

well known to Canadian and U. S. A. importers, also Mr. Emile Aveline, of Launay, both of whom were young married men. Of course the country's horse trade will be interrupted for many years to come. In poor little Belgium, nearly every stallion and mare was taken by the Germans. England is just full of Belgians, and I am continually meeting Belgian breeders and dealers, most of them ruined, their premises burnt to ashes, and no home to go to when all is over. Such is the prospect over here."

### The Care of Horses' Feet.

We all recognize the importance of good feet in a horse. There is a great deal of truth in the old adage, "No feet, no horse." While some horses have congenitally weak feet and require very careful usage to prevent disease, many go wrong in their feet from careless or ignorant treatment. The foot of the horse is a complex organ and subject to many diseases, the causes and symptoms of which we will not discuss in this article, but rather discuss the means of preventing disease. The main points to be observed are to keep the feet in as natural a shape as possible, see that sufficient moisture is supplied, and when it is necessary to shoe, see that the shoeing is done by a competent smith, who, not only understands the art, but is always anxious to do a good job. There is, under normal conditions, a constant growth of all the horny or insensitive parts of the foot, and we can readily understand that if there be not also an equally constant waste or wear, the organ will assume abnormal size, and, as a consequence, become ill-shaped. Of course, during youth, while the animal is growing, the growth exceeds the waste, hence the feet increase in size. In the state of nature, the natural wear and tear on the unshod foot equals the growth, hence the feet remain normal, but owing to the artificial manner in which horses are, of necessity, reared in cold climates, their feet require more attention than they frequently receive. In young animals interference is seldom necessary until the first winter, as during the summer months, when the colts are at large, the natural wear will suffice to prevent overgrowth, but when the weather becomes cold and they are kept in the stable the greater part of the time, often in stalls that are not regularly cleaned (which condition favors the growth of horn), the wear will be slight, and unless attention be given, the feet will become abnormally large, deep in the heels, long in the toes, and abnormal in general shape to such an extent as to render it impossible for the animal to stand or move naturally. This condition abnormally increases the tension on some of the tendons and ligaments and correspondingly decreases that of others, hence predisposes or excites to disease. If this be allowed to continue the future usefulness of the animal will be permanently affected. In order to prevent this the feet should be pared or rasped down to the natural shape every few weeks during the season of stabling. The heels should be kept well pared or rasped down, the wall rasped off on the bearing surface all the way around and the toes not allowed to grow too long. It is seldom necessary to pare either the frog or the bars.

In order to prevent thrush or other disease of the frog from an accumulation of filth, it is wise to clean out the foot regularly with a foot hook. In the spring we often see colts with long toes and deep heels and with the lower margin of the walls turned inwards. When walking, the colt treads largely upon his heels, the toes turning upwards and probably not touching the ground until the foot be lifted to take the next step. In such cases the owner will decide either that "they will soon wear down" and turn him out, or that it will be wise to correct the fault before turning him out. When such a foot is lifted and the sole cleaned out preparatory to trimming, it will be noticed that the frog is narrow and shallow and often there is a foul-smelling discharge from its cleft. All this is due to neglect in observing the precautions mentioned. The frog should be large and strong and so deep that when the foot is planted it presses upon the ground and supports its share of the animal's weight, which tends to prevent contraction of the heels. It can readily be seen that anything that tends to a decrease in size or prevention of development of this important part of the foot is a serious matter.

Regular attention should be paid to the feet, whether the animal be on grass or in the stable, until the time arrives at which he is to be shod, after which the shoeing smith will cut and rasp away at each shoeing a sufficient amount of horn to keep the foot in proper shape. The intelligent horseshoer will be careful to not cut the bars down nor pare any off the frog or sole except what has become partially detached. Horse owners should see that there is not too much cutting or rasping, nor yet too much burning with the hot shoe done to make the shoe fit. The foot should be trimmed to the normal shape by the use of knife and rasp and the shoe then fitted to the foot, only sufficient heat being used as noticed by the slight singeing done to indicate

