

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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executive of these Associations altogether in Toronto, but this idea did not commend itself as being advantageous to the dairy interests of the Province, and, in connection with the matter now under consideration, this danger is yet to be avoided, and the integrity of the Eastern and Western Associations and their conventions preserved.

Our Maritime Letter.

One of the editorial writers of the Toronto News, taking a well-earned holiday this summer in the extremities of the Dominion, introduces in a very entertaining, if not too accurate, way, to his Continental reader, the Prince Edward Islander and his Island. On the whole, the writer is sympathetic, and we must excuse little evidences of lack of local knowledge and failure to thoroughly seize the writer's viewpoint, especially of matters cut and dried and piled away carefully for reference in Old Ontario long ago. The Island, whose pastoral beauty he admires, is spoken of as, "a rolling land of shallow river valleys, green in verdure, with a red soil that shines above the blue water. By the stone dykes along the fields the wild rose grows more perfectly than in any other part of Canada. It is a gentle, lyric country, with no cliffs high enough to be called dramatic, nor harsh stretches of barren lands."

He speaks of "Mussel Mud" as acme—all in agriculture—a medicine which will make fertile the poorest land by its application. He marvels at the fields of weeds, etc., to be met with in many places, instead of the rich crops which labor and such fertilizers as are available should produce. And he notices that the young people have gone out to other lands, and it is difficult to secure help of any sort.

Of course there is a deal of truth in what is said here generally. The crops are not at all as heavy as they should be under proper cultivation,

and the fields given over to poverty, weeds, and the like, and indications of defective farming, are far too numerous. Still, the census shows that we are leading the rest of the country in the average of cropped land, and the quantity of crop per acre is by no means lowest. The valuations placed on our farms, too, exceed the average of other Provinces.

Mussel mud is not a cure-all; it is a good manure, containing a liberal quantity of lime in the oyster or mussel shells, which is liberated gradually, and acts as a gentle stimulant to the soil. This deposit is also rich in organized matter—the decomposed flesh of those fish, etc. It is, then, not merely a stimulant—as some of our agricultural teachers, unacquainted with it in its results, imagine—but has many valuable manurial properties. It will not, as the News writer says, "make fertile any kind of land." It will greatly help land which has already a sufficiency of humus; the poorest land will become even poorer, if we can so speak, by its application. It will, in the common parlance of the country, be "stimulated to death." We must adhere, then, to sane methods to enrich the soil—the keeping of cattle, sheep, horses and pigs, and the adoption of a proper rotation in field culture.

By this clever writer the Islander is described as "firm, sturdy, honest as the soil, somewhat controversial, industrious, and far removed from melancholy. He believes in recreation. He believes in his Island. . . . defers to no superior authority. . . . An Island type, a fine amalgam of Scotch and Irish, a farmer modified by a fisherman, who is thrifty without being offensively ambitious. A tall man, generally well set up, apt to turn to any occupation that comes his way, rather slow of speech, disposed to fiddle a bit if he has the gift, and fond of singing and dancing. Attendance at one church service is regarded more as a principle than a duty. It is scrupulously fulfilled. Church matters are soundly and frequently discussed. Above all, in Prince Edward Island, men and things are exactly what they seem. No wonder that in happiness the Island has come under a blessing."

The Islander is further described as "no mere stay-at-home, without sufficient energy to go elsewhere. He sent a colony to California in the days of the gold fever, and another to far-off New Zealand long ago; and now his sons go to the Northwest. But the returning exile always protests that he 'has found no place so pretty' as Prince Edward Island."

Whatever may be said of this, it is not harshly unfavorable, nor very far removed from the truth, perhaps, in all the circumstances. But the writer does not stop here. He quickly comes to the vital spot in our Provincial life. He says: "If the Prince Edward Islander regards himself as suffering from a grievance, it is undoubtedly with regard to communication with the mainland during the winter months. He was promised uninterrupted communication when he entered Confederation. No one knows better than he the difficulty of dealing with Northumberland Strait. He does not exactly advocate the building of a tunnel—because of the enormous expenditure involved. But he believes that no Dominion Government has done its best to find a solution for the problem; and until the problem is solved, he will, other things being equal, remain in Opposition. Such an attitude is the most natural one in the world. For the Islander knows his well-being, and his interest in national and international life, which is as keen here as it is all over Canada, depend on an uninterrupted winter communication."

