

periment to the young farm horses, all of which had, however, unfortunately been shod before the trial began, and am now able to endorse the observations of Col. M. C. Weld, in almost every particular, except as regards travelling on paved surfaces, as in Southampton, where there is a tramway, it is found that the pony prefers the paved stoneway to the macadamized part on either side. The time that elapsed before the 'dead horn' of the hoof grew out was six months, and it was fully eighteen before the insensible frog lost its callousness and grew soft, like strong India-rubber. The pony does not work on the farm, but goes out nearly every day, the greatest number of miles run in any one week being eighty, and in any one day thirty-two.

"Before the shoes were removed it was somewhat of a 'daisy cutter,' had been down once or twice, and stumbled much going down hill; since discarding shoes it has never stumbled once, and I have driven it full trot down a hill covered with snow and ice. This pony had been shod up to seven years old. The farm horses are young and strong, and have been bred on the place, and though mostly employed in the fields, are frequently engaged in hauling corn, timber, bricks or manure, for home or hire purposes. No roads than those around Winchester can be more trying, repaired (?) as they are with flints, which have been broken just enough to make them out like razors, and are a cruelty to horses shod or unshod. I find no difference in the capability of drawing full loads. There is no stamping in the stable or when standing out; over asphalt or icy pavements there is no slipping; the feet do not ball up over snow.

"The great drawback is that against which all who try any new groove have to contend, namely, the unyielding prejudice of all classes, more especially those who have to look after the horses, who, rather than aid in any change, will throw every obstacle in the way, but to my brother farmers I say emphatically, the man who cuts the frog off, or shoes his young horse, is committing a great error. With a little care you may work them on roads or fields, the animals will be certainly happier and probably healthier, and yourselves be in pocket by the change, and with an occasional rasp the appearance of your horses will be far better than the torn, jagged, heavily-ironed and nailed feet of one-half the wretched animals it is painful to see about the country."

BREEDING FOR DRAFT—THE SHIRE HORSE.

A correspondent of the *London Agricultural Gazette* writes to that journal as follows:—

"The demand for sound, weighty, active draft horses, as well as the establishment of a Stud-Book for recording their pedigree, is already inducing breeders to pay much greater attention to the selection both of sires and dams; few men will now breed from old, decrepid animals, or from those suffering from disease of a hereditary character; a well-bred, comparatively old horse, when put to a young and vigorous mare, is almost certain to indelibly stamp the produce. The value of a sire depends altogether on the character of his stock; a very celebrated prize-winner, who carried all before him in the prize ring, has been a failure at the stud—the best of his produce has not been above mediocrity, hence the greatest care should be exercised in selecting a sire suited to the special characteristics of the mare, and whose stock are known to possess some merit. A popular sire frequently gets too much to do; a horse who travelled a Midland district this season had close on 200 mares booked to him; the fee, including groom, was 12s. 6d. down, and £1 if the mare proves in foal. It would have

been much more satisfactory to both interests had the fees been double, and only half the number of mares served. A really first-class stallion is very difficult to meet with. Many are led away by a massive carcass; this is a frequent accompaniment of upright shoulders, weak arms, and round cannons; the walk is the pace of a cart horse. Hence a sloping, well-formed shoulder is as essential in the formation of cart horses as in a hack. The legs should be placed well outside the body, so that, viewed either from the front or behind, the side, from shoulder to quarter, should form a straight line; arms broad and muscular; cannon bone flat, clothed with a fringe of nice, flowing, silky hair; short, upright pasterns are a very objectionable point in a cart horse. The feet should be of moderate size, wide at the heels and well dished. The strength, durability, and usefulness of the animal is mainly dependent on the conformation of the feet and legs. The most valuable characteristics of the Clydesdale are the well-formed shoulder and the superior conformation of their feet and legs. The most valuable horses to breed are not those best suited for the purposes of agriculture, but those of a heavier stamp, standing sixteen hands and upwards, proportionately grown, such as find favour with the railway companies and town draymen, though this class is generally worked on the farm until they reach the mature age of five or six years. At this stage sound, good specimens readily made from £80 to £120."

MILK AS FOOD FOR COLTS.

John E. Russell, Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, in speaking of forcing the growth of colts by feeding extra milk, says he first tried Jersey milk and found that it did not agree with most of them; those that it did agree with fattened. Afterward he tried Ayrshire milk and found that that agreed with them and forced their growth of bone very greatly. The colts drank from twelve to fifteen quarts of milk per day besides the mare's milk and eating a liberal quantity of bruised oats. A little runt of a colt that was considered well nigh worthless was put on this diet, and on it grew to be the most renowned "Parole."

