

Farm Experiences

SPLENDID SUCCESS WITH BEES

The following article is my experience in bee keeping in Manitoba. Having seen an ad. in The Guide a number of years ago quoting bees for sale, I decided to purchase a colony to produce honey for our own family. This was in the latter part of October. I was successful in wintering them in good shape, and the following summer secured two fine swarms that gave us plenty of honey for our own use.

Having now contracted a bad case of bee fever I purchased ten more colonies from the same party, and was again successful in wintering them in a cellar under the house. Having now thirteen colonies, I thought I was some bee keeper. I then subscribed for Gleanings in Bee Culture, and read it and made experiments, sometimes successful and sometimes not. I was too eager and made too much increase, so that sometimes my bees went into winter quarters rather weak, but I always wintered them with a very small loss and always secured a surplus of honey over and above expenses.

Last year I wintered 85 colonies. In the spring I sold 20 and again increased to 85, and produced 5,850 pounds of honey. Last winter I lost five strong colonies thru starvation. They were in the cellar five and a half months. I have now one hundred and two colonies doing well.

What I have done any person with ordinary intelligence can do. I certainly would recommend it as an occupation for women out in the country and for some of our returned soldiers that might not be able to fill some other position. I may state here that I am near the foothills of the Riding Mountains at Norgate. We have nothing but the wild blossoms, such as willow, dandelion, snowdrop, fireweed and golden rods; no clover or alfalfa. The bees are the three-banded Italians, which are considered the very best all round bee, as they are very gentle and can be handled day after day without any stings by proper handling, and they are great honey gatherers.

WM. McLEOD.

Norgate P.O., Man.

PRIZES FOR YOUNG STOCK

I have been struck with the necessity at our fairs of giving more money to younger stock, i.e., particularly colts and calves. In my opinion this would go far towards encouraging the raising of distinctly better stuff. Before I came to Canada I found that premiums offered for young stock in our various small fairs in the Northern States had a very excellent effect. One state conducted a large number of colt shows, some being held in the spring, but most of them in the fall, and the latter seemed to be the best. The many were held there independent of the country fair, that would probably not be so practicable in this country of longer distances and less stock. Our fall fairs already existent could give their lists enlarged or rearranged to place a large proportion of the prize money on this class of stock. In some places where I came from the stallion owners supplied a considerable amount of money, offering it for the get of their particular horse, and specials when such won over all other foals. Sometimes the local banks helped us out, and more frequently the business men of the towns where the show was held. Ribbons on which were printed the name of the show, the year, class, etc., were given with some cash prizes and a trophy for championship.

When once established, it will be found that such classes will do much to bring about an improvement in the quality of stock raised in the community. These exhibitions will afford possible prospective buyers an opportunity to learn something of the class of horses being produced in the locality, and the community will thus be benefited by the fact that it will eventually have established itself as a market for stock that will readily sell at good prices. The movement thru the country today is not only for more but also for better stock. Whatever the future demand may be, the man raising the better class of horse or other stock will receive the higher price.

Another point in awarding prizes at such shows, it seems to me, might receive attention. The prizes should go to the get of pure-bred sires and special premiums should be offered when these are graded up several crosses. Of course, at present most of these pure-bred associations will not recognize graded up stock, and no matter how many years of the best effort might be put on such careful breeding it cannot get inside the charmed circle. We have to

start all over again with purchased animals from outside. We may get to the time where such will be changed, and it would be a good thing.

Alberta.

J. T. M.

HANDLING BALKY HORSES

Buying, training and working horses has always been fascinating to me. I have studied and handled them all my life, and yet at the age of more than fifty years I am constantly learning something new about "man's best friend."

I remember buying a fine Clydesdale a good many



The raising of this kind ought to be encouraged. There is money as well as satisfaction in it.

years ago. He was one of the best and most faithful animals at times that ever tightened a tug, but he had a habit of getting balky once in a while, perhaps on account of former bad driving or abuse, which are the causes of balkiness in a good many cases. This horse seemed to become "cranky" some mornings. When he was in this mood the points of his ears would almost touch each other, and this was the signal for trouble.

I used to hitch him up and then putter around the wagon, sometimes offering him a handful of oats. This would take his mind off his sulky mood. He seemed almost to court punishment at such times, and the sure cure was in paying no attention to him. After a few moments he would start off and be all right for a long time.

