

## HORSE

Horse dealers are expecting a big demand for work horses again this spring.

If the young stock that a certain stallion is getting in a community do not prove all that was expected of him, do not condemn the horse or the breed at once; see that the stock are getting a chance; take into consideration the class of mares used; and then decide whether the horse the breed, or some other circumstance is at fault.

It is often harder to pick the second stallion for a certain district than it is the first. When a horse has proved himself a good foal-getter try to keep him in service even though a new horse is much less used. A show yard career, fancy pedigree and all external appearances do not insure a valuable horse.

### Common Sense About Care of Horses.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Now is the time, if ever, when horses begin to show the result of lack of care in feeding, grooming, stabling, exercise, etc. If they were heavily fed, and kept at hard, steady work during the fall and early winter, and then had their rations reduced at once to an amount hardly sufficient to enable them to hold their own; and at the same time retired from outdoor life to stand, first on one foot, then on the other, in a close stable, they are certain by this time to show the effects of such treatment. If the horseman be experienced, he will know that no domestic animal is so hard to "fit up" as a horse in a badly run-down condition.

By proper feeding, however, along with judicious exercise, this can be done, and at such a time a good condition powder is a great help, though many of the stock foods and condition powders for sale are hardly worth taking into the stable. There are good kinds to be had, however, and the one given below, though nameless, is among the best. The ingredients and quantities are as follows: 6 lbs. flowers of sulphur, 6 lbs. Epsom (not Glauber's) salts, 2 lbs. bicarbonate of soda, 2 lbs. saltpetre; all thoroughly pulverized and mixed. This should be fed at the rate of a heaping tablespoonful twice daily in grain. It may be necessary to dampen the feed to prevent the powder sifting through and lying uneaten in the bottom of the box. Fed this way it is a very mild medicine, and will have no apparent effect for a week or ten days, when results will be seen. A glance at the formula will show that this powder acts on both the digestive and excretory systems.

Exercise, however, is no less necessary than good food and care. If light work be not convenient for your purpose, let all the horses, great and small, old and young, spend a part of each day in lane, paddock, or stock-yard, and if the day be fine and not too cold, they may with profit be left out nearly all day. The only weather I would except is a cold, rainy day; which chills a horse quickly, and does more harm than good. Even on a pretty cold day, i.e., down to several degrees below zero, if calm, a horse will take no harm so long as he is busy and stirring about, but when he stands with his back humped up and head down, put him in the stable at once. If clothing be used in the stable at any time, let it be light; otherwise the warmth of the blanket will make the horse's coat so thin and light that he is certain to take cold as soon as he leaves the stable.

Another important item in the care of horses is proper watering. Many horses get only one drink daily in winter, and that of ice water. The result is that the horse, being thirsty, takes a large amount of cold water, which so chills the stomach as to stop digestion for some time, if nothing more serious results. It is far better to water twice or even three times daily, as by this means the horse takes only a small amount each time, which prevents chills, even in the case of ice water. A feature of too many stables is a row of narrow, uncomfortable stalls. Let the stalls be wide enough to give the horse plenty of room to lie down at ease, and give plenty of bedding. The fact that a horse has manure stains on his side is no proof that he has passed a comfortable night. Indeed, it is a plain evidence that he has not, for no horse enjoys lying on wet straw or bare boards. Moreover, be sure

that the stall is not drafty, for a horse can stand a cool stable far better than a warm one with a cool breeze playing over him every few minutes. In short, keep the horse comfortable during the night as well as during the day, and see that the stable is well lighted, for the sake of his eyes.

Last, but not least, see that your horse's teeth permit him to eat in comfort. And right here a word of warning may not be amiss: Let no one rasp down the face of a tooth, except in case of one being out of place by reason of having no mate in the other jaw, or for reasons well known to the veterinary dentist. Be sure that the corners and edges of the teeth are smooth, so that they will not cut or scratch the tongue or cheek, and then leave well enough alone. I repeat it: let no one rasp the face of a tooth. As well expect to grind grain with a smooth-faced milestone as to have a horse chew his food properly with smooth teeth. It is against nature.

To sum up: Keep your horse comfortable. When he is not resting let him have freedom if the weather permits, and give him good clean food, but not too heavy, three times a day about an hour at a time. Avoid all sudden changes of food and treatment. Here, as everywhere, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and the horse that is well cared for from the time regular work ends in the fall until it begins again in the spring will almost certainly be in better condition to go to work, and will be longer "in the ring" and more serviceable at all times.

HORSE LOVER.

### Utility and Fancy Saddle Horses.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have noticed several articles in your valuable paper on saddle horses, and, recently one by Mr. Woodruff, in which he advocates the use of the Kentucky saddle stallion as a getter of saddle horses.

I have always understood that the Kentucky horse is, as far as paces go, a perfect mount, and originally got by crossing a Pacing mare with a Thoroughbred horse. With the opinion of Mr. Railey, as quoted by Mr. Woodruff, that it is impossible for a Thoroughbred to be a first class saddle horse, I must say I differ. Of course if by a saddle horse he means a show saddle horse in the ordinary meaning of the word, some of the best on earth are Thoroughbreds.

All Thoroughbreds (Mr. Railey's first objection) are not "hot tempered"; in fact when out of training, I don't think the proportion of hot tempered ones is greater than that of any other light breed.

