

CERTAIN OF VICTORY

atives Bound to Be Re-
ed, Says Dr. Thomp-
son, M. P.

OF PRESENT SESSION

r for the Yukon Tells
the Exposures at
Ottawa

from Wednesday's Daily)
a session which has shaken
ier government to its very
which in his estimation ren-
Conservative victory at the
ing federal elections, a cer-
Dr. A. Thompson, M. P. for
on, arrived in Victoria yes-
and left last evening for Van-
He is going back to the north
left early in order that he may
wson before the trails break

ompson spent four months in
looking after the interests of
tients and so impressed was
the statesmanlike abilities of
en, his progress and growth
certainty of his approaching
that he left the ranks of the
is which have been voting
nerally with the government.
thrown in his lot with the
the Conservatives. He is a
vative. The general election
ll, he believes, return Mr.
power, will take place next
The present session will
until June.

has Suffered Greatly
government has suffered
through the exposures made
onservatives during the pres-
ent, Dr. Thompson remarked
onist last evening. The na-
tment particularly has been
y the opposition. The gross
nce and waste in its admin-
has at length been partially
supplies bought without ten-
political partisans and gen-
ule has made the very name
partment of evil ood to the
The government, generally
detected in giving away for
duable franchises in the west,
nds and fishery privileges.

he Laurier government has
sult. "Why" and the other
nificant, "the New Brun-
ctions struck terror into the
the Liberals. Hon. Mr.
ft the capital with a great
rumpets. He went to St.
he told the electors of that
y that a vote for one of
ates was a vote for Laurier
liberal party. St. John's an-
to return every opposition
e victory in New
has given great hope to
atives. Taken with the
Colchester, N. B., it may
a very good augury of how
me provinces will go in the
ons.

The Elections Act
r government in its
t to the Dominion of
far as it applies to British
and Manitoba has shown
n. It makes possible the in-
the "thin red line." It shows
ate case of the government.
Thompson spoke of a few of the
ch had disgusted him with
administration. Sir Wil-
one to the country and been
upon the G. T. P. question
the country it would cost the
but \$13,000,000. The other
Flelding had declared that
\$2,000,000 had been spent
this year \$30,000,000, would
ed. The expenditure of the
during the coming year
to \$18 per head of its popu-
ling throughout the east is
Mr. Borden assumes office,
flow the precedent of his il-
predecessors and form his
on provincial government.
it is certain, Dr. Thompson
at Richard McBride, who has
lish Columbia in the front
he provinces will be one of
lists.

pects of the Conservative
Canada was never so bright
defeat in 1896," the doctor
There is a very wide
eling. I find, that the time
for a change. In travel-
the continent I found that
at universal expression of
as that this government has
lived its usefulness. Mr.
a greater measure than ever
the respect and regard of
ers. He has risen to the
and has grown with his re-
ses."

TIMBER LIMITS

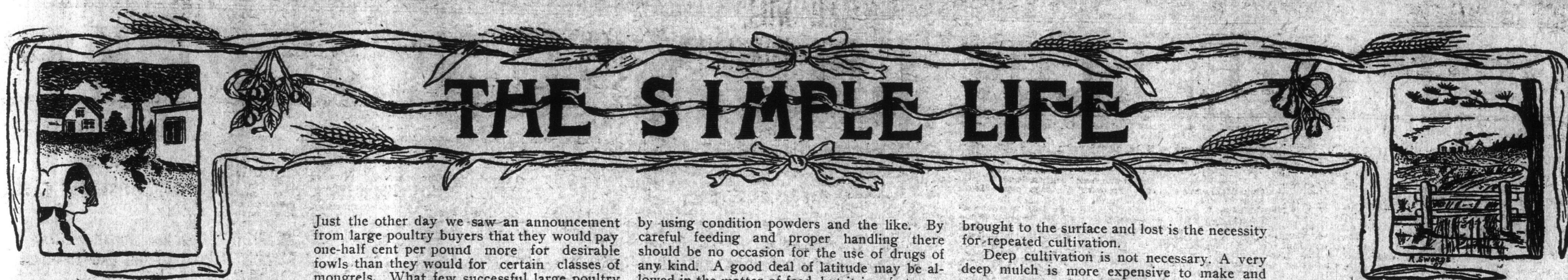
art, Contractor, Only Bid-
for Large Area Near
Peace River

