

REPLY TO "A FARMER."—Your correspondent, "A Farmer," has certainly made out a good case in favor of a moderate degree of protection, which is all that can be reasonably required. It was protection, not free trade, that has made England the richest country in the world. Stimulated by protection, the English manufacturers were able to give employment to many thousands of the agricultural population, which prevented them from being thrown for their support on the poor rates. And now that the English manufacturers are able to supply the markets of the world with their extensive colonial markets to rely upon, they have set up the cry of free trade, although all other countries have adopted the policy of protection to home industry. Your correspondent "John Granger" seems to be ignorant of the fact that no country ever yet became rich by agriculture alone. Perhaps he is not aware that the people of Canada send \$75,000,000 out of the country annually to pay for imported goods. A great part of which might, under proper protection, be manufactured at home, and if only one-half of that amount were retained in the country, the farmers as well as every one else would be benefited by the expenditure. At present, for want of home competition, importers may charge what they please, so that in fact we have to pay more than we otherwise should, or rather we shall have to do whenever a revival of trade in the United States shall enable them to dispose with the necessity of making Canada a slaughter-house for their goods, and even then unless we are protected by a fair tariff, they will continue until the few manufactures we have left are completely broken down, when they will be able to charge their own prices, as owing to their proximity they will be able to undersell the English manufacturers, so that in fact we shall be always paying tribute to them. Protection will attract foreign capital, which is required to develop our rich mineral resources, and consequently will attract a greatly increased population, and this population will require additional houses and give employment to the different handicraftsmen who will be required to supply the wants of an increased population. As for the objection that the Americans would retaliate by increasing their duties on the produce they buy from us, such a fear is visionary. They have to pay their own duties themselves now, because they must buy our barley, fall wheat and wool; and even if their own duties on these articles were repealed, they would buy no more than they do at present. Those are mistaken who suppose that our manufacturers have of their own accord engaged in some business naturally unprofitable. Their business is not naturally unprofitable, but it has been made so by the suicidal free trade ideas of our present Dominion Government, who are to some extent at the mercy of the Americans. Free trade is not the mother of skilled labor and moderate profits, on the contrary, it tends to render profits and render skilled labor unattainable. The price of our Canadian farm produce is regulated mainly if not entirely by foreign markets, and no foreign manufacturers will buy more of our produce than they absolutely require, or give more than the regular market price for it. If by a judicious legislation, the manifold natural resources of our Dominion were fully developed, and our country dotted over with mills, factories and workshops, is it unreasonable to suppose that outlets might be found for our surplus produce amongst the markets of South America and the West India Islands and elsewhere. There are goods for which there is but a limited demand, but which could be profitably manufactured in Canada in concert with other manufacturers of a kindred nature, if a tariff which would give our would-be manufacturers a chance were adopted for such a period as would beget confidence; meanwhile we pay from 100 to 200 per cent. more for those articles than if paid for them at the place of manufacture. That a low duty will enable importers and retail dealers to obtain exorbitant prices for those goods will doubtless surprise many theoretical free traders, but it is the simple truth nevertheless. How is it that the protected American manufacturers are underselling the free trade English manufacturers in their own markets, for some articles at present? Simply because their high protective duties secure for them the command of their own home market. Whilst admitting that the Americans may have carried their protective system too far, I cannot admit that the abuse of any sound principle is any conclusive argument against the use of it. He must be a very unpatriotic Canadian who for the sake of a mess of pottage, even if he could get it,

would never desire to see his country rise above the level of a lumber-producing and produce-furnishing appendage to the United States. The Americans are now trying to frighten us from following their example, because they fear we shall get out of their clutches. Some advocates of free trade make a great mistake in connecting protection in the United States, with an inflated paper currency, whereas they are two different things, with no necessary connection with each other.

SARAWAK.

The Horse.

Decrease of Horses.

It is said that the number of horses is decreasing in England, and of those used there an increasing proportion are imported from the continent. The effect of high farming in England is to restrict farmers to products of quick maturity, insuring speedy returns from capital invested. The improved Shorthorn cattle have reduced the time required for growing and marketing a beef from four years to two, and in some places they are fattening heaves at eighteen to twenty months old. There is no way of making a colt fit for hard work before he is four years old—or three at farthest, and in the mean time he is a constant expense, with the liability of entire loss from accident or disease. It is probable also that in England, much more than in this country, there is decreased demand for horse labor on account of the employment of steam power in nearly all mechanical and many agricultural operations. Steam plows have been for several years in successful operation, and their economy on large and level farms is undoubted. Of course, such implements would cost more in this country, but they would also supersede dearer labor, and probably in the long run the gain from their use, especially on large Western prairie farms, will be found as great as in England.

Horses will never go out of fashion—possibly not soon be less used than now—but the proportion of power furnished by horses is steadily decreasing, and is destined to further decrease. Engines are used for threshing, wood sawing, feed cutting and various farm operations requiring considerable power, and engines are now made cheaply and portable, to be used on all the farms in a neighborhood.