I once traded for a pair of horses that were so balky at times they would not pull an empty wagon. At the time of making the deal I knew all about this and took a chance on reforming them. They were each different in disposition. One was as crafty as a fox and would not stand a bad driver, while the other was a willing worker, but had been abused. But I was kind to them, drove them around several times with the empty wagon, then I put on a light load, next a somewhat heavier load, and thus after a time I had their confidence. I used them for three years at all kinds of work on the farm, and a better team for work I have never owned.

I find that a few horses are born with a balky streak, the same as others are kickers, but the majority of balking and kicking horses are driven to it by bad drivers, overloads and abuse. A driver that doesn't know his business in nine cases out

of ten starts to abuse and whip his horses when they get stuck with a load.

A good teamster knows when a team has done its best when in a bad place. Instead of abusing the horses he does the very opposite, petting and encouraging them. It is wonderful how far a little judgment will go in getting a load out of a bad place. Sometimes if one waits awhile another team will happen along and help out, while at other times digging in front of the wheels or removing a part of the load may be necessary, but no one should ever let his temper allow him to abuse his team. It never did pay, won't now, and never will. There is nothing that will do as much toward getting a horse's confidence as kindness.

Illinois.

W. H. U.

HOW TO THRESH MARQUIS

I have grown four different kinds of wheat in 1915, all on summer-fallowed land, and I think Marquis was the best of all. Some think that Marquis is hard to thresh and I am told the same thing, that the Marquis is hard to take out of the head. As I am a thresher, I think I will tell you my way of threshing it, for I can take it out of the head and make a nice, clean job. Instead of putting in six rows of concave teeth, I put in four rows. One row of back teeth, two rows of common teeth, then a blank concave in the middle and then a concave in front with two rows of corrugated teeth, or if the two rows of corrugated teeth are too much, put in one row of corrugated and one row of common teeth and you will have no trouble threshing Marquis wheat.

Man.

W. T.

ERADICATING WEEDS BY FALLOW

Individual opinion as to what is the chief object of summer-fallow may differ widely. To one man it means conservation of labor, to another in a dry district the conservation of moisture may be the chief object in view. To all the eradication of weeds is a very important subject and summer-fallow in the rotation is the farmer's opportunity to eradicate or at least lessen the number of weeds on his farm. A few years ago no advice would have been more acceptable to me than a concise statement as to what was really the best way to handle the fallow to eradicate the different weeds I had to contend with. Most of my knowledge, however, had to be gained by experience.

I find many farmers of thirty years' experience who really do not know why one particular treatment of a field may be necessary to clean out wild oats and an opposite method best for killing thistles. My soil is heavy black loam and open prairie land. I have Canada thistles, wild oats, couch grass and stink weed, and have had good success in eradicating the three first and keeping stink weed in control by adopting certain methods when fallowing.

For a field with many wild oats I try to get a full germination. To do this we must provide the right conditions and we must have two good growths, one before plowing and one after. To get the first either double disc or skim plow in fall or by June 1. Plowing should be packed, as wild oats grow best in a moist, firm soil. As soon as a growth appears it is time to plow, not wait, as many do, until the oats are four inches high. This latter practice dries out the soil and lessens the chances for a growth after plowing. A good growth is seldom obtained if plowing is later than June 15, and it is well to attend the land infested with this weed first. The packer should follow the plow, a mulch formed with the harrow, and the land left undisturbed till growth appears. A farmer commenting on the enormous quantity of wild oats in his fallow wheat said, "They should not be there, I disced the field six times yet none ever grew." He just provided the conditions ideal to keep them from growing—a loose, dried out soil to the depth of four inches. Once over with the packer and once with the harrow would have given results the other way seldom would. Growth should be killed with the cultivator or disc, or in some cases a second plowing is best.

Treatment of thistles on the fallow is important, as it is the one time in the rotation that the farmer can kill them. No operation in the ordinary way will kill them out, and the work on fallow has to be very thorough to accomplish it. It is best to let them grow to mature size, which makes the roots weak. Cut the thistles and burn them, then plow deeply and well. Mark the boundaries of all patches as plowed,



The barn of Wm. McLeod, Norgate, Man. There were 5,850 pounds of honey sold from the labor of these bees in 1915.

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