

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties,
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THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

a means of tiding over the usual period of dis-
content between seeding and pasture. If not all
used this winter, what a splendid insurance
against midsummer drouth it will be! To
every dairyman and stockman in the corn-growing
region of Canada who is not already provided,
we would say: Build a silo.

Rural School Criticism—Jack Miner as a Nature Study Teacher.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The more one thinks of it, the larger measure
of truth he finds in your contention that rural-
school education is a matter of most vital con-
cern to the agricultural population. A farmers'
journal certainly does well to hold the aims and
methods of the rural-school subject to continuous
but judicious criticism. I am not using the last
term in the sense of fault-finding, but as synony-
mous with that discriminating observation which
notes with approval every step taken in the right
direction, and exposes and censures the measures
or conditions that directly or indirectly disqualify
for successful and enjoyable life on the farm. An
enlightened sentiment on this, as on any other
question that obtains a firm hold on the farming
community at large, will eventually find expres-
sion in legislation. The process of improving the
rural school may be hastened by calling the at-
tention of the teachers to what farmers are observ-
ing and saying about their work. There is prob-
ably not a rural-school section in the country in-
to which a copy of "The Farmer's Advocate" is
not sent. If the reader has children
attending the school, it would not be any trouble
for him to lend the teacher a marked copy for an
evening or two. If the six or seven thousand
rural-school teachers in Ontario were thus to see
themselves occasionally as others see them, who
would venture to estimate the benefit of the ad-
justments that would likely ensue. If farmer-
correspondents express views that are not war-
ranted by the facts, you would, I am sure, Mr.
Editor, welcome replies from teachers setting them
right.

In a recent issue (Feb. 29th), Mr. Duke claims
that the rural schools are putting the farmers'
boys into two classes, namely, (1) factors

employees, street-car conductors, etc., and (2) rut-
ters on the farm, making "the same old mistakes
their fathers did." Now, cannot Mr. Duke and
the teacher of his section "put their heads to-
gether," and get their school at least to turn out
a third and a better class than either, and, having
done that, communicate their method to "The
Farmer's Advocate"?

In the same issue, James Love alleges that time
is wasted in the present method of teacher-train-
ing at the Normal Schools, in spending four
months out of the nine in work that is of "no
practical value."

In illustration, he instances as useless one or
two problems in psychology; but he should be
more explicit. If all the psychology were elimi-
nated, it would not shorten the course by four
months. He broaches a very practical topic when
he refers to the subjects which should be emphasized
in the High Schools by persons intending to teach
in the rural schools. His contention, and we
should hear more of it, that they ought to stress
the subjects they will teach, is impregnable. The
same cannot be said for his rejection of subjects
"that merely enrich the mind." Man cannot live
by bread alone.

As to nature-study, some people may, as Mr.
Love says, give that name to the anatomy of the
butterfly, etc., but it is a misconception of nature-
study. Picked butterflies may be useful in the
Zoology class-room, but they have no place in the
nature-study lesson. As a genuine nature-
study, I should like to commend Jack Miner's
article on "Caring for Quail in Winter," on pages
374 and 375 of "The Farmer's Advocate" of the
29th. If the reader of this letter sends a marked
copy of the paper of that date to the teacher, let
him pencil in the margin of Mr. Miner's letter,
"An ideal nature-study lesson."

J. DEARNESS.

HORSES.

Geo. Harcourt, Deputy Minister of Agriculture
for Alberta, is authority for the statement that
the Sunny Province last year got \$400,000 worth
of horses from the Brandon district, Manitoba.

High prices have, during the past few years,
depleted the farms of the supply of big, drafty
mares. Farmers have often been induced to part
with their best mares by the large prices offered.
The high prices still obtain, but it seems that
horse owners and breeders have awakened to the
fact that the profit for them lies in keeping the
best fillies as breeders in the stud or on the farm.

Buyers and shippers in Canada are having dif-
ficulty in purchasing desirable draft mares, be-
cause the present owners are beginning to ap-
preciate the real value of the mare, and, in place of
disposing of her, she is retained to reproduce her
kind, to the betterment of the horse industry.
According to an American contemporary, similar
conditions are gradually evolving in the United
States. This cannot but be in the best interests
of horse-breeding. The best drafters cannot be
produced without good dams, and the place to
keep the good breeding fillies is on the farms.

That Annual Spring Tonic?

More than one farmer will have under consid-
eration, at this season of the year, the matter of
how he is going to get his horses into fit again,
and what tonic he had best use for this purpose,
or else, without any thought of the matter, he is
using the same tonic as was used during past
years. To insist that a tonic is of little or no
assistance in bringing the horses into fit, and is
an unnecessary expense, the writer admits is not a
popular argument. Many farmers have beliefs
founded on long experience which would go to
show that a spring tonic is necessary to con-
dition the horses for the season's work, but
they fail to give the diet of bran mash, boiled
barley and oats, or linseed meal, which usually
accompanies the tonic, the credit deserved for its
part in conditioning the horse.

