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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first of each month. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE,
360 Richmond Street,
LONDON, ONT., CANADA.

Vol. VI. Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book.

We are indebted to Mr. Henry Wade for the sixth volume of the Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book, in which a continuation of the history of Shorthorn cattle imported into Canada from Great Britain is included. Some eighteen pages of interesting reading, in which the importations of 1881 are chiefly dealt with, there being 48 bulls and 115 cows imported during that year. In this volume the bulls range from Nos. 8,183 to 11,100; the cows, from 13,495 to 16,400.

Vol. XIII. Clydesdale Stud Book.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Arch. Macneillage, we have received the thirteenth volume of the Clydesdale Stud Book of the United Kingdom. This volume contains the pedigrees of mares numbering from 9,331 to 10,339; stallions from 8,417 to 9,103; illustrations of the stallion Sir Everard (5353), winner of the first prize at the Glasgow Stallion Show, 1890, and Scottish Marchioness, first prize brood mare at the Highland Agricultural Society's Show at Dundee, and also at the Glasgow Summer Show, as well as champion female Clydesdale at Kilmarnock and Maryhill, 1890.

Melons require potash, a good deal of it on sandy soil. It should have been applied before harrowing the ground.

Editorial.

Cast Your Eye Upon the Address Label of Your Paper.

Any of our subscribers can tell if their paper is paid in advance or not, as well as we can in this office, by looking at the label upon first page of cover. If you find your paper is not paid for '91, be good enough to remit at once. Be sure and remit either by post-office order or registered letter. We cannot be held responsible for money sent unregistered, as many of our subscribers are well aware that losses have occurred through the dishonest practices of clerks in the post office department. See adjoining column how remittances should be sent in.

The Number of Judges Required.

In another column will be found an article by Mr. John Jackson, who has had many years' experience as an exhibitor, in which he gives his ideas upon the above question. He reiterates the remark that "the picked-up committee of three must go." This is pretty near the feeling of those who have watched this question closely for years. At the swine breeders' meeting held in Toronto this subject was thoroughly discussed and carried by at least a two-thirds vote in favor of one expert judge. The only exception taken was the fear that an expert could not be found. We contend that if a man is capable of acting in this capacity with two others, he should be quite as able to act alone. There would then be a chance of a man showing how consistent he is in his judgment, and that however he differed from others in judgment on certain animals that in the judging ring he always placed a certain value on certain well-developed points. Under the present system men never know what are the required qualities that they should aim to produce. One thing is certain, that we hear far more dissatisfaction over the work of three judges than where one alone is employed. It is only too often the case that a judge gets the blame for what his colleagues have in reality done against his opinion; therefore there are few men qualified to act as judge and desirous of doing honest work that would not rather act alone. The work can be done with more dispatch, and if asked why a certain award was given the judge can tell the reason and thus satisfy any reasonable exhibitor. Breeders have too much at stake to allow men of no reputation or perhaps twenty years behind the times to decide on stock they have no capacity to pass sentence upon.

Cool spring water should stand in the sun awhile before being applied to tender plants in a hot bed.

Artificial Manures.

Among the different experiments that have been conducted by specialists in this line, much light has been thrown upon what has hitherto been obscure and difficult to those without experience in their use. The best soil analysis is obtained from the testimony of the plants themselves as they grow, and by the yield of the different crops, be they grain, grass, roots or green crop. Now that there is a government analysis by which the farmers can depend on getting the proper articles, a moderate use of the various commercial fertilizers will do much towards assisting the growth of the different crops. We should, therefore, advise farmers to make tests, that they may judge for themselves the properties of some of the different fertilizers offered. Of one thing we are certain, that a very large share of the farming lands throughout the country have lost their fertility by the continual cropping practised, and the lessening yield of latter years is to be credited to this source. In order to obtain farm-yard manure, crops must be grown to feed on the farm, and it is here that the special fertilizers will be of benefit. All root and forage crops should be forced along from the start, and an artificial manure that will stimulate the growth of these, not only adds to the crop growing but to the after fertility of the farm. Now, for instance, turnips are a crop that if they do not grow quickly at first are exposed to the attack of the fly, which may easily ruin the crop. On the other hand, if a quick growth is obtained at first, no trouble is experienced afterwards; while however rich the soil may be, if the tender plant cannot get a foothold it cannot take up the plant-food, however abundant in the soil.

The continual drain on the farm, through the sale of the crops grown, must be provided for by some articles purchased containing the ingredients carried away in the grain and other products sold. This can be done by different means; that of purchasing grain, cake to feed, and thus increase the supply of farm-yard manure. The other plan is by purchasing commercial fertilizers which are made up of four very necessary elements to plant growth, viz., nitrogen in some form, phosphates, potash and lime; and it is the judicious application of these which will give the best results.

It is, therefore, by testing the different brands of fertilizers containing the above elements that information will be gained whether those put up in commercial form are not cheap at the price at which they are furnished.

For gooseberry mildew, apply one ounce of sulphide of potash dissolved in two gallons of water. Spray every ten days until the fruit is half grown.