

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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IN THE DOMINION.

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Prices Ruled by Supply and Demand.

That the market price of an article depends largely upon the law of supply and demand is clearly shown by the fact that prices of pork dropped considerably on many Canadian markets recently. Many people have money to make up for payments before October 1st, and consequently the hogs on hand are finished as quickly as possible and thrust upon the market, as a result of which the prices fall. Grain and other farm products show the same state of affairs. As soon as threshing commences and grain goes on the market in any appreciable quantity, the demand slackens, because of the increase in supply, and down go prices. It is a pity that the marketing of farm products could not be so regulated as to distribute the supply more equally throughout the year, and thus promote a steadier market, not given to price fluctuations and depressions.

There is a great deal of truth in the following statement, made by Frank D. Tomson, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa: "The acres that now are depended on to feed one, will some day—and soon—be relied upon to feed two, and in no distant future the hunger of four will have to be appeased from the same." This is particularly true of Canada just now, and we see in this a great opportunity for agriculture. Let every agriculturist do his utmost to increase the output of his holdings, and thus do his share in feeding the increasing numbers which must get their living from the land.

Farmers are often criticised for lack of business ability. Perhaps no other class of people are more careful about investing their money than are farmers. And yet, can they be blamed? How many times have they been "fleece" by suave and silvery-tongued swindlers? But where a profitable investment can be made to increase the returns from the farm, no hesitancy should be shown in making it. Money so invested is sure to yield a large profit, and there is little risk of losing it. Farming offers ample opportunity for speculation.

HORSES.

The shape and setting of the hind limbs is very important in the horse intended for heavy work.

The more quality the mare possesses, the more marked will be her femininity.

Generic character is always a valuable point in the selection of a horse or mare, and must be in either sex strongly expressed.

Action is one of the main points to consider in the heavy-draft horses, as well as in the lighter breeds.

Fall plowing and cultivation is heavy work. Be careful to adjust the draft so that the bearing on the animal's shoulder is true and even.

Good action in all classes of horses is generally accompanied by symmetry and well-balanced proportions.

A cold stable is not necessarily a well-ventilated stable. Now is the time to remedy poorly-ventilated stables, before the horses go into winter quarters.

Leggy and short-bodied mares should not be purchased for breeding purposes. Such mares cannot be expected to produce large, growthy foals.

Dirty collars and sore shoulders are closely-related conditions. Keep the collar-linings clean and free from dirt and perspiration, and thus minimize the danger of this trouble.

The main consideration in the feeding of the newly-weaned colt is to produce bone and muscle, and keep him growing vigorously without fattening him.

Ponies are said to be much more intelligent, cunning, tricky and knowing than large horses, and they develop a more intimate acquaintance and friendship with human beings than is the case with horses. What is there that can instil into the youth of the country a greater love for horses, and, incidentally, for all domesticated animals, than the ownership and care of one of these miniature horses? If every child was privileged to own, feed and care for one of these pets, greater interest would soon be manifested in horses, and these noble animals would receive more intelligent care and kind treatment.

The Weanling Colt.

With the weaning of the colt, the almost innumerable problems which confront the horse-breeder in his business have their beginning. Up to this time, the healthy colt has required little attention, and in most cases has received little or none. He has to a great extent relied upon his dam to furnish him with the means of subsistence. He has been enabled to supplement his ration by being allowed to graze in the fields, and in some few cases has also been taught to eat grain and hay. It is to be regretted that this practice of teaching the colt to eat does not become more universal among horse-breeders and farmers generally. A few owners of brood mares practice it, but there is still a large majority who allow the colt to shift for himself during the time he is with his dam, and make no effort whatever to prepare him for the adversity and shock to his system caused by weaning. The colt so started in life often finds himself deprived of his dam when the fall work on the farm becomes pressing, and, to keep him thriving and growing, he is turned in the back pasture with the other young stock, and forced to rustle for himself or starve.

