

HORSE

The Missouri mule is "some shucks" now, buyers are contracting for the delivery of suckling mules this fall at from \$100 to \$150 each.

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The spring house cleaning should remind the "provider" side of the family that the horse stable would be much better for a sweeping down and whitewashing.

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Foley Bros. recently brought two carloads of horses from Simcoe Co., Ontario, at an average cost of \$180. They have been taken to the Battleford district for construction work.

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Warm weather and summer-fallow dust very soon cause sore shoulders. Keep the collar clean, smooth and close fitting and bathe the shoulders at night in cold water, all of which acts as an insurance against galls.

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The first foal of some mares is frequently the only good one they have. The reason offered being that during her first breeding season she is regularly worked. The second year having the double duty of nursing and carrying a foal, she is left to run and not fed grain. In the following winter she often rustles on chaff and screenings and consequently cannot do herself nor her owner justice.

How and When to Water.

A good deal of discussion has taken place and considerable diversity of opinion still exists regarding the best order in which to feed and water horses. Many have advocated watering before feeding, to avoid washing the grain ration out of the stomach, an organ which, we all know, is relatively small in the horse. A difficulty is generally met, however, in the fact that many horses cannot be induced to drink much in the morning until they have eaten for a while. The writer has found that the best way is to let the horse eat enough to make him thirsty, and then water and give the grain allowance. This is in accordance with the animal's appetite, and approaches what we might expect his habits to be under natural conditions. People are yearly less inclined to attempt to make nature conform to men's theories, and more inclined to adapt their practice to nature's demands, as indicated by the preferences of the animals in their care. Of course, if we were to press this point too far, we might be at a loss to justify certain methods commonly considered essential. Theorizing is interesting, but not always assuring. However, in this matter of watering, we feel pretty certain of the soundness of our doctrine, having tested it as well as we could in the school of experience, and our advice is to feed hay first thing in the morning; then just before breakfast, water, and feed grain. When taking the team out, water again after breakfast; once, if possible in the middle of the forenoon—on hot days particularly; then again at noon, before going in to dinner; and after dinner, when going out to work. Divide the afternoon, like the forenoon, if practicable, and water again on coming in at night. In the evening, after a good cleaning, give them another drink, and leave them with enough hay to eat during the night. It doesn't take long to hold a pail up to a horse, and if he doesn't drink promptly, it may be taken for granted that he is not thirsty. When watering thus frequently, there is no harm done if he misses once in a while.

One point more, do not stand a sweltering, throat-parched horse in a stuffy stable, and expect him to eat hay all the noon hour, with nothing to drink. Think how you feel yourself. When you come in hot and tired from the field, do you sit down and eat a dry dinner, and then take a drink just as you are going to the field? Not if you are wise. You may take care not to swill down all the ice-water you would like, but you take a cooled from the well, at least. So with the horse, a deal of exaggerated fear about watering is shown when warm. In the first place they should be brought in from the field lathering well, so that they are, water is the very thing they need. A large amount of perspiration has been excreted while working. This leaves the system parched, and a large amount of water of moderate temperature is the best thing that can be given, and it should be given at once. If the water is cold, it should

take the chill off it by having a drawn pailful or two standing ready when you come in. Horses prefer water not too cold, and if precautions are taken about the temperature, a pailful will not hurt a horse in the least, but rather refresh and do him good. As "Whip" has very well put it, "When a horse is thirsty, he wants a drink."

Economy of Horse Power.

A writer in an English exchange probably touches one of the main handicaps of Old Country agriculture when he refers to the waste of horsepower, indifference of teamsters and other laborers to the value of time, and failure to alter methods readily to meet changes in the times as exemplified by the adherence to labor-expensive implements. "How is it," he says, "that we tacitly agree that an acre per day is too sanguine an estimate even for ordinary two-horse land, and remain content with from half to three-quarters of an acre? Nine-inch furrows are narrow enough, and loose land can be plowed with ten to even twelve-inch furrows. There is, therefore, no difficulty in plowing $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of loose land in a day, and yet it is generally thought that one acre a day is an overestimate of what may, on an average, be expected from plowmen. Single-furrow plows are gradually giving way to double and triple-furrow implements, drawn by two or three, and possibly in the case of triple plows, by four horses. This is a great economy, as the double-furrow plow drawn by three horses (and many farmers use two) may be relied upon to turn over from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 acres per diem without any difficulty. On light land, or land already plowed, there is no difficulty in two horses drawing a double-furrow plow, and the saving in horse labor is then very considerable. The same principle holds good in all other tillage operations, so that, by using double-furrow plows, two-horse drills, light one-horse seed harrows, spring tooth cultivators, etc., the number of horses may be reduced, or tillage can be more effectively performed."

Two-horse drills and one-horse harrows just coming in! No wonder British agriculture is depressed! The remedy is more energetic application of the principle the writer suggests.

The Yearlings Now.

Like children, the future usefulness of horses depends a good deal upon their early environment. Colts usually make good progress during the first half year of their lives and if they are kept going during late fall will pull through the first winter in fairly good fit. But with the coming of the second spring the yearling is launched upon a crucial period. It is usually during the second summer that habits are contracted and the foundation of the future horse is laid.

