

In connection with the transportation difficulties it is interesting to note that the action of the business men of the country is exactly in line with that of the farmers in their annual conventions, and with all classes working to one desired end there is more hope than even before that the service which the public has a right to expect of the railway companies will be forthcoming.

Velocity, a horse owned by Mrs. H. O. Jackson, won the English classic race—City and Suburban, at Epsom on the 24th ultimo. The race is for three-year-olds and upwards, and the first horse received two thousand sovereigns. The course is a mile and a quarter in length.

HORSE

The Prevention and Care of Sore Shoulders.

When the rush of work is on and hot days come in seeding time, the shoulders are often a source of trouble and annoyance. Especially is this the case with horses that have been fed high and not worked during winter; their muscles being soft and flabby it is a very easy matter for galled shoulders to supervene.

The use of collars with damp, dirty linings is fertile in producing sores. Too big, badly-fitting collars are equally disastrous. There is too much friction with them, and horses with hard skins are soon in trouble, while the more tender cannot escape. Dirt on the lining of the collar should never be tolerated; such should be cleaned and brushed frequently, and lumps of hair and other matter should never be allowed to form. At dinner time and in the night, the collars should be taken off and dried thoroughly. Sunshine is one of the best of all means of drying them, as the warmth and wind dry and sweeten them completely. Wet weather is more in favor of sore shoulders, as everything is sticky then, and the draft is harder; this contributes to the ailment. Some horsemen soak the collars thoroughly, especially the leather faced ones, and put on the horse when wet so that it may take the shape and form of the shoulder, and retain it when dry.

As to remedies, there are many, but rest and a discontinuance of work must be associated with them all. Healing is often deceptive; a scab is formed, and the sore dries up. It appears hard and so sound that a venture is made to resume work, but before proceeding far the surface comes off. A new wound is found beneath, and the idleness and mending have all to be gone through again. This is distressing both to horse and owner, and a great loss, too, as an incapable horse or two in the busy season is a serious hindrance in all cases. Sugar of lead is one of the quickest to form a hard surface and make believe all is well again, but it is most deceptive, as its healing quickly is not real or lasting, and should not be counted on. Washing the shoulders with strong salt water is a painful way of treating a wound, but if the skin is not actually broken this often hardens it sufficiently to avoid breakage, but once that occurs, we know of no better treatment than to clean the sore. Keep the horse idle, prevent rubbing, and dress daily with a lotion composed of solution of sulphate of zinc 1 oz., glycerine 3 oz., solution of subacetate of lead 1 oz., water 1½ pints.

A very useful salve is made of tannic acid, iodoform and clean lard, one of each of the former to eight or ten of lard. This may be applied if the skin shows slight signs of chafing and the animal has to be kept at work. A very common form of shoulder trouble is that taking the shape of a large swelling at or near the point of the shoulder, the contents of which, when an opening is made, are found to be a thin, bloody colored fluid of which if the incision is not kept open there will be more secreted, filling up the cavity. In these swellings, the result of muscle bruises, there is no pus formation unless the wound is infected when opened. The lining of the cavity is a secreting membrane and in order to prevent re-filling of the cavity, it should be packed with oakum on which may be smeared some red iodide of mercury ointment (1 to 8). If the swelling is not opened and the fluid is allowed to escape, it may be painful, absorbed and then leave a small, hard, fibrous deposit which will be a constant source of irritation when a

collar is worn. If the trouble is allowed to go on, with the result, a small fibroid tumor, surgical interference will be needed before the shoulder can be made sound and fit for steady work.

Defining Horse Classes at Fairs by the Weight.

A short time ago occasion arose to revise the prize list of one of Manitoba's leading fairs, and amongst other things the horse classes received attention, some revision of which was of a forward character the balance of a retrogressive kind. The heavy draft class was first scanned and a move made; viz, the lowering of the minimum weight from sixteen to fifteen hundred pounds, with which we do not agree. It can be stated with little fear of contradiction that at the average country fair, few real drafters are shown. The average farm horse coming forward in our show-rings is of the agricultural class, yet while that is so it is not a reason for lowering the standard of the heavy draft class. The market requirements must be considered and the call for heavy drafters is for horses weighing over 1,600 lbs. In fact, at the International two classes are made, for horses over 1,750 and under that weight. All horsemen know that the line between the two classes, heavy draft and agricultural, is not a hard and fast one to be delineated by five or ten pounds on a scale beam, yet not one will be prepared to claim that mature horses in normal working condition weighing less than sixteen hundred are entitled to be termed heavy draft horses. Then came the consideration of the agricultural class, and it was hemmed in by the new ruling in a way that does not augur well for that society's next show, for when handling that *bete noir* of all horsemen, the general purpose class, the maximum for which was placed at 1,350 pounds, only one hundred and fifty pounds weight were allowed to come and go on for the greatest of all at our country fairs; viz, the agricultural class. If the weight classification is to be followed, and it seems in default of any better guide that it should be, then the maximum and the minimum for the agricultural class should be 1,600 and 1,250

rather than the big upstanding fellow which for lack of a little quality, action or fitting, or necessity for his use at farm work, had failed to make the carriage class, the latter far the better horse, one that would bring more money on the market and yet discriminated against in favor of the farm chunk for which no society should even offer a prize, as it represents one of two things—either lack of knowledge of the horse market requirements or a want of information on the science and art of breeding horses.

