

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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Our Bacon Trade.

Ten years ago the export bacon trade of Canada totalled little more than a million dollars; last year it was over twelve millions. This means no inconsiderable revenue to the farmers of this country, coming from one branch of their business, and one that is largely produced from by-products of the dairy, such as skimmed milk and whey, which if not fed to pigs would in many cases be wasted, as in most dairy districts comparatively few calves are raised. We have captured this profitable trade by wisely conforming our pigs to the type and quality required by the British market. This has been effected by intelligent and judicious breeding, feeding and management. The market calls for pigs of good length, with smooth shoulders and fleshy backs, not unduly disposed to grow fat and produce lard in excess, but rather producing a large proportion of lean meat. For this purpose the large, lengthy English breeds have proved the most suitable, and enterprising Canadian breeders have not been slow to import and introduce into their herds the best available of these breeds, regardless of the expense, which is by no means small. The market price for hogs in the last few years has averaged high, making the raising of pigs one of the most profitable branches of farming, and although somewhat lower during the last few months, is yet fairly remunerative, with a good prospect of being higher in the near future, the visible supply being less than usual at this season, and the market quotations on the up-grade. The British market may be depended upon to take all the bacon we can raise, if we keep the quality up to the highest standard, which can only be done by the introduction of fresh blood into our herds and individuals of the best type. No farm stock degenerates more rapidly through close inbreeding and injudicious feeding and management than swine, and it is the part of wisdom to be constantly on the lookout for strong, vigorous seed stock of the most ap-

proved stamp to keep up the standard of constitution and quality; and no class of stock will repay the outlay for improvement so quickly as hogs, the sale of the first litter in many instances paying the whole purchase price of a sow, while the cost of a first-class male may be many times repaid in the increased value of his progeny over that of an ordinary animal. If farmers have any doubts as to the profitableness of raising pigs in these times, when at six to eight months' old the porkers are readily salable at around five dollars per hundred pounds live weight, for pigs that are cheaply raised largely on grass or roots, and the by-products of the dairy, let them reflect on the time when hogs at eighteen months, fattened on high-priced grain, were often sold for little if any higher price per pound dressed weight, and be persuaded that there is little ground for complaint.

The combination of dairying with pork production is, without doubt, the safest and most profitable line of farming that can be followed by the average Canadian farmer, and those who are doing well in this line will do well to think more than twice about the matter before changing to any other.

HORSES.

A Shire Champion.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—In your issue of 28th April, page 619, I find a short article by Mr. J. G. Truman, of Bushnell, Illinois, giving credit where it is due. Would that others would follow the example. I refer to the record-breaking price obtained for that roan gelding in the public auction ring at Union Stockyards, Chicago, viz., \$660, and purchased by the Armour Co. As all are aware, if he had not been a good one Messrs. Armour would not have paid that sum, or I might say, would not have bought him at all. I am pleased to say that the breeding of this particular horse has been certified by proper affidavits.

As you no doubt are aware, some over-zealous breeders of other kinds of horses are always ready to place their favorites first, thinking that their geese are swans, but that is not the way in which those parties would wish to have their pets treated. Then why do they not keep to the golden rule? However, it is quite easy to see through their actions, for it is well known that anyone who needs horses to do heavy work will always take a Shire in preference to the Clyde, if they are obtainable, and as in the case in question, will pay a heavier price for such, as they are very difficult to procure.

As to the value of the two breeds, we have only to look at page 661 of the "Advocate," May 5th. There we find an account of Mr. T. J. Berry, of Hensall, Ont., being offered \$3,500 for a Shire, and only \$1,800 for the Clyde—twice as much, within \$100, for the Shire. Now, let the public throw all bias aside, and see for themselves where the credit is due, and then give it to the breed which is most deserving.

We hear desires expressed on all sides, excepting the Shire side, for amalgamating the studbooks. This would be a great boon to the Clyde men, but would be most ruinous to Shire men and horses. If the Shires as workers and good constitutional horses could be improved by crossing or introducing foreign blood, will someone please tell us where we shall find such? But not so with the Clydes—they are drawing on the Shires year after year to try and keep up size and weight. To prove this, I quote from a draft horse paper of 23rd April, 1903, the following: "Shires going to Scotland is a new order of things. At the recent London Show, Mr. James Scott, Bruxie, New Maud, Aberdeen, purchased the gray Shire stallion, Clarendon, registered in Shire studbook. He is a dapple-gray in color, rising six years old, stands over 17 hands high, with clean legs and good feet. Mr. Scott expects that he will breed big gray colts that will make good geldings, for which there is always a demand for city street traffic. The produce of this gray Shire stallion may, and most probably will, learn to speak Gaelic to perfection, just as the produce of Prince of Wales (673) have done, for who amongst Clyde breeders will not trace back the pedigree of their pets to him, if it be possible so to do."