where any high places may still exist. We must always remember that most shoeing smiths have made more or less of a study of shoeing and know more about the art than the average horse owner, hence, unless the owner has studied the matter carefully, he should think carefully before finding fault with the smith. The shoeing smith is often blamed for causing lameness when he has done his part faithfully and well. Too many horse owners place the blame for lameness on the shoeing. It is a fortunate fact that a large percentage of horseshoers do fair work, but are generally open to suggestions for better work by a man who has a better knowledge of the anatomy of the foot and the better method of shoeing to keep the feet sound than he has. At the same time, the smith who has shod a horse, and in a few days the horse is brought back to the shop lame, and the owner says the lameness is due to faulty shoeing, but cannot find out in what particular the job is faulty, is liable to say things that are not complimentary to the owners, hence a man should be sure of his ground before blaming the smith. Shoes should be removed and carefully reset every four weeks or at most every five weeks.

Probably the most frequent fault in shoeing in cold weather is using too high calkins. This tends to economy, as when the calkins become dull there is still enough left to allow of them being re-sharpened, probably several times, while if they be short at first, new shoes are the sooner necessary. Even at the expense of more new shoes it is unwise to use high calkins. The closer the foot is to the ground the more naturally and easily the horse travels and the less liable he is to sprain or other injury, provided always, of course that there are sufficient sharp calkins to

any continued length of time, as by standing the horse in a tub of water (called tubbing); by applying poultices to the feet; standing in wet clay; the application of soaking pads, which consist of felt or other materials that have been soaked in water; by buckling around the coronet and allowing the pad to lie against the wall of the foot; by the use of soaking boots that can be purchased from dealers; or by packing the soles of the feet every night with clay or other material that will retain moisture for a long time. Any of these plans gives the feet the opportunity of absorbing moisture, which prevents a drying and hardening of the feet, which, if long continued, tends to inflammatory action and consequent contraction. If more attention were paid to some of these matters we would see fewer lame or groggy horses on the roads and streets.

WHIP.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Our English Correspondence.

#### ENGLAND'S FAT STOCK SHOW SEASON.

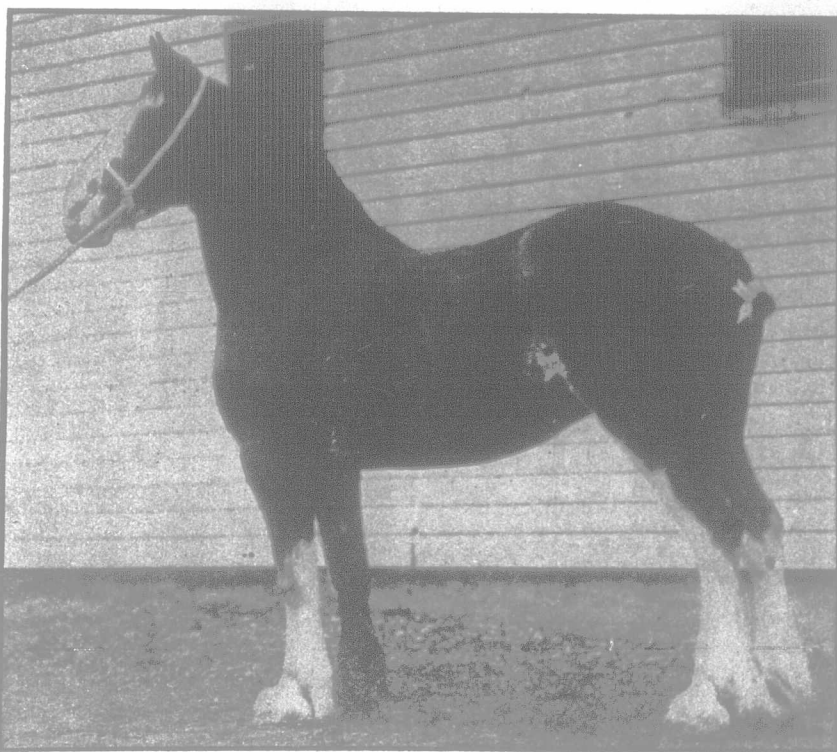
England's fat stock show season has commenced, as usual with the Norwich Exhibition where a yearling Shorthorn steer, W. M. Cazalet's Newtonian, a roan bred by Captain A. T. Gordon, Loanhead, was champion. This steer has grown to fair weight, being over 1,456 pounds, and showing quality, character and even flesh. Reserve was the same gentleman's Shorthorn heifer Cadboll Mina 7th, bred by T. G. Young, Tarrel. This heifer scaled 1,848 pounds at two years and nine months old. She beat J. J. Cridlan's Aberdeen-Angus heifer for the female championship. This animal was Estelle of Maisemore, which as a yearling was first at the Highland show and was of good weight, i. e., 1,690 pounds at 31½ months old and handled well. Some think this heifer was rather unfortunate. Other class winners included Cazalet's Cairncosh Conqueror, a Shorthorn steer scaling 1,952 pounds at two years; and Sir H. S. Leon's Cross-bred steer Moonstone III., a black "cross," showing the remarkable weight of 2,268 pounds at two years and eleven months. He too was Scottish bred—a great day all round for over the border breeders.

