

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most
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the Scottish feeders who are agitating for a return to the conditions that prevailed before the Act took effect, which absorbed large numbers of unfinished cattle. It also tended to divert the feeding stuffs from this country to the Old Land, the soil of which would become enriched just as steadily as ours would become depleted by the removal of the feeding process. The taking away of really good feeding cattle, and so finishing them in the Scottish feed-lots, is detrimental to Canada, and it is significant that the people who have been making the most clamor about the embargo are not the farmers and stockmen, but the Old Country feeders, those interested in the shipping trade as such, and those who are seeking to make a little political capital for themselves. If the British Parliament is disposed to repeal the Act and let the cattle come in finished and unfinished, all well and good; but if not, then let this country set about raising and finishing more really good beef cattle. Periodically, somebody raises an outcry for the establishment of an export business from Canada in dressed beef to Great Britain, but where are the cattle to be found when we are making such a small showing of sending over finished cattle on the hoof? It might be an advantage if greater latitude were allowed on landing our fat cattle at the British docks, so that they would have a week or so longer to be rested and fed after leaving the boats, and before slaughter and sale. As matters stand now, we surmise it is those who control the shipping interests and the business at British ports who get the cream of it, without regard to how the farmer who feeds the cattle in this country fares. Like death and taxes, their charges are certain, as the exporter finds very often to his cost. With proper shipping facilities and reasonable freight and other charges, the Canadian cattle, if properly bred and fed, ought to be able to take their chances against all comers. What we want is a fair field, rather than favors, and if the agitators would turn their attention from the British Government to other quarters they would probably be rendering the Canadian farmer and stockman better service.

Our Premium Announcement.

The attention of our readers is called to the announcement of premiums for obtaining new subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," appearing on another page of this issue. It is a common saying nowadays that a well satisfied settler is the best immigration agent, and by the same token, a well satisfied reader is the best friend of a paper and the most zealous worker in promoting its circulation. From all quarters come words of praise for the "Farmer's Advocate," and we are thus encouraged by the appreciation of our friends and their loyal efforts in bringing its benefits within reach of others. In nearly every neighborhood there is some person not yet enjoying its advantages, and at this season of the year a little effort will secure many new subscribers. The paper is practical, and being handsomely printed and illustrated, commends itself. It is a pleasure to canvass for the "Farmer's Advocate." Besides the satisfaction of sending the paper into new homes, you secure some of the many valuable premiums we are offering. We send out nothing trashy; everything is strictly first-class; thousands of letters from those who have received them testify. The watches, Bibles, knives, razors, books, microscopes and other articles we unhesitatingly recommend. Read the list of premiums, show your own or a sample copy (which a post card to this office will bring you) to your neighbors, and secure their subscription at once. Bear in mind that the clubbing rates announced do not count in working for the premiums. The rate for the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" is only \$1.50 per year in advance, and new subscribers will receive the remainder of this year's issues and all of 1906 for that sum.

HORSES.

An ounce of judgment's worth a pound of feed.

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A little bran and crushed oats for the colts in the pasture will do them a world of good.

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Don't save all the oats until spring. If you would winter your horses economically, have them in good heart in the fall.

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Now is the time to make the horse barn comfortable for the winter. A few battens will prevent many dangerous drafts. Lumber is cheaper than horseflesh.

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When plowing or doing other work with the team, pause once in a while, raise the collars, straighten out the manes and pull a few handfuls of grass. Make life worth living for the horses. You will take hold of the plow handles with a sweeter spirit, a truer muscle, and a more sprightly team. You will draw a straighter furrow, do more work, keep the team in better condition, and rest more peacefully at night. There is nothing nobler than a kind teamster, unless it be a faithful team.

Winter Care of Weanlings.

In a recent issue we gave our ideas of the proper method of weaning colts; now we purpose following it with a discussion of the care of the youngsters during the winter.

We will assume that the colt has been weaned without loss of flesh or spirit, and that all desire for nourishment provided by the dam has ceased. The question now is asked, "How should the little fellow be fed and cared for during the winter to prevent him losing condition and keep him in good health until he can be turned out on grass next spring?" In order that this may be accomplished, three points in the main are to be attended to: First, to provide comfortable quarters; second, to provide a liberal supply of clean, easily-digested and nourishing food and an unlimited supply of good water; third, to see that he gets plenty of exercise. Failure in attending to any of these points, to a greater or less extent counteracts the benefits derived from the others. We might add a fourth point, viz., to see that his feet are kept in as natural a shape as possible. When we say comfortable quarters, we mean housing that will protect him from the severity of the weather, both cold and wet; at the same time there should be good ventilation. Many stables are warm enough, but the ventilation is not sufficient for any class or age of stock and the air becomes foul. This should be avoided, even though at the expense of heat. An animal will thrive much better in a building in which the temperature is low but the air pure than in a close, warmer building poorly vented.