Thoroughbred and Coach Might be Used.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

When I wrote my letter of March 6th, to which Mr. R. M. Dale takes exception in your issue of 3rd ultimo, of breeding to the French Coach, in advising I looked at the matter from a business standpoint, presuming that a man with a "bunch of light mares" of possibly indiscriminate breeding would like a horse which he could depend upon to throw size, a close uniformity in make and color, and at the same time give quality, quick sellers in fact. This he can be reasonably sure of with the French Coach, those missing the fancy mark being still big enough for the land. That he owes his prepotency in transmitting these traits of conformation for which he has been bred to his long lines of Thoroughbred blood goes without saying. At the same time I think most horsemen will agree with me that to breed a bunch of such mares to a Thoroughbred stallion would in all probability result in quality without substance, for which there is only a limited market and that a poor one, and the breeder would be forced to put a cold cross on top eventually to get size. It is this method of breeding which has done more harm to the cause of the Thoroughbred in this country than anything else. Had Mr. Dale suggested that the farmer should breed his neatest and most active farm mares, weighing about 1,300 lbs. to a Thoroughbred, *instead of a Clyde* as is usually done, and have every prospect of getting a much higher price for the produce, I should have heartily endorsed him. Or had the enquirer stated he had big upstanding Coach mares I should have suggested a Thoroughbred, but on a bunch of light mares I'm afraid the result from a commercial point of view would be a failure.

G. E. GODDARD.
Bow River Horse Ranch, Alta.

Turning to Grass at Night.

F. H. S., writing from Lanigan, Sask., would like some suggestions as to the wisdom of turning work horses out to grass at nights instead of keeping them stabled and fed on hay.

There are differences of opinion upon this question and a good deal depends upon other things. Certain it is that as far as the spending a hot summer night goes, horses will rest and stretch better out in the field than they will in a hot stable, but if a horse is hungry and the pasture short he may have to spend too much of his time looking for food. And if the pasture is large more time may be lost in getting the horses up than would offset the good the grass does them. A certain amount of grass is one of the best tonics a horse can get. It cools his blood, tones his system and improves his appetite. The ideal system would be to find the horses grain and a little hay at quitting time, then let them out into a good pasture for the night. We know a lot of "good farmers" will not agree with this as there is a growing tendency among successful farmers to keep their horses in, but in this the convenience of the teamsters is consulted before the health of the horses. A team cannot be got ready so easily in the morning if the horses have to be brought in from the field as they can when kept up, and it is also the case that they get soft if they get much grass. They even get so soft that they are lazy, but this is generally due to letting them have all grass and irregular work. In any case we would advise letting horses to grass rather than to keep them up without grain.

Concrete Floors for Horses.

A reader in northern Manitoba writes as follows:

"I am building a horse stable (stone basement) and should like to have a cement floor. As I have had no experience with cement for that purpose in this country, I should like to know how the drainage is worked. I mean the outlet in frosty

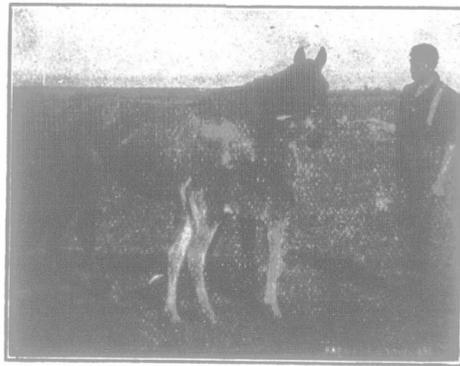


Photo by W. O. Eber, Moffat.
ONE OF THE EARLY FOALS.
John Turnbull's, Moffat, Sask.

pounds respectively, and as the heavy draft class is not likely to be filled, three prizes might be offered there and five in the agricultural class. When the general purpose class was reached, the chairman explained that a standard of height was to be set to prevent the awarding of prizes to undersized agricultural horses, what the market terms "farm chunks." The height settled upon was 15.2, although 16 hands was first suggested—rather too high—and if considered in connection with the weight, requirements might call for rather a stilted looking animal. Several years ago this paper laid down the premises that the general purpose horse *per se*, might be considered as the result of an attempt to breed a coach, carriage horse or large roadster, that had not been entirely successful. Now it is comparatively rare to find a horse (mature mare or gelding) of the carriage type weighing 1,200 lbs. or over, even 15.2 or 16 hands horses; hence we contend that the minimum weight limit for the agricultural horse was put too high at 1,350 pounds and that a better classification would have been heavy drafters 1,600 pounds and up; agricultural class, over 1,250 pounds and under 1,600 pounds; general purpose horses under 1,250 pounds and 15.2 or 16 hands over. In the past, the fair classification of a st. fancy or ignorance on the part of the judges has permitted the awarding of prizes to heavy drafters, little under-sized, ill-bred, hairy-backed, scanty horses—diminutive drafters