

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

TWO DISTINCT PUBLICATIONS—EASTERN AND WESTERN

EASTERN OFFICE:

CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:

IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BANNATYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

BRANCH OFFICE: CALGARY, ALBERTA, N.-W. T.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:

W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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As a rule, we prefer the name signed in full, rather than initials or a nom de plume.

One word more. The printed page is a mighty agency for the progress and uplift of men and their avocations. There is none so far-reaching and potent. Use it. Cultivate the art of expression. Think clearly. Use language that will best express those thoughts of yours about your experience in whatever branch of farming. The ability to write is not altogether a heaven-born gift; it is largely the result of clear thinking and hard, persistent practice. And the results to agriculture are worth the cost. Make it a feature of your plans for 1906. The longer and richer your experience, the better it is worth telling.

How Should Record Associations be Financed?

From "The Farmer's Advocate," Winnipeg.

The above query is suggested by the report of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Ass'n., which has a reserve fund of \$115,000. The Dominion Shorthorn Association has \$14,000 in cash and assets, according to the last auditors' report. What advantage are such large reserves, and who is to benefit thereby? This raises the question at once as to how such reserves are obtained, and whether the cost of registration might not be reduced or more money be distributed for prizes, so that the reserves may be lowered. Record associations are not intended to be savings banks of cash for posterity!

The funds of the breed associations are obtained by taxing breeders, either for memberships or registration, and, while a reasonable reserve should be kept, one of \$5,000 should be ample to tide over all possible contingencies in the D. S. H. B. Association. The excuse frequently given for electing Ontario men only to the executive of the D. S. H. B. A. on the score of expense, certainly savors strongly of inconsistency when the reserve of \$14,000 is considered. The real truth

is, the fellows there do not like to let go their entire control of expenditures—nothing more, nothing less—and it is worth while reminding those gentlemen that a similar way of thinking lost Great Britain the United States in 1775. But aside from that, provided the affairs of record associations are run as economically as possible, no exception can be taken to the giving of large grants to a few of the big shows for advertisement of the particular breed, even if such savors of taxing the whole breeding fraternity for a few showmen to win prizes. Such showmen are forced by competition to fit their stock, to procure the best, and thus to set the standards for the breed, all at considerable cost to themselves, and they deserve reasonable encouragement. The parts the breeders of pure-bred stock play in the public eye are twofold—either they advertise the breed in a helpful manner by producing and placing on the live-stock markets first-class stuff, and thus incite competition by other breeds; or they breed poor trash, which advertises the breed to its hurt, floods the markets and depresses prices, and deters people from investing money in pure-bred stock of the breed they own. There is no middle course.

The breed associations can, therefore, legitimately use their surplus funds to school actors for the first part, and should do all they possibly can to raise the average of quality of breed production. They could also afford to elect an executive from more than one Province, pay the expenses of such men, profit by their counsel, and thus be brought into touch with conditions in distant parts, and by so doing tend to rid themselves of narrowness, and be enabled to don a garb characterized by breadth. Taxes are moneys intended to work, not to be hoarded up or to be gloated over annually at the reading of an auditor's report.

Good Reading Good Writers Good Readers

It has always been the aim of "The Farmer's Advocate" to have the best of everything. That the reading matter contained in its pages from week to week is of the most elevating, interesting and educative possible to procure, goes without saying. A glance at the names of a few of the writers is sufficient proof of this fact. Every one of them is an acknowledged authority in his particular sphere.

It is generally acknowledged that, wherever "The Farmer's Advocate" is found, that farmer belongs to the progressive class. That this country is now in a stage of rapid progress along the line of up-to-date farming is an assured fact, judging from the way in which new subscribers are now rolling in.

Live, wide-awake farmers realize the benefits derived from a good agricultural magazine, and there is no paper published that can meet their demands as ably as "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," which has been the leading agricultural paper in Canada for the last forty years. What better evidence of success could be desired?

Progressive Farmers Everywhere Read the ADVOCATE.

Assisting Nature.

Despite the assurance that seed time and harvest shall not fail, the yearly vicissitudes that threaten the husbandman's returns sometimes require a long stretch of faith, though, as a rule, he is willing to trust Dame Nature to do things the right way when given a chance. Not so, however, with the small boy of the writer's acquaintance, who set his heart on growing a patch of watermelons. No "coon" ever had a more watery mouth for watermelons than the "kid," as he was called, and as regularly as the spring he planted seeds with high hopes, but varying success. One spring a piece of "new ground" was being plowed up, and here he dreamed of growing melons by the wagon-load. About a quarter of an acre was planted among the hills of corn. The season was dry, and the seeds slow in germinating, but day after day he walked back to the patch after school to see whether they had started. One evening he appeared at the supper table with a smiling face.

