

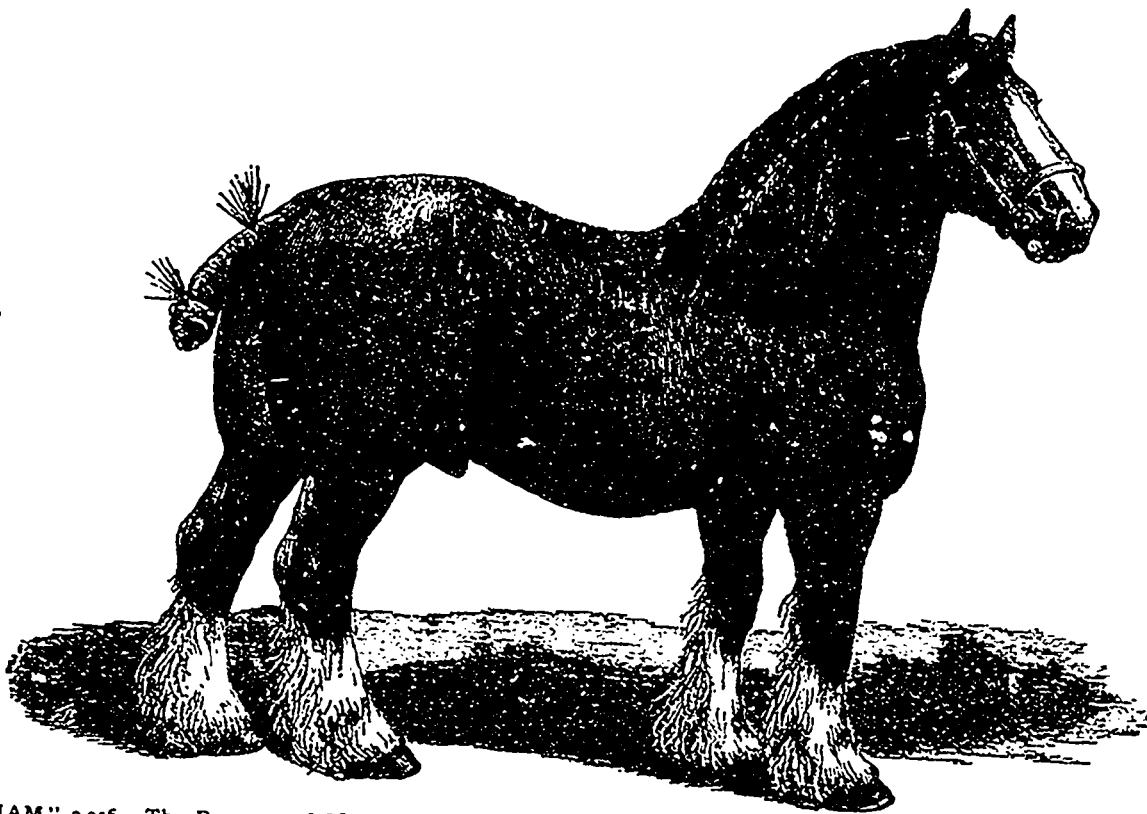
CANADIAN BREEDER

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"PRINCE WILLIAM" 3956. The Property of Mr. John Rowell, Bury, Huntingdon. Bred by Mr. W. H. Potter, Lockington Grounds, Derby. Winner of the Elsenham 100-Guinea Challenge Cup as the best Animal in the London Shire-horse Show, 1885.

HENRY BERGH ON DOCKING HORSES.

Henry Bergh, of New York, president of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, has published a letter strongly condemning the cruel fashion of bobbing horses' tails. He writes: "The cruel fashion of 'bobbing' horses' tails is being revived. It was a fashionable craze about a generation ago, and was not entirely stopped until our society succeeded in getting stringent laws enacted against cruelty to animals. The 'bobbing' is mainly done by the wealthy people, of course. They think that it makes their horses look more stylish, and to satisfy this caprice, God's noblest animal is made to suffer the most barbarous cruelty that devilish ingenuity can devise. Of late the officers of this society have noticed a great many horses with 'bobbed' tails, and they were nearly all of them in fashionable turnouts. The men who perform these cruel acts are blacksmiths or horse-doctors. The animal is taken into a blacksmith shop or out of the way place late at night, or early in the morning. While one or two men stand guard outside, the

doors are barred and the horse is securely tied by the legs so as to prevent kicking. Its tail is then tied to the loft or ceiling and a space of about an inch is shaved at a distance of about seven from the horse's body. A knife is placed on this spot by the so-called veterinary surgeon, and another man strikes the knife with a mallet, driving it through the flesh and the bone until the tail is severed. The suffering of the horse is excruciating, its groans almost suggesting human agony. An iron, heated to white heat, is passed over the severed end so as to stop the future flow of blood, and an iron ring, red hot, is used to cauterize the flesh to the extent of half an inch from the extremity of the horse's tail. This is done to prevent the flesh from growing over the end of the tail, for the cauterized bone is crisp and hard and might disease the flesh. Disease and death often follow this cruel treatment, because the men who perpetrate it are quack veterinary surgeons and blacksmiths, who are as ignorant of the anatomy of a horse as they are cruel. These men work very secretly, and, though we have broken up several places where they practise their cruelty, we were unable to catch the fiends at work."

LOSSES FOR WANT OF SHELTER.

As this has turned out a severe winter for stock in all the western States, it will be a good thing for stockmen to take a careful review, as spring comes on, and count up their losses on winter food, which has not produced its proper amount of growth. On the plains, cattle have died in large numbers, but elsewhere, want of proper shelter has only greatly reduced the value of the cattle. There is no doubt that the sufferings of the cattle, even on the plains, could be very much reduced; but we only intended to call the careful attention of feeders in longer settled western States to the fact that the losses in growth, this severe winter, would have gone a long way in providing better shelter. In many cases it will be sufficient to have constructed ample shelter and largely changed the result in the spring condition of the cattle. We hope this experience may be fruitful in improving the winter shelter of cattle upon thousands of western farms, and that farmers will carefully study the whole question of winter feeding, for it will certainly have a very definite relation to annual profits.