

Veterinary Inspection from a Montreal Point of View.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I most deeply regret the fact that such a vast distance separates the home of your Wellington County, Ontario, correspondent, Mr. A. G. Hopkins, and the City of Montreal, otherwise I should most certainly have requested him to grant me the honor of shaking hands with him and thus afford me the opportunity and pleasure of congratulating him on the article published over his signature in your issue of the first ultimo. So much virility of language is seldom exhibited, and the absolute fearlessness with which he utters what must be rather unwelcome truths to some of the officials connected with the Dominion Veterinary Department is actually refreshing, especially to one accustomed to the diplomatic language one generally meets with, and which tells only one-half of what one wishes or should say, and often the wrong half at that.

As your correspondent so justly remarks, no one for a moment wishes to deny the well-established fact that the actual Minister of Agriculture is a progressive and energetic man, ever anxious to safeguard the interests confided to his care. However, and I may say unfortunately for the country at large, the Hon. Sidney Fisher has not received the training that only a proper course at a veterinary college can give, and consequently unless he is helped by judicious and competent advisors he must necessarily be at sea, so far as wrestling with the contagious diseases of our domestic animals is concerned, no matter how anxious he may be to either prevent or eradicate them. The question naturally presents itself here: Is the Dominion Veterinary Department, as at present constituted, adequate to cope with the several infectious diseases affecting our herds? Your correspondent, Mr. Editor, doubts it, and I follow suit, and I would thank any one who would be kind enough to prove me mistaken and point out the errors of my way. What is being done to stay tuberculosis? What radical measures have been adopted to check hog cholera? Where are the publications intended to educate the stock-owners about these diseases, their worst enemies? How can you expect these same stock-owners to detect diseased from sound animals? I say, how can you expect them to realize the exact condition of their property if you allow them to remain in ignorance?

Your correspondent adds, that either the Dominion Veterinary Department is a huge farce or else in the hands of incompetent men. I repeat it is a farce. Yes, the saddest possible farce. Let me tell you something. The other day, in a moment of leisure, I was looking over my shelves for something to read. Accidentally I picked up a copy of the report on the sanitary state of the City of Montreal for the year 1895. Not a very interesting thing to read, you will say. That is where you are mistaken. I found it interesting, awfully so. I found that in that one year, in the City of Montreal alone, 559 persons had died of phthisis, and it being kept in mind that human phthisis and animal tuberculosis are identical and contagious from one to the other, and that its existence in the animals that maintain the meat and milk supply is a menace to public health, and when you consider that the veterinarian must be the guardian of public health in this respect, can you wonder that I have dared raise my voice in a note of warning?

The metropolis of the Dominion, this large City of Montreal, of which we are so justly proud, receives its milk supply from some seven hundred (700) milkmen, and right here I ask the authorities that be: Where are the inspectors to examine into the source of this milk supply? Where are the men especially trained and employed for the purpose of protecting public health by seeing to it that the milk left at your door, as a means of nourishment for your children, does not contain filth or the germ of this dread disease, consumption? I might go on almost indefinitely and speak of other contagious and loathsome diseases, of hog cholera, of anthrax, of glanders (which, unfortunately, is not yet extinct in our country), of actinomycosis, etc. But what is the use? Nothing will be done so long as the direction of the Veterinary Department is left in the hands of unprogressive fossils. If only new blood, new ideas, were infused into the Department, something might be done; but alas!

You might tell me that something is being done, at least so far as tuberculosis is concerned, that an Experimental Station has been established near Montreal to solve all problems concerning tuberculosis. I am aware of that, and if this was not such a serious matter I should be tempted to call it another farce. Yea, gods! what will be accomplished there! What marvels will be revealed to an expectant public! Is it likely that in a barn-like structure, without a properly-appointed bacteriological laboratory, that wonders will be accomplished? When such men as Pasteur, Koch, Galtier, Nocard and a host of other eminent scientists have travelled the same road, fully equipped for scientific researches, I say is it likely that these, our masters, have left anything for our local scientists to find? It is not likely, and I believe it to be the acme of presumption on the part of these latter to have even entertained the idea of attempting to revolutionize or add to the pathology of tuberculosis. The experiments

which will be made there are ridiculously superfluous, and the problems to be solved there have already been solved elsewhere, and I hold the solutions of these same problems right here before me within the covers of my authors, and would be glad of the opportunity of publishing them at large for the benefit of the stock-owners and the public generally, without, for all that, laying my claim to any particular merit for doing so.

