

## HORSE

It is reported that The Broncho is developing a spavin. Now if ever a spavin got a treatment this one will get more.

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A British Government representative has been in New Mexico and Texas buying horses for South Africa.

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Toronto Horse Show, held during the first week in May, was a huge success in every way—except that the expenditures exceeded the receipts.

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The Kempton Park Great Jubilee Handicap of 3,000 sovereigns (2,000 in specie and 200 in plate or specie at the option of the winner; second to receive 200 sovereigns and the third 100 sovereigns (distance one mile and a quarter), was won May 11th by Mr. W. Hall Walker's Polar Star, by Pioneer and Go On, a three-year-old, carrying seven stone twelve pounds. The Duke of Devonshire's colt by Marco-Lady Villikins, four-year-old, with seven stone two pounds, was second, and Mr. R. J. Farquharson's Dalkeith was third. There were twelve starters.

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A reader writes in a bitter mood because so much is published about the Clydesdale as a draft horse and the Hackney as a harness horse, and complains that "the Percheron, the best draft horse of them all, is scarcely mentioned in Canadian agricultural papers." The blame for this unfortunate state of affairs is thrust upon the writers, but why the papers should be expected to carry the onus of the silence of the Percheron breeders we fail to see. The Clydesdale breed is fortunate in having as its founders and devotees men who treasure associations, who like to dwell upon anecdotes and reminiscences of certain horses and who have consequently developed a certain lore with their horses, and being of the Anglo-Saxon race this lore and current news comes readily into our agricultural literature. On the other hand, the Percheron, while his breeding and the home of the best individuals may be full enough of romance, still the language being foreign few of us are privileged to enjoy it. Perhaps the larger importers or the Percheron associations might do worse than to engage the services of a writer to keep American breeders posted in the lore and news, or as the race men say, "dope of the French drafters and harness horses. There is a tremendous commercial power in publicity.

### Stallion Owners' Profits and the Lien Act.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

With reference to the system with which stallion owners are repaid for their investments and labors, I must say that those who depend upon public patronage nearly all find it a one-sided affair. The owners are running their own risks on their investments, the interest and expenses in travelling, and to crown all, they are acting as "insurance agencies" for the owners of the mares put to their horses.

A man should pay for value received right there as is expected of him in other cases, at least one third to cover expenses, interest, depreciation in value. This rule would tend to make the owners of mares more particular what and when they bred, and in the after treatment.

Years ago the wheat grower boasted that he could buy horses cheaper than he could raise them. Years after he found matters different; as a result he turned everything to the horse that would go. Many of the mares came worn with age, and toil, not having raised a foal in recent years at least, refused to breed, and could not be expected to according to the laws of animal nature. In these cases the energy of the stallion was wasted in fruitless effort, the expenses went on just the same, and the stallion owner was the real loser.

Horse breeding is a business by itself, although it goes very well hand in hand with wheat growing, yet it needs special attention and a little knowledge. In past years, when horse breeding was depressed and competition overdone, the farmers made all sorts of bargains with the grooms. In fact, this business has never been run in this country on a business basis, and the stallion owners have themselves to blame. But now that everybody who owns a mare is turned breeder and horses of all kinds are of such value, I would suggest that all follow the practice here, as in Scotland, among the good ones. The best horses there are full fee, foal or no foal, some half at service and half later on, unless mare proves not to be in foal. Others again charge one third cash at time of service. Then in many cases the rates are higher than on this side of the Atlantic. The

Horse Breeders' Association should take the matter up, and urge owners to protect the business and place it on a paying basis. Then they have the Enrolment Ordinance to go along with it, to straighten matters up, and protect the owners of the good ones. There are now many good horses in Western Canada deserving better patronage, and must prove profitable alike to owner and breeder. At the same time there are many Old Country cast-aways that have proved unprofitable on their native soil, and put in the stable to grow "fat enough," when some "American" will buy them.

This act should protect the owners of good, sound, well-bred horses, and assist in showing in black and white the true facts to the intending breeder that is not so well posted on pedigree and other requisites, as his fortunate neighbor may be.

I would certainly suggest that perfect soundness cut a figure in this ordinance, up to ten or twelve years of age anyhow. In my opinion its importance is second to none. Then breeding, conformation, type, style and action, with cart-horse weight, should all count in the selection of a Clydesdale stallion for breeding purposes, or even, the show-ring.

Hamiota, Man.

J. B. THOMPSON.

### Care of Stallions in Season.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

For some little time past, I have noticed articles in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE and elsewhere, concerning the care of stallions. Perhaps a few ideas passed over by others may interest readers of the ADVOCATE. By the time this article appears in print, almost every farmer, and certainly every owner of a stallion, will be taking an active interest in the management and care of the stallion, when on the road.

I attended a lecture lately on judging horses, at which the lecturer gave some hints on the best way to take care of work horses, when returned to the stable for the night. After the lecture I happened to overhear a conversation between two farmers, one of whom remarked that "if we did everything he (the lecturer) recommended, we should be busy with the horses all the time." Now there may be something in this remark, if applied merely to work horses, but in the case of the stallion travelling on the road, it in no way applies. The man who travels a horse is not fit for his job unless he is willing to do all he knows for the comfort and well-being of the horse in his care.

