

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties. It is handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
 2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.
 3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
 4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
 5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
 6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to us, either by Money Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.
 7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL, shows to what time your subscription is paid.
 8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In every case the "Full Name and Post-office Address Must be Given."
 9. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.
 10. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper, only.
 11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P.O. address.
 12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch as printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
 13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.
- Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

a small area per annum by hand or a large area by machine.

It becomes, then, a business problem whether it would pay better, in the end, to work along at the job by hand, doing, say, ten acres a year, at a cost of 25 cents a rod (and board) for digging and laying, or to employ a ditching machine and do twenty-five, fifty or a hundred acres at a slap, the amount depending, of course, upon one's financial resources. This is the problem Prof. Wm. H. Day has been asked to solve, and his calculations are presented on another page. Assuming an increase of ten dollars per acre in annual crop value from drained, as compared with undrained land, and compounding the annual investment at five per cent., he figures out that the ditching-machine method would cost \$1,786.83, at the end of five years, but fifty acres would yield a crop return amounting, with accruing interest, to \$6,907.99. The slower plan would cost \$1,392.47, or \$394.36 less than the other method, but the returns would be proportionately much less, or \$4,355.59, so that the final net profit from draining all at once, as compared with the profit from the installment plan, he figures out at \$765.44.

Prof. Day's estimate of commercial crop benefit from drainage may be challenged, though he maintains it is well within the average of actual returns reported to him by farmers who have had experience of tiling. He also points out that he has done the ditcher a slight injustice by assuming the same cost of board per rod in each case.

Possibly a cautious business man, anxious to be well on the safe side, would have Prof. Day's calculation of profit, though this is not to imply that he should do so. But taking it any way you please, it becomes increasingly plain that no level-headed farmer, capable of growing and feeding crops to advantage, and able to borrow the money at reasonable interest, can afford to delay unduly the tiling of his farm. And even if the ditching-machine method does cost more, may it

not pay us to use it? Quite a few farmers think so, and, where ditching machines have got started in a locality, they have usually found abundance of patronage.

HORSES.

A whip is a poor thing to inspire a frightened horse with a sense of safety.

Quiet firmness is important in handling horses. The cool assurance of a masterful horseman produces an immediate effect upon the nerves and behavior of a fractious team.

Beware of rotten, dung-soaked, wooden, stable floors. A clean, dry stall will not only conduce to the comfort of the horse, but will tend to ward off such filth troubles as thrush.

There is an element of danger in leaving a highly-fed horse standing unexercised in the stable for days at a time. Azoturia is liable to result from such conditions. It is a good rule never to allow a highly-fed horse to miss more than a day without exercise.

That a draft foal, to weigh 1,600 pounds when mature, must have attained 800 pounds at 12 months of age, is the very positive assertion of a certain American writer who has for years maintained that a drafter makes half his normal weight during the first year of his life. What has been the observation of our readers upon this point?

A properly-nourished sucking colt makes rapid gains. Last year, reports of weights of foals were sent in to the Breeders' Gazette by a number of horsemen. The foals were mostly sired by ton stallions, and from mares weighing about 1,700 pounds. At one month old the average weight of the foals was 345 pounds. During the second month they gained an average of 4 pounds a day; the third and fourth months, 3.5 pounds daily; the fifth month, 2.8 pounds, and the sixth month the gain was 2.3 pounds. The average weight of the foals at six months was 830 pounds. The lightest weight reported at that age was 726 pounds, and the heaviest 940. At 12 months old, the average weight was 1,170 pounds; at 18 months, 1,445; and at 24 months old, 1,590 pounds. As these averages are made from records of 35 colts, they may be accepted as somewhat representative, especially as there was comparatively little variation in the rate of growth of the different colts.

Irish Draft Horses.

Under the Irish Department of Agriculture, a scheme is being developed to increase the number and improve the quality of Irish draft horses, free from all traces of English or Scotch cart-horse blood, standing not less than 15.2 hands high, with short, clean, flat legs, well-set joints and good feet, good head and rein, well-laid-back shoulders, and displaying throughout the conformation a sufficiency of power to warrant doing general farm and harness work. The action each will be paid at shows to suitable selected mares, and a Draft Horse Register will be kept by the Department for selected stallions and by the mares. Annual premiums will be paid to the owners of breeding fillies, and the Department undertakes to buy two-year-old colts out of registered mares and by recorded stallions, for not less than £200, if passed as sound and suitable for registration. In future, a portion of the Department's grant for agricultural shows will be earmarked for classes of registered mares and their progeny. The Department reserves final decision in all matters relating to this scheme.

County Horse-breeding.

