

## THE HORSE.

### First Canadian Shipment of Percherons To England.

Canada has long been an importer of horses from across the Atlantic, but now the tables have turned and a large consignment of Canadian-bred horses have been exported to England. This marks a new era in the horse industry of Canada. To Geo. Lane, of Alberta, belongs the honor of consigning the first shipment of pure-bred Percherons to the Old Country. It consisted of one stallion and twenty-six mares and fillies.

The Percheron stud of Mr. Lane was the first to be established in Canada. It was started in 1898 with an importation from the United States of thirty pure-bred mares and stallions. It is of special significance that several of the mares of the original importation made twenty years ago, are still in the stud. One of them, now twenty-three years old, is nursing a fine foal this year.

The value of the very best breeding stock available for a foundation was ever appreciated by the owner of this stud, and neither pains nor money was spared to obtain the best stallions.

A catalogue giving the description and pedigrees of each animal in the consignment has been prepared by Mr. Lane.

The stallion is the choice black, three-year-old Newport-5058, by Halifax and out of Genestine (imp.)-15431-. He weighs 1,925 pounds and is a fine big breedy fellow with quality, substance and character. One of the mares is six years old, two are five years, six are four years, eleven are three years, and six are two years of age. Seven of the mares are sired by Halifax (imp.) [1017] (75867), six by Americain (imp.) [127] (63422), four by Garou (imp.) [881] (69734), one by Inkerman (imp.) [1571] (82715), six by Pinson (imp.) [2533] (63122), and two by Epatant (imp.) [6] (63258).

All but the two-year-olds are bred, six to Icare (imp.) [1573] (82011), five to Garou, four to Halifax, two to Americain, one to Pinson, and two to Marvel, a four-year-old son of Halifax. The stallions Americain, Epatant and Garou appear in the pedigrees as grandsires on the dam's side of several of the mares and fillies in the shipment. These few facts in regard to the breeding of the animals mark the whole shipment as particularly Canadian in blood. They also bring out the choice breeding of the animals Mr. Lane has selected to pave the way for Canadian pure-bred draft horses in a new market, which has possibilities limited only by the number of horses of similar quality which we can supply.

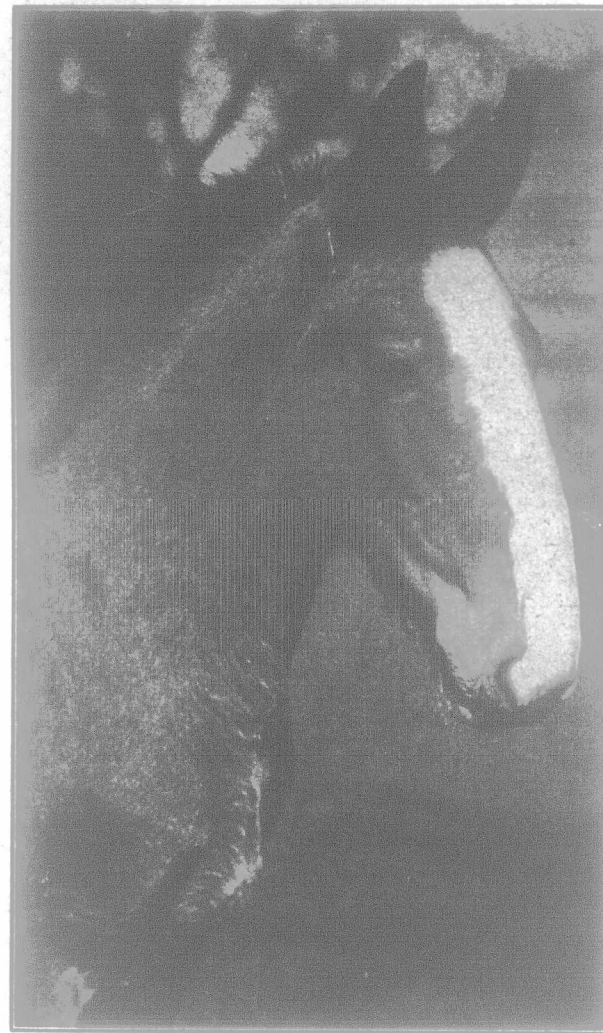
### Wintering Idle Horses.

