plays the mischief with the teams.

Water is the natural moisture for the hoof, toughening its fibre and preserving against cracking, breaking and wear.

Horses permitted to spend the night at pasture will stand a deal of neglect in other ways. But, unless the pasture is good, other feed should be freely provided.

"The simple remedies are best." In all the range of salves and ointments, the veterinarian knows nothing better than oxide of zinc ointment for applying to a raw spot under the collar.

Let a shoe lose its shape, the leather, for instance, bunching up under a prominent part of the sole. Note how uncomfortable it soon becomes, then think of the horse working hard in an ill-fitting collar. Make the collars fit.

Some of the Percheron colts certainly do make enormous gains in weight. Of course, the Clydesdale breeder will retort that it is horse, not bullock, he is trying to raise. At that, some of the same Percherons are able to give a good account of themselves on city lorry or at farm work.

Considerable millet has been sown this year as a catch crop on fields where poor seed corn failed to germinate. Millet makes good hay, but it will be just as well not to store it in the horse barn. Although horses often do well enough on a ration consisting in part of millet hay, it cannot be considered a safe feed for this class of stock. Feed by preference to the cattle.

## Horses at Pasture.

"Given a plentiful supply of keep on their pastures," observes a writer in our English contemporary, "The Farmer and Stock-breeder," "horses will generally get much fatter when at grass than they ever do in the stable, when regular work usually serves to keep under any tendency on the part of the horse to lay on flesh. Consequently, there is, as a general rule, no call to give turned-out horses any other food besides the grass they obtain. It is only when the pasture gets eaten down very closely, owing to over-stocking, or when the grass supply fails during prolonged spells of droughty weather, that it may become desirable to supplement the grazing. The best and most economical course, if this contingency arises, undoubtedly is to provide them with a supply of cut tares, clover, lucerne, or other similar forage. In the absence of green forage of some kind or another, recourse must be had to giving a feed of corn, either oats, maize, or a mixture of the two once a day.

"There are certain cases in which the feeding of a daily allowance of oats is practiced, no matter how abundant the grazing may be. In particular this is very frequently done with hunters and harness horses, the object being to prevent the animals from getting into too soft condition and losing their muscle. Horses which are corn-fed in this manner when grazing will consequently come up in much better and less soft condition, and therefore be more fit for immediate work, while it will only take quite a short time after they have returned to the stable to get them fully up to the mark again in point of hard condition.

"A very important requirement for turned-out horses is that they should have plenty of shade, shelter from the sun being much more necessary to their well-being in the heat of summer than shelter from rain. Exposure to the latter can do them no harm, and does not inconvenience them in the least, but they suffer discomfort if they are exposed to a hot midday sun without any chance of finding shade. It is always found that horses are most anxious to seek protection from a glaring sun, whereas even the heaviest showers often fail to drive them to shelter. The natural shade afforded by large trees with spreading branches furnishes the best protection against the sun, while well-grown and high hedges also give plenty of cool shade. In the absence of all natural shade of this sort, it is very desirable that there should be some rough kind of shed available for the use of the horses. One covered with straw thatch will afford the coolest place of shelter, and so is specially suitable. On the marsh land pastures in particular, such as are found in the Romney Marsh, for instance, and the Fen districts, grazing horses very commonly suffer great inconvenience, and do not thrive so well as where shade is available, and it would be well if rough structures to provide some shelter from the sun were more generally erected on the pasture-grounds in these parts.

"Another very important point is the water supply. This should not only be ample, but the water should be clean and cool. There is, of course, nothing better in this respect than a running brook, the water here being always fresh and cold. If the water supply takes the form of a stream, it must be seen that there is a suitable place of access to it, so that the horses may have no difficulty in getting down to the water's edge. A deep pond kept free from surface growth, and with a sound bottom to it, also affords a most suitable water supply. If the water has to be provided in a tank, an important point to observe is to place the latter in a well-shaded situation, for if exposed to the sun the water very quickly loses its refreshing properties and becomes stale, if not actually foul. In any case, the water should be replenished every day. It cannot be doubted that turned-out horses frequently suffer the discomforts of thirst in summer owing to neglect in keeping them supplied sufficiently well with water."

## Flies on Horses.

Could you publish some solution or remedy to keep flies off horses?

E. F. C.

An unobjectionable fly repellent for horses is not easy to compose. Many of those used successfully on cattle are inadvisable on account of the hair being rendered sticky, spoiling the appearance of the coat, and causing dust to adhere. There is a certain proprietary specific which has been advertised in this journal, and has given excellent results in the case of cattle. This may be moderately applied to horses, with fairly satisfactory results. On the whole, however, nets are to be recommended in preference.