

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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WALTER E. GUER, BUSINESS MANAGER.
A. G. HOPKINS, D. V. M., B. Agr., EDITOR.
F. S. JACOB, B. S. A., ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
R. J. DEACHMAN, B. S. A., ASSOCIATE EDITOR (CALGARY).

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W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
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generally by one hundred and often by one hundred and fifty per cent. annually, and declare a dividend in their fleece that more than pays for their year's keep, even when the price is low—a crop that no other stock returns—and the surplus of the flock is always salable at a fair profit on the cost of production. One may ride a hundred miles on a summer day in old Ontario to-day and not see a single sheep, even if looking for them—a statement that applies equally to Manitoba, and the farming districts of Assiniboia and Alberta—and this in a country peculiarly adapted in every way to the healthful and profitable production of the ovine race. The plea that dogs are a menace to sheep-breeding applies in no greater degree here than in any other country, and is, in most cases, a flimsy excuse, as a reasonable amount of precaution will ensure a tolerable immunity from loss in that regard. In an experience of over forty years with a flock averaging over one hundred head, on a farm two miles from a village and three miles from a town, the writer suffered the loss of but two sheep by dogs, the flock being only once attacked, and in that case the owner of the dog paid full value for the sheep. This may be an exceptionally fortunate record, and is not cited in extenuation of the dog nuisance, for which a confirmed hatred is confessed, but as an illustration of the readiness of the many to adopt an untenable excuse in the absence of valid reason for a certain course of action, or inaction.

With unwashed wool selling up to twenty-five cents a pound in the neighboring States, and lambs up to seven and a half to eight dollars a hundred, the sheep trade is booming in that country, and if Canadian farmers had been so sell at present they might realize extraordinary prices for them, as United States breeders look to Canada for breeding stock, and are buying freely in this country; but the trouble is

that, now when demand is keen and prices are advancing, few of our farmers have sheep to sell, and those who would buy to start flocks, in view of the improved prospect for the trade, will have to purchase at higher figures than they could have done a year or two ago. Those who have any liking for sheep-raising and who think of founding flocks, will do well to make their purchases early this summer, as it is certain that breeding stock will be in great demand for the American trade, and all the best available will be bought up before the breeding season this fall. And the probability is that the improved prices prevailing will continue for some years, as sheep are scarce both in Britain and America, and wool values are likely to rule high for some time to come.

The U. S. tariff heavily handicaps the Canadian farmer in regard to that product, but a large percentage of our neighbors are now favorable to a revision of the tariff on reciprocal lines, and when the proposition comes from their Government for a readjustment, as we believe it will, the duty on wool will doubtless be lowered to a considerable extent. We are not disposed to advise a general rush into the founding of pure-bred flocks, though we believe there will be money in so doing for those who understand the management of sheep and who buy judiciously, but there is the opportunity open to many to do well by purchasing good grade ewes at moderate prices, and by using pure-bred rams, producing stock that will command paying prices with reasonable certainty.

Horses.

The Stallion Needs Work Now.

Probably it is because stallions cost a long figure that some owners fatten them up in a box stall or high-fenced corral to eke out a lonely existence for ten months of the year, or, possibly such treatment has induced such behavior on the part of the horse as to lead his owner to believe that the animal is really dangerous. Certain it is that no good can result to the horse by such treatment. Being a live animal, with life's impulses and activities, he requires to be given plenty of opportunity to indulge his natural inclination for exercise. And not only so, but the more active work he does the better fitted he is to fulfill his duties as a sire. Draft stallions, if anything, should be possessed of seasoned muscles and an inherent inclination to lean into the collar, and these hard muscles and natural bent for work must be developed or in succeeding generations they will disappear for want of being employed.

Against the policy of working stallions it is always urged that they give so much trouble and are hard to break, but when considered seriously, we fail to see that if plenty of the "black snake" is used and the work of breaking deliberately followed, as with geldings, that there is much extra bother with a working stallion than with a gelding or mare. They have to be broken and educated, but when that is well done the stallion is very little annoyance, and, besides, he needs the work for his health, and the company of other horses to prevent his disposition becoming bad.

Digestion Disturbers.

This is the season for new hay and new oats, those frequent causes of trouble to the inexperienced horseman. New hay, in some horses, causes an excessive secretion of urine, a condition which, if allowed to continue, becomes a case of diabetes, rendering the help of the veterinarian imperative. New oats cause more urgent symptoms, viz., those of colic, and sometimes diarrhoea, especially in the slab-sided, shallow-flanked fellows.

Great care will need to be taken both in watering and feeding if new oats are to be part of the diet. Make the horses take time to chew their feed, by adding some bran to the oats, and be very careful with the watering. Give plenty of time to feed—one hour and a half at noon—and do not be lavish with hay at the noon feed. The horses can do all right with hay twice a day, the big feed being at night. The horseman of experience always plans to have old oats to carry him well through the rush of harvest and threshing.

