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Farming in Range Country.

During the last few years grain growing has received a remarkable impetus in some districts of the Territories where formerly ranching was the exclusive industry. The seasons have proved exceedingly favorable for the coarser grains, and new settlers who were familiar with methods of mixed farming have not been slow to take advantage of changed climatic conditions, and have reaped good harvests. Whether a continuance of these favorable years may be expected is a matter of doubt on the part of old-timers, many of whom make strong statements, claiming that the chain of abnormal yields will soon have a broken link, or, perhaps, many of them.

Speculation in weather possibilities, as in corn values, is too uncertain to receive very serious consideration from sensible people; however, in the light of experiences covering the last quarter century, there is, doubtless, reason for believing that the sun will not always shine as brightly on grain-laden fields in these districts as it has the past few seasons. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the same portion of country, generally, is well adapted to stock-raising, and to mixed farming to almost as great an extent. Many parts can be cheaply irrigated, ensuring against danger from drought; and where stock-raising and grain-growing go hand in hand, absolute failure from early frosts may be prevented by feeding the damaged grain to stock.

It is, therefore, to be expected that the wiser settlers who have taken homesteads on the range country will look forward to feeding to a finish a few cattle each year. If there is to be good money made in the cattle business in this country, it will be through a system that will reject of liberal winter feeding, but concentrate in stables, but in sheds. By so doing steers may be developed as to be ready for sale one year earlier than by the old system. This, in turn, would make it possible to keep more stock on the same area of land; an increase in the quantity sold, as well as an improvement in general quality, and, consequently, higher prices will be the result.

Horses.

Diseases of the Digestive Organs of Horses.

(Continued.)

IMPACTION OF THE COLON.—Horses over-abundantly fed, or kept upon food containing large quantities of indigestible or woody fiber, such as over-ripe hay, etc., are liable to suffer from the accumulation of such matter in any part of the large intestine, especially the large colon. This condition frequently occurs in horses that have been worked and fed on hay and oats for some months, who, after the weather turns cold in the fall, and there is little or no work for them, have their ration suddenly changed from hay to straw, which change is made when hay is scarce or high-priced. It may also be due to weakness of the digestive organs, or partial inactivity of their glands; want of exercise; sudden changes of food, etc. In other cases, like many diseases of the bowels, disease of the liver, or, in fact, to an inactive condition of the glands in any part of the digestive tract. As previously stated in discussing these diseases, the same causes operate in exciting the various diseases of the digestive organs, and it may not be out of order to again state that when horses are intelligently fed and exercised, care being taken that the quality of the food is good, and that the quantity be in accordance with the size of the animal and the amount of work or exercise performed, and any change in diet be gradually made, it is seldom that digestive diseases appear, unless it be in an animal with abnormally weak digestive powers, or one whose teeth require dressing. It may also be wise to remark that all horses over five years old, and often those even younger, would be the better if they had their teeth dressed by a competent man once every year. This statement will probably be considered by many as extravagant, but it is a fact, nevertheless, and the horse-owner who attends to this matter regularly is amply repaid for his outlay, in the fact that his horses can masticate their food more thoroughly and without irritation, and as a consequence thrive better, look better, and are less liable to the diseases under discussion. Many will say, "My horses' teeth are all right, they eat well and keep in good condition." This may all be the case; it does not follow that because a horse consumes his food without apparent difficulty and without quidding, that his teeth are in first-class condition. If examined, in most cases there will be seen or felt sharp corners on the inner margin of the lower and the outer margin of the upper molars. These projections, while probably not materially interfering with mastication, cause more or less irritation to the tongue and cheeks, and hence, to say the least, cause sufficient irritation to make mastication more or less unpleasant.

SYMPTOMS.—The symptoms of impaction of the colon are not as violent as those of some of the diseases already noticed. The condition may be present for some time without any serious symptoms being shown. It may be noticed for a day or two that the animal has not voided his usual quantity of feces, and his appetite has not been quite normal. He will then show more or less well-marked colicky pains, become restless, paw, lie down, get up again, etc., and show more or less general uneasiness. The pulse will be slightly increased in frequency and force, and gradually become more frequent, and in most cases lose strength as the frequency increases. The mucous membranes are usually injected and inflamed. A peculiarity in the symptoms usually noticed is a desire to sit on his haunches, or when standing, to press his rump against any solid object. He resists the introduction of the hand or injections into the rectum, and if the ear be placed against the abdomen, an absence of the normal intestinal murmur will be noticed, and there will be either an absence of sound or a sort of a metallic murmur. There will be little or no feces voided, and a fullness of the abdomen, better marked on the right side, will be noticed. Where relief is not afforded, the symptoms increase in intensity, gases form, when the fullness of the abdomen will be more prominent; the pulse becomes almost imperceptible; he either walks aimlessly about, or throws himself down violently, rolls and struggles. Rupture of the intestine may now take place, which causes death in a few hours, or inflammation of the bowels results, which is equally fatal, though often not so soon.

