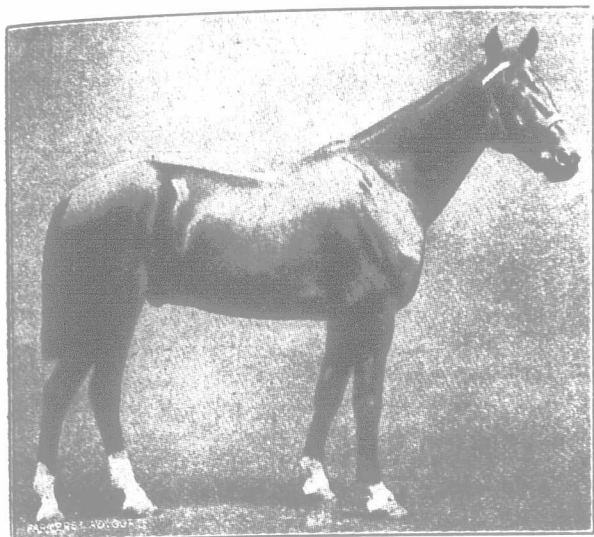


on account of change of food a regular system of exercise should be commenced at the same time. Here again sudden changes should be avoided. The horse has not been accustomed to exercise other than that voluntarily taken when in the yard or paddock for several months. Hence the amount of forced exercise should be little at first. Say a couple of miles walking exercise the first day, a little more the second, and the amount, whether simply exercise or the performance of light work, gradually increased until he may with safety be exercised or worked for eight to ten hours daily.



Cavalry of the Line.

While the complete change in food can, with reasonable safety, be made in a week to ten days, it requires much longer to properly fit a horse for regular work. A month to six weeks should be allowed for this. Many may say "we have not time for this." It will pay the owners to make time for it. Where light work is to be done the horses will be able to earn the trouble taken, and when there is no work to be done one man can exercise several horses at once by driving a team or riding one horse and leading others. When spring work commences it is generally wise to rush it through with all possible speed, and a pair of horses that have been properly conditioned will perform more than twice as much work as one that has not. Hence the time that has been spent when time was not valuable will be much more than compensated for now when it is.

Horses that have spent the winter like those under discussion usually have a long, heavy coat of hair, which tends to cause profuse perspiration when working in the fields or on the roads, and by reason of the amount of hair it requires a long time for the coat to become dry or to be rubbed dry. Hence it is often noticeable that the animal is still damp in the morning. Such horses will work with greater comfort to themselves and greater satisfaction to their drivers if they are clipped. Clipping also tends to prevent sore shoulders or sores on other parts that are subjected to pressure or friction by the harness. It may be considered wise to clip them so soon as the weather becomes fine enough for field work to be started. Of course, a clipped horse, even in the spring, requires greater attention in some ways than the unclipped one. Greater care must be taken to clothe him when standing if the weather be chilly, also to blanket him at night, and, we may say, take greater care to avoid drafts, etc. Many think that it is not wise or humane to clip a horse under any conditions, that nature provided them with hair and that they should not be deprived of it. This philosophy has force so long as nature continues to act, and if the horses be allowed to spend their time in a natural manner it would be cruel to clip them. The cold weather and want of grooming causes a long, thick coat, but nature does not demand that a horse with such a coat be asked to do hard work. It is seldom that a horse that is regularly worked and groomed is benefited by clipping, but it is different with one that roughs it during the winter months. It probably is not necessary to state that in addition to attention to the suggestions made, in order to get good service from a horse it is necessary to use well-fitting harness, especially collars.

WHIP.

It was commendable that farmers, stockbreeders, Ministers of Agriculture, financiers, and railway magnets should meet to discuss "Patriotism and Production" in Toronto recently; nevertheless we still expect very little from some of the promises made. It is an easy way to get over difficulties to promise something, and Governments, financiers and transportation companies are past masters at promising and stopping there.

