

time I got a sling rope and tied a knot in the centre making a circle having about two feet diameter. This was just large enough to slide over his hips down nearly to his hocks the knot being just in front of his hips. Then taking the ends of the rope forward on either side I took one in one hand, the other and the lead strap in the other hand. Then I pulled forward, towards me and spoke to him. He at once backed up and I gave him his head and hung to the ends of the sling. For a few minutes we had a tug-of-war but soon he came to his position. I led him round and round and fifteen minutes later I led him up to the house without the rope.

Sometime afterwards I was forced to use the looped rope again but it was not long before I could discard it for good. With gentleness he was soon induced to shake hands with any foot. He was very fond of biting but for every time he did this he received a good slap in the mouth and in time stopped this bad habit too. The moment the oat-bin lid was raised he was on the job for his share. The handling which the colt received has paid for itself many times over and the time taken was well invested.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

H. C.

Bone Diseases.—V.

Bone Spavin.

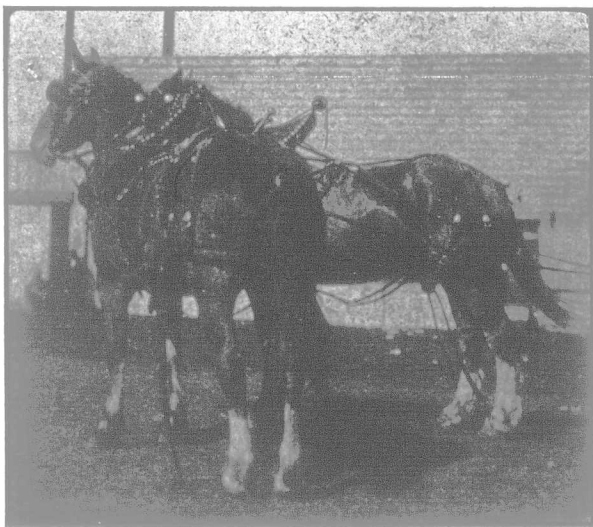
Bone spavin is a very common cause of lameness and unsoundness in horses. The condition is commonly called "a Jack", but why it should be called "Jack" has not been explained. In order to be able to diagnose a bone spavin where lameness is not present, it is necessary to be a good judge of the different conformations met with in hocks, as an apparent roughness that may be a spavin in one horse may be merely an undesirable peculiarity of congenital conformation in another. A bone spavin may be defined as an exostosis (a bony growth) in the hock, usually appearing on the inner and lower portion of the anterior surface of the joint, but may appear on any part.

Causes.—Like ringbone and splint, and other diseases of bone, bone spavin is usually but not always caused by concussion. In this way inflammation is set up in the cancellated tissue of some of the bones of the hock. This extends and involves the compact tissue, an exudate is thrown out, the articular cartilage becomes destroyed, the exudate becomes ossified (converted into bone), and two or more bones become united into one; this process is called ankylosis. It is often claimed that a bone spavin is the result of a kick or other injury, and while it is possible that such may be the case, it is highly improbable. There is usually a congenital or hereditary predisposition and where spavin is present if the progenitors of the horse for several generations on each side can be definitely traced, it will generally be found that some of them more or less remote, suffered from spavin. This predisposition may exist simply in the general conformation of the hock; weak, small hocks being more liable than deep, broad and angular ones. At the same time there is no conformation of hock that can be said to be immune.

Symptoms.—The typical symptoms of bone spavin are characteristic, hence diagnosis is comparatively easy. After standing for a greater or less length of time, the horse, when asked to move,—for instance, when asked to stand over in the stall in the morning—he will tread simply on the toe of the foot of the affected limb, and move quite lame. If backed out of the stall he will step quite short and lame, and go on the toe for a variable distance; in some cases for a few steps only, in others for a few rods or even farther, and then go practically, if not quite sound, and will continue to go sound until allowed to stand for a few minutes or longer, after which he will start off lame again. There is practically no detectable heat or tenderness in the part, but there is usually a noticeable enlargement. In cases of suspected spavin the observer should carefully observe both hocks. If an enlargement of greater or less size can be noticed on the hock of the lame leg (usually on the inner and lower portion of the front of the joint) and there is an absence of a similar enlargement on the other hock, and the characteristic lameness noted be present, there is little difficulty in diagnosis. Unfortunately, however, we do not always observe these definite symptoms. The lameness does not always disappear on exercise, but in most cases it decreases. Neither is there always a well-marked enlargement. In other cases there is a roughness resembling spavin on each hock, which may be congenital conformation and quite within the region of soundness. In some cases lameness is present before any enlargement can be noticed and in some cases, especially when the true hock joint is affected, there is permanent lameness but no enlargement. This is called occult, or blind spavin, and the lameness is incurable and the case is hard to diagnose. It is not unknown for a well-marked spavin of large size to be present without causing lameness at any stage. When spavin lameness is suspected, but cannot be definitely diagnosed, it is good practice to get an assistant to hold the horse on level ground, or on a floor, while the examiner lifts the foot and forcibly flexes the hock for some time, say a minute, and so soon as he releases the limb have the assistant walk the horse straight ahead. This will in most cases cause him to go quite lame, with the characteristic symptoms of spavin lameness, for a few steps. But even this test is not always satisfactory, and, in cases where the typical symptoms are not well marked, the examiner must judge by the general symptoms shown, and in the absence of apparent causes of lameness in other parts of the limb. It will be noticed that while there is little difficulty in diagnosing a typical case of bone spavin, there are many cases in which diagnosis is very difficult and requires a person of experience, who has paid particular attention