March 31.—Further returns
to the disposition of
its brought down today.
J. W. Stewart of the con-
of Foley Bros. Larsen
art has secured seven
ering an area of 300 miles
territory between Peace
Lesser Slave lake. Mr.
the only bidder in each
bonuses ranging from \$400
or a total of \$7,000 in all.

nk Manager Resigns.
March 31.—A. D. Havers,
of the Bank of B.N.A., has

ination For Moderator
Ont., March 31.—The Pres-
London has unanimously
motion in favor of nomina-
Dr. Duval, of Winnipeg,
for of the next general as-

ts on Public Treasury
March 31.—Since 1896 G. F.
C. has drawn from the
government \$33,000. Of
principal items are: G. T.
Yukon legal cases, \$9,000;
ment, \$2,246; railways and
\$4,875; finance department
investigation) \$25,135. The
unt paid W. W. B. McInnes,
commissioner of the Yukon,
\$1.



WITH THE POULTRYMAN POULTRY ON THE FARM

PROBABLY ninety per cent. of the poultry and eggs that find their way into our markets is raised on the farm, only a small per cent. being produced by the exclusive poultry plants, and on town lots.

The farmer usually keeps too many chickens for his accommodations. A farmer a short time ago was telling us about his chickens. He said he had about 150 of them, and was getting but few eggs at that season of the year—late in the winter. We asked him what he had in the way of poultry buildings, and he replied that he had but one poultry house about ten feet square. He said the fowls were not confined in it, but only roosted there. As soon as it was daylight they lit out for the barn, the stables, and the corn crib. It is a wonder that the chickens could live under such conditions, to say nothing of producing anything. If this farmer had kept fifty chickens instead of 150 with the same accommodations, they would have produced more eggs, and the feed bills would not have been as large. We would not urge that farmers keep fewer chickens, but that they provide better accommodations for them. Where the chickens are confined for a considerable portion of the time in the poultry house, authorities agree that for best results each chicken should be allowed from eight to ten square feet of floor space. Where the chickens have free range as they usually do on the farm, and spend a good portion of their time around other buildings, they naturally do not require as much floor space in the poultry house, still we think we are safe in saying that the ordinary farmer as we have found him is keeping twice as many chickens as he has proper accommodations for.

Statistics show that the ordinary farm hen is not producing over 75 eggs per hen a year. There are two reasons for this. One is that no attention is paid to breeding for egg production, and the other is that feed is not supplied at times, in winter especially, so that the hen could produce eggs if she was so inclined. Our dairy farmers know how much butter fat their cows are producing, and in breeding make an effort to increase the production. Anyway they are careful in breeding that the production of milk in quantity and quality is not lessened. We would hardly expect the farmers to provide trap nests for all of their chickens and keep correct records of the number of eggs each hen laid, for that would entail so much labor that there would be no profits, but still enough attention could be paid to them to weed out many of them that are not producing over twenty-five eggs a year. When we consider that an average flock of pure bred fowls produces in the neighborhood of 150 eggs per hen a year, and the 200-egg hens are not rare, we can see the possibilities of improving a flock producing only 75 eggs per hen a year.

It is a strange fact that the majority of farmers are raising mongrel poultry, though there are many reasons why they should keep pure bred stock. Practically all of the advancement that has been made with poultry has been made with the pure breeds. We never heard but one argument advanced in favor of mongrel poultry, and that is that they were hardy. We do not believe that mongrel poultry is any more hardy than pure bred poultry, but even if they were that is not the only qualification of a good chicken. The idea that mongrel poultry is more hardy probably arose from the fact that they were often housed in open air houses, and did not contract disease, while the more valuable pure bred fowls were housed in tight, warm houses, and contracted disease. The difference was in the management, and not in the fowls. We know now that poultry is less subject to disease when fresh air methods are practiced.

There is nothing that adds to the appearance of the farm premises more than a flock of fowls of uniform color and shape, but while appearances count we are more interested in profit, and pure bred poultry is more profitable because they are better layers, and many varieties are better market fowls.

