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THE PRESERVATION OF MANURE.

All intelligent farmers now recognize the rapidity with which land is rendered more and more unproductive by the constant succession of grain crops. They also recognize in the manure pile the remedy for this evil. But while farmers are all agreed on the value of manure, they very often through custom treat their manure pile in a slovenly and careless manner while they pay careful attention to minor details of the farm yard. Too great stress cannot be laid on the importance of this subject. The first mistake commonly made is that of pitching the manure out beside a building and allowing the water from the eaves to carry off the most precious part of the fertilizer. It is remarkable how many farmers there are who are intelligent and thoughtful in other respects, but who year after year lose hundreds of dollars by this neglect. Another mistake, frequently made, is that of throwing out the manure helter-skelter and leave the pile too loose. The ammonia in the manure is one of its most valuable components, and being a volatile substance a large amount of it goes off in the form of gas and is lost to the farmer. Some, recognizing this, rush to the other extreme, and pack it so tight that in a very short time the pile is fire fanged. In this respect a happy medium should be observed. The pile should be packed middling tight, tight enough to avoid the escape of ammonia and loose enough to avoid fire-fanging. The farmer should watch his pile and if he finds the ammonia escaping, which he could easily detect by the smell, he should pack it tighter. If on the other hand he finds on inspecting his pile that it is getting at all baked, he should stir it up. Any one who observes the care which is ordinarily bestowed on the trimming and neatness of a straw stack cannot but be struck by the contrast with the careless manner in which the manure pile is thrown together, while the latter is immensely more essential to the farmer's prosperity than the former. The manure

pile should if possible be kept under cover, but if this is not convenient a neat cylindrical pile packed properly will go a great way to avoid the loss of the valuable properties of the manure by rain. A very good plan to counteract this difficulty is to hollow out around the pile several good-sized holes, into which the water after filtering through the pile will settle. A dipper with a long handle should be made by the farmer, and every four or five days in rainy weather he should scoop up the liquid from these holes and place it back on top of the pile. It should be remembered that the liquid manure of animals is nearly nine times as valuable as the solid, as it contains an enormous proportion of nitrogen. Farmers, generally, have a vague idea that the liquid manure is valuable, but a large proportion of them nevertheless allow it, to a great extent, to go to waste. One of the most effective ways to preserve the liquid manure is to provide an inclined trench behind the animals, at the lower end of which there should be placed a trough to catch the liquid. A more convenient way is to soak it up by the bedding, but the farmers of this country will find a few dollars properly laid out in the construction of the stable floor to be money well spent.

HIGH KNEE ACTION.

To any thoroughly practical horseman who knows what it is to ride or drive fifty or sixty miles between sunrise and sunset, either along the dusty turnpikes or over yellow rolling slopes of wind-bowed prairie grass, the desire which "fashionable" people manifest to secure horses with extraordinary knee action for light harness purposes must appear particularly childish and unreasonable. One buys a light harness horse for the purpose of having an animal that will (1st) do his work well, (2nd) do it with ease to himself, (3rd) do it gracefully and make a good appearance. The horse who has excessive knee action cannot cover ground rapidly, and cannot travel with ease to himself because he is making a great deal of unnecessary effort. The action is painful, and to any true horseman it must, for that reason, seem very ungraceful. For all that, however, people who have more money than brains, people who know really nothing about what either the anatomy or the gait of a horse should be, insist that horses intended for light harness work shall have excessive and ungraceful knee action. It is indicative of coarse breeding and cold blood, it means slow and laboured progress and a consequent inability for anything like a well-sustained effort, but it is fashionable, and so those alleged horsemen, who mistake a knowledge of the foibles of moneyed fools for practical and genuine horsemanship, fall down and worship it. The time was when the cruel and unnatural habit of close docking, and the idiotic admiration for a coarse, up-headed, chuckle-throated harness horse that would jerk his knees up to his curb chain, and step six times on a cabbage leaf, were exclusively transatlantic follies; but the fondness of

certain New Yorkers and Canadians for aping everything that is English promises soon to make them prevalent both in the United States and Canada.

THE CAVALRY HORSE.

The troubles in the North-West show no signs of coming to a speedy termination. Not only do the half-breeds promise to make a very stubborn and effective resistance for some time, but the Indians appear excited and uneasy from one end of the Territory to the other, and while many of them are in open rebellion, it would not be at all surprising if a large majority of those who still make a pretence of being loyal should go on the war-path as soon as the grass becomes a little better. In any event the Government will require a large force in the North-West to afford security to settlers, and this force will have to be maintained for many years to come.

Already in this campaign it has been conclusively proven that in order to be of any practical use in a country made up of such widely scattered settlements the soldiers must be well mounted, while means for the rapid transportation of supplies and military necessities of all sorts should be ample and of the best description.

All this means a brisk demand for horses of the proper kind, and of which we have comparatively few. Good-sized, active, well-bred horses will prove one of the necessities of the Militia Department for some years to come, and it is questionable if our farmers and breeders will be able to meet the demand in this direction for some years to come. Such being the case, good thoroughbred stallions should be in demand this season all over the country, but in this as in many other matters of importance our farmers are apt to be slow to leave the old beaten ruts in which they have been travelling. Those who take to breeding half-breeds this season, however, need not be afraid of being too late for the enhanced market, as according to the present outlook half-bred horses should be in much better demand five or six years-hence than they are now.

THE BELLE MEADE SALE.

The excellent prices brought by the get of Luke Blackburn and Bramble, two untried sires, indicate that breeders generally are awake to the importance of breeding from racing sires and scions of racing families, quite irrespective of the consideration as to whether the sire has proved himself successful in the stud or not. Bramble and Luke Blackburn were both thorough race horses, and sons of Bonnie Scotland. When coupled with the matrons of the Belle Meade stud, Bonnie Scotland got some wonderfully good colts, and it appears perfectly reasonable to suppose that his sons mated with these same mares should produce race horses.

According to the reports in the New York