He certainly does not exaggerate the importance of the communication question, but we dissent most emphatically from this analysis of the Islander's feelings with regard to the tunnel, and, lest we be accused of riding over our own hobby, let us accommodate the very words of the editor of our leading paper, The Guardian, as reflecting public opinion generally:

"Here we must register our dissent," says The Guardian. "The Islander does exactly advocate the building of a tunnel, notwithstanding the considerable cost. The several Boards of Trade, endorsed by the Maritime Board of Trade for the three Eastern Provinces, have declared for the tunnel, and reaffirmed that declaration. The people of the entire Province, by their delegates in Provincial convention, have demanded it, and sent an influential delegation to Ottawa to demand it in 1905. The Legislature, by unanimous vote, has demanded it, and also sent a delegation to Ottawa to assert our claim to that work. Nothing has since occurred to change or moderate this demand. If, in Prince Edward Island, as the News says, men and things are exactly what they seem, then we affirm that our people not only advocate, but expect the construction of the tunnel. In this, at least, we are firm and sturdy, and not disposed to defer to any superior authority."

A. E. BURKE.

HORSES.

Horse Notes.

A moderately quick walk, either under a load or empty, exhausts the horse less than a stall's pace.

A little patience in teaching the horses to be gentle and obedient will often add pounds to their value.

It is the steady-gaited horse that covers the greatest number of miles in a day, and does it with the least injury to himself.

A colt wants to be kept eating, and growing, and exercising, and anything except fattening, as long as he has a time assigned him by nature to grow.

If colts are handled rightly from the time they are foaled, there will be no trouble in picking up their feet and working them when it is necessary to put on shoes.

A horse is never vicious or intractable without a direct cause. If a horse is restive or timorous, you may be sure that these faults arise from defects in his education.

In training the colt to harness, it should not be worked by the side of the sluggish or worn-out horse, but should be hitched by the side of a steady horse that is quick and active, but unexcitable.

It costs no more to raise a horse that will sell for \$200 at maturity than to raise one that will sell for \$100, and the difference between the service fee for a first class sire is little, compared with the difference in value of the progeny. The well-bred mares and fillies being offered for sale by importers and breeders should find ready purchasers in these times of prosperity and with the prospect for a steady demand for horses at good paying prices.

Action in Horses.

In the series of short articles on the different breeds and classes of horses which has appeared in these pages during the last few months, a good deal has been said about "action." Certain peculiarities of gait are desired in each class, and certain defects are undesirable and objectionable in any class or breed.

The general type and conformation of a horse does not, in all cases, indicate the extent of action he possesses, but in most cases it indicates his general style of action. Horses that naturally hold a rather high head, have good length of neck, well-developed muscles, especially along that portion of the neck just superior to the jugular vein, a fairly oblique shoulder, forearms long and set well under the chest; have, as a rule, free and extensive shoulder action, and in many cases high knee action; while a horse with the opposite conformation is usually deficient in shoulder action, although his knee action may be high; but in order to get the desirable action in the heavy-harness horse, he must have shoulder as well as knee action. A horse that gets his knees high, but is apparently cramped or tied in in his shoulders, is undesirable, from the fact that, while he is apparently expending considerable energy and pounding the ground, he has no speed. The manner of the attachment of the fore limbs to the chest has marked influence on the action. Those with forearms quite close together are deficient in width of chest, and usually go with legs and feet very close, and are apparently cramped in action from want of strength and muscular development, while those whose forearms are very wide apart, with a broad and often rather flat breast between them, the legs appearing as though they were fastened to the outside of the chest, have a very clumsy, awkward, shuffling way of going. While the muscular development in this case appears, at first sight, to be great, a close observation will reveal the contrary, and the fact that the limbs are not properly placed. When we use the word "chest," we of course mean that part of the anatomy of which the ribs are the lateral boundaries. The term is often used to express the space between the forearms. This portion of the anatomy is properly called the breast.

The direction the fore limb takes from the elbow to the foot influences action to a great extent. In order that action may be true, the limb should be perpendicular. A plumb line, extending from the center of the elbow, should touch the center between the heels. Horses whose limbs deviate downwards and outwards from the elbow cannot have true action, but will go wide and ungainly with fore feet, while the reverse direction of the limbs will cause too close action.

The manner in which a horse stands on his fore feet, provided the limbs take the proper direction from above downwards, will, with few, if any, exceptions, indicate the line of foot action. In order that this may be true and straight, a horse should stand with his fore feet straight forwards and backwards. A straight line, commencing at the center of each toe, should pass