LICE ON GATTLE.

The *National Live Stock Journal* is authority for saying that the cheapest and one of the best means of ridding stock of lice, consists in the free application of wood ashes, frequent brushing, removal of old or dirty bedding, occasional application of boiling hot water to the wood-work of stalls, sheds, and sties, or lime-washing of the same. All loose hairs and dirt removed from the bodies of animals by brushing, as well as old bedding, should be collected in a heap and burned. The presence of vermin on live stock can never be successfully combated by simply applying a certain remedy to the body of the animals, and not at the same time attending to the general cleanliness of these, as well as of their surroundings.

Cows often wander over the pasture searching for bones, which they chew eagerly. The reason is that the land is deficient in phosphate of lime. Supply the deficiency, and in the meantime give the cows a little bone meal.

There is a cow in Pennsylvania that goes limping through life with a wooden leg. What a bonanza the owner would have if he could turn that leg into a pump, and make the animal stand in a stream of water while he was milking.

CURRENT NEWS ITEMS.

Mr. W. H. CONANT, Oshawa, has purchased the four-year-old colt "Rifleman" from Mr. Allen Trull, for \$1,200.

ONE bushel of the "Early Ohio" variety of potato was raised by Mr. Harvey, of East Durham, Quebec, from one potato planted last spring. So says the *Cowansville Observer*.

THE farm of David Grisley, about three miles out of Portage la Prairie, Man., yielded him during the harvest just past 45 bushels of wheat and 55 bushels of oats to the acre.

THE Minnedosa, Man., *Star* says that the rain which fell on Wednesday last was the first shower since July the 26th. Has any other Province had two months of rainless harvest weather?

"THE Cockshutt Plough Company," with a capital stock of \$100,000, has applied for incorporation. The company purposes carrying on the business of manufacturing and selling ploughs, cultivators and other agricultural implements throughout Canada.

ALMOST every variety of production is being discovered in the North-West. At Lake Winnipegosis salt deposits have for some time been known to exist. Along the Souris River coal has cropped out in plenty, and farther west indications of silver, gold and other minerals have been discovered.

A FINE team of light roan draught horses, two years old, weighing 2,900 lbs., were exhibited by McDonald Clarke, of Lucknow, at the Western Fair held at London. The animals attracted the attention of Messrs. Merrills and Brown, two Winnipeg gentlemen, who purchased them for \$600, paying also \$52 for the harness.

THERE were brought to this office this week, by Mr. McGrain, four Early Rose potatoes taken from one hill in a patch on Sugar Point, which weighed in the aggregate 4½ lbs. Mr. McGrain had also a potato with him weighing 1 lb. 2½ oz. He stated that he had another specimen at home, which he was keeping as a curiosity, eleven inches in length.—*Selkirk Herald*.

THE fruit trees of Innisfil are showing queer signs of the vagaries of nature this fall. A number of fruit trees on the 8th Con. are beautifully out in blossom, apple and pear trees are in full bloom. It is thought that the trees did not blossom right in the spring, and that recent rains succeeded by the warm weather has brought out the flowers now.—*Simcoe Witness*.

THE Port Perry *Standard* has some big stories. It says Mr. R. W. Walker, of the 4th Con. of Reach, from 8 lbs. of potatoes, of the "White Elephant" variety, raised 510 lbs. Mr. J. B. Lazier has informed us of another almost incredible yield. He planted one bean in a hill, and noticing, when pulling it, that it had a large yield, thought he would count them, and actually there were 474 beans in the hill—all from one bean!

MR. MARK AYRES, employed with Mr. M. D. Williams, butcher, has shown us a collection of nails of different sizes, screws, tacks, old rivets, pieces of wire, chunks of small iron, part of an old snap, and two or three pieces of zinc, a lot of small stones, pebbles, shot, etc., which he took from the stomach of a cow killed by him on Saturday, the whole collection weighing three-quarters of a pound. One of the nails—a three-inch one—had penetrated through the stomach, and the point was sticking about an inch into the heart of the animal. The beef was a fine one, in good condition, and did not appear to be at all affected, by having such a curiosity shop in its stomach.—*Bowmanville Statesman*.