

hatched about two days before the Army Worms appeared. Several times during the course of the plague I counted twelve trips in ten minutes to the nest by the parent birds, with food, always Army Worms. How the young ones could stand the quantity they ate was a marvel. The old ones would fly direct to the source of supply, and would return almost immediately with a whole worm, stop under a hedge near by, chop off from the whole a suitable morsel of swallowable size for the little ones, fly up to the nest, and then away for a fresh one, never returning to get the remainder of the old worm, but seemingly preferring a fresh one. Their diet consisted, so far as I could ascertain, of the Army Worm, until the destruction of the army was accomplished by man and his feathered friends. Even moths were ignored, and several fat little spiders built a web within ten inches of the nest and were entirely undisturbed."

Dr. E. H. Forbush, the Economic Ornithologist, of Massachusetts, says, "I have been looking over the destructive work of the Army Worm in this state. While the worms were quite destructive in Wareham, they have done no harm at all on my farm. In fact you would never know from the appearance of the vegetation that there was a worm on the place. I have taken extra pains this year to attract the birds, and they have eaten a great many of the worms. Thirty or forty rods from my place the worms are beginning to be destructive. They have done no appreciable injury on other farms where I have put up nesting boxes in quantities."

I should be glad to receive any notes on the destruction of the Army Worm by birds from readers of "The Farmer's Advocate."

## THE HORSE.

### Blinders and Check-reins.

Observers have often noticed that horses used in fire departments rarely, if ever, wear check reins and blinders on their bridles. Humane societies and lovers of horses have agitated for years that blinders be dispensed with as a useless and even injurious addition to the harness, and check reins improperly applied are often also detrimental to the horse's welfare. It is a significant fact that fire horses are generally highly educated, and among the best horses of their kind that can be found in the country. They are high strung and lifey, yet they do their work without the use of blind bridles and check reins, both of which are considered by some to be absolutely essential to the safety of the driver.

It is an established fact that blinders cause more trouble than they do good. A horse is far more likely to become frightened at an object coming from behind if he has blinders on than if he has the free use of his eyes and can see in all directions, and as to the check rein, we have seen many horses with their heads drawn up until their necks appeared to be on up-side-down, and these could not but be injured by such treatment. No horse can be in a comfortable position with his head thrown so high that he has to carry his nose almost straight out in front of him in order to relieve the draw of the check rein. Again too, he cannot work as well, and will not last as long. True, some horses are clumsy in gait and must have a loose check rein to keep them up at all, but drivers, generally, might take a lesson from the fire department, and give their horses every opportunity of vision and all the freedom of head possible in their work. There are too many silly notions, and too much so-called style creeping into the every-day use of the horse.

### Three Million Horses Annually.

It is now conservatively estimated that there are 1,000,000 horses engaged in the war. By far the largest portion of these horses are not included in the permanent military equipment, but are drawn from the farms and the drays in the countries now at war. All told, these countries have somewhere in the neighborhood of 40,000,000 horses, not counting those in the colonies, which would swell this by several million. If the war lasts for any length of time the loss of horses is sure to be very great, and must eventually have an effect upon prices. It is said that in the Civil War in the United States the life of a cavalry horse averaged only four months, and we are safe in saying that it will be even shorter in this war with all the modern means of destroying life, but even though a horse did last four months this would mean, if the numbers are kept up to what are now in the field, practically 3,000,000 horses a year. It will not take many months to deplete the supply, because every horse that is drawn from productive enterprise to fill his place in the army is missed. There should be, after the war is over, a steady market for good horses.

### The Colt from Fall to Spring.

Every fall sees a number of newly-weaned colts to be carried over winter, and every colt gives to its owner problems of his own. Good horsemen hold strictly to the idea that in the best interests of the colt it should be handled from the time it is foaled right on through until its training is completed, and it takes its place with the other horses in harness. Provided this is so, and the training has been carried out judiciously, the colt at time of weaning should be tractable and easily handled in a box stall. The box stall is the place for the youngster, without a doubt, but no colt should be allowed to put in the first winter without being tied up. After the weaning process has been completed it is well to halter the colt and tie him until he becomes accustomed to standing tied. It is also better, from time to time, during his first winter, to tie him up for intervals, possibly every day, that he does not forget what the halter is for; always use a strong head-stall and halter shank which cannot be broken by a pull.

The feeding of the colt should present no great problem. Well-cured clover hay, what the youngster will eat up from meal to meal, makes about the best roughage that can be had. In addition to this oats should be fed liberally. There is a mistaken idea abroad in some quarters that the colt, to make a tough horse, should be compelled to "rough it" during his first winter, and such owners seem to believe that the barnyard is all that he requires for a stall, and the straw stack for rations. Colts so handled rarely make as good and useful horses as they would if given proper care and attention. On the other hand, it is not advisable to baby the colt too much. Over-feeding is about as disastrous, although not so common, as under-feeding. We have seen colts

his chances of thriving well. His feet should be watched, and kept carefully trimmed. Even though he has plenty of outdoor exercise, together with that obtained in the stall, there is a tendency for the hoofs to grow out and become too long, throwing the weight of the colt back too far on the lower joints. This is a matter which should be properly and promptly attended to. Keep the colt growing. This is the main thing in his care. If he is allowed to stop in his growth he soon becomes stunted and never, at maturity, reaches the size which he otherwise would have done. The first winter is the most important in getting the colt started in the right direction.