That horse breeding is less profitable at the West is indeed a matter of some surprise. Cheap lands and abundance of feed would indicate this section as the natural home of the horseman. But at the West enormous and usurious rates of interest, from ten per cent. a year to two per cent. a month, take away profits and compel farmers to invest only in products giving quick returns. Sheep and cattle are superseding the business of horse breeding. It costs less to keep a calf till it is three years old than a colt till it is two, and at three the steer will be fattened and turned into cash, while the colt must wait two years or more before finding a purchaser, and at last may very possibly be worth less than the steer. Poor stock is of course responsible for much of this loss; but there is more variation in prices of horses than of cattle. When a man grows a calf till it is three years old to be sold for beef, he can calculate pretty closely how much it will weigh and what it will sell for. Not so a colt. It may be one of the few prizes, selling for \$500 to \$1000; or much more likely, it may be a blank—worth less than the expense it has cost. Aiming at the fashionable and fast breed of horses has intensified this evil. If the progeny of one of the trotting stallions is not among the few that "can make their mile" inside current fashionable trotting rates, he is not wanted by the gambling fraternity, is of no use on the farm and precious little use anywhere else. A much safer business, and we suspect more generally profitable, is the breeding of good farm and work horses. They are less liable to accident, have a surer sale and at a higher average price than the majority of would-be racers.

—Rural New Yorker.

Indigestion in Horses.

M. Pety, a French veterinary surgeon, draws attention, says the *American Farmer*, to the liability of horses and cattle suffering from indigestion from the consumption of forage in a humid or musky state. It is from over-feeding this complaint is ordinarily produced, or to the too rapid transition from dry to unlimited green food. Another very common cause is the putting of

animals to work immediately after their feed. The giving of chaff and the refuse of the threshing machine is also another principle source, as well as excessively cold water, and, above all, allowing the animals to drink the water of marshes. A little salt or a handful of meal is excellent in the drinks. Old animals ought never to be given too much food at once, and it ever should be mixed with a little straw. When the horse shows symptoms of indigestion, restlessness, suddenly refusing food, resting on one leg, then on another, the head drooping and seeking the left flank, its excrements either hard or liquid, &c., and excitant, as three ounces of kitchen salt or a glass of gin in a bottle of water, will afford relief; or an infusion of camomile and sage. In case pain exists two spoonfuls of laudanum will prove excellent. Of course soap injections, friction and fumigation, are not to be overlooked. Bleeding, in case of grain indigestion, becomes mortal.

Feeding Work Horses.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* gives the following account of the way the Adams Express Company feed their horses, which are always noticeably sleek and fat:—

The number of horses kept at the stable is 54. Four hostlers attend to these. Promptly at four o'clock a. m. the watchman of the stable gives to each horse eight ears of corn. Then, about five o'clock, the hostlers commence their duties. Of those under the care of each, one by one is led to the watering trough and then to the urinary. This consists of a pit sunken 10 or 12 inches below the level of the basement ground floor and kept compactly filled with sawdust and short shavings. And it is a remarkable fact that a horse in this stable scarcely urinates excepting at this place, especially prepared for him. When horses come in from their work the harnesses are removed, and they are then led at once to the urinary. When a fresh or green horse comes to the stable, by being driven with some old "stager" that knows the rules of the stable, the new comer soon learns to conform to the habits of the older inmates.

From five to seven o'clock each horse is taken in hand and thoroughly curried, brushed and cleaned, from ten to fifteen minutes being spent by a hostler upon each horse. A damp woolen cloth is always rubbed over the coat of a horse after being curried and brushed. This serves to remove all loose dandruff and to give that fine, glossy, sleek appearance so noticeable in the animals of this stable.

The horses are fed nothing in the morning excepting the eight ears of corn. After being led back to the stalls when cleansed, they are then ready for work. The same process of currying, brushing and cleaning is also gone through with at noon and at night, at the close of their forenoon and afternoon's work. At noon each horse is fed with half a peck of oats. At night chopped feed is given. This is composed of sheaf oats or rye straw passed through a straw cutter and then, when wet, ground oats, corn and bran mixed up with it. A peck and a half of this is given to each horse. In addition to the chopped feed, the rack is supplied with eight or nine pounds of bright, sweet timothy hay, this being the total amount of hay which is fed. And perhaps of this supply the horse will not eat more than five pounds during the night, finishing up the balance during the next day.

While Mr. Barrett is particular to give nothing but clean timothy hay in summer, in cold weather he is willing to feed hay which is one-third clover. About once a week a peck of oil-cake meal is mixed up with the chopped feed, being equal to about a third of a pint to a horse. This promotes the uniform good condition of the animals. And if, at any time, the urine of a horse is cloudy and thickened, a tablespoonful of pulverized resin, mixed up with chopped feed, is given him. This acts upon his kidneys and the difficulty is once at removed.

The horses are given what water they want as they come in from their work, unless they are "green," and then care is taken not to water or feed until they are thoroughly cool. In a few weeks, after becoming habituated to the regimen of the stables, the same course is taken with the "late comers." Of course, if horses come in overheated, then they are not watered until cooled off.

A very marked feature connected with the stables is that the air is so sweet and fresh. And, probably, this is owing largely to the fact that scarcely any urinating ever takes place in the several stables.

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Advice to

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There is no best layers. The Spanish, will often, if about a dozen chicks. Th rather tende should not be warm, so tha large; and if all the better sooner, and with the hen been bred fo as the States class birds sh to see that Spanish are fresh blood f see them imp —Poultry Jo