

## HORSES AND CATTLE.

### RELATIVE VALUE OF FEEDING STUFFS.

A good deal of discussion has been taking place on the other side of the Atlantic regarding the relative value of cotton seed and linseed cake as cattle food. We give below an extract from an article in the *Agricultural Gazette*, London, bearing upon this subject, which contains some useful hints to American feeders:

"Cotton cake, by itself, has rather a tendency to bind animals, but when mixed with maize much of this is prevented, and if a few roots can be spared in addition there is not the slightest fear of any harm being done in this way. Beasts fed on a mixture of these two handle and have the same bloom on them as when fed on linseed cake. What the effect on calves and lambs would be has not been proved. Possibly it might not be so good, and until it has been experimentally proved it would be advisable not to use it on a large flock at once, as food which is easily assimilated is of the greatest importance to their young and easily disarranged stomachs. But, however, it may be on very young animals, for feeding older stock it is quite equal to linseed, and, as before stated, the expense is \$10 to \$15 per ton less. Throughout the winter linseed has been sold \$10 per ton dearer than the price of other seeds guaranteed. Care must be taken that the decorticated cotton cake is sweet and pure and free from the hard compressed knots so frequent in badly-made cakes; and also before it is given to animals that it is very finely broken. The bad results obtained from its use are nearly all owing to its having been given to animals in large pieces, which their stomachs are totally unfitted to digest. No lump should be given which will not pass through a three-quarter inch sieve, and it would be better if it were coarsely ground. The maize should be finely griddled when given with chaff, but not ground into a fine meal; as meals of all sorts are liable to produce hove when given in large quantities. On grass it is best coarsely griddled to prevent its blowing away. Farmers are so in the habit of giving their beasts linseed cake that with many the idea of feeding an animal is only associated with it; and, as a food in itself, it is unequalled by any other, but other foods can be mixed to be more economical. Linseed cake made its reputation in those good old days, which seem so long past, when prices were such that the close steering of the present did not seem so necessary, and when a farmer could afford to be satisfied with whatever profit he got from any particular thing, as he knew the whole would give him a good return; and the reputation it then gained clings to it, and in buying it now, compared with the other foods mentioned, \$38 is paid for its feeding properties and \$22 for its reputation.

### "INTERFERING" IN HORSES.

A few days ago we had an interesting talk with some intelligent horsemen on this subject, when a few points were brought out which may prove of interest. The different methods of shoeing were discussed and one stated that it was best to lower one side of the shoe so as to cant the foot and thus prevent interfering. We believe this to be an erroneous and dangerous policy. In shoeing horses the first point to be observed is to retain the *natural* position of the foot. Anything that tends to throw the hoof out of this position is injurious, as by straining tendons, muscles or bones, it speedily works mischief and the horse is lamed.

Habit has much to do with "brushing" and "interfering," and these faults may often be over-

come by other means than bad shoeing, for lowering one side of a shoe we call bad shoeing. When a horse interferes badly, so that a wound is formed, he should be kept quiet and the sore place treated until well, then put thick leather coverings on the parts that strike and drive him for a while. If interfering is continued, increase the thickness of the leathers until they discommodate the horse in action, when he will learn to use them without striking. Where these are used for some time the bad habit of brushing gives way to the better habit of not striking the leather, thus when they are removed the horse usually goes all right.

Speaking of shoeing we are tempted to say a little more on the subject. We have recently noticed a method that is being introduced in some places that will lame more horses than anything we have seen. This is the practice of shortening the shoes so that the heel and frog are allowed to come down on the ground. Such a position is altogether unnatural, and must certainly produce bad effects. First, the heels are apt to receive injury from bruising, as is sure to happen if the horse be driven on stony ground; and secondly, the tendons of the leg are apt to be strained, and a false position given to the foot and leg in general. Not only should farmers see that the smith does not shoe their horses in this manner, but they should also be careful to keep the hoofs of young horses well trimmed at the toe if good feet and sound limbs are desired. An exchange gives a few good points on the subject of interfering in the following words:

"In taking steps to remedy the evils of 'interfering' in the case of horses, the first thing to do is to ascertain what part of the foot strikes the ankle; then apply white lead, or some kind of paint, to the injured parts; next, move the horse pretty lively till he strikes. If it is the shoe calks that do the harm, cut the calks off, and hammer the shoe down sidewise, to make it of the same height as the opposite calk, and turn it well under the foot; but if it is the inside shoe next to the heel, make it straight and hammer the edge round, and file the shoe smooth. But should it be near the toe, rasp the hoof off as much as the hoof will stand, and place a thin strip of India rubber between the shoe and the foot, projecting at least a quarter of an inch beyond the shoe. This being soft and elastic, the injured parts will soon get well, if the horse is not driven very much.