to the various conformations of hock, and the different kinds of lameness caused by the disease.

Treatment.—As with other bone diseases treatment should be directed towards hastening on the process of ankylosis, thereby causing a subsidence of inflammation and lameness. In all cases there results a union of two or more bones into one. There are really four articulations in the joint, the uppermost being called the *true hock joint*, where extensive motion exists. When this articulation is involved the lameness is constant. The articulation below this, while somewhat extensive, is simply gliding in motion, the one below this is also gliding, but not extensive, while the lower one—also gliding—has very little motion. Motion in either or both the lower ones may be removed by ankylosis without causing noticeable alteration in action, but ankylosis of the third articulation from below will

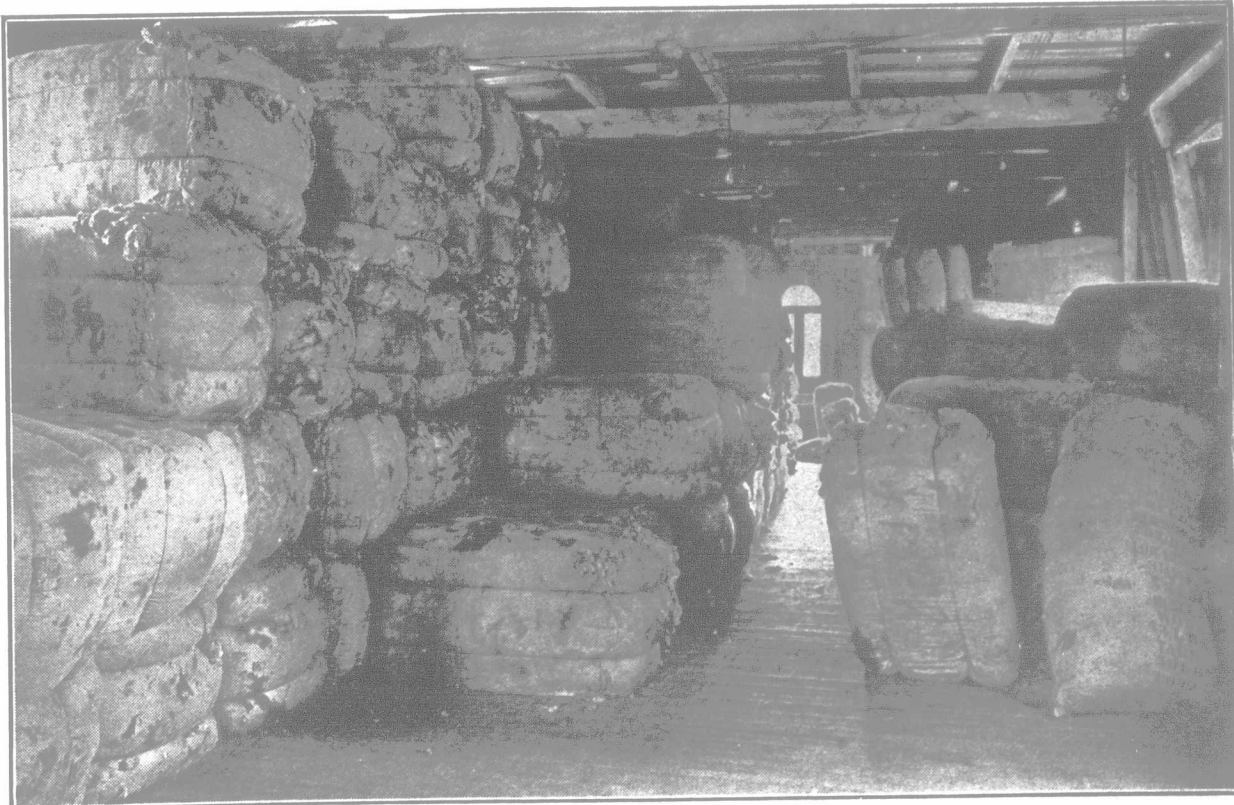


A Winning Fair Team.