Birmingham's cattle show, which follows that at Norwich, was noticeable for the placing of a Hereford as champion, and that for the fact that King George, on the eve of his departure to the front, won three first prizes, three thirds, two

reserves for breed specials and several commendations. The Royal Farms won classes in Hereford and Devon heifers and in Southdown fat wether sheep.

In the contest for the fat cattle championship was a struggle between Sir John R. Cotterell's two-year-old Hereford steer and Sir Richard Cooper's two-year-old cross-bred heifer, and so close was it that only when one of the sheep judges was called in as referee did the verdict go to the Hereford. The champion is a typical Hereford, however, of great width, length and depth, the three essentials, and carrying a lot of evenly-distributed flesh, the vital necessity, and scaled 2,068 pounds at 34 months. The Cooper cross-bred, about two months younger, scaled just 1,680 pounds and had plenty of good meat for her size laid on fine bone. There would be no waste here. She was sired by an Aberdeen-Angus, and her dam was a cross-bred Shorthorn. She was attended by two hairdressers in the ring, and they curled her lovely coat until the steward said the judges couldn't see the fashionable dame because of the zealous bodyguard. The Norwich champion, a yearling Shorthorn steer, was well "licked" now, but then Birmingham is a show at which the judges go out and out for the breed they love best, and it was all "Lombard Street to a China orange" that the referee, who is a Hereford man, would give his casting vote that way.

J. J. Cridlan, the Aberdeen-Angus expert, won a prize in Shorthorns with a heifer Mayflower. He says he doesn't mind feeding any breed if they will feed, and he seems to have found the knack. He won the breed prize in Aberdeen-Angus with



Nell of Aikton.

Champion Clydesdale mare at the Guelph Winter Fair, 1918. Exhibited by T. H. Hassard, Markham, Ont.

prevent slipping. Keeping horses' feet in good condition in cold weather is not as difficult as in warm weather in horses that are kept in the stable. All that is necessary is to have them properly shod and regularly cleaned, both the wall and sole. The principal cause of trouble due to inattention to the feet when the above mentioned care is observed, is lack of moisture.

During cold weather, the natural moisture of the feet is not as rapidly consumed as in hot, dry weather, and there is usually a more regular supply from wet roads, snow etc.; hence we may say that it is seldom necessary to supply moisture; but in hot, dry weather things are different. Even then the horse that is turned out on grass at night will generally get sufficient moisture from the ground and dew to suffice, but those that are kept in stables practically all the time that they are not in harness should have attention. There are many hoof dressings on the market, that are claimed to supply moisture, keep the feet soft, etc., and as a consequence prevent disease. We must admit that dressing the feet regularly with some of these dressings adds to their appearance, but of any real benefit derived from any of them we are doubtful. Many claim that they are harmful as they occlude the pores through which moisture enters the feet, but this contention probably has little force. Those who have studied the matter carefully, have, with few if any exceptions, decided that the moisture required is "water." Hence the feet of a horse that is kept in the stable and worked or driven in dry, hot weather should be systematically supplied with water. This of course, can be done by any device by which water comes in contact with the feet for