

for that money, if looked for in the proper places—in the stables of reliable men.

The price placed on a \$500 to \$1,000 stallion from across the water is trebled on coming to the West, an exceedingly profitable investment for the importer and seller [Note—Providing all went well and there were no losses.—Editor], the remembrance of which will, in after years, cause the unsophisticated investor or investors, to chide themselves severely. To be one of a dozen on a joint note for \$3,000 upwards, is not a comforting prospect, with a car shortage, wheat below sixty cents, and the prices of other farm produce in proportion!

NOMAD.

Wintering Idle Horses.

As the average farmer has horses for which he has little or no work during the winter season, the economical feeding and care of these animals becomes a matter of importance. He naturally wishes to winter them as cheaply as possible, and at the same time not too greatly reduce them in flesh or vitality. They should be kept in such a condition that a little extra food and care when spring is approaching will fit them for the work they will be asked to do. Idle horses can be wintered on very little marketable food, but when too much economy is exercised we find that they are in such a weak condition in the spring that they are unable to do a fair day's work, and what we have saved in food during the winter will be more than lost in inability to work during the busy season in the spring; hence the object is to winter as cheaply as possible without sacrificing the horse's strength.

In the first place, comfortable quarters are essential. We must disabuse our minds of the truth of the old idea that exposing idle horses and colts to inclement weather makes them tough and hardy. Exercise is necessary, and this is usually given by allowing the horses to run out in the yard for a few hours every day that is not too cold or stormy. If this exercise could be given in an enclosed paddock or yard, where they would be sheltered from the wind and cold, it would be better, but this is generally impracticable, as the erection of such would be too expensive. At the same time, while daily exercise is advisable, it is better to forego it than to turn the animals out in a storm or excessively cold weather. The effects of such does more to reduce the horse's condition and vigor than can be compensated for by considerable food. Where large box-stalls can be supplied, it will be found that they will, voluntarily, take considerable exercise, but in most cases there is not sufficient stable room to allow a box for each animal, and it is seldom safe to have two or more in the same stall, unless they are very agreeable and the box quite large. Where help is plentiful, and time will allow, it is found better to exercise the horses in harness or under saddle, as in such cases we know that he gets a certain amount of exercise, while if turned out in the yard, he may take little or much, according to circumstances. Exercise is necessary to maintain tone in the muscles. Where muscular inactivity is maintained for a continued period, they become soft and weak, and the animal requires to be very carefully used for a considerable time after he is put to work again; while, on the other hand, where a moderate amount of exercise is regularly given, the muscles do not lose their activity, but are always in condition to perform at least a reasonable amount of labor without tiring.

The most economical method of feeding will depend largely upon individual circumstances and upon the state of the market. If hay be plentiful and the price low and grain is high, it will pay to feed considerable hay and little grain. If the markets be reversed, it would be found economical to feed more grain and less hay, the want of hay being compensated for by feeding straw. A mixture of cut hay and straw, or straw alone, mixed with a little pulped turnips, answers for coarse food. Wheat chaff is also good. While horses will keep in fair condition on this kind of food alone, I do not think it wise to withhold grain altogether. At least one fair feed of oats should be given daily. Other grain may be given instead, but none gives the same satisfaction for horse feeding as oats. They contain ingredients for building up bone and muscle that are not contained in like quantities in any other grain. The oats may be fed as a separate meal, either whole or crushed. The best results are doubtless obtained when they are chopped or crushed, and they may be fed mixed with the coarse food or separate. A sufficient amount of this food should be given to keep the horses from losing flesh. It must be understood that whatever food be given, it should be of first-class quality. The feeding of musty, dusty or poorly-saved food of any kind should be avoided. The digestive organs of the horse are probably more sensitive and delicate than those of the other classes of farm stock and will revolt against such usage. A very large percentage of the cases of heaves in horses can be traced to the consumption of food of poor quality. Knowing this, we can readily appreciate the folly of feeding our horses

food that has little or no market value, not on account of its kind, but by reason of its quality. It goes without saying that there must be a regular supply of water of good quality in all cases. It must also be understood that in changing the nature of the food the change must be gradually made.

As spring approaches, the horses should gradually be given more exercise, which must be done in harness or saddle to regulate it, and the allowance of grain gradually increased. If this be intelligently done the horses will be in a fit condition to do a fair day's work as soon as the ground is fit to work; but if these precautions be neglected, the fitting will have to be done when time is valuable, for if fitting be neglected and a horse that is not fit be asked to do a full day's work, it is probable a period of enforced idleness will be the result when we can least afford it.

"WHIP."

Our British Horse Market.