Anyone is ill-advised to allow his horses to be-
come run down during the slack winter season. It
requires more feed and care to bring them again
into fit than it does to keep them in tone the
whole winter; but one is also ill-advised to use
tonics, more or less expensive, in fitting horses,
during the spring months, that have been run
down. Bran mash and boiled grains, easily di-
gested foods as they are, are also mild laxa-
tives, which will rid the digestive and circulating
systems of impurities, and quicken their activities,
and the secretions of digestive enzymes and fluids
will be increased, the results being a renewed nor-
mal appetite, a loose skin, and a glossy coat, if
the horse has not been diseased. If he is dis-
eased, he requires a specific treatment, and not a
general tonic.

Horses, in the best of farmers' hands, may go
out of fit, particularly during the slack season,
and then often a tonic is resorted to to bring them

into condition, when, in reality, all they need is a
laxative in the form of mashes, coupled with a
slight change of feed, and perhaps more exercise.

Veterinarians, in discussing the matter of
tonics, say that many times they are forced to
give some drug to suit the fancy of customers
who insist that their horses require a tonic. While
they say that the medicine given is harmless, and
usually a laxative, they feel that better results
would be obtained by consistent feeding and exer-
cise.—"Wicklow," in The Farmer's Advocate and
Home Journal, Winnipeg.

Navel-ill Prevention.

What is best treatment for young foals' na-
vels?
H. A. K.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

The season is again at hand when many mares
will be foaling, and, as is always the case, joint-
ill or navel-ill will be more or less prevalent. All
writers on the subject admit that the trouble is
very difficult to treat, and, in fact, not curable,
unless intelligently treated during the very early
stages.

A great variety of supposed causes have been
put forth by breeders, but that the disease is due
to a germ has been conclusively proven. The
organism has been isolated from the exudate from
diseased navels, and thus all doubts as to the
origin of the disease are dispelled. The germ has
an affinity for the colt's joints, which it reaches
through the blood, and where it lodges, multiplies
rapidly, and so irritates as to cause soreness and
swelling. The germ is generally supposed to gain
entrance through the navel, hence the names
"joint-ill" and "navel-ill."

The germ which is responsible for the trouble
exists in the soil, in dust, on stable floors, in
dirty bedding, and in many kinds of dirt and
filth. Observations have led us to believe that
the prevalence of the disease is much greater some
seasons than others, and that in some localities
it works much more havoc than in others. Al-
most immediately the germ gains the circulation
some of the symptoms of the ailment are mani-
fested. The symptoms are fairly easy to identi-
fy, although at times persistence of the urachus
is mistaken for this disease. Sometimes within
a few hours, and seldom more than a few days
after birth, the foal becomes dull, and when made
to move is sore or stiff on one or more legs. Up-
on close examination, one or more joints are
found to be swollen. As the disease progresses,
the swelling increases, and the foal becomes
weaker and weaker, and the desire for nourish-
ment gradually vanishes, and the colt succumbs.

It is readily seen, from the nature of the dis-
ease, that a colt foaled in a stall, especially one
where precautions against the disease have not
been taken, and where there is always a certain
amount of dust and dirt, is more liable to con-
tract the disease than one foaled in a clean grass
paddock, although there is danger even in the
latter. Prevention, therefore, consists in keeping
the germ from entering the colt's system. Clean-
liness and a liberal use of antiseptics are essen-
tial where the germ exists.

Where a mare is to foal in the stable, regular
and thorough cleaning of the stall is imperative,
and a little slacked lime scattered over the floor
each day will be found beneficial. It is also
recommended to wash the external genital organs
and the hind quarters of the mare from time to
time with a 5-per-cent. solution of one of the
coal-tar products, as creolin, zenoleum, etc. This
treatment is all right as far as it goes, but the
most essential measure for the prevention of joint-
ill is the local treatment given the navel imme-
diately after birth, and several times daily until
it is dried or healed up. For this treatment,
mare owners should always make it a point to
have a bottle of some good antiseptic on hand
at the time the mare foals. A five to ten per
cent. solution of carbolic acid, a ten-per-cent. so-
lution of formalin, a ten-per-cent. solution of
some coal-tar product, as creolin or zenoleum, or
corrosive sublimate, 20 grains to a pint of water,
will do the work effectively if applied to the
navel immediately after birth, and four or five
times daily until healed. The disease seldom ap-
pears where these precautions are taken, but it
may happen, even after all known preventive
measures have been resorted to, to gain access.
However, such cases do not prove that the treat-
ment has not been correct.

When the first symptoms of the disease are
noticed, long-continued bathing with hot water
and thorough rubbing with camphorated liniment
is advised, locally, while five to ten grains of
iodide of potassium should be given four times
daily in a little of the dam's milk. The mare
also should be given potassium iodide in one-
dram doses three times daily, and she should be
liberally fed on milk-producing food. It is neces-
sary that the colt, where it is unable to rise
alone, be helped to suck every hour. Such treat-
ment may effect a cure, but, as before stated, the
greatest hope lies in prevention.

REPEATED