### DEHORNING CATTLE.

I hereby give you a bit of my experience in the way of saving off horns. Mr. Haaff's last letter seemed to lay the matter down so simply that a neighbour offered to furnish the subject if I would wield the saw. Being desirous of seeing the experiment tried, I readily consented. The animal was a two-year old Shorthorn bull that had shown strong symptoms of viciousness, having backed the owner out of the pasture two or three times. Our first attempt proved futile, failing to secure the brute properly. The head was tied around as Mr. Haaff directs, but the staunchion gave way, and out went the bull with a horn half off. We were obliged to abandon the job till next morning, when a suitable staunchion was fixed. This time the hon. gentleman left the stable a hornless muley, not having lost any more blood than would naturally flow from a simple cut on your finger. Not a groan did he give, but threw himself down, and there he lay till the horns dropped in the manger before him. About an hour afterwards, we made him a visit in the pasture, found him feeding as quietly as though nothing had happened, suffering no perceptible inconvenience, only that he could not gore us. There are several

others in this neighbourhood that will soon share the same fate. Some very humane people denounce us as cruel and unfeeling, and are somewhat inclined to complain of us. But let them once get horned by a mad bull and I'll venture they will be willing to see the brute sawed in two in the middle. I now believe "dehorning" perfectly harmless, as well as a benefit to the herd. I intend to denude my cattle of all horns at an early date. The operation was performed four weeks ago; bull all right yet.—I. E. S., in *Western Rural*.

### INFLUENCE OF GRASS.

In describing a case of disease in an animal, a lady correspondent says that her husband thinks it will be all right as soon as grass comes. This has suggested to us that a few words upon the subject might be of great benefit. It is probable that nine out of ten cases of sickness will "come out all right" as soon as the animals can be got upon grass. Our animals have been fed all winter, in thousands of cases, upon dry, concentrated food, and in one way or another they are now showing the effects of it. The owner feels that he must do something, and often it is necessary to give medicine at once. But as soon as grass comes stop the medicines in ordinary cases at least, and turn them into the pasture. At first the grass will lack nutritious qualities, and it may sometimes be necessary to feed even a sick animal something in addition. Animals that are not diseased ought to have something besides the very young grass. But a sick animal will often be greatly benefited by stinting it in diet, and in such cases it may need nothing more than what the imperfect young grass will give. If we had an animal that was out of condition, or in any disease short of being or verging upon a desperate case, we should turn it upon grass as soon as grass comes, and give that a trial before resorting to medical treatment.

It rests a horse greatly to be relieved of his harness during the noon hour. A hurried rubbing over the surface of the body with a wisp of straw before putting the harness back will be grateful to the horse. Practise these little acts of kindness, they bring comfort and strength to the animal and peace to your own mind, as his keeper.

A GREAT width between and prominence of the eyes indicate a teachable and tractable horse. Width between the ears indicates courage, nobleness and strength of character. Roundness and elevation between the eyes indicate mildness of disposition, and desire to be caressed and to reciprocate kindness, but never trust one that shows much white above the pupil of the eye, or with white in that organ.

The following is given by an exchange for crack in a horse's hoof: "The foot should be examined to discover if the disease is or is not due to unequal pressure at the coronet on the side where the crack is formed. If it is found that the foot is not well balanced, the crust of the hoof should be reduced somewhat on the sole below the crack, so as to relieve the pressure; the bar on the same side should be thinned, and the shoe spread as much as possible, so as to close the crack if possible. The shoe should be fitted to bear evenly on the sides from toe to heel. A cut on the horn across the upper part of the crack should be made so as to prevent its spreading upward, and a plaster of Venice turpentine should be bound over the crack. A strong spring between the heels will very much help to relieve the pressure which causes the crack."

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