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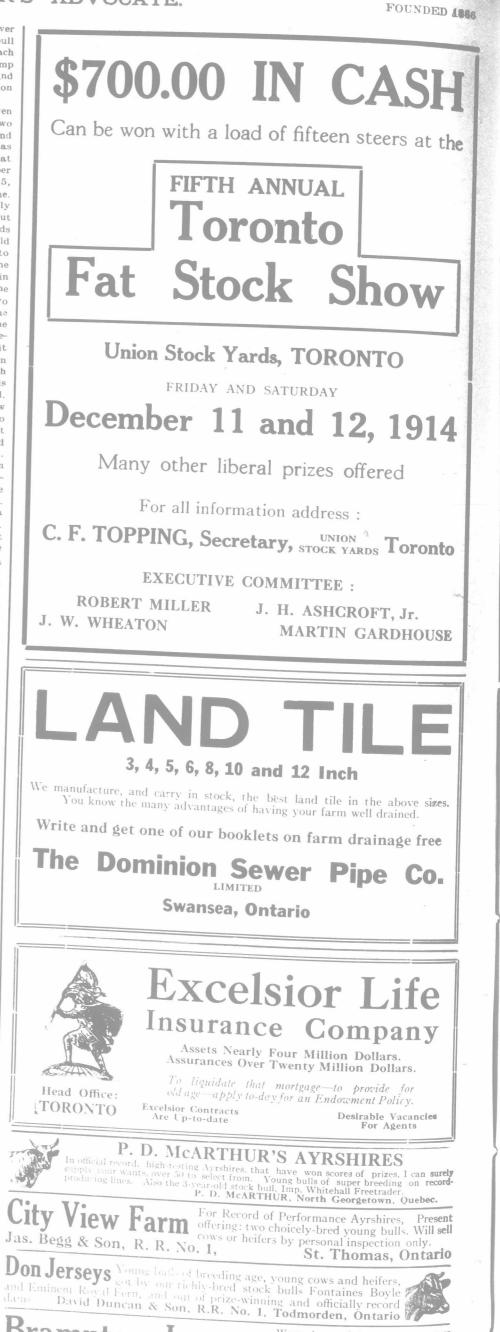
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HICKMAN & SCRUBY

drawn out, throw the center of it over a hook or nail in the wall or bench, pull it until the ends are even, and each about three feet long, keep the hemp tight with the end in the left hand, and with the right hand spin or rub it on the knee as before and break it. Put the end of the ball almost even

with the first broken end, give the two a wind on the forefinger of the left hand and pull out thread the same length as the first, and break as before. Repeat this till you have the required number of strands, which may be from 3 to 15, depending upon the work to be done. Six strands of No. 8 thread is usually plenty heavy ϵn such for sewing lines, but for tugs or heavy sewing, 8 or 10 strands is better. The ends of the thread should not be quite even, the object being to get a long, tapered point to put the needle on. Hold the ends separate in the left hand, take the shoe wax in the right hand and pull it over the ends two or three times, just enough to keep the ends together, then give the end on the left of the hook a wind on your left fore-finger and twist the other end. When it has enough twist, hold the two ends in the left hand and rub the wax on with the right hand. Make sure the ends taper to a fine point and are well waxed. Now put the needles on the ends. Draw the point through the needle about two inches, depending on the length of point on the thread, bend the points back and twist into the body of the thread. This holds the needles — one on each end of the thread - secure-A little beeswax rubbed over the thread makes it slip through the leather. Wax will not work satisfactorily in a co'd room. It will peel off the thread. When a strap has been broken, and it is the intention to splice it, thin the ends d_0wn with a sharp knife t_0 a gradual taper, for about three inches, then lap the ends and it is ready to Small wire tacks are very useful in holding the straps in position while the stitching is being done. Put the splice on the clamp, make a hole with the awl and pull the thread half-way through; make another hole, put one needle through a few inches, then put the other needle through the same hole from the other side and pull both up tight. Care should be taken to keep the stitches even and of a uniform length.

Leather for repairing can be bought in strips from any harness shop, but the cheapest way is to buy a half hide. In this you get some good leather from the back and also some soft belly leather, which can often be used for straps where there is not much strain, as trace, carriers, spudder straps The average life of harness could be prolonged many years if proper systematic care were adopted. Harness should be thoroughly oiled twice a year, or at least once a year. This oiling should consist in taking the harness all apart, washing it all thoroughly in warm soft water and soap, hanging up to dry for a short time, and then applying a good coating of harness oil. Let the oil soak in for an hour or two, then wipe with a flannel rag, and they are ready to assemble and put t_0 use again. This is also a good time to repair any badly-worn pieces, or splices that are starting to rip. If a systematic repair of hain ss were adopted the life of the harness would be prolonged, and also a good deal of time and annoy-ance saved to the teamster. One man should easily wash, oil and repair the average set of harness in a day; and as there are many days when work cannot be done outside, there is no reason for neglecting the harness.



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