As the average farmer has horses for which he has little or no work during the winter season, the economical feeding and care of these animals becomes a matter of importance. This applies particularly at present, when all marketable feed stuffs command such a high price. The owner naturally wishes to winter them as cheaply as possible, and at the same time not too greatly reduce them in flesh and vitality. They should be kept in such condition that a little extra feed and care when spring is approaching will fit them for the work they will be expected to do. Idle horses can be wintered on little marketable feed, but when too much economy is exercised we find that they are in such a weak condition in the spring that they are unable to do a fair day's work, and what was saved in feed during the winter will be more than lost in inability to work during the busy season in the spring; hence the object is to winter as cheaply as possible without sacrificing the horse's strength and vitality to too great a degree.

In the first place, comfortable quarters are essential. We must disabuse our minds of any truth in the old idea that "exposing colts and idle horses to inclement weather makes them tough and hardy." Regular exercise is necessary, and this is usually given by allowing the horses to run out in the yard or paddock for a few hours daily, when the weather is not too cold or stormy. If this exercise could be given in a closed paddock or yard, where they would be sheltered from wind and cold, it would be better, but in most cases this is impracticable, as the erection of such would be too costly. At the same time, while daily exercise is advisable, it is better to forego it than to turn the animals out in a storm, or in excessively cold weather. The effects of such does more to reduce the animals' conditions and vigor than can be compensated for by considerable food. Where large box stalls can be supplied it will be noticed that the horses take considerable exercise, but in most cases there is not sufficient stable room to allow a box stall for each animal, and it is generally unsafe to have two or more in the same stall, unless they are very agreeable and the box quite large. Where help is plentiful and time will allow, it is found better to exercise the horses in harness or under saddle, as in such cases we know that they get a certain amount

of exercise, while if turned out they take little or much, according to circumstances. Exercise is necessary to maintain muscular and respiratory tone. Where muscular inactivity is allowed for a continued period, the respiratory system becomes weak, and the muscles become soft and lack tone, hence the animal requires to be very carefully used for a considerable time after he is put to work again. While on the other hand, when a moderate amount of exercise is regularly given, the organs mentioned do not lose their power, but are always in condition to perform at least a reasonable amount of labor without tiring.

The most economical method of feeding will depend largely upon individual circumstances and the state of the market. If hay be plentiful and of a reasonable price and grain be high, it will pay to feed considerable hay and but little grain. If the markets be reversed, it would be found economical to feed more grain and less hay, the want of hay being compensated for by feeding good straw or other roughage of good quality. A mixture of cut hay and cut straw or wheat chaff, or straw or chaff alone, mixed with pulped roots, or a small allowance of silage of good quality, or both, answers very well for roughage. While horses will keep in fair condition on this kind of feed alone, we do not think it wise to withhold grain altogether. At least one fair feed of oats should be given daily. Other grain may be given instead, but none gives as good results for horse feeding as oats. They contain ingredients for building up bone and muscle that are not contained in like quantities in any other grain. The oats may be fed as a separate meal, either whole or crushed. We have found that better results are obtained when the oats



An Intelligent-Looking Head.

are crushed, which may be mixed with the coarse feed, or fed separate. A sufficient quantity of this feed should be given to prevent the horses losing flesh. It must be understood that all food given must be of at least fair quality. If silage is being fed, nothing less than that of first-class quality can be tolerated, or fed with reasonable safety. The feeding of dusty, musty or poorly-saved feed of any kind should be avoided. The digestive organs of the horse are probably more sensitive and delicate than those of other classes of farm stock, and they usually revolt against such usage. A very large percentage of the cases of heaves in horses can be traced to the consumption of food of poor quality. Knowing this we can readily appreciate the folly of feeding our horses on food that has little market value, not on account of its kind but by reason of its quality. It goes without saying that there must be a regular supply of water of good quality in all cases. It must also be remembered that when changing the nature of the feed the change must be made gradually. As spring approaches the exercise given should be gradually increased, which should be done in harness, saddle or on the halter, in order that it may be regulated, and at the same time the grain ration should be increased in proportion to the amount of exercise given.

If this be intelligently done the horses will be in a fit condition to do a fair day's work as soon as the ground is fit, but if these precautions be neglected, the fitting will have to be done when time is valuable, as if fitting be neglected and a horse that is not fit be asked to do a full day's work, it is probable that a period of enforced idleness will be the result when time is very valuable.

