

## The Horse and His Food\*

Horses should have a drink of water the first thing in the morning. In horses, as in men, mucous is apt to form in the membranes of the stomach during the night; and when solid food is first taken in the morning this mucous is in the way of the digestion and so impedes digestion. A drink of water will help to wash it away, and so make the digestion of the horse's breakfast quick and easy. Some horses won't drink before breakfast; but nearly all may easily be trained to do so. Give the horse a drink after breakfast, also, if he will take it.

**A NUMBER OF DISEASES** are caused by improper feeding. One of these is heaves. Farmers generally feed their horses too much hay, particularly when they are idle. A horse should not be eating hay all day. He should not have more when he is idle than when he is at work. He should have his regular

Put into a bucketful of water, two or three handfuls of lime, stir it up into a milky fluid, let the particles settle, and you have lime water good enough for veterinary practice, good enough for a horse, good enough to cure a calf of the scours.

For the **HARD WORKING HORSE**, timothy hay is to be preferred to clover, not because it is better—there is no better hay than clover hay—but because it lies more compactly and takes up less room in the horse's stomach. Let the clover hay be fed when the horses are idle or not doing much, and to the young animals.

Acute indigestion is often produced by a sudden change of food. A horse fed on hay all winter, and turned suddenly out upon a field of good grass is apt to have acute indigestion. Another cause is an unusually big meal. It is a mistake to give a horse that is used to a half gallon of oats at a meal

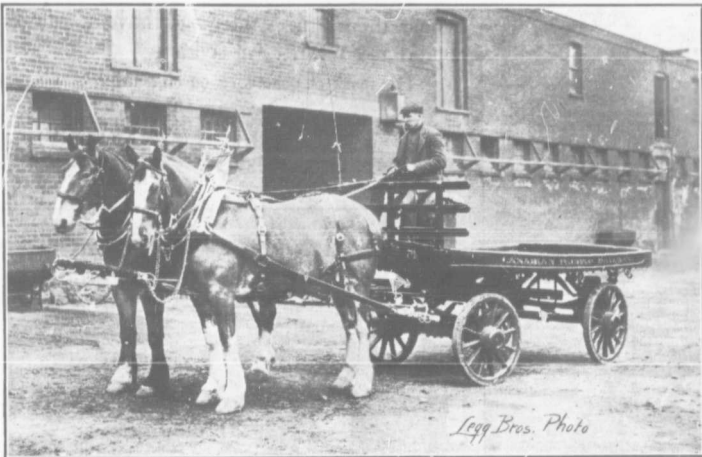
bathe the part freely with warm water. After twenty-four hours give the horse exercise.

### COLIC IS NOT DANGEROUS,

but it may develop into inflammation.

In reply to questions, Dr. Reid spoke briefly of "water farcy," which is to be counteracted by better feeding and tonic medicine, and said that he did not approve of bleeding except in extraordinary cases. He would not bleed a horse suffering from strangles, but would keep him in a well ventilated stable and poultice the throat. In his opinion a healthy animal is not benefited by a course of sulphur. A healthy animal doesn't need medicine.

Asked whether it is better to feed oats whole or cracked, Dr. Reid said that it depended upon the horse. If the horse grinds well and eats slowly oats are better fed whole, for more saliva is taken into the stomach with the food and digestion is better. But if the horse is idle and can't grind, or greedy and won't grind, then it is better to crack the oats—but feed the cracked oats dry.



A Prize-winning Team at recent Horse Shows. Owned by Dominion Transport Company.

meals—no more. For breakfast he should have a little hay. At dinner very little. And just as much as he will eat up clean at night.

A horse is not fit for heavy exercise when his stomach is full of food, for the distended stomach presses upon the lungs. He cannot breathe in all the oxygen that is required—he cannot fill his lungs, when the full stomach, with its gases presses upon them. Consequently when a horse is driven or worked hard upon a full stomach he is in great danger of the heaves. Heaves are also caused by musty or smutty hay. Good bright straw is better for the horse than such hay. But if such hay must be fed, let it be first moistened so that the dust and smut may not be drawn with the breath into the passages: leading to the animal's lungs. If musty hay has to be fed, it is better that it should be moistened with lime water than with other water. Lime water is easily made.

\*From an address by Dr. Reid, Georgetown, Ont., in the Farmers' Pavilion, Charlottetown Exhibition, 1905.

a full gallon or more. Don't give your horse an unusually good breakfast when he has extra work to do—increase his ration gradually, and don't work or drive him till he is tired while his stomach is full; for if a horse's body is tired, his digestive apparatus is tired at the same time, a lot of undigested food lies in the stomach, fermentation ensues, gases form, and you have a case of acute indigestion. Moreover, don't give a horse a big supper if he comes home very tired. Let his supper be light and give him a good breakfast the following morning, when he is rested and will be ready for it.

Another disease resulting from imprudent feeding is "Lymphangitis," or Big Leg. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, this disease is due to heavy feedin' when the horse is idle—though some big beefy horses are predisposed to it. A horse that is "fed high" and worked hard should not have as much food on Sunday, when he is at rest, as upon other days. If big leg appears give the horse a purgative dose—aloes is the usual medicine for a horse—and

### The General Purpose Farm Horse

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

In the last issue of your paper you published an article by Mr. Geo. McKerrrow, of Wisconsin, on the subject of the general purpose farm horse, and invited others to give their opinions on the same.

I may say that so far as my experience and observations have gone, they are in harmony with Mr. McKerrrow's views.

I have raised some very fine general purpose colts from a light mare of about 1050 pounds, and a Clyde sire of compact frame, rather low set and weighing about 1600 pounds. The mare had some hot blood in her.

In breeding in this way, a good deal of the success depends upon the mare. She should be of good conformation herself.

I believe the most satisfactory way to produce such a horse is to use a good sized, compact Standardbred, Coach or Hackney stallion on fair bred mares with a dash or two of cold blood.