"Melons started yet, kid?" was the patronizing greeting of his elder brother.

"Yes, I found three hills sprouted—but," he added triumphantly, "everyone of them was starting the wrong way, so I dug them all out and turned them right side up."

HORSES.

Handle the Colts During Winter.

There are many colts that will, by spring, have reached the age at which they will be expected to do a horse's work. The practice too often followed, of not taking any trouble to educate them or fit them for such work until the season in which the work is to be done has arrived, and then, without any preparation, expecting them to give reasonable satisfaction, is not less irrational than harmful and expensive. Under such circumstances the animal will fret, tire, lose flesh, get sore shoulders, etc., and become practically useless for a greater or less time. This is the natural result, and should be expected; and, while we occasionally notice the contrary result, we, upon consideration, wonder why it is so. The colt frets because he is at once required to go in harness without any education; he tires easily because his muscular system is not accustomed to such exertion, hence the muscles are soft, lack tone, and cannot withstand the more or less severe exertion they are called upon to perform; his respiratory organs are also suddenly called upon to perform increased functions, and this tends to exhaustion; he loses flesh on account of want of muscular and respiratory tone, and from the fact that the flesh he carries lacks that solidity which would be present had he acquired it while performing even light labor; his shoulders become sore because they are unaccustomed to friction or pressure, and are at once subjected to both. He will sometimes suffer from digestive trouble, as he is usually fed more grain than he received during the winter, and the change in quantity and often quality of the food is often sudden, and the digestive organs, being suddenly called upon to perform increased functions, will, in many cases, be overtaxed, and the result is a more or less severe attack of indigestion.

In most cases all of these probable troubles could be avoided, and much more satisfactory service be had by the exercise of reasonable care on the part of the owner.

Colts should be "educated," not "broken," to go into harness, and by gradually increasing the amount of exercise or light work, and also gradually increasing the grain ration during the winter, the animal becomes accustomed to perform labor, and his muscular and respiratory system gradually gain strength and tone; his shoulders, also, gradually become accustomed to friction and pressure, and when the time arrives when he is expected to go to the field and perform the functions of a horse, he may be said to be in condition to do so with at least fair satisfaction.

The colt's education should be gradual. It is not usually as difficult and tedious to handle one of the heavier classes as one of the lighter and more spirited classes. At the same time, in order that it may be well done, the handler must not be in a hurry. The first point is to get him accustomed to the bit. This can be done by putting an ordinary bridle with a plain snaffle bit on him, and leaving it on for a few hours each day, until he ceases to worry and fight the bit. Then he should be made accustomed to harness in the same way, after which he should be driven on the road or in the field without being hitched, until he becomes handy, will yield readily to pressure from the lines on the bit, stand when told to, back, go forward, etc., readily at the word of command. Now he should be hitched with a suitable mate—one that is prompt, but steady and not irritable. The future usefulness and value of the horse depends largely upon his manners, and these depend largely upon his early education, notwithstanding the class to which he may belong. After he is safe to drive, he should get regular exercise or light work every day, and the amount of work or exercise should be gradually increased. The quantity of grain given should be increased in proportion to the amount of work or exercise given. The idea that a horse should be fed a given amount of grain whether working or idle, is altogether wrong. The quantity of bulky food should be about the same in either case as is necessary to satisfy his hunger, but the grain ration fed daily should be in proportion to the amount and kind of labor performed. If reasonable care were exercised in this respect there would be very few cases of digestive and many less cases of other diseases in horses.

By observing rules somewhat after the manner above described, the colt's muscular, respiratory and digestive systems will have gained the necessary tone, and his shoulders will have become so accustomed to the collar that he will be in a condition to give good service in the field when the busy time arrives in the spring, and he should be able to do a full day's work with comparatively little danger of being laid off from any cause. The objection that all this takes too much time may be raised. We must admit that it takes time, but it is during a slack season, when, on most farms, there is little to do but attend to the stock, and where there are boys it is an education to them as well as to the colt; and even where there is not sufficient help, such can usually be procured cheaply during the winter, and we