WHIP.

## LIVE STOCK.

Entries for the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, 1918, close on November 20. Don't delay sending in your entry until the last day.

At the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, clover hay is fed in racks to the brood sows. This roughage is relished by the sows and results in a saving of grain.

Roots are an excellent feed for calves, in fact for all classes of stock. Not only is the greater portion of the dry matter content of roots digestible, but they have a beneficial effect upon the animal system.

A prominent stockman when asked recently for his opinion regarding the future outlook of the cattle market replied: "There undoubtedly will be a weakening in the present price, but I cannot see how prices for good breeding stock and finished cattle can drop very low for a number of years to come."

The first annual sale of [milking] Shorthorns held by C. A. Otis, Willowvale, Ohio, was a decided success. Thirty-one head brought a total of \$32,550. A show heifer, Lady of the Glen, topped the sale at \$5,000. Rose Clyde, a four-year-old cow, was purchased by R. R. Wheaton, Thorndale, Ont., for the sum of \$2,650.

At time of writing the hog market has weakened. This is a customary occurrence at this season of the year when a large number of hogs are ready for the market. If the price drops to the point where the feeder is not given a reasonable wage and a fair profit, a decrease in the number of brood sows kept may be expected.

Aberdeen-Angus cattle are bringing high prices. At a sale recently held in Iowa, 65 head averaged \$423. Several of the females went over the \$1,000 mark, and the three-year-old bull, Black Cap Tomus, realized \$2,025. At Stoner & Sons' sale of Angus cattle, Iowa, 50 head averaged \$571, with Black Cap Lassie 16th topping the sale at \$2,100.

When prices of live stock begin to drop it sometimes has a panicky effect upon stockmen, with the result that unfinished animals are rushed to market resulting in the supply exceeding the demand. This condition tends to further weaken the market. Some of the lighter hogs and cattle might advisedly be carried on for a few weeks. Prices are frequently on the upward trend by the end of the year.

### Clean And Disinfect The Stables.

In a very short time the live stock will be placed in winter quarters, where they will be more or less confined for the next six months or more. When a number of animals are housed together in quarters where the ventilation is none too good, there is more or less danger of the animals contracting some form of disease, or if one animal is infected the infection may spread rapidly. It is advisable to take precautionary care regarding the housing of the stock, and to endeavor to prevent disease germs or vermin attacking the cattle by thoroughly disinfecting the stables in the fall. The stable should be thoroughly gone over with the broom and all cobwebs and dirt swept down from the ceiling and walls. A coating of lime, to which some disinfectant has been added, should then be applied. The lime not only brightens the stable, but it is a cleansing material itself. A disinfectant material used in the lime will destroy disease germs and vermin which may be lurking in cracks and crevices about the stable. When applying the material, care should be taken that the entire surface requiring to be disinfected is covered, and that a quantity of the solution is forced into the cracks and crevices of the walls and partitions. A good spray pump is possibly the best means of applying the material, and enables the work to be done in the minimum of time. It is not enough to merely whiten or cover the walls, but the entire interior of the stable should be saturated in order that no part may escape treatment. The water troughs and feed mangers should also be cleaned out thoroughly and disinfected before the stock is stabled. When a number of animals are confined in the one building there is much more danger of infection than when they are on the open pasture.

George W. Pope, Chief of the Quarantine Division, Bureau of Animal Husbandry, Washington, in commenting on the disinfecting of stables states: "In the work of disinfection nature has provided man with a most valuable ally—sunlight. It is well known that the direct rays of the sun are inimical to many forms of bacteria, in some cases destroying them and in other cases lessening their influence. Thus the importance of well-lighted stables is evident. The dark and sunless building is a favorable breeding place for bacteria, and the structure which admits the greatest amount of sunlight will be the least favorable for their development. However, in the practical work of disinfection we depend upon certain drugs which have power to destroy the organisms of disease." Mr. Pope contends that as many disinfecting agents for the destruction of bacteria are likewise poisonous to animals and man, care must be taken in the selection and preparation of the disinfectant. It is essential when deciding upon an agent to select one having a known germicidal strength, properties of solubility, and at the same time possessing a reasonable amount of safety to animals and man. Some of the coal-tar products will fill these require-