## LIVE STOCK.

### The Hog Situation.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We have an interesting and important statement in a letter now before us from our London agent, which in part is as follows:

"We believe, as one of the results of this war, there will be an opportunity for doing a bigger Canadian trade on this market than has ever been done before. It is evident that there has been a very serious wastage with all kinds of live stock on the continent. This time last year in Denmark young pigs were selling at 20s. each. At present they are unsaleable, and breeding has stopped. The same conditions are present in Holland, where they say that feeding stuffs are 100 per cent. higher since the war. This must mean a very important curtailment in their supplies for later marketing."

In this office we consider this statement covers

an important set of conditions, which ought to be known to breeders and feeders in Canada. Doubtless many are disappointed with the sharp reduction in price of hogs during recent weeks, and there will be a question on the part of many whether they will breed freely this fall or not.

As far as continental conditions affect the price of hogs here, it is of importance to note that the last two months both Denmark and Holland have been marketing hogs in record quantities. Many of these hogs are reaching market in an unfinished condition. We are advised that the farmers in these countries are following this course for two reasons—the very sharp advance in the price of feed, and the complete loss of the supply of Russian barley which has for so many years been largely used in Denmark—and the fear of the farmers in these

countries that they may become involved in the war, and lose their stock, hence their desire to convert it into money.

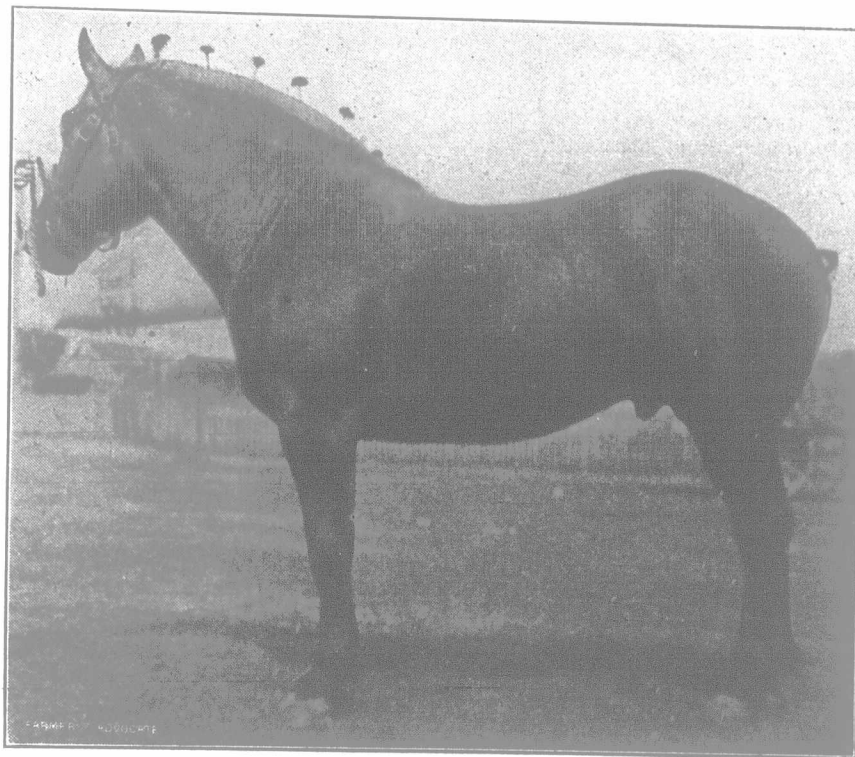
We learn that the available supply of hogs in Denmark and Holland will probably sustain the present very heavy deliveries for the balance of the year, but that as next year progresses an acute shortage will be in evidence, which will make a heavy inroad into the usual supplies available for the British market.

Toronto, Ont.

J. W. FLAVELLE.

[Note.—The foregoing letter coming as it does from the head of one of the biggest packing concerns in this country should carry some weight with our readers. It is quite evident that supplies of hogs from European countries will be much shorter next season than usual. In view of this fact Canadian pig breeders would do well to increase their breeding operations, and plan to have more hogs for sale next year than they have had in the past. The letter explains itself and we hope our pig breeders will take advantage of the opportunity now offering itself to increase the Empire's food supply, not only by growing more grain, but by converting this grain into the finished product—meat.—Editor.]

The manufacturer who keeps his business going, even at a loss, during the crisis is doing much for the country. Besides giving work to many men and making homes happy, it inspires confidence and helps all classes of trade.



Loin (Imp.)

Champion Percheron stallion at Sherbrooke, Que., and Three Rivers, 1914. Owned by J. E. Arnold & Son, Grenville, Que.

ruined by too much grain, and over-feeding on rich cow's milk after being weaned from their dams. A little cow's milk is all right, but care must be taken not to over-do it, and cause the colt to become fat and flabby to the detriment of his quality throughout. If milk is fed we should prefer sweet skimmed milk. There is little danger of him getting too much of this, although if fed to excess it may cause him to become what is commonly known as pot-bellied. However, we would not hesitate to give the colt a little, say a half pail of sweet, skimmed milk a day, provided it was available in quantity. With the oats it is a good plan to add about one-third of bran. This is a first-class food material for growing colts. Besides the hay, roots are very good feed for the youngsters. A small, solid turnip thrown in whole will be eaten with relish, and will do the colt a world of good. One of these a day until spring will help greatly in keeping the colt's digestive system in order. Do not forget when giving the horses salt to put a little where the colt has access to it, and by all means give him plenty of water.

Where at all possible have it arranged that the colt gets out in the yard for exercise, regularly, and for several hours a day, even though he is kept in a box stall, a run in the open will do him good. If he is tied by the neck all the time it is absolutely essential that he gets this outdoor exercise, or he will not develop into the horse that he should.

The curry-comb can be used to good advantage on the colt, it helps to quiet him, keeps his hair and hide in good condition, and adds to