

the country with a colored, illustrated bulletin of the standards of commercial fruit, as had been done for weeds—such a work as the National Conference of a couple of years ago urgently demanded. A step had been taken in this direction, although not on the scale or with the pretensions of the work suggested, and the Division is cognizant of the demand and the necessity for accurate pictures of our Dominion fruits and their correct nomenclature. We may discuss some of these matters with the Chief at our annual meetings in these Maritime Provinces.

In Mr. Newman's bureau, where we met Mr. Raynor, one of Ontario's live agricultural publicists, we saw the work of preparation for the fall-speed competitions forwarded, and learned from the energetic secretary that the pure-seed movement itself was going on apace throughout the whole country. Mr. Newman thinks that there are great possibilities for this work with us down here, and hopes to see the Winter Fair at Amherst well filled, in the space allotted, with all kinds of selected field seeds. "Your excellent crop in Prince Edward Island," said he, "should permit of good sales of pure seeds being made this year through the society, for the Island membership; and, as the local Government is assisting in the gathering of a larger exhibit than ever, much good must necessarily come to you." We are certainly desirous of extending our seed-grain growing, and will take occasion to place the view of specialists before our constituency, that we are naturally the pure-seed division of Canada.

Chief McNeill politely left us with the Deputy Minister, Hon. Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture being out of town; and, strange to say, although not unknown to each other, this was our first personal encounter. Mr. O'Halloran is not an agricultural enthusiast, but a cool and calculating member of the legal fraternity, placed in his important position as a sort of moderator of expenditure, an allayer of exaggerated enthusiasm, an official Cerberus, often protecting the Minister's privacy, and ever defending his policy. We found him very gracious and considerate withal, and deeply devoted to the cause of agriculture generally. We heard nothing here of the importunities of Maritime leaders, although, unconsciously, the impression was imparted that our poor section of the Dominion had its full consideration by the Department, which is altogether to be brought into question. It is intended to call another Live-stock Council this winter at Ottawa for the whole Dominion. Most of us will not soon forget the first.

Other agriculturists in the official sense did we see at Ottawa, but of them and their work, anon.

A. E. BURKE.

## HORSES.

### A HORSEMEN'S EXPERIENCE COMPETITION.

The best matter an agricultural journal can publish is practical experience. What man has done, man can do. The experience of someone who has made a success of raising draft, saddle or carriage colts for market; or of one who has made money at picking up raw colts, mating, breaking, and selling them for good prices; or of someone who has had unusual success in handling vicious horses, or in treating wounds or diseases by some simple treatment, must be helpful to fellow farmers similarly situated.

We desire to print a number of such articles this winter, and, as a means of inducing our readers to contribute freely of their experience, we have decided to offer \$30 in cash prizes for the three best articles describing comprehensively the writers' personal experience in breeding, raising or handling horses. The first prize will be \$15, the second \$10, and the third \$5.

The idea is not to secure beautifully-finished essays, but plain, truthful information that will prove most instructive for our readers. The experience recited may extend over one year or several, but the longer the better. If you have made a particular success for a number of years, say, in raising draft colts, or in fitting up run-down horses and selling them at a profit, or at any other phase of the horse business, tell us about it. In the case of the colts, tell how they

were bred, how they were fed and cared for, what they cost, and what they sold for, especially submitting figures when possible. Then give us the benefit of what you have learned through your experience, and don't forget to mention the mistakes.

The prizes will be offered, not for the biggest story or the smoothest sentences, but for the most encouraging and useful experience. The articles will be critically examined, and, if seemingly extravagant statements are made, pains will be taken to investigate the facts.

The competition is open only to subscribers, and contributions are especially invited from experienced horsemen. Compositions of the schoolboy order are not eligible. The MSS. must be in our office before January 15th, 1908. The prize essays will be published early in the year, followed by such others as are worthy of space. For any of these that can be used (excepting the prize ones) compensation will be paid at our usual rates. Letters must be written with pen and ink, on one side of each sheet of paper only, and be marked plainly, "Horse Experience Competition."

The present is an important and promising era in the Canadian horse industry. The time is opportune for such a discussion. Think it over, and put your experience in writing. The effort will benefit you personally. Writing an article is far more helpful than reading one. Let us hear from you before January 15th, 1908; the more replies, the better.

### LAMENESS IN HORSES.

#### BOG SPAVIN AND THOROUGHPIN.

Bog spavin is a tense, fluctuating swelling at the interior portion of the anterior (or inner front) surface of the hock. It consists in a distension of a bursa or sack that contains synovia (joint-oil). Thoroughpin consists in a bursal enlargement, showing on the posterior portion of each side of the joint just below and a little anterior to the point of the hock. When the enlargement on one side is pressed, that of the other side will be noticeably increased, hence the name.

Some horses have naturally puffy hocks, and others have hocks that are predisposed to these bursal enlargements, and they do not cause lameness, and by many are not considered an unsoundness, especially in a heavy horse.