Pardon me, Mr. Editor, for monopolizing so much of your valuable space, but the subject is one of such momentous interest to us all that I have allowed my words to multiply more than I had first intended. I presume some of my statements will be found rather unpalatable. To those who may find them so I have this to say, that I have never nor do I now seek popularity at the expense of truth.

Trusting I have not abused your courtesy, I beg permission to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,

M. A. PICHE, D. V. S.

Montreal, Jan. 22nd, 1898.

[NOTE.—The sound health of Canadian herds and flocks generally is proverbial, but one very important point brought out in the above rather breezy letter deserves attention, viz., the need for more rigid local inspection of the sources of city milk supply, not alone from fear of tubercular infection, which has its chief danger in the associations of human individuals, but for many weighty reasons as well. A campaign through the press generally, such as this journal has conducted on behalf of intelligent sanitation for animals (as well as individuals), coupled with efficient machinery to deal promptly with any cases of contagious diseases that may arise, will, we believe, do more good than any other policy, and with less cost, and that Hon. Mr. Fisher is equal to the occasion we doubt not. —EDITOR.]

Renovating a Broken-down Horse.

BY J. A. MACDONALD, P. E. I.

It was in November and the ground frozen, away back, let me see, in '81, I was driving the horses to the brook for water. The old mare was lagging in the rear, though not very old for all that; she was foaled in the spring of 1860, that would make her rising 13 years—a pivotal point in the life of a horse.

"Are you going to winter that old mare?"

The speaker was a neighbor and a dealer in horses.

"Don't know; I think so."

"I'll give you \$10 for her, and risk her."

"Not much," I said. The mare had been a good

one, and the dealer knew it. She was part

Thoroughbred on the sire's side, he being by im-

ported Saladin, probably the best horse ever im-

ported to Prince Edward Island, and the dam was

a big mare of the "Island breed," and one of the

best mares in the county in her day. So there was

some good material in this broken-down mare.

She certainly looked pretty downcast that No-

vember morning—her head hanging down, the

hair standing straight out, and every rib easily

noticeable. I determined that very moment to try

what I could do in building up the mare. I had

no previous experience in such work. Dick's

powders were begun to be advertised first about

that time in some of the Montreal papers, and are,

I notice, yet advertised in the ADVOCATE. None

could be got in the Island then, so I at once en-

closed a dollar to Dick & Co., Montreal, for two

boxes of the powders, and began boiling barley

with a few potatoes for the mare. The powders

arrived in due course—six doses in each box. I

began feeding them according to directions, one

powder every other day in a mess of scalded bran

and flaxseed prepared in this way: A cupful—

half pint—flaxseed was placed in a pail, over this

two quarts of oats, and over this a quart of bran;

this at night, and scalding water was poured over

the mixture and the pail covered with an old

cloth. In the morning the mess was stirred and

well mixed, and into it was placed the condition

powder, and at once given to the mare. This

was continued till two boxes of the powders were

given. About midday three quarts of barley,

boiled with a few potatoes, were given, and but

little grain, only about two or three quarts twice

a day after water. Hay was fed during the day,

and straw at night. This ration was continued for

a month when the powders were all given. At the

end of the month very little improvement was

noticeable in the mare. About this time I noticed

that she was covered with vermin. I tell you she

was, even now, a hard-looking piece of horseflesh. I

took the kerosene can to the stable, and poured

its contents over the back and over every point of

her body. I cared little whether it would kill the

mare, the lice, or both. I, of course, blanketed her

well. In a few days the hair came nearly all out

from the effects of the kerosene bath, and the only

covering she had on her skin was a thick coat of

scurf. I continued the flaxseed-oats-bran mix-

ture, giving it every morning, even after the pow-

ders were exhausted; also the boiled barley and

potatoes. When I finished the powders I was

looking over McLure's Horse, Cattle and Sheep

Doctor, and in this book read of the value of nux-

vomica as a powerful tonic for debilitated horses.

