

minimum of six per cent., and that his financial success depends upon each additional per cent. that he can make that money return.

Farming has many attractions, it gets a man close to Nature; if he works well, he will enjoy sleep, it is the ideal independent life providing that the financial returns are well above the minimum mentioned, but unless the returns are favorable, either in the shape of cash, increase in live stock, or improvements to the farm in the way of buildings, etc., it will only be a comparatively short time before the land occupier will become so uncomfortable as to cause him to trek to cheaper lands, where the rise of land values will in a measure balance his inability to wring profits from the soil by the ordinary agricultural processes.

The land occupier is of little use to the country, he is usually slipshod in his methods, and if put on virgin soil every ten years, will be found before the decade has half rolled round to have befouled that soil with weeds. He is a continual worry to the local store-keeper, and a bad example to the young people of the district, his restlessness and slovenliness all having a detrimental effect. The fault may be in his methods, it may be lack of energy or a tendency to trifle with insignificant things, but the primary cause is undoubtedly the non-observance of the business practice of taking stock annually of one's farm operations with a view of determining, where the leaks are, and what work is being done at a loss. Farming is a business and the farmer is a professional man, but unless he observes business principles in the practice of his chosen profession he is bound to come to grief sooner or later, the same as in other professions; therefore, it is essential that he shall consider the farm he has bought or is about to buy as an investment, as well as a place of abode, from which dividends must be paid annually.

## HORSE

### That Two Dollar Tax on Imported Horses.

At Montreal there is a man who has a horse barn so situated that with the assistance of the railway authorities, and inspectors and his own domineering address, importers of horses are practically compelled to stable their horses with him between disembarking from the ship and entraining for interior points. The charge per head for such stabling and bringing the horses from the boat is two dollars and few are the horses that have entered Canada by that port that have not been charged the tax. Importers have resented the fact that one man should have a monopoly of this handling business and that they have been compelled to pay tribute to him which often runs up into hundreds of dollars on a large consignment that has to wait long for cars, but there seemed no other way until one of the aggressive Canadian importers this fall insisted upon the railway authorities placing their cars down against the wharf where the horses could be immediately loaded. The incident created a storm around the establishment of the monopolist but the horses were on their way home an hour after landing and the importer was some hundred dollars to the good. This incident will probably be noised about among other importers with the result that this impediment in the way of the importer will be removed or at least lessened. Every such circumstance that adds to the expense of importing increases the cost of a horse to the purchaser and no one now thinks horses are cheap enough. Why should not the horse breeders take the matter up at their next annual meeting?

### The Clipping Season for Horses.

"Outspoken" in the *Farm and Stockbreeder* comments as follows on a common practice of horsemen nowadays:

"This is the season for clipping, and upon its neatness depends the appearance of the London carriage horse, the country coachman, and also the breedy hunter, soon to commence his exacting toil. In former times all the clipping was done by scissors and comb, the water being inserted under the hair, whilst the horse stood a big clip at the hair on the top of the neck. Everyone did not require the hair cut so short, as even in severe work the horse's head and some covering, a naked skin, as though some of the

most cruel and highly objectionable from every point of view. This was easily prevented by using a thicker comb, but whether thick or thin there were ordinarily some notches to singe out with paraffin or gas. Then, as now, the singeing operation required practice, or else the prominent or overhanging points or parts got singed too much, and ugly bare places or even slight wounds might be caused.

The under side of a prominent hip-bone was easily burnt, and a small but prominent bone on the horse's face, known in anatomy as "the ridge," usually caught the rising flame, the skin thereby getting scorched on the lower side of the ridge. Then, as now, the long hairs on the nose which act as feelers, and are known by certain grooms as "the smellers," were senselessly singed off, and the long hairs which form a protection to the eye at night-time were also ruthlessly and cruelly burnt away. In poetic language, which has slipped my memory, someone wisely wrote that more harm is done for want of thought than for want of heart, and this singeing

but in light carriage or harness work this is unnecessary. There is herein no great pressure, the chief tax upon the harness horse being to move his own body along. Except with heavy loads, or in a very hilly country—there is in harness work no great pressure on the shoulders.

