

SIR.—1st—What is the proper way to make and set the shoes on a very valuable young horse's hind feet, th t is just a little cocked in the ankles? 2nd—What are the most noted families of Shorthorns as milkers? 3rd—What are the Cruickshank family noted for. 4th—What strain do you consider the best to cross on Ayrshire and native cows for milk and beef? 5th—I have a very valuable thoroughbred Shorthorn heifer that lost her first calf last winter about three weeks before her time, through being worried by a bull getting loose in the same stable. She came in heat in proper time, and was served by a sure stook getter, and has been in heat and served about every twenty days throughout the season and is not in calf yet, for she was in heat again a few days ago. What would you advise me to do with her? Do you think she is likely to ever get in calf again?

LUNenburg.

S. S.

[1.—Use a shoe with high heels or low toe. Also blister the fetlock. 2.—The Bates' strain. 3.—For beef and milk combined. 4.—The Cruickshank. 5.—Breed her if she is not thin; then give her a good dose of purgative medicine, say one lb. of salts once a week for two or three weeks. By this treatment she will likely get in calf again; but if she has disease of the womb or diseased ovary, induced by tuberculosis or other causes, the quicker you dispose of her the better.]

SIR.—Some time ago I had a call from an agent from a nursery, and he was very anxious to sell me some Russian Mulberry trees at \$1.25 each. I objected to his price, and he then tried to convince me that the firm he represented had a stock of trees, shrubs, etc., superior to that of any other nursery in Canada. I spoke of the Advocate offering Russian Mulberries as special prizes when he answered that he had seen some of yours, and they were nowhere compared with those of his firm. What is your opinion?

ROCKTON, Ont.

SUBSCRIBER.

[We advise extra caution in being led away by some of the travellers. The enormous prices charged by some agents for what are called ironclad apples, that we have heard of, are the nearest thing to fraud we can imagine. Trees that can be purchased at from 3 to 6 cents have been talked into farmers at \$1 and \$2 each, perhaps double that. The Mulberry plants that we have supplied and given, three plants to every one sending in one new subscriber, will be found as good as those you may be charged \$1.25 for. Those sent by mail must be smaller, perhaps two years younger than those sent by freight.]

SIR.—Will you be so kind as to let me know whether barley at 45 cents a bushel is cheaper than shorts at \$13 a ton for feeding pigs?

SUNNYSIDE, Man.

SUBSCRIBER.

[When barley costs 45 cents a bushel, or 94 cents per 100 lbs., shorts should be \$1 per 100 lbs., or \$20 a ton. But you say that shorts are only \$13 a ton, so that shorts are much cheaper than barley. Shorts have more flesh forming substances than barley, and also more fat, and are consequently more concentrated. With the shorts you must therefore feed coarser foods than with the barley, if you want to produce the most economical results. The reason why bran and shorts are cheaper in the market than their nutritive value, is because farmers are not yet convinced of their high feeding properties.]

SIR.—I saw in the September issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE a letter from Dr. Dunlop, of Boston, Ont., in this county, Norfolk, accompanied by a head of wheat in which there is a spikelet of chess represented as growing, a very clear representation of which is given in the ADVOCATE. The fact that wheat turns into chess, I am long since convinced of. Some seven or eight years ago I found a head of wheat in a sheaf having several spikelets of chess in it, to which I drew the attention of those around me, because the question happened to be discussed at the time. I put the head of wheat in my hat band, but unfortunately dropped it out through the day while working. You suggested the idea that it might be present by inoculation. In the instance I allude to there was no such chance, as my wheat, at that time, was particularly clear of chess, therefore it could not have been produced by inoculation. The subject is one well worth a thorough investigation, and it is time the matter was set at rest. It has time and again received considerable discussion for and against it, but resulting in no satisfactory conclusions. I hope the investigation you anticipate for it may for ever set this vexed question at rest.

VICTORIA, Ont.

W. C.

SIR.—The following officers of the Township of Tyendinaga Agricultural Society, were elected for 1885:—George Monroe, President, Shannonville; Edmond Power, Vice-President, Marysville; Charles Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer, Melrose. After the adoption of the Treasurers' Report and the election of officers, a township bee keepers' association was organized in connection with the society, in order to encourage the farmers of the township to give more attention to the production of bees and honey, and it was resolved that the directors, at the proper season, should appoint judges to inspect the bee yards of members competing, and report on their productiveness, and how they are kept, and award 1st and 2nd prizes; also that special prizes should be given to honey, wax and bee keepers' supplies at the next annual exhibition of the Society.

MELROSE.

C. A.

The Western Dairymen's Convention.