Mr. Railey's second objection, that their neck is "rigid" and "cannot be flexed into good form," is, I think, without good foundation, that being a fault of training, not breeding, and is owing to race horses always being ridden on a snaffle and encouraged to take a good strong hold of the bit.

Another fault laid to the Thoroughbred's charge is that of "tripping oftener than horses of any other breed," owing to his going close to the ground. This fault would, if proved, debar him from ever becoming even a fair saddle horse, but it is a long way from being proved. In fact, I contend that going close to the ground has nothing whatever to do with making a horse stumble. What really makes the difference between a sure footed horse and a stumbler is whether he puts his heel or his toe first to the ground. A horse whose toe strikes the ground first will always stumble.

However, I take it that Mr. Railey's object is to breed a show horse, and I am well aware that between a good show saddle horse and a good saddle horse there is some slight difference.

So far your correspondents have looked at the saddle horse as purely a pleasure horse. I am surprised that some of your Western readers have not stated their ideas as to what constituted a saddle horse and given some of their methods of breaking them, and of how young gentlemen who can't ride, and who are anxious to, should be taught.

Perhaps it is not too late to say a word for the cow pony. (Why the stock horse, no matter what his size, should always be referred to as a pony, I don't know.) This is a saddle horse, sure enough! The best broken horse on earth! Although the methods of training, so well described by "Whip", have all been violated. He is ridden on the curb and on the curb alone. There is the same difference between his training and that of the Eastern or old country saddle horse as there is between the education of a Western boy and that of an Old Country boy.

The Western saddle horse is taught to think and act for himself, and always ridden on a loose line no matter what the speed or how rough the going. Sometimes, if he be not so gentle as he might be, that is largely the fault of his rider who has no particular wish that he should be. A good cow pony must be intelligent, fast, sure footed, tough and strong, and any height from fourteen to sixteen hands.

So far, whatever proportion of good blood these horses have been derived from the despised Thoroughbred! What will they be when we improve them still more by a cross of the Kentucky horse, "the most beautiful horse known in the world"?

Perhaps by that time, Mr. Editor, we shall need cow ponies at all, the West having torn up its lariats to make binding twine. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

Man.

G. H. BRADSHAW.

## STOCK

### The Dual-Purpose Shorthorn.

As one of the numerous readers of your valuable paper I notice from time to time people condemning the Shorthorn as being no dairy cow. Now I can quite understand this from the type of Shorthorn I have noticed all over Canada. They are comparatively useless for the dairy and quite a large number are inferior to good grades. As a breeder in the Old Land of the dual-purpose Shorthorn I will endeavor to throw a little light on this subject to show that in England they have at least solved this subject to the satisfaction of all parties. In the first instance the Canadian breeders never will be successful in their efforts to accomplish their object of the dual-purpose Shorthorn so long as they are content to purchase the All-Scotch Shorthorn, as it is well known by all competent breeders in the Old Country that such are lacking in dairy qualities; in fact, many of these Scotch bred Shorthorn cows cannot rear their own calves; in fact, I have seen them myself, obliged to have nurse cows on the place to assist these cows to rear their offspring. If you take the records of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, where you get the best exhibition of Shorthorns in the world, for twenty years back, you will notice that the majority of winners have been bred in the north of England, and it is there to-day you will find the best type of Shorthorns in the world. I can vouch that these are bred of cows which will successfully contest with any other cows in the world for supremacy in dairy and beef production. There are certain strains which possess more of the valuable dairy properties than others; and a careful record is kept of each cow's milk yield, and I can answer you that it is next to impossible to sell a young bull without the would-be purchaser seeing the dam and her record before buying. Perhaps none of your readers ever saw the great Royal winner, Molly Millicent, bred at Ingleswood, but to see her was to be convinced that beef and dairy had actually been contained in one breed. I have one instance in mind which I think will go far to prove my statements. My father had a cow of one of these noted strains and sold her to a well known exhibitor and he exhibited at the London Dairy Show and took first prize with her for registered Shorthorn and stood up very high in butter fats against all breeds. This cow, after leaving my father's farm, dropped two bull calves, one of which took the highest prize at the leading bull show and sale in England; thus you have proof of the dam winning for dairy and the son taking the highest prize in the land for a young bull. The Royal Champion of 1903, Pearl King, was bred of such parents, and yet how easily he overcame all the beef Shorthorns which were exhibited against him, and was afterwards sold to the Argentina for \$10,000. In conclusion, as a breeder in England and now in Canada, let me say it behoves each one of us to use sires combining the dairy and beef properties, as the extensive ranges are giving place to farms and each farmer wants to get as big a butter yield from each cow as possible, and the steers he wishes to make into good beef cattle. I find you have a healthier and a better country for the cheap and easy production of cattle than the Old Land is. I am sure if we introduce these good dairy strains that in Canada we can possess the dual-purpose Shorthorn quite as readily as they have done in the Old Land, if not more easily, as we know the way in which our ancestors had to get them.

### Finds the Paper Useful.

Dear Sirs:—Enclosed find \$2.00 to cover my subscription to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE and Manitoba Free Press for one year. I find your paper very useful. Yours very truly,  
The Maples  
GEO. DOUGLAS.