In conclusion, I will only ask fair treatment, and justice for the gentle and docile, yet ponderous and Herculean Shire.

Wellington Co., Ont. OLD STALLIONMAN.

Over 1,700 farmers will be growing beets this season for the sugar factory at Berlin, Ont.

Diarrhoea in Foals.

While young animals of all species are subject to diarrhoea, it is probable none are so susceptible as foals. We have not reference to that form of diarrhoea that in some cases becomes epidemic in certain localities or premises, and is doubtless due to a specific virus, and from which calves principally suffer. We propose to discuss sporadic or accidental diarrhoea in foals. This is a serious and often fatal malady, and in some cases its appearance cannot readily be accounted for. The newly-born foal is very susceptible to the action of irritants of any kind to the intestines, and diarrhoea may be caused in many ways. In some cases it evidently is caused by some unfavorable condition of the dam's milk, and this is especially the case when the mare has been fed largely on food of a very laxative nature; in other cases it occurs without apparent cause, and we must infer in such cases that there is some injurious ingredient, not well understood, in the milk under certain conditions, that causes the disease. In other cases it is caused by the careless or ignorant administration of drastic purgatives to the nursing mare. Aloes especially appears to have an affinity for the lacteal apparatus; at least, it is largely excreted by these glands, as is demonstrated by the evident odor of aloes that can be detected in the milk a few hours after the administration of a dose. In such cases the drug has not been deprived of its purgative properties, and a foal partaking of milk thus contaminated is very liable to suffer from diarrhoea. This teaches us that we should not administer aloes to a nursing mare, unless absolutely necessary, and in most cases where purgation is demanded in the mare, it can be produced by the administration of raw linseed oil, which has not the same injurious action upon the lacteal secretions. Another common cause of diarrhoea in the young animal is exposure to damp and cold weather, or confinement in damp, foul and ill-ventilated premises. One of the most frequent causes probably is allowing the foal to partake freely of milk from the mare when she is in a heated condition, especially when the mare has been at work and the colt confined in the stable, and hence is hungry after its long fast. In such cases some of the milk should be extracted from the glands by hand, and the mare allowed to stand a few minutes and become somewhat cool before the foal is allowed to suck. Another, and not uncommon cause of the trouble, is the dangerous and uncalled for habit many people have of administering a purgative or laxative to the foal shortly after birth. This, even though the dose be slight, often causes serious and sometimes fatal diarrhoea. Under ordinary circumstances nature should be allowed to have its course in these cases, and we find that the first milk of the mare, "the colostrum," has a sufficient laxative action. In rare cases, when the mare has lost considerable milk for a few days before foaling, and the colostrum has escaped, it may be necessary to give the foal a slight laxative, as about an ounce of castor oil, but in most cases it is well to withhold medicines until symptoms indicate their use, and this is seldom seen, especially when the removal of the meconium has been attended to as advised in a former article. In colts that from any cause are reared by hand, we find that the partaking of cows' milk in its purity usually causes serious digestive trouble, which may be diarrhoea, or the reverse condition, constipation. In such cases, about equal parts of pure water and cows' milk, to which has been added a little brown sugar, gives good results at first, and when the foal becomes older and stronger and accustomed to the food, he can take the pure cow's milk.

SYMPTOMS.—The symptoms of diarrhoea, of course, are evident and unmistakable. The little animal passes liquid or semi-liquid faeces frequently. At first there is usually little distress noticed, but in a very short time more or less violent straining will be noticed, indicating that the mucous membrane of the intestines has become irritated and inflamed; he becomes dull, lies a good deal, refuses to partake of his usual amount of nourishment, or possibly refuses to suck at all; he loses strength quickly, will not or cannot stand for any length of time, pants, looks towards his flank, strains violently, or, in the later stages, the liquid faeces escape without apparent effort on the part of the colt; his mouth becomes cool, the circulation very frequent and weak, and death soon occurs.

TREATMENT.—When we understand the causes of the disease, we should, of course, endeavor to avoid them, as it goes without saying, as in all diseases, "prevention is better than cure." If the disease occurs in a very young animal, from a few hours to a few days old, we are forced to acknowledge that it is very serious. If it occurs in a strong foal a few weeks old, it is not nearly so serious, but in all cases requires prompt and energetic treatment. The principal of treatment is to make the patient as comfortable as possible, allay pain, check the excessive secretions of the mucous and digestive glands of the intestines, and keep up strength. If in a quite young animal, opium gives the best results, as it eases pain and

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