We were present one afternoon at the Convention in Stratford. The attendance was not as large as it was many years ago in Ingersoll, and is composed principally of manufacturers of cheese, dealers and officers, present, past and prospective, of the Association. Comparatively few patrons or farmers attend these conventions, although a very large amount of information is obtainable at them. The hall was not half filled. For the benefit of the Association and of the farmers, we would suggest that a portion of the money granted to the Association might advantageously be expended in encouraging special meetings in the rural districts, and imparting information freely among the patrons and farmers, as those are the persons now needing instruction. The cheese makers are pretty well posted, and there is no necessity to expend money for the organization of dealers; they are perfectly capable of looking after themselves. The complaint of farmers is that they have not time to waste three days, and they know not what part of the programme is to be brought forward; they object to paying 25 cents every morning, afternoon and evening, and to listen to parts of the programme they are not interested in. If the business was arranged and published beforehand, farmers would know at what time subjects of most interest to them would be brought up, or what speakers they would like to listen to.

Breeding for Cheese.

If we breed a herd to produce milk for market, or for cheese-making, we want a large flow which is rich in caseine. The presence of fats is no objection; but in this case it is preferable that the cream globules should be small and not separate from the milk. Milk may be very rich in butter and yet throw up no cream, because the cream globules are so small. This is often, if not always, the case with cows that have long gone farrow. It is generally supposed that there is a difference in breeds as regards the size of the cream globules. It is probably true of some families of the various breeds. All milk, however, has both large and small globules; and some breeds may yield cream averaging larger or smaller ones. This, we think, needs further testing.—[Farmer and Dairyman.]

The difference between a profitable and an unprofitable cow may be illustrated by a fanning mill. If you had to use one of these mills almost every day in the year, you would find that the one which took through a prodigious quantity of stuff would be the most profitable, all other things being equal. But if the sieves and other parts of the mill were so adjusted that large quantities of the good grain went out with the chaff or tailings, then it is possible that a slower feeder would be more profitable. The other extreme is just as objectionable, for if the wheat which you intend for the market is adulterated with chaff, heads of wheat, smut, inferior grains, weed seeds, etc., the product will bring a lower price, and you will have no siftings to feed your fowls or hogs. This is only another proof that moderation in all things is best, both for producer and consumer.

The Chicago Tribune states very truthfully that just now sheep-owners are having a hard time making both ends meet. In the West the fleeces of common sheep are worth little more than the cost of keeping the animal. Many will say that the fleeces will not pay that cost, and perhaps those of some sheep will not. But there are two ways to meet such a difficulty. One is to hold the wool until the reaction shall have come, as it surely will in due time; the other is to lessen the cost of production to a point that will enable the wool-grower to still sell at a profit, small though that profit may be. The first is risky because it is so largely speculative. The latter plan requires courage, for it involves the expenditure of more money and care for the improvement of the flock, and thus increasing the yield of wool for a given cost in keeping.

The fuel value of different woods.—Taking shell bark hickory as the standard value, and calling this value 100, the best maple can only be rated at 60, the chestnut oak 86, and the other oaks declined to Spanish oak at 52. Red oak is placed at 79 and white oak at 81. White ash is almost as valuable as white oak and is rated at 77. Beech and black walnut are placed at 65, and birches 48 to 63. The meanest kind of fire wood is Lombardy poplar; its value, compared with nuthickory, is placed at 40. A cord of dry shell bark hickory weighs 4,469 pounds; ash, 3,450; maple, 2,878; pitch pine, 1,904; Lombardy poplar, 1,774 pounds.

At the Ranchmen's Convention lately held at St. Louis, Mo., a resolution was passed in which the National Government was to be petitioned for a "cattle trail," extending from Texas to the Canadian Northwest, 1,500 miles long and 6 miles wide. This spot of land would be a nice size for a little kingdom. If the ranchmen succeed in doing enough lobbying to get this strip of land, they will soon have it so arranged that the width will be equal to the length, a square being more æsthetic than a parallelogram. This movement is important to us Canadians, inasmuch as we shall have to pay the whole cost of splitting the rails that will be required on the border, for the purpose of fencing out contagious diseases.

Some authorities hold that a cow which has an over motherly disposition is not a desirable milker; for during the time spent in fretting for the calf she loses in flesh and milk. Of course it takes food to repair the waste caused by fretting, but then it must not be lost sight of that it is the motherly disposition which makes the milker. A cold, indifferent, selfish nature is inconsistent with a plentiful flow of milk; such cows are usually of the beefing type. The best remedy is to remove the calf from the cow as soon after birth as is consistent with the rearing of good offspring.

I am well pleased with your excellent paper. I have been a subscriber for a long time, and I also take quite a number of other papers, some Canadian and some American, but I am convinced that the ADVOCATE is the most practical and best paper for the farmers of this country. Wishing you every success.

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