All the progress that has been made in producing hens with great egg records has been done with pure bred poultry. We never heard of anyone building up a strain of layers from common barnyard fowls. On all of the great egg farms where poultry is kept for profit, pure bred poultry is the only kind kept. These men have studied the proposition thoroughly, and have thousands of dollars invested, and know that the pure breeds are the most profitable because they lay more eggs. In a recent egg laying contest one pen of pure bred fowls averaged 247 eggs per hen a year, and a number of pens averaged over 200 eggs per hen.

From a market poultry standpoint the pure bred varieties are in the lead. As a rule they develop quicker, have a better flavor, and are uniform in shape when all are of one breed.

Just the other day we saw an announcement from large poultry buyers that they would pay one-half cent per pound more for desirable fowls than they would for certain classes of mongrels. What few successful large poultry plants there are use pure breeds almost exclusively. From a commercial standpoint alone the pure bred varieties are the most desirable even if one does not care to sell eggs or poultry for breeding purposes at higher prices.

Pure bred poultry of today compares with the mongrels just as the modern threshing machine compares with the flail, and as the binder compares with the cradle, and as our modern means of transportation compare with the stage coach of our forefathers. The ordinary farmer may be up-to-date on all the improved methods of planting and cultivating and harvesting his crops; he may understand all about rotation and fertilization, but he is still keeping mongrel poultry as was done a generation ago. This is a lamentable fact, but there is one hopeful phase of the matter, and that is that this is a progressive age with the farmer as well as others, and in many localities there are already signs of improvement in the direction of poultry culture.

A man who is just entering the poultry business can start by buying eggs and hatching the chicks, or he can buy a few head of breeding stock, or if he does not want to occupy a year's time in getting his start he may be able to buy the desired quantity of mature fowls. If one wants first class stock he is a little more certain what he is buying when he buys mature stock, still a breeder will seldom part with his best birds while he will usually sell eggs from his best pens.

Probably the time of year that a person is ready to start in with poultry has as much to do in determining how he shall start as anything. If he is ready to start in the fall or winter it is well to start by buying breeding stock, for at that time breeding stock can be bought for what it is worth, for competition is quite lively at this time of the year. Later in the season when breeders are pretty well sold out of stock, and it is not so easily secured at a satisfactory price, it may be as well to buy chicks, or if one is not ready until even later chicks right from the incubator can be purchased if the facilities are at hand for properly brooding them. If it is desired to produce the highest class of fancy stock it is best to procure, as a start, a very few strictly high class fowls or eggs rather than a larger quantity of only ordinary quality.

Probably the idea of expense deters many farmers from discarding their mongrels, and starting in with pure bred poultry, but the expense is comparatively small when the change from mongrels to pure breeds is made gradually. Where it takes several years to get started with pure bred cattle, or other classes of live stock, a farmer can get started with pure bred poultry in a couple of years at little expense. The average farmer probably keeps one hundred chickens. With them he probably has eight or ten or more roosters. He can sell these roosters for half enough to pay for a pen of six or eight pure bred fowls. This pen of pure bred fowls would produce enough eggs for hatching so that the next fall, or at any rate the second fall, he could sell all of his mongrels and keep nothing but the pure bred variety. He does not need to keep roosters with his mongrel fowls if he does not use the eggs for hatching, for the hens will lay as many or more eggs without the roosters with them, and the eggs will keep better, for an egg that isn't fertile will not rot.

THE BREEDING MALE

It has been said that the proper time to begin the training of the perfect child is years prior to its birth. No doubt but what that is true, and it is certainly true that the males that are to be used in the breeders' pens should be taken in hand quite a while before the breeding season opens if the best results are to be obtained in breeding chickens. Many males begin the season in an unhealthy and therefore an unfit condition to breed good chicks. As he is one-half the pen he should be in the pink of condition. Many of the faults that are laid to the females can be traced to the poor condition of the head of the pen. The majority of the breeding males are too fat in the season, while others that have been with the females all winter may be exactly the opposite, their blood being unnurtured through service and lack of nutritious food.