Good pasture and good fences generally insure healthy development and good manners. If the grass becomes short and constant nibbling is required to satisfy hunger's cravings the colts will become restless in disposition and will not make sufficient growth or flesh and if the fences are weak they will not be long in learning the habit of breaking bounds.

Horse raisers are often disappointed with the results of the first months' grazing in the spring largely because the grass is soft and the change from winter feeding too sudden. During this time some good horsemen practice feeding grain until the grass becomes more matured, and in times of high prices for horses such as the present, the practice is well repaid by extra gains. Pure water and plenty of it is also an important factor in the raising of young horses.

Later in the season when the grass becomes dry, the days hot and the flies a continual annoyance benefits of shade will be much appreciated. Most pasture fields contain a few trees and where the shade of these are not available it is time and money well expended to build a rough shed where the colts can escape from the heat of the sun for a few hours in each day.

Changing the Entire Horse.

Writing in *Farmer and Stockbreeder*, Cambrian says:

"Horse-breeding is not a case of all blanks and no prizes, but in many instances it comes very near it; indeed, so near that there is endless dissatisfaction on the matter. It is a wide question, but not beyond the scope of discussion at this time, as it forms a theme wherever entire horses are met with, and that is on every farm just now. Some may be accepted, and others rejected where

no breeding is done, and there the matter ends with them. Those who have in past years put the horse to one or two mares, and had few or no foals, sometimes say they put every mare they possess, and they will be sure to have some. They generally do, but very rarely all the mares prove in foal, and sometimes not one. I believe in giving every horse a chance, and let him serve, a mare two or three times in successive rounds. But I think many make a mistake in persisting in adhering to the same horse till the season is over. I consider that any horse that has had two chances, or three at most, is a failure. If a mare does not hold before then, it is pretty clear there will be no results, but it is surprising how a different horse often succeeds; and I would never give up a mare that I was anxious to breed from without trying another horse. This is particularly desirable in the case of mares that have never had a foal, and whom their owner wants to start. The mare may be old or young, and in all cases the change of horses is well worth trying. I was glad to notice one of your readers supported my former contentions on the impotency and abortive work of excessive condition in entire horses."

A Prominent Breeder on Hackneys.

One of the most successful of English Hackney breeders, Mr. F. W. Buttle, who owns the famous sire Rosodor, twice champion at the London show and the sire of several champions, recently gave the *Farmer and Stockbreeder* an interview on the subject of Hackney breeding which, as it expresses the opinion of a breeder in the front rank, we reproduce.

"My idea of a Hackney," he said, "is a horse from 15.2 hands to 15.3 hands, standing on good short legs. We hear a good deal about increasing the size of the Hackney, but if this is done by increasing the length of the horse's legs it is a great mistake. I do not advocate breeding 15-hand horses, but if we Hackney breeders are not careful what we are about we are going to lose Hackney type, and if we once lose it we shall never get it back. When we get to 16 hands we invariably get away from good shoulders, and I attach the greatest importance to good shoulders. Good riding shoulders are essential for the saddle horse. A horse's action requires to come from the shoulder, and if they are upright his action will be underneath him. With riding shoulders he will go with freedom. Colors? Well, if come to the harness horse for the marts, I agree that it is better to have bays and browns without any white. If, however, you have a first-class animal, it doesn't matter if he is blue or green. We read about white legs. If you had a whole-colored horse with four black legs as good as mine with four white ones, I would beat you in the show-ring nineteen times out of twenty. The white legs are more showy, and, as a matter of fact, deceive the eye. The horse for the trade is better without them, but I am trying to breed the other. On this question of color, too, it must be remembered that the best of Hackneys for generations have been chestnuts. If we are to believe that like produces like, then if we are not to breed chestnuts, what are we to breed? The best of the Hackneys of to-day are chestnuts."

I certainly attach great importance to substance, and agree that sufficient attention has not been given to it. A horse's limbs I consider one of the points of the utmost importance. No matter how good he is on the top, if he has not good legs it is of no use.

Yes, this is as important in the mares as in the stallions. I like a long, low, roomy mare to breed from, and such a mare should be mated with a proportionate stallion. I would give them another name when they reach 16 hands, as they lose type, or, rather, reach another type. It may also be said that at 16 hands there are many more unsound horses.

There is a great deal of difference in action. It does not follow that the greatest and highest goers are necessarily the best. There is as much quality in action as in shape. I have said that I like a horse to go from the shoulder, and not to move underneath him, but the importance of hack action must not be lost sight of. A horse is no good unless he flexes his hocks. I may say that since I can remember the Hackney has improved in this more than in anything else. It is, however, very difficult to judge action in a small ring. Some horses give a good show in a small ring, and beat other horses which in a big ring would win easily. Some are able to get going at their best in a few yards, while others require a longer run before they are seen at their best.

"What is your opinion on stallion character? Does it get its due in the show-ring?"

"No, not always. A stallion should be judged as a stallion, and not as a gelding. You must have masculine character in a stallion."

There are undoubtedly soft Hackneys; there are soft horses of all breeds, even soft Thoroughbreds. As a breed, however, they are as good stayers as any other. I have bred you like you will find soft horses. I made a mistake in this connection that the Hackney that I have lost after, say, some ten miles has the action of a good horse, but a great display at first, but it goes for a long time they seem to lose power over their bodies, and I know about anyhow."