I at once got a couple ounces of tincture nux-

vomica, and began administering 20 drops of this

medicine in the boiled barley feed daily. After a

week or two, on exercising the mare, I found her

spirits were improving wonderfully. She now

deceived her looks. The hair began growing

strong, and I gave her a thorough currying, and

had her skin made quite clean. At the end of two months, about Feb. 1st, the improvement in the mare was quite discouraging, my only hope being her improved spirits. I then began bathing her with soap and water twice a week until I had her skin quite clean. She now (the middle of February) began shedding the hair. This was encouraging, and I increased the oat ration by building a box in the manger, holding about three bushels; with a cover, so that the mare could eat her oats at will. The soft food was continued daily, and in it the nux vomica, without a stop. The morning mash, now at the end of February, was withheld, for the mare was improving grandly, though yet thin in flesh; she was now well filled out, and shedding the hair abundantly. Her improvement during March was every day noticeable. She was in fine spirits and eager for the road. About this time, in the middle of March, the ice was pretty good on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and I began jogging her each evening. I found that she could go pretty well. After a week or two of this jogging I found that it did not bother the mare much to go a mile on the glib ice inside three minutes. Well, at last, the middle of March, the job was done, the mare was renovated; but after three and a half months' persistent care, feeding and tonics. The ration was continued right along; the oats before her all the time, the daily mess of boiled barley and potatoes, with the tincture nux vomica, hay in day time, and straw at night, an occasional turnip and a few raw potatoes; blanketed and daily groomed, with occasional bathing of soap and water; watered twice a day, and a daily jog. By the end of March she began to be talked about by the community. The sleigh-roads remained good very late that spring of '82, and the mare had an opportunity of showing herself to good advantage on the roads with a light sled behind her. She was easily the Nancy Hanks of the countryside that spring, and I refused \$100 for her. I considered her worth \$200, and I did not want to sell her; nor did I. She became a pet, and there was a value to her that no money could buy.

Ontario Veterinary Association.

According to a belated official report which recently reached us of the last annual meeting of Ontario Veterinary Association, Mr. Martin, V. S., of Toronto, read a paper on the operation of cuneo tenotomy in spavin lameness. He had found it to be more beneficial than the actual cautery. He approved of using cocaine and adopting antiseptic precautions. He also recommended not merely division of the tendon, but excision of a part of it. He reported very favorable results. Of twelve cases—in eight the lameness was removed, two were improved, and one or two were failures. In the discussion that followed, in which Messrs. W. Wilson, J. D. O'Neil, O. Graham and others took part, Mr. Martin said he considered that the operation gave rest to the bones of the articulation; also the foot must be levelled, so as to take pressure off the internal side of the hock, the internal side of the wall being often much the longer. An animated discussion was continued as to the relative benefits of "firing" and "tenotomy."

Prof. Sisson, V. S., read a paper on "Topographical Anatomy" of the thoracic and abdominal viscera of the horse, and Mr. Hopkins, V. S., of Green River, one on "Laminitis."

Mr. W. Wilson introduced a proposed bill to be brought before the Dominion Parliament in respect to cruelty to animals.

Moved by Mr. Gibb, seconded by Mr. W. Wilson, and carried, "That the bill should have the strong support of the members of this Association and the profession at large."

The election of officers then took place, with the following result: Mr. S. Sisson, Pres.; Mr. W. Wilson, 1st Vice-Pres.; Mr. Blackall, 2nd Vice-Pres.; Mr. C. H. Sweetapple, Sec'y-Treasurer. Directors: Messrs. Steele, Coulter, H. S. Wende, W. Cowan, O. Graham, W. Gibb, J. Wagner, and F. Daley. Delegates to Western Fair Association: Messrs. J. H. Wilson, sr., and J. D. O'Neil. Delegates to Industrial Fair, Toronto: Prof. A. Smith and S. Sisson. Auditors: Messrs. C. Elliott and J. D. O'Neil.

The following members volunteered to read papers at the next meeting: Messrs. Shillinglaw, W. Wilson, H. S. Wende, O. Graham, C. L. Smith, and W. E. Martin.

Discussion took place regarding the tuberculin test, an operation requiring professional skill and experience, and a memorial to the Government was drawn up deprecating the authorization of any person to give instructions in its use to stock owners, as being liable to bring the test into disrepute, and create needless alarm concerning the health of the cattle of Ontario.

The Champion Steer, Bruce -21774-

The Shorthorn steer, Bruce -21774-, illustrated on page 53, besides winning the Ontario Provincial Fat Stock Show championship at Brantford, beating the Hereford steer, Jack, who won the American championship at Chicago Fat Stock Show, held in November, 1897, also won first premium at Guelph Fat Stock Show in 1896 as a yearling. He was bred and exhibited by Messrs. H. & W. Smith, Hay, Ont. His dam is Bonnie Brae -27620-, and his sire Abbottsford -19146-, the sire of Frieda II., the 2nd prize two-year-old heifer at the Toronto Industrial and 1st at the London Western Exhibition in 1897.