Apart from the pressure of harness there are other and most important reasons for leaving large patches of hair unclipped. The first of these is for protection against a most annoying derangement known as mud fever. The subject is not fully understood by anyone, but the best prevention is known, namely, leave all the hair on parts most liable to attack. These are evidently the under parts, where a solution of adhesive clay from the road splashes the harness horse's belly, or muddy lanes or fields bespatter the hunter.

Some would not like the appearance of long hair, but their objection could be met by clipping all over once in September and then afterwards leaving the hair to protect certain exposed parts. The hair once clipped, will be nearly of the same



HULLESS BARLEY, ON THE FARM OF J. C. C. BREMNER, NEAR EDMONTON.  
Sown June 7th, Cut August 20th.

of protective feelers is clearly a case of that kind. It is so easy to miss them by putting the leather glove of the left hand over the flame, and the horse looks far better with them on. The ears are sometimes frightfully burnt by clumsy operators—but enough said. The secret of success in singeing is not to draw the lamp repeatedly over the same part. Draw it elsewhere, and again away, and return to the original region when that part has cooled. The irritability of the usual patient horse will remind any reflecting groom that he is being scorched, but singeing a fresh place gives instant relief.

### THE CLIPPING MACHINE.

In modern times nearly all the clipping has been done by a machine which works like a reaper or mower, but the work is not equal (we believe it better.—Ed.) to that of scissors, though it is much more expeditious. Light horses for the carriage, park or hunting field require three clippings during the autumn, one each being in October, November and December. After January 1st the coat does not grow, except a few shoots, which singe off by the lightest of touches, and leave the horse with a smart appearance during the winter season.

When there is much wear by the harness or saddlery upon any particular part the leaving of the hair on that part may prevent chafing, thereby preserving the skin from abrasions. A hunter has many hours under saddle, and if clipped the saddle may so chafe the short hair as to wear it all away, and the saddle next wears away the skin, and such a sore back is now established as compels rest, the owner enduring galling disappointment, because he has thoughtlessly or ignorantly galled the horse's back.

The preventions are:—(1) To see that the saddle fits, and that there is plenty of stuffing or padding. (2) To use a thick felt saddle cloth when the pannel of the saddle wears or presses into a small compass, or at any time when a sore back is threatened. (3) To leave all the hair under the saddle, especially giving sufficient width at the back part where the rider's weight falls, and also in front of the rider's knee, where chafing is caused by the friction of natural shoulder motion.

If a draft horse has doubtful shoulders it might be wise to leave all the hair under the collar;

color or shade as twice or thrice clipped, therefore this plan escapes notice; but clipped coats are never the same color as the whole or unclipped coat; hence the objection to the whole coat left in patches may be well grounded.

In hunters I usually leave all the coat (a) on the breast, where he must face the ugly thorns, (b) under the saddle and under the girths, where he is liable to chafe, and (c) between the hind legs, where there is but little protection for delicate parts, which are most liable to an attack of mud fever. I thus make an effort to guard against both mechanical mischief and other derangements.

Some trade horses in London have large patches of hair left on various parts, evidently for warmth alone; but the policy is doubtful. Nothing can be clearer than the necessity of leaving the entire coat on horses exposed to winter weather, as, for instance, a farm horse. [In Canada where working farm horses are blanketed it is a serious mistake to leave on a long coat, the longcoated animal sweats readily and chills quickly, and the waste products of the system generally gotten rid of by the sweat are retained to block the pores. Horses that are to run out all winter, or to be fed on roughage and unworked are better left unclipped.] But is a cabber really protected by a large patch of hair on his loins alone? Some carriage horses wear loin cloths, but I think they do harm rather than good. The horse gets heated under the cloth, and is afterwards liable to cold. In my youth I carefully put hoods on my saddle and harness horses, and one of them took a violent cold, this being the only time he was amiss during the thirteen years I rode and drove him. A high authority—Admiral Rous—said a hood was the precursor of sore throat; and these loin cloths and similar protections are worse than useless. The hair left on the back is not so bad as a cloth put on.

Clipping should be done with farm workhorses before the real cold weather, and again in the spring, just at the beginning of the spring's work if the coat has grown long.

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The Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain will no longer issue duplicate export certificates, thus removing a possible avenue for fraud.