

GOSSIP.

THE BARS OF THE HORSE'S FOOT.

This is a small text, but a broad field; an old saying is, "No foot, no horse." When you remove the bars you have removed normally one-third of the best part of the horse's foot and the part that needs the strength, that carries the weight and receives the blows, and when trimmed out is easily bruised or allows foreign substances to work up into the circulation, which will set up an inflammation generally followed by suppuration, or commonly called by the farrier a festered corn. My experience has been that corns come after removing the bar, and the best thing is to remove the shoe, nip off the toe and let the horse run in pasture until the bar grows out; the corn then will grow out with bar, and the horse will be traveling sound. He is brought in, re-shod by the farrier, who doesn't think the foot has been normally shaped by nature to correspond with the anatomy of the bony structure of the limbs of the horse, making him travel with ease by removing the tension off the flexor tendons.

Now nature has provided a foot that is a horny box, made flexible with a spongy frog, and the wall being much thinner at the heel, allows the foot to expand enough to remove the tension from the ends of the coffin bone. The bar assists in speeding, as it slopes from the inside outward, with an angle of about 38 degrees normally, and when the weight of the horse is thrown on, this oblique horny structure it causes it to spread each and every step, making it visible to the naked eye.

When the horse comes to the farrier, about the first thing he tells the owner is, "This horse has worn his toes down so that it is impossible to do a good job of shoeing the first time; it will take about three jobs of shoeing to grow out a nice, long foot." But one must remember this horse is standing straight and travelling sound, but after he has been shod about three times with the bars cut away, the heels opened and the toes grown out, the feet begin to look good. Now the only way for a horse to gain his normal position is to hunt a hole to stick his toes into, or to stand stretched so as to get into the same position that he was when nature turned him over to the skilled mechanic (with his sharp knife) that knows just how much to trim away, when to stop. He has two ways of telling—one is to whittle and pinch with thumb and fingers until the horse flinches, then he has gone his limit; the other way is to cut enough to get a little hemorrhage before he begins to feel. The next thing is to apply a portion of this foot he has cut off and try to get it to adhere by the application of a hot iron, cauterizing enough to stop the hemorrhage. Now he leaves that, but he does not forget to cut out the bars and open up the heels. It is about as near possible for a bridge to stand without piers as it is for a horse to travel with ease after the bars have been trimmed so close that the horse flinches by the touch of a man's thumb before the shoe is nailed on.

It is no wonder to me that the owner comes back to the farrier to ask if his horse wasn't sick, that he seemed to be colicky, he stumbles and is restless, and sweats more than common, and even lies down in the harness. He is taken in, the shoes removed with difficulty, as he evinces quite a bit of pain when the pinchers are applied. After this he must be tubbed and poulticed until the fever has subsided. Then in about ten days or two weeks the shoe can be replaced, putting a pad under the shoe and packing the foot with something that will keep away inflammation until the foot grows down enough for the farrier to try his sharp knife once more.


Having been at horseshoeing twenty years, I think this little talk ought to do someone good, and be beneficial as well.—[F. F. Jacobs, in the Horsehoer's Journal.]

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A Letter from South Africa.

Stewart Galbraith, B. S. A., one of last year's O. A. C. graduating class, who was appointed Agronomist to the Orange River Colony, S. A., writes to the "Farmer's Advocate" from Bloemfontein, O. R. C., on Sept. 8th, as follows:

"I arrived in Cape Town August 16th, where I remained one week to receive the Canada stock purchased for the Orange River Government. This stock landed in excellent shape, without a single loss. They were loaded directly from the ship onto the cars, and after four days' travel by rail to Bloemfontein, they were finally landed by Mr. Bradshaw, the man in charge from Montreal, as fresh as if they had been brought from the stables. The stalkions after being exhibited in the market square, to the great satisfaction of all who inspected them, were loaded again and sent to the Shed Farm at Stevespruit, while the cattle, sheep, swine, poultry and mares were taken out to the Grootvlei Experimental Farm, where they are doing well under such new conditions.

"The first rain for months fell to-day, and while it was not very heavy, yet sufficient fell to freshen up the veldt and furnish some better grass for the starving stock.

"The cold has been rather too severe at nights to permit seeding in general, but with the promise of rain the farmers are hurrying to get their crops sown as early as possible. Some rape for soiling purposes has been sown on this farm, and the manager is preparing land for Kaffir corn. Kaffir corn and mealies (corn) are the staple crop of this country.

"Seeding on the experimental plots has also been delayed, on account of the lack of moisture, but now since the rain I hope to have the whole seeded within the next two weeks."

Mr. Geo. M. Smith, Haysville, Ont., breeder of large Yorkshire hogs, writes: "Our herd of Yorkshires are doing finely, and have been quite successful in the show-ring as far as they were exhibited, but owing to want of time we did not get to as many fairs as we intended. Our imported boar, Summer Hill Dalmeny Topsman, carried off the first prize wherever he was shown, and his young sons did the same, in keen competition. Woodstock Mistress has just farrowed fifteen pigs. She is raising ten, which are doing well. They are from Mr. H. J. Davies' Imp. Long Sam. We also have a few choice young sows from Dalmeny Topsman 2nd; some are bred, and some are ready to breed."

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