TREATMENT.—As there is always partial or complete paralysis of the coats of the intestine, the administration of large doses of purgative medicines must be avoided until the paralysis is overcome. It is good practice to give a small purgative, say six drams aloes and two drams ginger, to an ordinary-sized horse. Follow up

with two drams nux vomica about every eight hours. Combat pain by giving 1½ ozs. chloral hydrate, 2 drs. solid extract of belladonna, or the hypodermic injection of 5 grs. morphine and ¼ gr. atropia every two hours, or as the symptoms demand. Do not give opium, as it increases the constipation. Remove the contents of the rectum by hand, and give injections of warm water and a little soap per rectum every three or four hours. Some recommend the injection of a solution of aloes (about 1 oz. to a gallon of warm water) into the rectum, and when the horse will retain the injection this may give fair results. If gases form, give 2 ozs. oil of turpentine in a pint of raw linseed oil, or if practicable the hypodermic injection of 1½ grs. eserine. The latter should not be given when the pulse is very weak.

"WHIP."

Clydesdale Folklore.

In addressing a meeting of horse breeders, Alexander Galbraith, of Janesville, Wis., said: "Within my own recollection a distinct evolution in the tastes of breeders and demands of the market is clearly noticeable, and to no breed of horses does this apply with greater force than to the British draft breeds of Clydesdales and Shires. I can well remember, when a small boy on the farm, a rather noted Clydesdale mare which my father owned. She was named 'Old Jess,' and was sired by the celebrated 'Broomfield Champion' (95). This mare was the dam of many fine colts, one of which, 'Johnnie Cope' (416), won the Highland Society's first prize at Glasgow forty-four years ago, and that season sired the celebrated black horse 'Campsie' (119), the winner of many premiums in Scotland, and one of the earliest horses owned by the well-known David Riddell. The old mare 'Jess,' to which I refer, differed in every material point from the typical show Clydesdale mare of the present day; in fact, she resembles far more closely a characteristic Shire mare. She was large, approaching if not seventeen hands high, very powerfully made all over, with immensely heavy bone, not of the flattest or cleanest kind, but such as would appear to good advantage when measured with a tape-line. She had wonderfully heavy feather in keeping with her immensely heavy frame—in other words, rather coarse, hard, wiry hair. She had never been worked on the farm, although she lived to be over twenty years old. She had, I suppose, a mind far above ordinary farm work, as she was considered and looked up to as a model mother of stallions. Contrasting that animal with the typical Clydesdale mare of to-day, we find the difference very marked indeed. The weight of bone and frame has very materially decreased. The quality and action have correspondingly increased. The dams of such horses as McGregor, or Baron's Pride, were but small mares compared with 'Old Jess,' or even with 'Keir Peggy,' the dam of the famous 'Darnley.' I well remember seeing 'Keir Peggy' win first prize at the Highland show in 1864, and I saw the same mare twenty-two years afterwards, and I still think her one of the grandest animals the breed has ever produced. She had considerable scale, a fair amount of quality, was very symmetrically formed, with good action, but the most remarkable thing about this mare, and which has been a hard problem for Clydesdale breeders ever since, was that by far and away the best colt she ever produced, and she produced ten in all, was sired by an undersized and rather inferior stallion. This stallion's name was 'Conqueror' (199), owned by Mr. Moffat, of Shirva, and I well remember when the horse was hired at the Glasgow Spring Show of 1871, by the Dumblane, Doune and Callander Farmers' Club, to travel their district for small terms, the wisacres laughed at the incompetency of the committee for choosing such a horse. Sir William Sterling Maxwell's estate of Keir being in the district, the manager thought he might perform a generous act by sending one of their mares to the district horse, and I understand the reason why 'Keir Peggy' was the one chosen was because she had failed to get with foal to any of their own stud horses, and they had several of considerable note. At any rate, the result was that 'Keir Peggy' got with foal by this obscure horse, and in due time produced the world-famed 'Darnley,' probably the greatest Clydesdale of the nineteenth century. It seems the irony of fate that such a wonderful product should be brought about in this haphazard manner. The mare was afterwards bred to many excellent horses, but never produced anything at all equal to 'Darnley,' either for individuality or breeding qualities, although two of them were good enough to win at the Highland show.

The alumni and students of the Division of Agriculture of the Iowa State College, during the week of the International Live-stock Exposition, presented to the Saddle and Sirlin Club of Chicago an excellent life-size oil portrait of Charles F. Curtiss, Dean of the Division of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station of the Iowa State College.