Britain's War Horse Wants.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

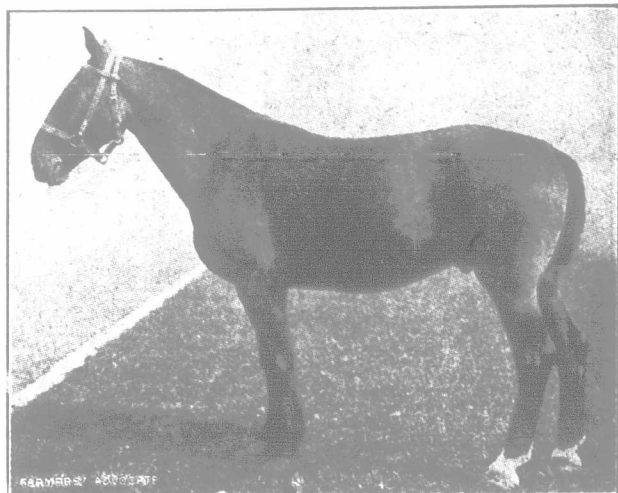
By permission of the English Board of Agriculture, and His Majesty's Stationery Office, I am allowed to write something official as to the wants of the British War Office in the way of horses for active military service. It is hoped that the information so offered will be helpful to breeders on your side of the water. The photographs should also be useful even to the man who has the happy knack of carrying the correct outline in his "mind's eye." Only sound horses are required; crib-biters and wind suckers, and animals with capped elbows, damaged knees, bad teeth, curby hocks or overshot joints are not considered. The best ages for selling are from 4 to 12 years.

The Cavalry horse must be a deep, short-legged, short-backed, good-barrelled horse of the hunter type, with substance and quality, true action, and must move without brushing the joints. Light, active, well-bred horses that move truly and well in their paces; are nicely-ribbed up, have plenty of bone and short backs, may thus be said to represent the ideal Cavalry type. This horse's height at 4 years should be 15.1 to 15.2½ hands, over 4 years 15.2 to 15.3 hands. The Cavalry horse illustrated herein was bought in Ireland for £40 at 4 years old. He shows quality and plenty of bone, and has a nice forehead.

For the Artillery the type required is a weight-carrying hunter, showing quality and able to gallop in the gun team. They should be of the combined ride and drive type, with a short

These horses are supposed to do either fast and long trotting journeys or slow and heavy movements. In either case the load is a big one and requires a horse of good weight. Here the height at 4 years old should be 15.2 to 15.3 hands, and, over 4 years 15.2½ to 16 hands. The animal shown pictorially is a 15.3 brown gelding, able to gallop with a big load behind him. He was secured in Ireland at £42. One sees the short back and the good shoulder and sufficient bone.

For the army service corps a van-horse type is also necessary, and he must be well able to trot smartly, though not fast, with a good load



Royal Field Artillery.

behind him. He should stand 15.2½ to 15.3 hands at 4 years of age, and at 15.2½ to 15.3½ hands at beyond 4. I hope these hints and illustrations will be helpful to breeders and buyers on your side of the Atlantic.

G. T. BURROWS.

How to Cure a Balking Horse.

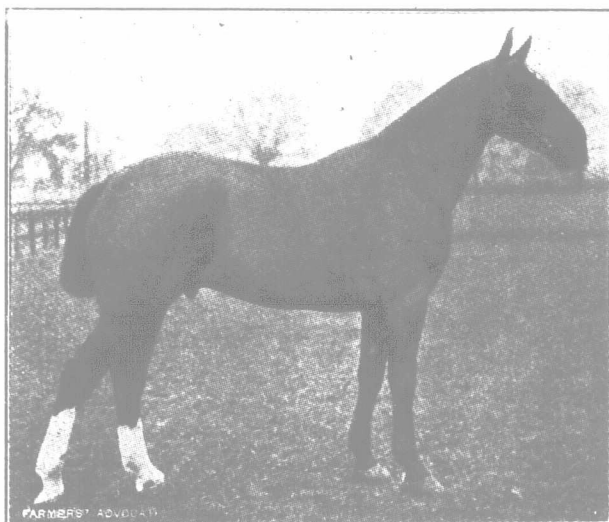
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Though balking cannot be classed as a dangerous vice, no habit that horses contract is more intensely provoking. A horse that is a confirmed balker has not much more selling value than a runaway or a kicker. Very few want him, and those who think they do are likely, after a real heart-to-heart experience with him, to change their minds. There is something in the unbounded personal assurance of the horse that quietly and sneeringly refuses to do his work, which is even more exasperating to his owner than the most spontaneous and violent outbreak of the kicker or the runaway.