Well! we will suppose that by this time of year, the horse is up in good condition, has been exercised in some way, daily, for the last month or six weeks; that he has been freshly shod, in front without toe or heel calks, and behind with fairly long heel calks. These preparations are necessary for all stallions, heavy draft or light bred. We now come to the man himself, on whom so much depends the success or failure of the horse's season. As a rule I should prefer a man not much younger than thirty; by that age he has steadied down, but he has not become too "set" in his ideas, and will absorb new ones more easily than an older man. I don't know a more stubborn type of man than your old stud groom, and what some of these men know about horses, and what they don't know would fill a book. Is it not Mark Twain who says that it is not so much what you know that counts, as what you know *correctly*? Anyhow, get the best man you can, and because a poor man can be hired a few dollars cheaper, don't lose the chance of a good man, but no matter how good a man he may be, don't hire him if he is liable to get drunk! (How is that, Mr. Editor, for a race-horse man's advice?) Now you have your horse, and you have your man. Next you want the outfit. I shall mention just a few things which are not always remembered. You will perhaps think some of these things are unnecessary if the horse travelled is a Clyde, Shire, or Percheron, but I use the same things for a heavy horse which are necessary for a Thoroughbred. To a light breed they are almost a necessity, while to a heavy horse they are more of a luxury. Still no pains must be spared on either class of horses, and the more comfortable you can make your horse, the more colts he will leave.

You have, I presume, got hold of a nice quiet horse to hitch in the cart. He should be a good fast walker, and quiet enough to stand still without being tied. The latter point is very important; as so many things may happen which may require you to leave the cart and attend to the stallion, when on the road; and it is always pleasant when you have fixed up the difficulty with the stallion, to find your cart and driver where you left them.

Now for some of the smaller articles. First, the stallion should always be taken along. First, the stallion should always carry a couple of feeds of oats. Second,

you may be delayed by a storm, or some other unforeseen circumstance, and not make your regular stopping place, but if you have your feed along, you can stop anywhere. Next you should have two blankets, one made of heavy duck, that will shed water in case you strike a sod roof for the night, the other a light sheet to keep off dust and flies when the horse is feeding.

For the next items, a pail, sponge, and scraper. (I may say that it is almost providential that you have among your contributors a race-horse man who can give your readers this tip, as I am afraid that those who do not already know it would have to visit a racing stable to gain information, and valuable as I think it is, I would shrink from exposing any reader of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE to the storm of abuse and worse, with which one of your correspondents last fall thought his questions would be answered, "by the owner or one of his punkies.")

However, here it is! On hot days, when the horse comes in tired and sweaty, fill the pail with hot water, as hot as you can nicely hold your hand in, sponge him over, lather him with your hand, and scrape him off quickly. Put on your light or heavy blanket (according to the day), put him in the stable; and run over him with a brush or cloth, and in a couple of minutes you have your horse as fresh as when he left the stable in the morning. Now if your horse is a light-bred, get those bandages out, put them in a pail of cold water (a little saltpetre, will make the water still colder) and put them on your horse. A little practice will make you expert (if you watch those rapsallions at the fairs, as I before advised). Take them off in about three quarters of an hour, and either brush or hand-rub his legs off. Do this no matter how foolish it may seem to you, and you will be rewarded by having your horse's legs clean and cool in the morning. If your horse is of one of the draft breeds, I should merely rub and brush his legs off. If muddy, don't wash them unless you are prepared to rub them quite dry.

Now I think with these few extra tips any man at all likely to undertake the job should know how to take care of his horse.

In the feeding line remember never to give a horse more oats than he will clean up *at once*. If he won't eat enough to suit you, divide his feeds. Say you want him to eat four gallons of oats per day and he won't eat one and a third gallons at a feed, give him the four gallons but divide it into four feeds. You will find that there is then no difficulty in getting him to eat the amount you consider necessary. But be sure not to allow him to leave *any* grain in the feed box. If he leaves only a handful, next feed give him a little more than a handful less than he was getting before.

Watering, I think, depends entirely on what a horse is used to. A horse, however, is never too hot to drink half a pailful. Some horses shiver after drinking; for them, water oftener, and don't give much at a time. I like to feed a little bran with the oats, so as to make a horse chew his grain.

Every horse, stallion or work horse, should get a bran-mash with a little flax-seed meal, salt, and a teaspoonful of saltpetre, every Saturday night.

Be sure in dry weather to "stop" his feet, at least twice a week, with mud, cow-manure or a poultice made of bran and flax-seed meal.

Wash the stallion's sheath out every Saturday night, and grease with lard or vaseline, into which you have put a little boracic acid. After every service use the sponge with a weak solution of either boracic or carbolic acid. I should always allow an hour to pass between services. Should any rubs appear, bathing the part daily with methylated spirits will be found useful in hardening the skin and removing inflammation.

Some of these last details the groom may consider superfluous, but remember, "a stitch in time saves nine," and through one of these insignificant little rubs poison may enter the horse's system, and lay him off for the balance of the season, and then you will begin to doubt the truth of the saying, that "a penny saved is always a penny gained."

G. H. BRADSHAW.

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### Endorses Concrete Floors

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I am pleased in the article re "Cement or Concrete for the Stable or Cow Stable," in the 75th issue and seeing I have such a long experience of the same