

either for muscle or walking-speed. It is a very great mistake to suppose that the draft horse can not be trained to walk rapidly. We have been breeding to a Percheron for four years that often walks 9 miles in one hour and fifty minutes, over a hilly road, and his colts are all rapid walkers. They are not as large as some, but they are large enough to do any kind of farm work easily and rapidly. This rapid movement has been of very great importance to us in the last ten days, when it was desirable to get the corn ground in the best possible order in the shortest possible time. Life is too short to spend it in poking along after a team that can not get their heads up. The lazy man to whom exertion is a burden actually works harder than the brisk, rapid worker. Of course we are not advocating the trotter or the roadster as the model farm horse. They may be too fiery—have too much of the trotting instinct for farm work. The farm horse should have the patience and dogged persistence developed by ages of service in that capacity, but he should have also the tirelessness of movement that enables him to do it with the least expenditure of effort and of his master's time, and do it in the best manner. We used to handle all kinds of teams when a boy, and always found we could do the best work with a team that had the strength to do the work easily at a steady, lively gait. They turned a better furrow, broke more clods with the harrow, and did a great deal better job of work in the cornfield as well as on the road.

[The Middlesex Agricultural Council has offered two prizes (\$15 and \$10) for the fastest walking farm team, to be competed for at the Western Fair in London.—ED. FARMER'S ADVOCATE.]

Ten Years without Shoeing.

My horses have been barefoot ten years, summer and winter, and they do as much as thousands of others that are kept shod as if their lives depended on it, says a correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune. Thus I cut off the expense of shoeing and the risk of injury from ill-fitted work. There is less difference between shoes and no shoes, even upon icy roads, than you imagine. However sharp your calks, a snowball held by the shoe often raises them off the ice, or you find they are "a little dull" when your horses go sprawling. A horse used to calks strikes out forcibly if he slips to make them take hold—and slips all the worse if they fail to do it; one who knows he is barefoot keeps his feet flat on the ice, takes short steps, and will get safely across almost any slippery places if he does not draw too hard. There are generally a few days every winter, however, when going barefoot is rather lively on the whole, but if the unshod horse wants shoes for ice he ought to have them pulled off when he comes to deep snow or miry ground at any season.

Shoes are dangerous, not only to the horse who wears them, but to others. The young horse I bought last winter had sharp shoes which I pulled off at once. Shortly after he gave his mate a kick on the belly which might easily have proved fatal had his foot been ironclad, but a severe superficial bruise and a great swelling was the only damage done. A large powerful mare of mine gave me a kick on the side of my leg just above the knee, and

taken wholly unaware I was landed nine feet distant, very much doubled up and hardly knowing for a moment what had happened. A good sharp toe-calk would have made a bad mark just then, but her bare foot, very likely levelled up with dirt and flat as a pancake, caused no injury whatever. A team constantly hauling on hard, gritty roads, may possibly need shoes; the average farm horse is better without. If any farmer requires more work than a team can do barefoot, when once used to it, he needs more horses.

The Provincial Exhibition and the Dominion S. S. Herd Book.

Editor Farmer's Advocate:

SIR,—As your paper gets a wide circulation among the farmers and breeders of the Dominion, would you allow space for a short letter on the above heading, "The Provincial Exhibition and the Dominion Herd Book?"

I have waited long for some person better posted to take up the subject, but having failed to see any communication on it, I take this opportunity of putting the matter before the breeders in as brief a space as possible.

It will be fresh in the memory of most breeders that when the British American Shorthorn Association was formed, the cry was that the Americans would not accept the pedigrees of the Canadian Shorthorn Herd Book.

The B. A. S. H. A. was formed, a revising committee appointed, and three volumes of what was known as the New Herd Book published. This book met with such success that parties not registering in it could not sell, and were obliged to register in it; but lately, the bulk of breeders came to the conclusion that it would be better to amalgamate the old Canadian Herd Book with the British American Herd Book and form one grand Dominion Herd Book.

This amalgamation took place last winter. With what results? The same President and part of the same revising committee of the B. A. S. H. A. were appointed, and they went to work. The standard for the Dominion Shorthorn Book was to be the same as the B. A. S. H. B., and here is where, I think, the trouble comes in. It was published in some papers that the standard was to be the same as the B. A.; consequently those having their stock registered in it naturally thought they were all right and voted on that head; but to the surprise of not a few, they are told that the standard is the same as the B. A., but we have not been living up to the standard. The consequence is that about one-half (and I think I am justified in saying the best half) of the cattle will be thrown out of the Dominion Herd Book. Now, I hold, if it had been properly understood when the vote was taken, there would have been few breeders who would have wanted a higher standard than the B. A. Herd Book. I see by the prize list of the Agricultural and Arts Association, that the Dominion Shorthorn Association seems to have had a hand in their rules, as animals in the Durham class are to be registered in the Dominion Herd Book. Last year it was English, American, or either of the Canadian herd books. Why the change? It looks very much as if some of the breeders wanted to play a lone hand this fall. The Shattuck cup seems to have been changed from the "best fat ani-

mal" to the "best fat Shorthorn steer or cow of any age." Is Mr. Oke not to be allowed to compete for it this year with a grade? I understood it was a grade that took it last year, and I don't see how he or any one else can be thrown out this year on account of pedigree. I see in the July issue of the *Journal* that the work of compiling the new herd book goes steadily on. Out of the shattered edifices of former records the good stones are being selected. If the editor would like to have a few specimens of the good stones, let him take the last catalogue of the sale under the auspices of the British American Association, and he will get a few, or I will give prices, and breeders can judge how precious they all were and how fit for D. H. B.:

Careless Prince, \$15; Carleton's Pride, \$40; 2nd Earl of Stafford, \$25; 4th Earl of Stafford, \$15; 3rd Earl of Stafford, \$15; 5th Earl of Stafford, \$10; Eunice of Rugby, \$31, etc., etc. Now he can get plenty of the rejected stones that will run up all the way from \$50 to \$500; in fact, it seems that he has forgotten that the stone that was rejected has become the chief corner stone.

Now, I do not give these figures to depreciate any person's stock, but merely to show the comparison, as in our own case the worst is eligible while the best will be thrown out.

ROBT. MCQUEEN, Salem P. O., Ont.

Mud on Horses' Legs.

The Mark Lane Express contains a series of interesting articles on the Veterinary Treatment of Farm Animals, from the pen of Prof. Brown, V. S., in which he makes the following allusion to the above subject:

Ordinarily, horses on returning from work have their legs, and probably a portion of their bodies, scraped and washed. The subsequent process of drying, if attempted at all, is imperfectly performed, and the surface of the skin is left moist and cold until the natural heat of the body causes the evaporation of the moisture at the cost of a large expenditure of heat. Considerable disturbance of the function of the skin may be traced to the effects of the evaporation. The occurrence of mud fever and the different forms of disease which have been mentioned, is thus explained.

A happy inspiration induced some one to adopt the expedient of leaving the wet mud on the legs of the horse returned from work, to form a protective covering while the drying process was proceeding. On the following morning the dried mud was brushed off without difficulty, and forthwith "chapped heels," "mud fever," and "grease" ceased to appear in the stables where this plan was adopted.

Further experience has shown that if mud can be washed off at once by driving the animal into a pond, and then continuing the journey home, no harm results. The mischief is done by the washing, especially if warm water is used, when the animal has arrived home and is to remain stationary for the night in the stable.

In the case of hunters it is considered advisable to wrap the muddy legs in flannel bandages; hay-bands will form an effective substitute in the case of the farm horse, but the essential thing is to refrain from any washing or attempt to remove the mud until it is dry enough to be brushed off.