

but extra care should be taken when feeding straw, as it is one of the most prolific causes of colic and indigestion. Every effort should be made to grow tame hay, not only for its greater value as food, but for its good effect upon the soil and because it seldom acts as a host for ergot, and consequently there is less danger of abortion in mares when tame hay is fed than when the slough hay or prairie grass is used.

## HORSE

The equine babies are arriving every day.

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Clean the mud out of the feet as it absorbs the hoof oil and leaves the horn dry and brittle.

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Suit the collar to the shape of the shoulder, a straight shoulder requires a special adjustment of the draft.

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Horses on the ranges have not done as well as usual the past winter owing to a lack of snow and water.

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Even if it is only to get work-horses patronize the best stallion in the district, he will be the cheapest in the end.

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Regina horsemen will hold a race meet on July 17th and 18th. It is said, over forty horses are in training in that city.

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Wild hay makes expensive feed when it is affected with ergot; better sow some tame grass seed and arrange to have some green oats for next winter's feed.

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In some towns the bill for work-horses amounts to nearly one half the revenue from the wheat marketed at those points: looks like frenzied farming.

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Large, white lice are quite common this spring, on colts. If it is found that any of the young stock are not doing well, examine them well for lice, and if any are found, clip and apply a coal tar solution along the neck and back.

### Abortion in Mares.

Complaints of abortion in mares have been alarmingly numerous in many parts, the past two years. At first, veterinarians thought that the trouble was due to a specific germ, and that the disease was contagious, but, as a result of careful investigation by different authorities, it is now believed that the ergot on the wild grasses which has been unusually plentiful of late, may be the more general cause. Ergot can be distinctly seen when present in the form of black spikes in the heads of the grass, and in its nature very closely resembles smut in wheat or other grains. The only remedy is to avoid feeding affected hay. One large farmer near Dundurn, Sask., last year, suspected the ergot of causing the trouble among his mares, so moved his stock to another farm; and has been feeding them, this past winter, on oat-straw in place of hay, with the result that, up to the present, he has not had a single case of abortion.

The situation at once suggests the importance of providing some other fodder besides slough hay for horse feed, and, doubtless, larger areas will be seeded to timothy, brome, rye grass, clover and alfalfa, all of which can, with a little encouragement, be grown in most parts of the west. Should there be any doubt as to the success of these crops, green oats might be grown to take the place of hay; but, we hope farmers will set themselves to work to grow more of the tame grasses, not only to insure against abortion, but, for their greater value as food, and because they are so much more convenient to harvest than the wild varieties. While in some cases, the cause may be as suggested above, it will not be well to disregard the idea regarding the contagiousness of this ruinous disease, and also for horse breeders to avoid using stallions that have been used in breeding studs where abortion is known to exist; the male is one of the most likely agents to distribute the abortion germ.

### The Cost of Farm Horses.

It would be interesting to know how the cost of horses purchased this spring compares with the value of the past year's wheat crop. Never before have so many horses been sold at such lofty figures as have those marketed in the country the past few weeks. In one small Saskatchewan town alone, over \$100,000 has been invested in work-horses and few of these were of a desirable type. The condition of our horse trade is not creditable to an intelligent farming community. It savors of "boom times" and wasteful practises. Farmers should be horse raisers as well as wheat growers, for, if to the neglect of cattle raising, dairying, and hog raising, we add also the neglect of horse raising; wheat growing as an occupation becomes all the more precarious. The only bright aspect in the whole situation lies in the fact that farmers are so well able to buy horses. This spring's experience should teach an obvious lesson, namely, that it is always cheaper to raise horses for farm work than to buy them.

The value of a brood mare in times of soaring horse prices can scarcely be conjectured, doubtless the eastern and southern farmers know, for few of their mares find their way to western farmers, and this is one of the most regrettable features of the situation in horses. If some of these animals for which farmers are paying such princely figures could be used to produce foals, the outlay would be more reasonable, especially as some of the very best stallions are being sold in this western country.

### The Hackney in England and Elsewhere.

(Continued)

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Upon the question of riding shoulders, and adaptation for both saddle and harness, I am, by no means, alone in my opinion, as many other practical North of England breeders share my views, including Mitchell, Whitworth, Buttle, Wreghitt, Crompton, Moore, Fewson, Hornsby, and many others, which adds proof in favor of my contention. A gentleman in the South West of England, who always keeps some four or five hunters, is very fond of going on a lengthy riding tour in the summer. Last year, he rode from Cornwall into Scotland and he now, from choice of comfort, and endurance, always rides a Hackney on his tours in preference to any other breed. This, I think, is a sufficient tribute to the merits of the species. Let us turn to the views of a gentleman who probably bears the name of the oldest Hackney breeder in Great Britain Thomas Crompton, of Nafferton, East Yorks. He tells me that whilst there is no doubt the Hackney has taken the highest possible position amongst the harness horses of the world, yet the Hackney, bred entirely for harness purposes, is not so valuable as one bred on the proper lines of a ride and drive horse, and he contends that if breeders will only adhere to this ride and drive type they will breed and supply a very much better class of harness horse than by going in for the class of animal which is void of shoulders, back, and quarters, and frequently possesses very questionable legs and feet. He contends further it is all nonsense to say that a high actioned Hackney is unrideable, provided you get the right sort of action of the light and airy quality that Yorkshiremen hold in such high esteem, then he contends he will ride as comfortably as a thoroughbred. He adds "let Yorkshire breeders stick to the stamp that we love so well, and I am sure that in the future, as in the past, we shall always beat the other sort either in the show or sale ring". I could from my own experience of conversations which I have had with Hackney breeders all over the North of England, give you opinions by the score entirely in corroboration of this argument of mine, but I select the above named at random which will clearly show that the harness theory solus does not coincide with the tenets of the original and genuine Hackney breeder, as distinguished from the South Country man, who, in all probability, does not possess a soul above harness, and only a very limited knowledge at that. You recently had imported into your country a Hackney which, for two years in succession, has been awarded the highest honors at your Madison Square Gardens Horse Show in New York. I cannot say whether you had a practical Hackney breeder to judge the class or classes in which he was exhibited or not, but I can say that here in England that horse gained very varied judgments. He was essentially harness, and harness only, and with regard to shoulders, back, legs, and feet, came very nearly within the description of animal Mr. Crompton cautions us not to breed. We should not consider him by any means a typical English Hackney. True, he won a few shows in the South, but the first time he met a genuinely bred North of England Hackney, his number went down.

