

initiation of a vigorous anti-weed crusade. It will be admitted that the grain entered for the seed fairs is a fair average of the best and cleanest grown in the country, and yet thirty-three per cent. (one third) of the entries at Saskatchewan seed fairs were disqualified on account of weeds. It is foolish to attempt to minimize the danger—how serious it is may be judged when the conditions are as stated in the new province of Saskatchewan. If so serious there, what about Manitoba? The Seed Selection Special did good work, but weed suppression was only a side line and then it was not followed up as the needs called for. It seems to us that the Departments of Agriculture in each of the three cereal growing provinces should conduct an energetic campaign against weeds the coming summer, and such should include more than a weed exhibit at a few fairs. The farmers' institute is the vehicle to carry weed suppression teachings out to the farmers, and it is, as we have already stated, up to the several departments to get busy the coming summer.

#### Agricultural Colleges for the New Provinces.

Prospects for the education of the rising generation of Alberta and Saskatchewan are certainly good if the bills passed or under consideration by the legislatures of the new provinces are criteria to judge by. The recognition of the fact that agricultural colleges should be provided when the foundation of a system of higher and technical education is being laid augurs well for the future of the provinces. At the present time, although in its first year, the Manitoba Agricultural College is taxed to its utmost to accommodate the students and the pressure can be expected to become more and more severe in succeeding years. Consequently the other two provinces are none too soon in taking up the matter; for use all the speed possible, they could not provide colleges to give agricultural college instruction short of the fall of 1908. The advantages of such colleges to the agriculture of a province are so obvious as to render it unnecessary just now to revert to them. It will be well to bear in mind, however, that at the start, and for a few years hence, it will be well to map out the courses on a somewhat similar scale to that laid down in the Manitoba curriculum; that is to say, for several years to come the provinces will be well advised to make the courses comparatively short, not to exceed two winter terms of five months each. By so doing the farm work of the country will not be hindered; neither will there be a temptation to turn out, as from a machine, so many long course (four years) men each year. In fact there need be no urgency at all on this score. In Old Ontario, where they have had a college of agriculture for over a quarter of a century, they are just beginning to talk of using the college trained men for the schools of the country, and it is hardly likely that the demand for men so trained, although the need is great, will arise in the West before the next decade. The main thing in establishing the new colleges is to map out a course which will appeal to the farmers, and then to man the colleges with teachers who will be an inspiration to the youth placed under their control. Even if the equipment in the way of buildings and apparatus is not quite so extensive or opulent looking as in other places, failure will result unless the courses are practical and the men in charge are of a stamp to gain and retain the confidence of the people of the country.

#### Farmer's Want Government Packing Houses.

Delegations from the Alberta Farmers' Association and the Central Alberta Stock Growers waited on Minister of Agriculture Finlay at Edmonton during the time of the Seed Fair, and asked that the Government establish packing houses and abattoirs. It was pointed out that there existed a big discrepancy between Alberta and Eastern prices, to the farmers' detriment. We understand the Minister promised consideration and referred to the work done by the Government in poultry fattening and with the creameries.

#### Iowa to have Agricultural High Schools.

The movement to provide agricultural high schools under the control of the board of trustees of the state agricultural college has proven successful, as a bill to provide four such schools has been agreed upon by the legislature of that state. Provision for the money is made in a one-tenth mill tax levy for the whole state, which will be sufficient to erect one of the buildings each year.

## HORSE

### Heavy Horse Management.

The advice given below is so sound and practical that we commend it to those of our readers who contemplate starting into the breeding of heavy horses:

"My remarks on the management of heavy horses are made from a farmer and breeder's standpoint. If one is ambitious to start breeding and showing, it is an obvious necessity to start with a good stamp of mare of the long, low, short-legged, weighty class, with big, open, sound feet, preferably of sound, weighty ancestry. Unless an exceptionally good judge, it is not well for the ordinary farmer to overdo himself with horses much more than is required for the ordinary work of the farm, a moderate number of the right sort paying much better than a lot of unsaleable moderate animals. There is no getting away from the fact that the farmer who has a few useful mares, and exercises care and discrimination in the mating of them, with ordinary luck will make the business pay, the demand for horses of the right character being practically unlimited. Unless in-foal mares are in regular work (which if not of an exhausting nature is rather beneficial than otherwise: the maternal function is always more naturally and healthily performed by workers than those indolent, care of course being taken not to overdo), they are better out, with a daily allowance of grain and a little hay. While on the subject of food I should like to remind every owner of horses, young and old, of the great risk in changing from cut hay on to straw suddenly, from which cause I have known several valuable horses to die, through stoppage in the bowels, and I believe this practice to be commoner than it should be. When it is desired to use cut straw to a horse accustomed to hay, it is better to mix a small quantity of the straw portion with the other for the first few feeds, gradually increasing the straw and reducing the hay until the stomach is accustomed to the change. When the time for a mare to foal is approaching, a little crushed linseed mixed with her chop is beneficial in keeping the bowels in a healthy condition. As the usual signs of the near approach of foaling show themselves in the flushing of the bag, etc., do not neglect to keep a close observation on the mare day and night, as nothing is more mortifying than to find a dead foal in its sheet on getting up in the morning, with the knowledge that the loss might have been avoided.

