

the public should have more assurance of being valuable than simply the "say so" of the promoter. In this age, which sanely demands governmental regulation of rates of all kinds, why should there not be governmental regulations of mining stock enterprises?

Two people met recently and were discussing the grain trade. The one thought the Grain Act too favorable to the farmers, and thought it unmitigated that the dealer with one hundred thousand bushels should have to wait until every thousand bushel farmer is supplied. Candidly we cannot see eye to eye with our friend. We believe that the producer has the right to rank ahead of the middleman, who is really a parasite, probably a necessary one, of the trade. Possibly if sifted down it will be found that the farmers of this country, when the land and cash grants, etc., to railways are concerned, have vested rights which entitle them to rank ahead of the dealers.

## HORSE

The hard dry floors under a horse's front feet are often the cause of disorders to the points of the foot. Give the feet a chance to get some moisture during winter.

There are quite a lot of men turning down an opportunity to buy purebred young mares now at from three to six hundred dollars, that will scramble up to pay five and six hundred dollars for a work team in about two months.

Ireland is to take a hand in developing a distinct draft breed from the remaining stock of the old Irish draft horses. All mares of the suitable type that can be secured will be enrolled, and the owners will agree to breed them to stallions selected for the purpose. Clydesdale and Shire blood is to be completely avoided.

Brandon sports are organizing a Manitoba racing circuit to include Brandon, Neepawa, Carberry, Portage, Killarney and Winnipeg. If this is carried through it will only be a matter of time until there will be an agitation to prohibit betting at race tracks, and racing will be said to be dead in Manitoba. Such is the course of the rise, walk and fall of racing in a province or state.

### Standard-bred Prices.

A correspondent asks: "What were the highest and lowest prices that Tom Lawson's standard-bred horses brought at auction last month?"

Comparing Mr. Lawson's own figures for the cost of raising a "youngster" with the prices his horses brought, the Dreamwold stud must be an expensive institution. At the sale referred to he put in 124 head which ranged in price from \$60 to \$9,700. This top price was paid for Dare Devil which was afterwards bought back by Mr. Lawson at an advance of something like \$1,000. Impetuous 2.13 brought \$3,300 and Expectation the dam of Major Delmar 1.59½ brought \$1,350. None of the young stuff bred by Mr. Lawson brought so much as he estimated it cost to raise one; namely \$1,700.

### Winter Care of Pregnant Mares.

Those who have had experience and observation in horse-breeding have noticed that a considerable percentage of the spring colts, especially those born before the mares have had a greater or less time on pasture, are weakly, often not able to stand, and sometimes without sufficient life and ambition to nurse when held up and teat introduced into the mouth. It will also be observed that colts of this description are usually those of dams that have been pampered during the winter months—those that have been well fed, and kept in the stable most of the time without exercise. Of course, there are exceptions, and it is not uncommon for a mare so used to produce a strong foal. Therefore, while in all cases it is not necessary that breeding mares should have regular exercise during pregnancy, it is at least advisable, and has a tendency to have a beneficial action upon the progeny. In countries where the climate is such that horses can run out in the fields with comfort, at least during the day-time, mares will take sufficient voluntary exercise;

but often conditions, for weeks at a time, are such that they cannot run in the fields at all, and if turned out in the barnyard (which, of course, is better than standing in the stable), they will take little exercise, but stand in the most shaded place most of the time to keep as well as possible out of the cold until they are again allowed to go into the stable. The pregnant mare should be well fed and given regular exercise or light work.

The idea that a pregnant mare should not be well fed is not uncommon. A little consideration will teach us differently. The foetus is daily gaining in size. This growth does not take place without nutriment. The nutriment must be supplied by the blood of the dam, and as nutriment is not a natural product of the blood, it is supplied by the food the animal eats, and we can readily see that the pregnant mare has not only her own tissues to nourish, but also those of the growing foetus, which, in the latter months of gestation, is no small matter. Hence, we see that the pregnant mare requires more food than her sister of the same size who is doing the same work. While she requires more food, greater care should be exercised in the selection of food of first-class quality, and it should be of an easily-digested character and fed at regular intervals. All possible care to avoid digestive derangement should be observed. Good hay and oats are the foods to be relied on to produce nourishment, and these should be fed in quantities proportionate to the size of the animal. In addition, she should be given a few raw roots daily, and a feed of bran, with a cupful of linseed meal, at least twice weekly. She should also be given all the good water she will take at least three times daily; still better if it can be arranged so that she can have water at any time. She should have exercise every day. If there be regular light work at which she is kept busy a few hours every day, it is better, but if not, she should be driven a few miles daily. The work or exercise should be light. Work that requires excessive muscular or respiratory effort should be avoided; so also should plunging through deep snow, etc., be avoided if possible. Excessive muscular exercise, plunging, etc., cause violent contractions of abdominal and other muscles which tend to produce abortion. Greater care than usual should be taken to not subject the mare to even moderate exercise shortly after a meal. Saddle work, especially in the latter months of pregnancy, should be avoided, as the mare has sufficient to carry without a man on her back; but where saddle work is given the use of spurs should not be permitted, as pricking an animal in the sides or flanks with spurs causes more or less violent contraction of the abdominal muscles, which is unfavorable. All nervous excitement should be avoided, as also should sights which frighten her; also offensive odors. The odor of blood tends to produce abortion, hence she should not be allowed near a slaughter-house, etc., unless she be well accustomed to such. All operations, should if possible, be avoided, and so should the administration of medicines which tend to abortion, as drastic purgatives. When necessary to give a purgative to a pregnant mare, it is well to give raw linseed oil in preference to aloes, as, while it does not act so promptly, its action is milder, and does not cause the griping and contraction of both voluntary and involuntary muscles. Towards the end of pregnancy still greater care should be taken, and, while exercise up to the very last is advisable, it should be given more carefully and less of it when she becomes somewhat clumsy and inactive on account of size and weight; but many of the most successful cases we have known have been when the mare has been unhitched from the plow or buggy when showing labor pains. We, of course, consider that after the birth of the foal the mare should not be worked for at least two weeks, and if we can allow her to run idle until weaning time, all the better. Many farmers who are breeding one or two mares have sufficient horses to do the work and driving without using the pregnant mares, and, as a consequence, they live in perfect idleness. We repeat that this is a mistake, and that while all horses are the better of a certain amount of exercise, it is better to allow the geldings and nonpregnant mares to live in idleness than the breeding mares.

### Strangling the Oat Trade.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Not long ago two young Englishmen arrived at a Manitoba town and put up at a hotel. The first morning an old fashioned storm was blowing with lots of big snow drifts piled up around, when

one of them was overheard to say to his partner: "Over 'ome, you know, when the agents were after us to come to Manitoba, they talked of nothing but wheat, wheat, wheat, but not a word about the bloomin' snow." So it has been during the sittings and investigations of the Grain Commission—wheat, wheat, wheat, but precious little about the bloomin' oats.

It is surely time that greater attention was paid to the matter of the transportation and sale of oats. They are now fast assuming a commercial importance only secondary to wheat.

As a food for man or beast, oats and the products of oats are unexcelled, but up to the present time the matter of transportation, marketing, and selling the surplus oats grown in the Province have met with very little attention from the grain growers and others interested. There are several drawbacks and restrictions in connection with the oat trade that should receive the fullest attention at the hands of the members of the Grain Growers' Association, when in meeting assembled in February next, at Brandon. In the matter of transportation why should the freight rate on wheat be 10c per cwt. to Fort William and on oats 15c. per cwt.?

Why should the freight rate on oats, we will say from Rapid City to Winnipeg, 150 miles, be as much as the rate to Fort William, 450 miles further?

In the matter of marketing, why should not the city of Winnipeg, which is now the chief distributing center for supplying the lumber and tie camps, railway construction camps, oat meal mills, as well as the large quantity required by the city itself, be made an order point for oats.

In the matter of selling why should the grain grower and small dealer have to pay one cent per bushel to the grain dealers and commission men of Winnipeg for selling their oats? One cent a bushel for selling wheat is surely high enough, but the price of a bushel of wheat is more than equal to the price of two bushels of oats. This is a most unreasonable tax and one in which the grain growers and small dealers of this country are made to pay tribute to Caesar with a vengeance. These are all simple questions but their importance is indisputable.

It is now the duty of the Grain Growers Association and all persons interested, to pass strong resolutions and do all in their power in order that these drawbacks and restrictions, which so greatly hamper the oat trade, may be speedily removed.

Man.

"OATCROP."

### Big Ranch Deal.

The sale is reported of the large ranch horses and cattle formerly owned by Samuel Spencer, on the Milk River, Alta. The purchasers are John Spencer, W. A. Taylor, Milk River, and A. E. Philp, Brandon. This is one of the largest agricultural transactions put through in the province, involving a consideration of about a half million dollars. The new owners now have in the neighborhood of 20,000 cattle.

## STOCK

### Notable English Shorthorns of 1906.

The time comes round once more for these notes on the English show season. In the one just drawing to a close many stirring events have taken place in the Shorthorn world. The most sanguine partisans of the breed could scarcely hope for the boom in prices, which has been conspicuous during the last few years, to continue, and it would have been no surprise had a reaction set in. Such, however, has not been the case; but instead there has been a marked increase in prices, and more than one record has been broken. The trade with the Argentine is, of course, mainly responsible for this, and the purse of the wealthy "estanciero" seems as far from being exhausted as ever.

The spring sales at Perth opened with a flourish of trumpets, when the record-breaking price of 1,500 gs. was paid for a yearling bull. This was Broadhooks Champion, a red, bred in the famous Beaufort Castle herd, and Mr. F. Miller, for Senor Cobo, the purchaser. Birmingham followed in the wake, and here trade was brisker than ever, 850 gs. being the top price, but three-figure sales were as quick as blackberries in autumn, and few, if any, animals failed to change hands. At both the aforesaid sales there were more animals forward, and the average showed a striking increase. At Perth it more than doubled the previous year.