When practicable, it is much better to have the colt or colts in a box stall (the larger the better), but where this cannot be provided, of course, he must be tied. In any case, it is wise to teach him to lead and stand tied. The principal advantage of a box stall over a single one is that in the former he can and will take considerable exercise, while in the latter he cannot. In either case he should be turned out into the barnyard or paddock for a few hours each day that it is not too rough, in order that he may get sufficient exercise to develop the muscles, as, if well fed and not exercised, he will get fat and increase in size, but the muscles become soft and flabby and digestion is more liable to become impaired. As regards food, of course, we must depend principally upon hay and oats. If this can be supplemented with a liberal supply of new milk, the conditions may be said to be ideal, but this is seldom expedient on account of the expense. With the ordinary colt, under conditions where regular exercise can be given, there is little danger of overfeeding. It is safe to give all he will eat, but the question of what is the better form in which to feed the grain, is an important one. We think the oats should be chopped, and should be fed three times daily in quantities that will be relished. When we say there is little danger of overfeeding, we do not wish to imply that it would be wise to keep food before him all the time. He should be fed only that quantity of any kind of food that he will eat with a relish. If any be left it should be removed, in order that he may be ready for the next meal. If the chop is scalded by putting in a pail or other vessel and covering with boiling water, and then covered and allowed to stand a few hours or over night before feeding, it is highly relished by the colt and gives good results, but if this be too much trouble, it can be fed dry. A feed of scalded chop night and morning, and one of dry chop or whole oats, with a carrot or small turnip, at noon, is satisfactory. The quantity should be a quart or over at a feed, according to the appetite. Of course, some colts might possibly eat so much that digestion trouble would follow, but this seldom occurs; if it should, the quantity must be reduced to suit the digestion of the individual. We do not consider it wise to make a sole and continuous ration of hay and oats; all animals enjoy a variety. We have mentioned that a turnip or carrot each day at noon is advisable, and in addition to this, a feed of bran—all the better if a little linseed meal be added—should be given at least twice weekly. The bran may be given either dry or moist—in whichever way it is most relished. He should be provided with salt regularly. We think it wiser to allow free access to salt than to mix it with the food. In the former case the animal takes all he requires and no more, while in the latter the supply may be too little or it may be too great, in which case he is forced to eat it or go without his meal. The hay should be of first-class quality—well-saved clover preferable—and the amount given at each meal, while it should be all he will eat, should be no more than he will clean up in an hour. No food should remain where he can reach it between meals. Where box stalls are used, or even where the colts are kept in single stalls, it is wise to put hay on the floor, so that he has to get his head down to reach it. It would be better if the grain were fed in a movable box, also placed on the floor, and removed when empty; but as this requires more attention than can often be given, a box is usually fastened in a corner of the stall for this purpose. When more than one colt is kept in the same box, we should observe whether each gets his proper allowance, and if it is noticed that one or more are being bossed by others, they should all be tied while eating their grain. As regards water, it is advisable, when practicable, to keep a supply of fresh water where he can get it at any time. Where this is not practicable, he should get all he will take at least three times daily.

With a colt under natural conditions—that is, where it is running at large on bare ground—it will be noticed that the feet require no special attention, that the wear is about equal to the growth, except, of course, that the feet gradually grow larger in all directions; but when colts are housed and hence standing on straw and other soft material, and when at exercise are on straw, manure or snow, the growth is greatly in excess of the wear, hence the toes grow long and the heels and walls deep, and there is a tendency for the latter to curl in at the bottom. This is an unnatural condition and interferes with the relative position of the feet with the legs and body, and has a tendency to force too much stress upon certain ligaments and tendons, and thereby tends to cause more or less deformity, which may become permanent, and thereby reduce the usefulness and ultimate value of the animal, hence the owner should provide himself with a blacksmith's foot knife and rasp, and with them dress the feet to as natural a shape as possible every four or five weeks, or as often as necessary. We might also state that the stall should be cleaned frequently, as the accumulation of manure generates heat which tends to the abnormal growth of hoof and in other ways interferes with the animal's comfort and health. "WHIP."