The vice, however, is not hard to treat or to cure. There is no question that there is a good deal of truth in the saying that "there is always good stuff in a balker." Let us consider how this vice is first formed. It is, as a rule, contracted by horses of considerable nervous energy, dull, lazy animals not being much subject to it. The horse, perhaps from standing still too long, or from mere excess of energy, is impatient. He starts before his driver is ready, is sharply reprimanded and very likely is jerked by the reins, which serves only to increase his impatience and irritation. The same thing happens several times. By this time his brain has been worked up to a mixture of excitement and resentment, and he is in poor condition to understand clearly what is required of him, or to carry it out cheerfully if he does understand. Consequently he jerks himself backwards or sideways, occasionally leaping into the collar and flying back, but not going ahead as desired. All this is more likely to occur if he is harnessed to a wagon that is heavily loaded, but it may also occur when he is hitched to a light load. Let the same thing happen several times and a confirmed balker is the result.

Horses are of so many temperaments that the same treatment for this vice is not best for all. This much is certain, however: Palliative treatment should always be given a fair trial before coercive measures are used. A man should be quiet, deliberate and gentle in his movements when with the horse, avoiding that nervousness and irritability in himself which, if exhibited, is certain to be communicated to the animal. When the horse is started it should be done with as little delay as possible after he is ready, and always with a very easy rein. If in this way he can be induced to start and the procedure is repeated several times half the battle is won, for his temper will improve and in time he will forget to balk. If he stops on the road try to fool him by saying "whoa," then get out of the vehicle and pick up his fore foot as if looking for some trouble there, hammer upon it from time to time with a stone, holding his foot up until his other leg is somewhat wearied. Then get into the vehicle and start him up.

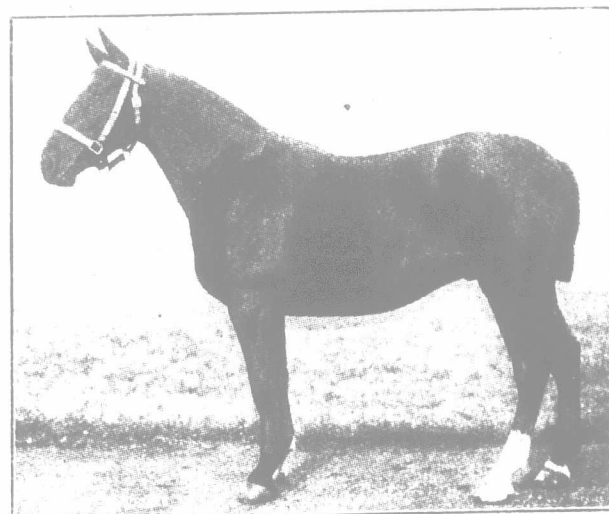
The treatment suggested above is by no means always successful, scarcely fifty per cent. perhaps



Royal Engineers.

back, some bone and deep through the heart. They must be able to gallop when dragging guns and maintain the pace for some considerable distance. Their work is, in fact, very closely allied to that of cavalry when occasion arises. Here the height at 4 years old is 15.2 to 15.3 hands, and over 4 years 15.2½ to 16 hands. The horse illustrated is a wheeler for artillery work, and cost £42 at 4 years old in Ireland. He stands 15.3.

The Royal Field artillery horse is also of the weight-carrying hunter type, with plenty of bone



Royal Horse Artillery.

and substance, deep through the heart, and capable of drawing a big weight at a fast trot over rough ground and sometimes deep going. He must also be able to gallop into action. At 4 years old he should stand 15.2 to 15.3 hands high, and over 4 years 15.2½ to 16 hands. He must be active and stout-hearted—a true "goer" all the time. The horse in the illustration shows great power, and at 5 years stood 16 hands. He cost £42.

For the engineers draft horses of the type known as "parcel vanners" in Britain are needed.