The President of the British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries is appointing committees in each English County for the purpose of assisting the Board in all matters pertaining to the encouragement and improvement of horse-breeding. The members of the committees are nominated by the chairman and convenors of the county councils, and are men having an intimate acquaintance with the industry locally. With their co-operation, the Board hopes to ascertain in the fullest manner all necessary details regarding its extent and character in the different localities. As the information gathered is digested, it will be applied in the form of schemes for improvement.

LIVE STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

So long a time has elapsed since last our signature was seen in "The Farmer's Advocate" that some may have supposed our tenure of office as Scots correspondent at an end. It is, however, not so, and perhaps for a few years longer we may continue to address Canadian farmers in the friendly columns of Mr. Weld's paper. The intervening weeks since we last wrote have been eventful enough for us, and are not likely soon to be forgotten. But, however interesting such reflections may be to the individual, they cannot interest the public, and, therefore, we pass to business.

April is always a busy month here. It is the favorite show month among breeders of Ayrshire cattle. Their favorites are there in their best bloom, and the most natural calving months are April and May. Excellent shows of the breed have been held at Castle-Douglas, Kilmarnock, Ayr, and Glasgow. The first of these events was notable for a large entry of cows and queys, whose merits were to be traced less in their individual appearance than in their milking records. This was a class which reflected credit on the general quality of the Ayrshire stock of the Stewarty. The interest of breeders in milk records is extending, and everywhere the wholesome lesson is being taught that a good dairy cow is a cow which yields profit at the pail.

At Kilmarnock and Ayr shows the show type of Ayrshire was possibly more in evidence, but the day of the cow which has only a fancy vessel and short, "stubby" teats to recommend her, is over. A new day has dawned, and its merit lies in the fact that men have been compelled to meet it, because of the economic necessities of the hour. The Ayr Derby was won by a good type of three-year-old quey, owned and bred by Alex. Cross, of Knockton, who has long devoted himself to the breeding of good dairy cattle. He has on several previous occasions won the Ayr Derby, the competitors in which must be entered when they are calves. This is an essential test of men's skill, and the man who can, unaided, nominate an Ayr Derby winner establishes a sound reputation as a judge of our West Country breed. John McAlister, Ardyne, Toward, Ayrshire, has a fine herd of Ayrshires, and provided the champion cow at Kilmarnock and Glasgow. The show at Glasgow was worth seeing, and brought out some new competitors. The exhibits generally were well selected, and the principle of awards by a single judge was carried through with a large measure of success.

CLYDESDALE EXPORTS.

In the Clydesdale world we continue to have good times. Export trade has so far been brisk, and a somewhat larger number of horses have been exported in 1911 than were exported in the corresponding period of 1910. Canada has again been the best customer, but large numbers have also gone to the States and to the Continent of Europe. An exceptionally good sale of Clydesdales took place in New Zealand early in spring. A son of Baron's Pride 9122, which went to New Zealand in his mother's womb, sold for 650 gs., or £682 10s.; another made 540 gs., a third 530 gs., or £530 10s.; a fourth 210 gs. A broad mare made 166 gs., or £174 16s. The average price realized for thirty-one head was £128 11s. 1d., surely a figure to satisfy anyone. The Clydesdales at home this year are so far looking well, but I am inclined to think that some past years have witnessed a few more outstanding youngsters than we have seen this year. The champion stallions so far have been Mr. Kilpatrick's Star o' Doon, a great, solid, weighty, well-colored horse, and Mr. Marshall's Macaroon, which won the Cawdor Cup at the Stallion Show in February. One of the champion mares has been J. Ernest Kerr's Cicely, a daughter of Baron's Pride, and own sister to a daughter of Baron's Pride, and another which Mr. Ness exported to Canada a few years ago—I forget his name at the moment. This trio of young horses are worthy of special notice. They trace their descent on the dam's side from a fine race of mares belonging to Mr. Wright, of the Silloth House Farm, Cumberland. Unfortunately, the stud has now been dispersed, the firm having died out. Colonel Holloway got two mares of the same line of breeding some years ago. The other champion mare has been Stephen Mitchell's Cawdor Cup winner of last year, Boquhan Lady Peggie, a beauty, by Hiawatha, out of a mare by Baron's Pride. This is one of the most beautiful Clydesdale mares seen for a long time. It is to be hoped she may be got in foal this season; so far, she has not bred. A promising sire has come to the front in Apukwa, owned by Mr. Gray, Birkenhead, Stirling. His yearlings promise well, and will likely be further heard of. McCallum Bros., Brampton, Ont., created rather a sensation at the Ayr Show by purchasing the second-prize two-year-old colt, which has been named Dunure Buchlyvie, for, it was said, £800. This is certainly a well-bred colt. His uterine sister was