This system is not in the best interests of the colt, neither is it likely to prove profitable for the owner. Deprived of the easiest and best source of nourishment, and having no knowledge or chance of repairing this loss by a grain ration, the young animal wanders aimlessly about the dry pasture field, the small amount of colt flesh which his dam's milk placed on him is gradually used up in supplying the needed energy to maintain life, and the colt goes into winter quarters thin and weak, with a very jaded appearance, and his constitution has received a shock which is hard to overcome by the most judicious feeding and the best of care and housing. The one thing to be kept ever in mind in raising colts is to promote their thrift, not only by making them overfat, but by keeping them in such a condition that they make the fastest growth. The horse that is of most value is the big-framed horse of

quality, and no animal which receives a serious setback at the tender age at which he is weaned will ever make as large a horse as he otherwise would have. The six months following weaning are even more important in the making of the horse than the first six months of the colt's life.

No one can rear young horses to best advantage without grain. Concentrate material, in the form of good oats and bran, is almost indispensable if the colt is expected to go ahead and make the best response to feeding. Feed the youngsters the choicest hay on the place, free from dust and mold. Do not give them enough at once to do them a week, but rather feed little and often. They will thrive much better, and will have better appetites by doing this than if they have a manger of stale hay before them week in and week out. Imagine yourself confronted by the same food every day for a week. It would soon become a "review of reviews," and you would not wonder at your loss of appetite. The colt's digestive system is just as sensitive, and he must be carefully fed, if good results are to follow. Keep his appetite so regulated that he comes hungry to every meal. This requires skill. It is easy to overdo the feeding, but he is more often injured by lack of feed than by consuming too much.

A moderate amount of good wholesome milk can often be used to good advantage in the feeding of the colt. Too large a quantity of whole milk must be carefully avoided, as it tends to overfatten the colt, which is not in the best interests of his future growth and quality. Milk from which about half the butter-fat has been drawn is not so likely to promote this trouble, and skim milk, provided it is sweet and wholesome, will give good results if not fed in too large quantities, too much of it tending to make the colt "pot-bellied." Clean, dustless, palatable hay, good oats, with a little bran or perhaps oil meal, and a little clean, sweet milk and pure water, provided the colt receives an abundance of exercise, and is not deprived of company, should start the youngster on the way to the best possible in horse conformation, quality and usefulness.

Disposition.

Wouldn't you give quite a bit for a tip as to the disposition of a horse you purposed buying? Let him be a model in type, and sound in every respect, but if you find he has some vicious habit, or an ugly temper, you will begin to look for another horse. Now, isn't that right?

Although it must be admitted that disposition is to a certain extent inherited, yet most vicious-tempered horses can have this temper traced to thoughtless handling or ill-treatment as colts. As vicious a temper can be developed in a colt through improper handling as was ever bred into one. Besides, as much harm can be done by pampering as by ill-treatment or teasing. The process of developing an ugly disposition, though, usually takes in all three treatments, beginning with pampering, followed by teasing, and ending with abuse.

A little thought by the owner or groom in handling the colt can maintain a sweet disposition, or subdue to a certain extent an inherited, vicious temperament. Kind but firm management is necessary at all times. Never try to make the colt do anything unreasonable, but see that he finishes any training you undertake to put him through. Give him enough training with the halter to let him thoroughly understand that he is to do as you wish; handle his feet and legs, and do not allow any wild frisking while he is being led. Training with these points in view will do much to develop a temperament that should at least give a good working horse, no matter what the breeding.—[Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal, Winnipeg.]

Clydesdale Color.

Up to 1827, gray was a common color in Clydesdale horses. About this time, the premiums offered by the Highland Society at their shows, according to ruling of the society, were only to be competed for by horses of "black bay" or "brown bay" color. As a result of this, gray colts were castrated, and the number of gray horses in the country became greatly reduced. This embargo on the gray color did not last long, and since the middle of the nineteenth century, gray stallions have won some of the best of the society's prizes, but now gray and chestnut colors are not in strong favor, and very few gray stallions are met with in this breed. As the gray, Clydesdales of this color might have found favor in that country, and a ready market for them might have thus been established. Color prejudices are seldom wise, yet a Clydesdale, no matter of how high quality he may be, does not show to advantage without at least some white points. This has been noticed time and again in the show-ring, and when one is breeding stock for the business of supplying a market, he must endeavor to cater somewhat to the demands of that