The Hackney of say 15.1 or 15.2 or thereabouts will do more work for its size, in the same time, than any other breed in the wear and tear of road work, either in saddle or harness, or both, and fur-

ther, will carry the heaviest weight the longest distance, and in the shortest time, of any class of horse in existence.

Comparatively recently, the hackney stallion, County Member Jr. 2916, made a record in harness in the United States by travelling 100 miles by road in 3 minutes under 8 hours. There were five long hills in the 50 miles length, and the owner had a friend accompanying him on the outward journey, and back, and yet County Member Jr. 2916 did this without being distressed. A friend of mine has to my knowledge, travelled 30 miles a day by road or saddle for 13 successive days, and for seven further days driven nearly twice that distance, and this, all with one Hackney, but he was of the right sort and fit, and kept his head and tail up to the end. There are plenty of instances which can be found even in this County of Hackney endurance. I have a mare now, 20 years old, which has bred me no less than twelve foals. She will comfortably pull my gig 13½ miles in the hour, put her in the stable for twenty minutes, and trot the same distance back again under the hour, and there is no occasion to take a whip in the socket at all. I know of another instance of a mare 16 years old that last summer trotted 20 miles on the road, in harness, in not so much over one hour, and that without distressing herself. My friend Mr. Tom Mitchell, a short while ago, when this subject was being debated in some of the stockbreeders' papers, and letters were being published from persons who had but a very faint idea of the capabilities of the Hackney, issued a challenge to Great Britain, or elsewhere, for £50 a side, and I agreed to join him, if necessary, in doubling the stake, to pit two Hackneys against two other horses of any bred to trot on the road from Leeds to Scarborough and back again, 50 miles, and although this challenge was issued some 3 years ago, and has been repeated at intervals, as yet, we have not found anyone to take it up. Since it's issue, there has not been so much shouting in England about the Hackney being a non-stayer, and if you have any on your side who are of that opinion, I believe they can still be accommodated if they like to come over and have a try, and we will then prove to them whether the Hackney is a stayer or not. In the North of England we know he is, so that we do not want any further proof. I know a gentleman in this Country, none other than the Master of the West Norfolk hounds, Mr. A. Collison who has ridden a pure bred Hackney with those same hounds for years, this animal being one of the finest performers across Country in that part of England, in fact, nearly half of the hunting men on the Western side of Norfolk ride nothing else after hounds, and they are all there at the C. H.

Norbury Stud, England.

S. B. CA... Y.

### Stallions Must Be Enrolled.

The Horse Breeders' Protection Act, as passed by the last session of the Manitoba Legislature, includes many important features with which every one who owns or keeps a stallion for public service should become familiar. Under the new act all stallions, whether pure bred or grade, must be enrolled in the Provincial Department of Agriculture and the certificate given of such enrollment must be printed on the route bill or poster used for advertising. For pure bred stallions the fee for enrollment is \$2.00, but for grades no fee is charged. Stallions that have been registered under the old Horse Breeders' Lien Act will require to be re-enrolled, the fee for doing so, however, is only 25 cents. In the case of pure bred stallions all owners, by fulfilling certain regulations outlined in the act, may have a lien on the progeny where service fee has not been paid.

As the breeding of all horses will be examined in the Department, the certificate issued and printed on the bills will be a guarantee to farmers of the exact breeding of the horse, and there will be no opportunity for any unscrupulous stallion owner to misrepresent the purity of the breeding of his animal.

Copies of the new act may be had free by applying to the Department of Agriculture at Winnipeg.

## STOCK

### The Cost of Feeding Pigs.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

"Do winter pigs pay?" is a question frequently asked and "no" is the usual answer in this country. Some say the country is too cold, while others claim that even at prevailing prices for coarse grains they will eat their heads off. But I claim that there is money in the business if properly handled, and good handling consists of plenty of food, warm quarters, and don't forget pure water, for snow and ice is a poor substitute for the liquid article. I am a beginner at this business and I have made many mistakes that in future I can avoid, and yet, I have made it pay.

Spring pigs can be made to pay very easily, but on the question of winter production, there is always a bone of contention. I raised twenty seven spring