In cases of this kind it will generally be noticed that the puffs disappear to a greater or lesser degree upon exercise, but reappear when the animal has had a few hours' rest. This is accounted for from the fact that, while there is a great secretion of synovia during exercise, there is also a much greater consumption of the same; and, there being a constant secretion and little consumption during rest, the sacs become full when the animal is standing. Hence, when there is a distension of these sacs, there will be the puffiness noted when they become full; but when the animal is exercised the synovia is consumed in larger quantities than it is secreted, and the puffs disappear. Bog spavins and thoroughpins usually accompany each other. At the same time, it is not unknown for the one to be present without the other. When either or both appear from sprain or other injury the case is much more serious than those described. There is usually more or less severe lameness, accompanied by heat and soreness of the parts. In some cases the lameness is very severe, the animal being scarcely able to put any weight upon the leg. Bog spavin is more likely than thoroughpin to show these serious symptoms, but in some cases they appear from the same cause, and each causes trouble.

#### TREATMENT.

While we have stated that these puffs, in a heavy horse, when not accompanied with heat and pain, and not causing inconvenience, are not considered very serious, in a light horse they are very undesirable, and reduce his value greatly, and even in heavy horses they are now objected to by most horsemen. They are very hard to reduce. Treatment must, of course, be directed to causing a contraction of the bursal sac, and this can best be done by repeated blistering. The enlargements are usually more noticeable in cold than in warm weather, and, especially in colts, it will be noticed that, during the winter, especially if the animals are allowed to run out in the day time, there will be almost or quite an absence of enlargements, and then is when treatment is most successful. If the seats of the enlargements be well blistered about once a month during four or five months in cold weather, the sacs will usually contract to the normal size and the puffs no longer be noticeable. When lameness is present from the effects of these puffs, treatment must be more energetic. The first object should be to reduce

the inflammation and allay pain. In severe cases, where the pain and lameness is excessive, it is wise to place the patient in slings, as, if this is not done he will have trouble in rising, and may thus aggravate the trouble. The application of hot water, long and often to the parts, followed each time by the application of an anodyne lotion, as one composed of 1 ounce laudanum, 1 ounce chloroform,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce acetate of lead, and water to make a pint, will, in the course of a few days, accomplish the object. This can be followed by the application of cold water and compresses or camphorated liniment. Compresses made especially for the purpose can be purchased from dealers in veterinary instruments, or they can be applied with reasonable success by bandages. Of course, as soon as the acute lameness disappears, the patient should be removed out of the slings and allowed to lie down. When lameness has been cured, if we wish to reduce the enlargements, we should continue the compresses or blister repeatedly. In regard to compresses, if suitable ones, that will remain in place, can be procured, they will act as well as blistering, either in these cases, or in those first described, in which no lameness is present. "WHIP."

## LIVE STOCK.

### PROVINCIAL WINTER FAIR PROGRAMME.

In order to extend the high standard of educational lectures of previous years, the management of the Ontario Winter Fair, at Guelph, December 9th to 13th, has decided to add two new departments to the series of addresses, namely, "Good Roads," and "Horses." This will be in addition to the usual course of lectures on beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep swine, poultry and seeds. There will also be the usual demonstration showing the conformation of the live animal required to obtain a certain kind of carcass. The reasons for the awards, publicly announced in the various judging rings, will give interested spectators an opportunity of knowing upon what special points, relative to conformation, the judges made their awards. All these various opportunities give the Winter Fair its reputation as one of the great educators on live-stock and kindred subjects, and account for its popularity among those who are interested in this class of subjects.

#### GOOD ROADS.

For the "Good Roads" addresses, the Fair has been fortunate in securing Mr. A. W. Campbell, Deputy Minister of Public Works, and Mr. D. Ward King, of Missouri, the originator of the split-log drag.

#### THE HORSE INDUSTRY.

Two sessions have been set apart for discussion of the "Horse." On Thursday morning there will be taken up practical subjects relating to the care and management of the horse. The Thursday afternoon session will be set apart for a general discussion of ways and means of improving conditions relating to the horse industry, following the report recently published by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The Inspectors who visited the various sections of the Province will be present, as well as the directors of the Ontario Horse-breeders' Association, whose resolutions on various points will form a basis of discussion.

#### ECONOMICAL FEEDING AND HORSE-TRAINING.

The addresses on "Economical Feeding of Live Stock," a timely subject, should be very helpful to stock-feeders during the coming winter.

Attention is specially directed to the practical demonstration on the management of the unbroken horse, by Mr. D. Ward King, of Missouri. Mr. King has made a special study of this subject, and his ideas are original and radical. This demonstration will take place in the cattle-ring on Friday morning at 10 o'clock, and will last for from one to two hours.

Other lectures of importance will be given in connection with subjects relating to seed grain, poultry and dairying, the latter session taking up subjects of special interest to milk producers, including some practical information from individual members of testing associations organized by the Dominion Department of Agriculture for the purpose of extending the use of cow records.

#### EXHIBITS.

The exhibits will consist of interesting displays of beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and swine, beef carcasses, mutton carcasses and swine carcasses, and will include the unexcelled poultry show, taking in both live and dressed poultry. The seed department will contain exhibits entered in the open competition, and also those entered for the special prizes offered by the Canadian Seed-growers' Association.

#### JUDGING.

The following programme for judging will be carried out as far as possible: