

THE HORSE.

The Horse's Coat.

The comfort and general appearance of a horse is greatly influenced by his coat. A well-groomed horse, like a well-groomed man or woman, is "pleasant to look upon." The coat of a horse, to a great extent, gives evidence of care or neglect. While a nice, fine, silky, glossy coat adds much to the general appearance of a horse, it requires a great deal of attention to keep it thus, especially during the late fall and winter months. Some horses naturally have shorter and finer coats than others, and, while good-breeding has some influence in this respect, we frequently notice a vast difference in animals of the same breeding. Why this is we cannot determine, and simply are compelled to accept it as a fact. The age of an animal has an influence; we notice that it is usually not possible to keep the coats of quite young or very old animals in as fine a condition as those of animals between adult-hood and old age. Horses under five or over twenty years do not usually give the same returns for care and attention, as regards coat, as do those between these ages. In the former case it may be that the more or less general fevered state of the system consequent upon dentition has an influence upon the coat, and in the latter case, probably we are justified in assuming that the general vitality of the animal is more or less impaired, and the coat, as well as other parts of the anatomy, evidence the decrease of vitality.

We frequently hear people say that they do not like grey or white horses, because they are so hard to keep clean. A grey horse is no harder to keep clean than one of a dark color, but stains or dirt show more plainly, and it requires more attention to make him "look clean." We often notice, when a team consists of a grey and a dark-colored horse, and when care is taken to keep them looking well, that on close examination the grey is found to have a finer, shorter and cleaner coat than his mate, from the fact that stains, etc., show so plainly on him that he receives more grooming.

During the summer months there is little trouble experienced in keeping a horse's coat nice, but as the weather becomes colder in the fall nature demands that the horse be clothed accordingly, and there is a strong tendency to growth of hair, and we must say that the coat loses its gloss in proportion to the length of hair. In order, then, that we may retain the desired gloss, we must take what measures we can to prevent this growth. In order to do this we must, in addition to thorough and regular grooming, avoid unnecessary exposure, and when exposure is necessary provide artificial protection when the animal is not in motion. As regards grooming, a horse should be thoroughly groomed twice daily; not merely the external surface of the coat brushed and rubbed, but the hair thoroughly agitated to the roots by working the comb or brush both with and against the grain of the hair, in order to remove dust, dandruff, etc., and thereby tend to prevent any occlusion of the openings of the ducts of the sweat glands and keep the coat free from dust. Whenever a horse has been driven, ridden or worked hard enough to cause perspiration, it would be well to rub him until dry. This is the manner in which race horses are used, and a well-cared-for race horse certainly presents a perfect coat. This, however, is not practicable in the ordinary stable. It would require more help than the ordinary horse-owner can afford or is willing to provide. The next best thing to do is to clothe him warmly, place him in a comfortable stall free from drafts, and when the blanket has become moist with perspiration, remove it and supply a dry one. When he is thoroughly dry a good grooming will remove the dried perspiration, free the matted hair and remove all dust and dirt. Of course, horses must not be left out in the fields or paddocks during the nights when the weather is liable to be cold, if we wish to preserve short coats. The advisability of wearing clothing in the stable is open to discussion, but if the stable be not very comfortable we think that blankets should be worn, and even in warm stables light clothing should be provided, as it tends to prevent dust and dirt entering the coat. In all cases in cold weather, when the animal is not in action, whether standing in the stable or outside in harness, his body should be clothed sufficiently to protect him from the wind and cold, and when it is necessary to drive or work a horse in a rain or snow storm, it is better that he be clothed with a water-proof covering in order to keep the skin dry and warm. Cold and dampness stimulate the growth of hair, hence, when we are particular about the coat we must, as far as possible, avoid this stimulation. When horses are being used for slow work not demanding sufficient exertion to tend to

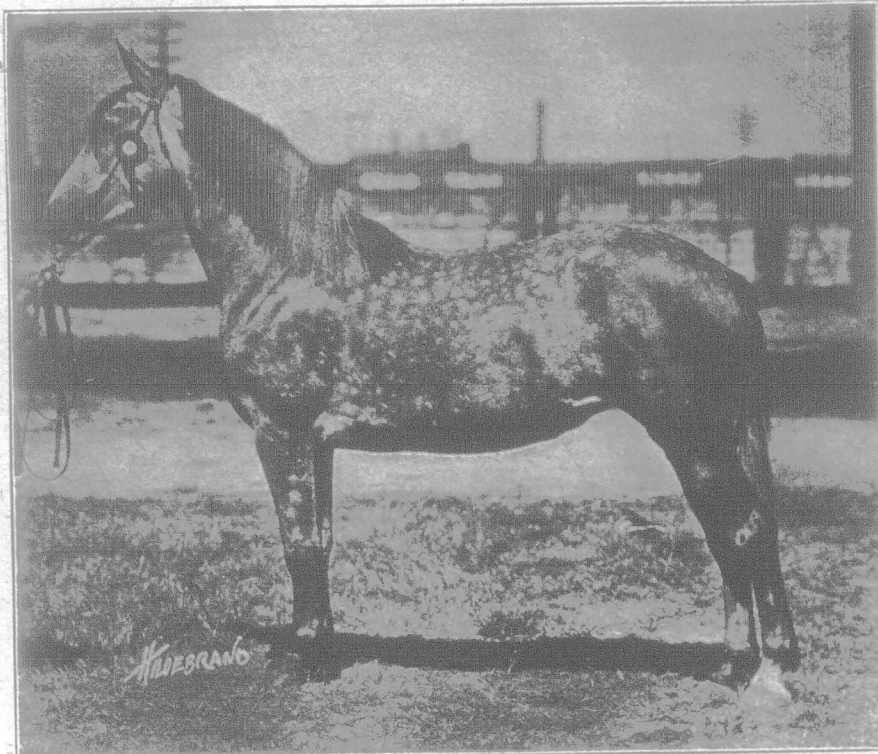
perspiration, in very cold, though dry, weather, it is wise to wear blankets under the harness to protect the skin.

In most cases, where reasonable care is exercised on the lines above mentioned, we will succeed in maintaining a short, sleek coat on our horses, but there are exceptions. As stated, "age has an influence," and there are some individuals that for some unaccountable reason or predisposition will grow a long coat, notwithstanding the most careful attention. The writer knew of a horse some years ago that during the summer seasons had an ordinary coat that each fall, despite all possible care and attention, would grow long and curl until it strongly resembled the coat of a well-cared-for water spaniel. Such cases are very rare, and all that can be done, if a short coat is insisted upon, is clip the animal.

WHIP.

LIVE STOCK.

Charles McCurdy, Manager of the Live-Stock Department, of the U. F. O. Co-operative Co., speaking at the U. F. O. convention, believed that the cattle industry was one where production could be lessened, while at the same time the supply would be increased. He referred to the loss through the marketing of inferior stock. If farmers would "swat the scrub," their returns would be greatly increased, said Mr. McCurdy. An instance was cited where twenty-two cattle sold for more than another man's forty of the same age. This was due entirely to the poor quality of the latter. Mr. McCurdy stated that the Ontario cattle trade should net the farmers another million dollars, if the quality were improved. He advised selling the steers of the dairy breeds as veal, as they would return a better



First-prize Three-year-old General Purpose Filly and Champion at Toronto, 1919.

revenue that way than if held over as stockers or feeders. Dehorning of cattle was advised, as they would bring from 50 cents to a dollar more than horned cattle.

During the eleven months ending November 30 of the present year, Canada exported live stock valued at \$47,223,613. Exports of cattle were valued at \$43,103,311, exports of calves at \$1,542,634, exports of sheep at \$1,859,686, and exports of hogs at \$717,982. The revenue from this source during the eleven months, was \$23,193,757 in excess of the revenue from the same source during the entire calendar year 1918.

Watch the stock closely for lice. Grain is too high priced to feed vermin. One part hellebore to four parts cement dusted on the backs of cattle will smother the parasites. Once the pests get a start in a herd they are rather hard to control.

Many fall pigs do not winter well. If the pen is too warm they may cripple, and if it is too cold they may lose the use of their legs. Dryness and ventilation in the pens are two essentials for the raising of thrifty fall pigs.

Those ringworm spots on the cattle are not only unsightly, but the parasite is detrimental to the animals' thriftiness. Paint the spots with iodine. It may require several applications to secure a complete cure.

Don't forget that pigs require mineral matter. Ashes, charcoal, sods, sulphuric, etc., should be fed; in fact, the first three are necessary materials in the ration.

Those warts on the calves may be removed by applying caustic potash or butter of antimony. Be careful in applying these materials.

The average price of hogs at Toronto in 1918 was \$19.21 per cwt. The 1919 average was \$19.60, or 40 cents higher than the previous year.

Keep the pig pen dry. A damp bed tends to cause crippling and unthriftiness. Raising the bed off the cement floor is a good practice.

Make what feeds you have on hand as palatable as possible. A considerable quantity of cut straw can be fed with silage or roots.

The grain ration for brood sows and growing pigs can be kept at the minimum by feeding mangels and clover or alfalfa hay.

Start the New Year with a firm determination to improve the herds and flocks. The best are not beyond improvement.

Better sires mean better herds.

British Live-Stock Items.

To stimulate publicity propaganda in Canada the English Shire Horse Society has allocated £100 to the Canadian Shire Horse Society. The latter body has promised £30 towards the same scheme. Prizes of 10, 7 and 3 guineas are to be offered at three Canadian shows for mares and geldings sired by a registered Shire stallion. Medals will be offered for mares and stallions at Toronto (National), Calgary and Edmonton exhibitions. Similar awards are to be given at Illinois, Iowa, and the Chicago International shows. The English S. H. S. has allocated £2,755 for its next spring show at Islington, London, and £100 to the Royal Show at Darlington. It costs £2,000 to print and publish the annual Stud Book of this breed, which is in possession of the largest number of members composing any one breed society in the world—not even America excluded. It numbers close on 93,000 members!

There is a bit of rumpus in English Hackney horse breeding circles against the embargo put up by Washington against the import of geldings into America. The Hackney Society, England, are desirous of getting the ban lifted. It looks like coming off. It would be a serious blow to English Hackney breeding if the embargo remained.

To Canada 101 export certificates for Shorthorns have lately been granted by the English Shorthorn Society.

Hildebrand Harmsworth, at Freshwater, Shipley, Sussex, has a milking Shorthorn, Veracity, which has done 51,557 lbs. of milk in five years. She is milked twice a day only, and has never been "forced."

Hereford cattle are selling well in England. Some late sales made the following averages: Lawton Moore's 152 head, £120 apiece; W. H. Jones' 12 head, £109 each; Evesbatch 142 head, £81 8s.; Paunton 64 head, £76 11s.; and J. Prosser 101 head, £64 10s.

In the heart of Hereford a most successful Holstein sale has been held, E. W. Langford realizing £15,310 for 85 head, or an average of £180 apiece. A 27-months-old heifer made 600 guineas, and her dam realized 500 guineas. Twin heifer calves made 400 guineas each.

But Scotland—above all places—holds the record for Holstein sales. One was held there on November 4, on the farm of Hugh Brown, at Colton Mains, Dunfermline. For 96 head £53,072 5s. was realized. The 89 females made £551 each, and seven males £576 each. Some 33 heifers by the imported bull, Colton Vic Bram, fetched £763 6s. 4d. each, and 11 by another imported bull, Terling Vic Bertus, made £495 8s. 2d. each. Top price was 2,700 guineas, paid for an imported stock bull, Golf Botermijn. This is the greatest private sale ever held in Great Britain—Shorthorn boom days notwithstanding.

Not to be outdone, the milking Shorthorn of England continues to mark steady progress. Its prices are appreciating visibly month by month, and Canadians will find it bad to buy, i. e., if they want to do so. Robert L. Mond, the chemical magnate, keeps a herd at Seven Oaks, Kent, and 12 of his bulls sold recently averaged £225 15s. each, while 35 cows and heifers made £149 8s. 9d. each. His brother, Sir Alfred Mond, paid 1,000 guineas for the bull Coombe Bank Baron, a son of Barrington, out of Fair Rosamond, a cow with 11,725 lbs. of milk to her record at one lactation. She herself sold for 200 guineas, but she is now nine years old. Lord Wimborne secured Linda's Charm, a second-prize winner at the Royal Cardiff Show, for 260 guineas—a rare bargain. She also is nine years old. At a sale in Westmorland (C. J. Tongs) the two-year-old bull, Thornby Golden Rod, made 600 guineas, and Tong got £4,298 or £110 each, for his 39 sold. Turning to non-pedigreed cows, in a sale at Kendal they made such prices as £115, £113, £107 and so on. Milk recorded, non-pedigreed, Shorthorn-bred cows are readily making £100, and dairy-bred young bulls of Shorthorn character, fetch £80 and £90 in Cumberland markets and fairs.

To Canada and the United States, in 1919, some 690 Shropshire sheep have been exported. In 1918, the total was 878; in 1917, 471; in 1916, 296; in 1915, 80; in 1914, 277; in 1913, 427; in 1912, 61; in 1911, 783; and in 1910, 968. The breed seems to be "coming back!"

To Canadian light horse breeders—hunter-bred horses, I mean—the English National Light Horse Breeding Society will offer at certain shows three silver medals for the best Thoroughbred (flat racing) stallions and the best registered hunter sires, respectively.

During 1919, in Scottish sales, 1,748 Aberdeen-