Both extremes are to be equally avoided. Health and vigor is obtained by keeping the males separated from the flock and by a middle course of feeding, combined with what is equally important, a sufficient amount of exercise. Opinions vary in regard to feed, etc., but in one thing all agree, that the breeding male ought to gain rather than lose flesh during the breeding season. If he begins the season in a fat, lazy condition and loses flesh through the spring, good results can hardly be expected. While if he begins the breeding season in moderate flesh, healthy and vigorous, his muscles being well hardened with daily exercise, and as the season advances have him put on flesh slowly but steadily, until the end of the season, the probability is that more and healthier chicks will be the result.

Too many breeders try to force the males

by using condition powders and the like. By careful feeding and proper handling there should be no occasion for the use of drugs of any kind. A good deal of latitude may be allowed in the matter of feed, but it is safe to say that good, bright, clean oats and No. 1 wheat with a well mixed mash twice or three times a week, is a ration that they will improve on. Of course meat, green stuff, shells and grit, and plenty of fresh water are included. Fowls vary as much in their capacity and requirements as individuals. For this reason, it is impossible to state what quantity of grain should be fed to any number of fowls, but most any poultryman with a fair amount of judgment can determine this after a little experience. To sum up the requirements necessary for the care of males during breeding season, I would say that the following would fill the bill: Judicious feeding, plenty of exercise, thorough cleanliness, close observance of the digestive organs and moderation in number of females. Unless you are breeding fancy poultry, do not keep a needless number of males on your place. It is quite an expense, and they do not improve with age. If you have one hundred hens that you want to breed from there must, as a rule, be six or eight, perhaps ten males, but if only ten or twelve of the hens are actually needed to produce enough eggs for hatching, one male is, or should be, enough to fertilize their eggs. It is a good idea to set aside another to be held in reserve in case of an accident, or in case the male used in the breeding pen fails to give satisfactory fertility, but don't have a lot of superfluous males.—Poultry Success.

AROUND THE FARM

HOW TO RAISE BIG CROPS IN DRY SEASONS.



ALTHOUGH there may be a scarcity of rain during the time that crops are growing, it is quite possible to "water" the plants by using to the utmost the moisture that is in the soil itself, and by handling the soil so that it will absorb and hold more moisture. During the spring, when the soil contains the most moisture, there is apt to be the most evaporation, but a surface mulch will check this, so the great need of making a loose surface as early as possible in the spring is evident. Never, under any circumstances, work the ground so early that it packs or puddles, for this breaks down flocculation. But as soon as it can be done with safety, establish a mulch. It will even pay to do this with a disk or harrow rather than wait too long for the ground to get dry enough to plow, for the mulch made at this time does more, perhaps, than any other in conserving soil moisture. To show the amount of water that this early mulch saves, even in a short time, a test was made on two pieces of ground, in every way alike except that one was plowed seven days earlier in the spring than the other. At the time of plowing the second piece, the first contained a little more moisture than it had when it was plowed, and the plot last plowed had lost moisture from the first four feet equal to 1.75 inches of rainfall. This amounted to about one-eighth of all the rain received during the growing season.

Cultivate Early.

An early mulch is also valuable because it keeps the ground moist, and if plowing is delayed, the ground will not break up hard and lumpy. It will require more work to get such lumpy ground into proper shape for a seed bed than it would to have made the mulch with the disk early in the spring.

Suppose that we have a well prepared seed bed and the crop is in the ground; further, that we have at our disposal a maximum amount of soil moisture due to fall plowing or early spring plowing and the maintaining of a mulch. Question: How to make the greatest use of this water?

The Water Available.

The only water that is available to the plant is the moisture in the soil surrounding each particle and in the smaller openings between the soil particles. The young plant sends out its roots and from these roots there grow minute root hairs. These are single celled and come in closest contact with the soil, drawing or absorbing from around the particles their film of moisture, which is sent up through the roots and stem. In the soil we find a movement of the soil moisture, due largely to what is absorbed by the plant and evaporation. It is this moisture in the soil that goes up through the capillary tubes to the surface and is lost.

If these tubes open directly into the air, it is obvious that the movement through them will be greatly increased, and hence the maximum amount of water will be lost.