With young or excitable mares it is often best after foaling, to leave them alone with the foal until a proper understanding between the two is established. They will frequently allow the foal to suck sooner when left alone than when irritated by the attentions of attendants. Of course, proper judgment requires to be exercised as to the best way to act in different cases. If the mare foals indoors, she should have a big box, or there is risk of her putting her foot on the sleeping foal in turning round in a cramped place. The said box should be clean, and walls recently lime-washed, bedded with short litter, and well ventilated without being draughty. The mare and foal should be turned out if the weather is favorable, for a few hours as soon as the foal is strong enough on its legs. The sunshine is a first-class stimulant to growth and strength. Having escaped that nightmare of horse breeders, navel-ill, joint evil (and the formalin solution is valuable right here), and the foal being three months old, it will begin to take a handful or two of crushed oats and bran, if given to it, which slight expense will be well repaid in the faster growth and more blooming appearance of the coat when the colder nights commence.

Foals that have been taught to eat grain while on the mare do not sink so much the following winter as those which have not, providing it is continued, which is the proper course of treatment. It is no doubt true of horses as of other animals that the first year is the most important of their life. During the first year the feet will not require much attention, except in cases where they are turned in or out, when the edges of the hoof will require to be kept rasped down at the sides, according to which way the feet are inclined. If the feet are too much turned in, they should be kept well down inside, and the opposite if turned out. As the foot is vitally

important, it behoves the owners of young horses to watch and safeguard the development of good feet, the possession of which makes so much difference to the value. Those people who handle and lead their foals before weaning will reap the benefit of doing so later on when they require handling for feet paring, castration, or other causes.

With regard to the time for breaking I am personally fond of doing it at two years old with animals well grown, in fair condition, as their strength not being matured at that age enables the operation to be effected with greater ease and less risk to all parties concerned, while not at all prejudicial to the growth and development of the horse, providing the hours and nature of the work are suitable to its strength. Moreover, the value of a two-year-old is increased when it is quiet at work. I think many heavy horses are insufficiently broken in to start by the absence of a good mouth, which is almost as important in heavy horses as light. Plenty of otherwise good horses can only with difficulty be got to back a load, owing to indifference and neglect in making a good mouth when broken in. Hard and one-sided mouths are also caused by constantly leading a newly broken animal, instead of frequently driving in reins.

Every owner of horses should always keep by him a good supply of raw linseed oil, good colic drinks, and some kind of disinfectant fluid; also some bandages. For ordinary sprains there is nothing to come up to constant efficient fomenting with hot water.

F. AND S.

### Selection of Stallions.

"Has the enrolment of stallions affected the breeding of horses favorably or adversely in your district" is a question which is a pertinent one for those engaged in the work to consider. Many stallions have been enrolled, and probably it will be found that large numbers are enrolled not as sound as they should be. Acts and ordinances such as these cannot be expected to be perfect all at once or to raise the standard of quality of horseflesh higher within a year or two; yet for all, the man wishing to breed up should select a class A horse, a purebred, and if possible one having a certificate of soundness from a reputable veterinarian. When it is considered that of the seven hundred and fourteen (714) enrolled in Saskatchewan, only sixty per cent. were purebred and of the four hundred and ninety-one (491) enrolled in Alberta only thirty-five per cent. were purebred and of the three hundred and eighty-eight Manitoba enrolments there were approximately seventy per cent. purebred and practically the same number sound, it would appear as if there is considerable room for improvement in the horses intended to be used for breeding purposes. Statutes can do very little, however, to improve things, unless the public avail themselves of the opportunity afforded. If every owner of a brood mare demanded that the stallion he used should be both sound and purebred, a marked improvement would soon result. The enrolment feature certainly protects the public from imposition by means of false certificates, etc. What do our readers think about stallion enrolment? Let us hear from you. Elections and the big grain grower's and live stock conventions are about over for the season.

### Thoroughbred Blood for a Foundation.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of March 6th Mr. G. E. Goddard of Bow River, Alta., gives his views on the breeding of saleable horses, under the heading of "French Coachers for Rancher." While I in no way wish to raise an argument, I consider it my duty—as one anxious to improve, and help others to improve, the light and general purpose horses of the West—to attract attention to the cause of Mr. Goddard's success with the French Coacher. It is simply the Thoroughbred blood in the mares chosen for their mate. The mares on the Bow River Ranch have some good blood to return to the good blood in the French Coacher. This was not the case years ago when Hackneys, Thoroughbreds, and Standard-breds were being mated with the matron of the ranch, or at least they did not carry in their veins the same amount of good blood as those there now. The Thoroughbred has done his work there, and it seems to me receives no credit. While I have not been on the ranch I have ridden and driven