cause a stiffness. Fortunately it is usually the lower articulations that are involved. As stated, treatment should be directed towards terminating the process of ankylosis and this can be best done by counter-irritation, caused by blistering, or firing followed by a blister. Unscrupulous or ignorant vendors of medicines claim to be able to remove a spavin and leave the joint in a normal condition, but when we understand that the whole bone is involved and the articular cartilage destroyed, we can readily perceive the fallacy of such claims. In quite young animals repeated blistering will sometimes effect a cure, (when the lameness disappears we claim a cure, we do not expect to remove the enlargement) but in the majority of cases it is necessary to fire and blister. As with ringbone, the lameness does not always cease as soon as the action of the operation ceases, but may continue for some months. If lameness has not disappeared in ten or twelve months after the operation, it is wise to fire again. We meet some cases that cannot be cured, and the prospects of cure cannot be determined by the size or situation of the enlargement; we simply have to operate and await developments.

WHIP.

Ridiculous cartoons appearing in Government advertising do not encourage the farmer either to produce or to have confidence in the authorities. The twentieth-century farmer is neither a baby nor a "Rube."



Alberta Wool in the Government Wool Warehouse, Toronto.

A part of the first consignment of 600,000 lbs. of wool shipped east by the Southern Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association after being graded in that Province. Each individual sack is branded in a manner to insure its identification.

LIVE STOCK.

Alberta Wool Comes East.

Word has been coming in regarding the wool clip in Alberta and everything points to a very prosperous year for the sheep raisers of that province. Recently 1,000,000 pounds of wool had been graded by the government graders and the work was not nearly completed. One rancher had put 20,000 sheep under the shears, yielding him in the neighborhood of 140,000 pounds of wool. There are several other growers who will have almost as large a clip. Co-operative marketing is being practiced by almost all the growers. About 700,000 pounds of wool have been sent from Southern Alberta to Toronto for storage there in the government warehouse. Buyers wishing large quantities may inspect it there and make purchases.

Baby Beef Should be Prime.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The formula given in the issue of August 2 of "The Farmer's Advocate," "Making Baby Beef," should produce a bullock worth while, but it is well to consider one point at least. Many feeders have an idea that baby beef is a standard commercial grade of beef, but such is not the existing condition. The value of baby beef is not because the wealthy are fed on it, but from its value as a bazaar advertisement to hang on a purveyor's shop hooks during a festival or holiday market.

To those who follow the market reports this will be clear, as in the American market "yearlings dry fed and prime" sell at par but not above prime butcher steers. At the present time Canadian feeders do not market many fat yearling cattle, hence, on holiday occasions there is a limited demand at profitable prices for a few baby beefs. Now, as there is no place for the medium-finished yearling, except the feeder department, do not try to market as baby beef anything except prime stuff.

York Co., Ont.

H. STUART CLARRY.

A Visit to Herds and Studs of Great Britain.

This letter to the Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal, Winnipeg, by F. W. Crawford, formerly lecturer in Animal Husbandry at the Manitoba Agricultural College, and latterly having seen two years service on the battle fields of France, will interest many farmers and breeders in Canada.

You are no doubt aware of the fact that practically all shows are suspended until after the war, so one is at a loss to know just what herds and studs are coming to the fore in Britain. I will endeavor to tell you what I saw of them here.

I paid a visit to Doonholm, where I spent several pleasant hours viewing the Aberdeen-Angus herd of Jas. Kennedy. This is the herd from which J. D. McGregor obtained his cow Evmonda (afterwards sold to an American breeder). Last year at the Royal, this herd won 4 firsts, 1 second, the breed championship and the reserve breed championship with only five animals showing. The McGregor cow took the breed championship from the Doonholm herd bull Matador of Bywell, which stood reserve.

I found the entire herd grazing in very rich pastures looking very thrifty and in fine breeding condition. A large number of cows in one field with heifer calves was the first group visited. The cows were a smooth