Our problem is to break up this direct communication between the lower moist soil layers and the surface. By cultivating the surface of the soil, we break the ends of the capillary tubes and thus the rising soil moisture is greatly impeded or held back. However, a rain soon packs and runs the soil particles together and the tubes are re-established. The fact that the soil moisture is constantly being

brought to the surface and lost is the necessity for repeated cultivation.

Deep cultivation is not necessary. A very deep mulch is more expensive to make and causes more or less injury to the roots. By loosening more earth than is necessary, a waste of moisture takes place, and the mulch soon becomes quite dry. A very shallow mulch allows of the re-establishment of the capillary openings quite quickly, and so necessitates too frequent cultivation of the surface.

A mulch three to four inches deep, renewed every six to ten days, is the cheapest to maintain and the most satisfactory from every standpoint. Make it with a fine tooth cultivator, and avoid ridging, for ridged cultivation exposes more earth to evaporation. Whenever a crust forms, it must be broken, and in excessively dry seasons it will sometimes pay to use a one-horse scratch cultivator after the corn is laid by. As the season advances cultivation can be less frequent and more shallow. In the closely cultivated garden the wheel hoe is the tool to use. It saves its cost in water taxes in suburban districts.

What Fall Plowing Does.

Ground that is plowed in the fall holds a great amount of water from the fall rains and winter snows. Plowing should not be done until the soil will turn up mellow and loose, and then this turned and loosened surface is an ideal mulch, acting like a blanket retarding and preventing the evaporation of the water that it has also been instrumental in getting into the soil. Fall plowing may affect the soil moisture as late as the middle of May even, and as compared with unplowed land may hold moisture equal to 1.15 inches of rainfall, or, in other words, in the first four feet of soil there will be six pounds of moisture per cubic foot which would otherwise have been lost.—Garden Magazine.

THE DUAL PURPOSE COW

Many men say that there is no such thing as a dual purpose cow. They claim that if a cow gives milk enough to pay her way with \$25 or \$30 profit, she is no use as a beef producer and therefore is not dual purpose.

Such cows as the above-mentioned, if properly bred and cared for can be classed as dual purpose. I have them in my own herd. I have bred and raised them myself. I have watched with interest how they have paid us as milk producers and then how nicely they have put on flesh, which would make them fairly profitable as beef producing animals, if we did not desire them any longer. If we want to make beef animals out of their young, we can with fine profit, but they must be bred and fed for that purpose. They cannot be obtained in all breeds of cattle. They must have a cross with some of the beef-producing sires, such as the Shorthorn, for instance.

I have a cow whose dam was nearly pure bred Holstein-Friesian, and crossed to a Shorthorn sire, giving me what I call a dual purpose cow. This cow is large, smooth, broad backed, even quartered, and an excellent milker. When put dry, she is very easily fleshed. I find also that grade Shorthorn cows make fine all-round cows, if properly raised. By properly raised, I mean that the cows must be well cared for, from calfhood; kept in good flesh, not over fat, but always kept growing and bred to come in when about 30 months old, kept milking about 10 months each year, and well fed all the time with milk producing feed. Their stomachs are then in a good healthy condition, and if they are allowed to go, they will be found to be worth something as flesh producers. If the ordinary farmer is going to have this kind of cow, he must make up his mind to stop breeding from the scrub bull, as the scrub cattle are the last cattle that should be on any farm.

The Ayrshire cow and the Shorthorn sire make an excellent cross for producing dual purpose cattle. They give very hardy animals, and perhaps healthier ones than the Holstein and Shorthorn cross, but as a rule they are a little more nervous than the latter cross.

I have not tried the Ayrshires and Holsteins, therefore do not know what they would produce. As the farmers of Ontario are situated, I think that they desire cows that will give fair returns as milkers. They can then raise some young stock for beef. Ontario will always need beef, no matter how much cheese is manufactured. As help of the right kind is hard to obtain, we must handle our farms to the best advantage by producing some beef for the home market.

