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The Western Home Monthly
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

About the Farm

Hints on Harness

It is of some importance that horses should be quite comfortable in their harness. Brown leather which is tanned without the addition of artificial coloring should be preferred to black leather which is produced by the use of a dye, into the composition of which iron enters largely, and which has a tendency to injure the surface of the leather. In some cases the surface of some leather peels right off, owing to the dye having gone too deep, or to neglect on the part of the tanner. With good leather and well-made harness, care and attention will keep it in good order for a long while. The harness should not be hung up by the straps, or left out in the weather. There should be a proper place in the stable to keep it when not in use. If it gets mud on, scrape as much as possible off with a very blunt knife or piece of hard wood cut into convenient shape, then use warm water. The water should not be hot, and is best applied with a sponge or soft brush. Place the harness where it will be dry—not too close to a fire—and give it a coat of neatsfoot oil or other

spoiled. There are various other kinds of rivets, or staples, for mending harness, but none equal to the copper rivet for strength and durability. In rivetting the reins the work requires to be well and neatly done, otherwise the rivets might catch and cause an accident.—The Farmer's Gazette.

Wintering Garden Roots

Where beets, not the hardiest of roots, are found to preserve their flavor and freshness best in the soil during the winter (and that is very often the case where the soil is fairly porous), it is a good plan to lift each other row and store the roots in dry sand or ashes in a cool shed, then carefully earth up the remaining rows, drawing the leaves erect and covering up the crowns fully six inches deep with soil. So treated, we have found beets stand hard weather very well. Parsnips, too, also keep best in the soil if it be not too retentive or wet. They may be earthed up in the same way as recommended for beets, while



Aberdeen Angus Cattle on a farm at Golden Stream, Man.

animal fat. This dries in and nourishes the leather. Mineral or vegetable oil is not good. The harness dressing, applied with sponge or clean cloth, improves the appearance of the leather. The buckles, hames, and other parts made of nickel or German silver are better to be cleaned with polishing paste. Rub the tongues of the buckles with an oiled rag. Buckle the collar, and, where possible, shift the straps occasionally, so as to buckle into different holes.

In regard to fitting collars, most horse owners want a collar larger than necessary. For draft horses the pipe collar is, perhaps, best, as it is in the shape of the horse's neck, whereas the round collar is not. A new collar is better to fit fairly tight, as it gets larger with use, whereas a collar that is too large cannot be made to fit without chafing at some point. Some ask that the collar be lined soft, but the firmer the collar, providing it fits the horse, the better. In regard to repairs, the copper rivet, properly used, is a very useful article. Often, however, they are used too long, with the result that the shank bends, and will not bear up as it should do. For joining two pieces of medium leather a 3/8-inch rivet will do, but for stout leather use 1/2-inch rivets. A No. 4 saddler's punch, a piece of lead or hard wood to punch on, a rivet set, a cutting tool, and a hammer are all that are required for mending work. If hard wood is used for punching on, they require to punch with the grain, or the tool will be

turnips may receive similar treatment. In the case of large carrots that have been raised from seed sown in the spring these are best out of the ground, as they are so liable to split. Those, however, from a July sowing do well if left in the ground and given a slight covering of litter or bracken when severe weather threatens. In some gardens it is an excellent plan to lift all the roots from the open ground and lay them in thickly under overhanging trees, as these afford some protection from frost. A good coating of dry leaves over the roots keeps them safe. Too often roots are stored in cellars, where the atmosphere is dry and warm, and this causes them to shrivel and robs them of all their flavor and freshness.

Value of Green Manure

By H. A. Bereman

A friend who owns a farm in a northern state remarked recently with considerable pride that he had plowed under a crop of green rye last fall to enrich a portion of his land.

I couldn't help thinking what a good farmer he is to understand the importance of maintaining the productive power of his soil, but that how much better off his soil would be this year and in subsequent years had he made it clover or some other legume crop instead of rye.

The legume crop would create about the same amount of humus (which is