THE "WANT AND FOR SALE" COLUMN OF THE "FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE" IS THE PLACE FOR YOUR ADVERTISEMENT. SEE RATES UNDER THAT HEADING IN THIS PAPER. ADDRESS: FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, WINNIPEG, MAN.

The Useful Type of Pastern.

It is apparent to every capable judge of horses that many importers, or the agents they employ to make purchases for them abroad, are not informed as to the significance of properly-sloped pasterns. The tendency is to bring in stallions that have rather upright pasterns, and these horses should be considered detrimental to our breeding interests.

Elastic, springy action at the walk and trot largely depends upon correct length, strength and slope of the pasterns. Upright pasterns mean stilty, stubby action and horses with this objectionable conformation "go to pieces" quickly, either upon the hard pavements of the city street or the softer race-track. In draft horses the short, steep pastern is usually associated with shoulders that are too upright, and that do not, consequently, provide a fitting bed for the collar. Horses of this type are particularly prone to foot troubles, such as ringbones, corns, quarter crack, etc., and to all kinds of collar galls and sores. They are slow walkers, and at a trot stub their toes or pound so badly upon their fore feet that the hoofs soon become unsound. On the other hand the horse that has fairly sloping pasterns wears best, as the oblique pasterns form a buffer against straight concussion affecting the bony column above the foot. They have springy, elastic action, fully flexing the fetlocks and showing the soles of their feet as they go away from the observer. As a rule, sloping shoulders go along with sloping pasterns, and are necessary to the kind of action we have outlined. The greatest slope is necessary in horses having fast work to do in carriage or race harness and under the saddle. A fair degree of slope is as necessary in the draft horse, for his feet have to withstand concussion from the great weight superimposed upon them, and from going upon hard roads. The walking gait is the most important one for the draft horse, and it is absolutely necessary that he should have quick, elastic, long, free, regular and straight action at this pace, in order that he may do the greatest amount of work possible each day, and with the least damage to his feet.

We cannot hope to have our horses characterized by properly-set pasterns if we persist in the importation and use of stallions having upright pasterns, and do not learn to reject mares of similar character from our breeding operations. We do not refer, in what has been said, to greatly exaggerated length and slope of pasterns, for that is quite as bad as the short, upright type. Over length and slope mean weakness, and cause strain upon the back tendons of the leg, while the fetlock coming too close to the ground means that the lever is too long and the horse will have too great effort in bringing it to bear upon the fulcrum at the toe. Such pasterns lead to early breaking down of the tendons, and while they give elasticity of step do not assist the draft horse in his hard work upon the streets. A happy compromise between too long and too short and upright pasterns is, therefore, desirable, but it may be asserted with assurance, that the average draft horse errs in the direction of shortness and uprightness of pasterns.

Any man who owns a large number of draft work horses, or, in fact, any kind of work horse, can prove the significance of properly-set pasterns by careful inspection of his animals. Let them be led out and stood in a row. Set back each horse that has sloping pasterns, thus leaving those that have upright pasterns in the front row. Now inspect the horses in each row, and it will invariably be found that the greatest proportion of unsound feet, hoof-heads, pasterns, fetlocks and cannon bones will be found associated with upright pasterns; also that these horses are the slowest workers, and have to be soonest retired from the teaming business.

Pasterns are not the "alpha and omega" of the draft horse, as Mr. R. B. Ogilvie has said. But they are as important as we have stated, and to give the best results in use should always be associated with fine quality of bone and hair. We want to see them above sound, well-developed feet, and forming parts of legs that show a flat, clean, "clef" appearance, fine skin, silky hair and strong, clean, prominent tendons. —[Prof. Alexander, in Live-stock Report.

Sadie Mac, 2.06½.

The performance at Detroit last week of the five-year-old mare, Sadie Mac, owned by Miss K. L. Wilks, of Crookston Stock Farm, Galt, Ont., and driven by Harry Stinson, in trotting in 2.06½ in a winning race, stamps this great daughter of Peter the Great (2.07½) as one of the greatest trotters in the history of the turf, and indicates that she may, in the near future, lower this splendid record. It is said that Mr. E. E. Smathers, of Cleveland, Ohio, who sold Sadie Mac last fall to Miss Wilks for \$15,000, is preparing to re-enter the racing game, and has, through his trainer, Geo. Spear, offered \$30,000 for the mare, and that the offer was refused. Sadie Mac is one of the level-headed, non-fretting kind, and her stamina and good manners are in her favor and contribute to the probability of her making sensational marks. The dam of Sadie Mac is Fanella, whose record is 2.13, a daughter of Arion 2.07½.