Mr. Arch. McNeillage, editor of "The Scottish Farmer," addressing a meeting at the Ontario Winter Fair at Guelph, said: "There exists in Scotland a strong prejudice in favor of Canadian horses of all classes. The only difficulty is that the supply is not equal to the demand. Your horses are well mouthed, well broken, and singularly handsome. For Canadian carriage horses standing 15.2 to 16.1, in bays, browns and dark chestnuts, with a little quality, and well broken, there is an unlimited market. Animals of this class were being auctioned off the ship, at Glas-

is \$325 to \$375, and for second-class \$200 to \$275.

Dealers tell me your horses are not finished in fitting before shipment. Some shrewd Irish dealers buy your horses, take them to Ireland, finish them and afterwards ship them as Irish horses. Our great complaint is that you do not send us enough of the kind you can produce.

Breaking and Biting Horses.

BY M. H. HAYES, F.R.C.V.S.

[Late Captain "The Buffs." Author of "Points of the Horse," "Veterinary Notes for Horse Owners," "Illustrated Horse-breaking," "Riding and Hunting," etc.]

I have to thank the editor of the far-famed "Farmer's Advocate" for the honor he has done me in asking me to write an article on the above important subject, about which I can give only hints within the present narrow limits. To avoid trudging over ground which has been well trodden by my Canadian readers, I will say nothing about harness horses, but will devote my attention solely to saddle animals.

The well-known French writer, Dr. Le Bon, tells us that if horses could read and write, they would win all competitive examinations, because their memory is so good. Hence, it would be waste of time to discuss the art of curing horses of acquired vices. A skilful breaker may bring a dangerous jibber (baulker), rearer or shier under his own control; but when the supposed reformed criminal has another man on his back, the memory of previous successful escapades will be so delightful that he will "play up" on the



BLOOD MARKS ON THE BOW RIVER HORSE RANCH, COCHRANE, ALTA.
(See Gossip, page 31)

gow, during the last week in October, at \$300 to \$375 for first-class, and \$240 to \$275 for second-class. Cobs standing 14 to 15 hands sold for \$150 to \$225. These were not equal to the class you formerly sent us. A higher type of this class of horses, would bring more money.

What we want in heavy-draft horses is one weighing sixteen to seventeen hundred. If he is bigger than that, provided he is short-legged and of good quality, so much the better. He must, however, be absolutely without blemish. A dealer will knock more off the price of an imported horse that has a blemish than he will off a home-bred one similarly disfigured. A good horse of the type I have mentioned will bring from eighty to one hundred pounds in our market.

We have no use for a horse with hair like a broom for sweeping chimneys. What we do like is a sharp, flinty bone, with a fringe of hair down the back of the leg. We do not want the hair, but what we find is that where there is no hair you have a round bone, and with the roundness in bone there is a weakness and a tendency toward splints and possibly grease. We receive a large number of horses from the United States which look as if they have a Percheron cross, and these are very popular for heavy van work, but not for the best class of work of that kind.

A van horse is something we do not breed at all. He is a big, upstanding horse, pretty long in the legs, about 17 hands high. This horse is used by the railway companies for delivering goods from country stations. He has to travel considerable distances in delivering, and is expected to break into a trot with a two-wheeled van. The price for a first-class horse of this type

first opportunity. Useful breaking is therefore limited to the stamping of first impressions on the inexperienced equine mind. The task thus given to a young and unspoiled horse is to quietly carry a weight on his back; to obey his rider's indications; to go in well-collected style; and, if need be, to jump cleverly. In performing these duties, he should be given no chance of asserting his own authority; and, consequently, he should be made rideable before he is ridden. The best way of accomplishing this object is by means of the "long reins," used in the manner I have described in "Illustrated Horse-breaking." By it, when the horse is lunged in a circle, the outward rein goes round his hind quarters, and the inward rein proceeds direct from the snaffle to the breaker's hand. Hence, when the horse is turned to the right, his head is turned to the right and his hind quarters to the left, so that he is turned "all in one piece." And in all this work, the breaker can maintain a light feeling on the reins, whether the horse goes at a walk, trot or canter. This is impossible according to the old way of passing the reins through rings on the surcingle (or roller).

In this circling, it is essential to use a standing martingale, buckled on to the rings of the snaffle, at a proper length, so that the horse cannot throw up his head and get out of control. The use of this martingale also connects the idea of pain, in the mind of the animal, with the practice of carrying his head too high, which he soon learns to avoid. The driving-pad which I have devised greatly aids the breaker in this work.

One of the first points to be considered in circling and turning the equine pupil with the long reins, is to make him obedient to the voice, so that he will halt or go on when he hears the