I strongly advocate using a pure bred Shorthorn sire of the right type every time, and do not expect every heifer calf to be a dual purpose animal. Some of them will not be heavy milkers. The butcher will take these off your hands when young, and give you a paying price for them. Keep and breed from such heifers as prove themselves to be good milkers. We will then soon have cows that will be a credit to Ontario farmers, and we will make twice the money out of our stock.—W. K. Wallace, in Canadian Dairyman and Farming World.

Cement floors in stables have some qualities of undoubted excellence but so they have also some very serious drawbacks. They are too

cold and bedding does not stay in place sufficiently to prevent bad effects. The udder of a cow is the seat of a wonderful amount of blood circulation. No other one portion of the cow's body, except it be the heart and lungs, receives as much blood. To lay that great gland upon a cold floor is of necessity productive of serious derangements. All cement floors where cows lie should be covered with boards.

THE FAST WALKER

"The fast walking horse is made in breaking the colt. He usually wants to go too fast and is held down until he comes to believe that his gait is to be a dragging walk. If the colt is to be trained to walk up briskly, but not trot; if he is not allowed to trot until he is thoroughly trained to walk as fast as he can without trotting, there will be no trouble about his walking in after life.

When a colt that is being trained begins to lag, touch him gently with the whip to let him know that he must move on a little more briskly, but do not strike him hard enough to hurt and excite him. Make him keep on walking as fast as he can and the habit will soon become a fixed one and his value will be increased 25 per cent. as far as farm work is concerned, and when ready for market, will bring a price considerably in excess of another animal of the same breeding that cannot be made to walk briskly.

A slow walking team makes work drag in spite of every effort of the driver. Farm work must be done with the horses at a walk and a slight difference in the rate at which the team gets over the ground makes a great difference in the work accomplished.

The great trouble with most teams is that they are allowed to get into the habit of dragging along at the rate of about two miles an hour, even when going unloaded, and this habit becomes fixed and impossible to remove. For the farm horse that gets in the notion of going slowly will poke along in spite of any urging that may be used.

There is much farm work that is very light on the team. Cultivating is not heavy work and drawing a mowing machine does not call for more than a small fraction of the power a horse may exert without injury. Hauling loads to market is not heavy work when the roads are good and all these kinds of work should be done with the team walking at a rate that would keep a man on a comfortable dog trot all the time.—O. V. J.

HOW TO EXAMINE A SICK ANIMAL

First, take the temperature of the animal by placing a self-registering veterinary fever thermometer into the rectum, allowing it to remain there from three to five minutes. The normal temperature of a cow is 101 degrees (Fahrenheit) and the normal temperature of a horse is 100 degrees (Fahrenheit); hog, 100 degrees; sheep, 101 degrees.

Second, take the pulse of the animal, which can be found at the angle of the lower jaw bone. The normal beats of a cow's pulse is from 40 to 50 per minute and that of a horse is from 33 to 40 per minute.

Third, count the respirations of the animal, or number of times it breathes by watching the sides of the flanks, or by pressing the ear to the side. The normal respiration of a cow is from 15 to 20 per minute and that of a horse is from 12 to 15 per minute, while resting.

If the temperature, pulse or respiration are found to be higher or faster than above described, you will know that the animal is ailing.

HORSE HINTS

A stallion whose feet are contracted and brittle and whose hocks are puffy and fleshy looking, should be avoided, as such hocks are generally associated with a coarseness throughout his whole conformation and a general lack of quality.

A good application for brittle feet is made of white rosin, four ounces; beeswax, one ounce; spirits of turpentine, six ounces; tincture of camphor, one ounce; linseed oil, four ounces; melt all together in a warm bath.

Proper blanketing of the horse is as important to his health as are wholesome food, clean bedding and good grooming. Give the horse a little daily attention, make him comfortable in cold weather with a good warm blanket and you will have to spend little for doctoring and medicines. Then, again, the horse will be in much better condition for the heavy spring work. A good horse blanket really pays its cost several times over in one season.

Neither purgatives, tonics, or any other medicines can give the young or soft horse that vigor and endurance which horsemen term "condition or fitness" and which is only gradually acquired by proper feeding, appropriate work and good stable management. This is one of the most difficult things for a novice with horses to learn and one of the most essential to the safe handling of horses.