

Winter Care of Stallions and Brood Mares.

Stallions that are used extensively in the stud are, of necessity, highly fed during the stud season, and in many cases are allowed to put in the remaining eight or nine months of the year in idleness. During the summer months they receive grass and other green food, and are usually allowed to run in a paddock or lot, and thereby get sufficient exercise. This is good practice, as a horse that does a heavy stud season requires, as stated, heavy rations, and in the majority of cases does considerable road work in travelling from stand to stand. After two or three months of this work, his digestive organs, as well as his physical constitution, require a rest, and this rest and recuperation cannot be obtained in any way better than by the treatment mentioned. But when winter sets in, on account of the slippery state of the ground, the inclemency of the weather, or other causes, he is not allowed in the paddock, and it often occurs that he is shut in a box-stall, frequently of small dimensions, and not given exercise in any way. In order that a stallion may be successful in the stud, his physical condition must be strong during the season, and it is not possible for this to be unless he get regular exercise. When horses are allowed complete rest or inaction for a few months, the muscles become soft and flabby, even though he be well fed, and the respiratory organs also lose tone. It is impossible to get these organs in a strong, robust state in two or three weeks, which is the time usually taken for the purpose. Preparation for the stud season should take the greater part of the winter, and at all events should commence now, the middle of January. We often hear it stated that it is not well to groom a stallion during the winter; that he will shed earlier and better in the spring if he be left to nature in this respect during the cold months. This is a mistake. A horse will feel better, thrive better, look better and shed his hair better if he be regularly and thoroughly groomed at all times, even when he is standing idle. Regular exercise should be given in order to develop both the muscular and respiratory systems. The manner in which this is given will necessarily depend upon conditions and the individual tastes of the attendant. In the lighter classes of stallions, as Roadsters, Carriage Horses and Thoroughbreds, either harness or saddle can be used, while the heavier classes can be led, with the attendant on foot or on a pony, or there is no reason why even these big fellows may not be either driven or ridden. If the horse has had a long period of idleness, the amount of exercise given at first should be slight, say two or three miles daily for a few days, and the distance gradually increased as he becomes more fit. After a time eight or ten miles for the lighter classes and six or seven for the heavier should be given daily. In the meantime, the quantity of food should be in proportion to the work done. Violent changes of food should in all cases be avoided. The use of drugs should also be avoided, except in cases of disease, and then should be given only under instructions from a veterinarian. There are many men who probably understand fitting a stallion for the season better than the average veterinarian, but it is a mistake for any person who has not received a special training to think that he has sufficient knowledge of the actions of drugs to enable him to administer them with impunity. The food should consist in the ordinary food for horses, viz., hay and oats of good quality. Better results are obtained from crushed oats than from whole. A carrot or two or a turnip daily, with twice weekly a feed of bran, with the addition of a little linseed meal, is advisable to keep digestion regular. The quantity of grain to be given will depend greatly upon the size of the horse and upon the amount of exercise given, and must be regulated by the groom.

BROOD MARES.

Brood mares that are given regular work of a light nature, work that does not require severe muscular or respiratory exertion, during pregnancy, usually produce stronger foals and give less trouble than those that are pampered and allowed to live in idleness. As with the stallion, in order that the reproductive powers of a mare may be successfully exercised, it is necessary that her physical condition be robust, and this condition can be obtained only by intelligent feeding and exercise. It goes without saying that the sanitary conditions must be good, and that all food and water consumed be of the best quality. She should have a nice, roomy, well-bedded and clean

box-stall. This is advisable in all stages of pregnancy, but may be said to be imperative towards the latter stages. Great care should be taken to avoid fright, excitement, foul or disagreeable odors, as fresh blood, etc. The administration of drastic purgatives, sudden chills, pricking with spurs, or anything that will have a tendency to cause violent muscular contraction, should also be avoided. The food should be of



HEAVY DRAFT TEAM.
First prize at Brandon Exhibition, 1902.
OWNED BY J. A. S. MACMILLAN, BRANDON, MAN.

an easily-digested nature; liberal quantities of bran should be given, as well as a reasonable quantity of crushed oats. It must be remembered that the mare has to provide for the nourishment of the fetus as well as herself, hence she will require more liberal feeding than the gelding or unpregnant mare of the same size performing the same work. If the mammary gland assume activity too soon before parturition and milk begins to escape, the quantity of bran and other soft food that tends to increase the secretion of milk should be lessened or ceased entirely. If she be given exercise in the yard or lot instead of in harness, care should be taken that she be not allowed out with horses that are quarrelsome. My allotted space is more than taken up, but I will probably have more to say later on re precautions to be taken in regard to both mare and foal during and after parturition. "WHHP."

Most Creditable.

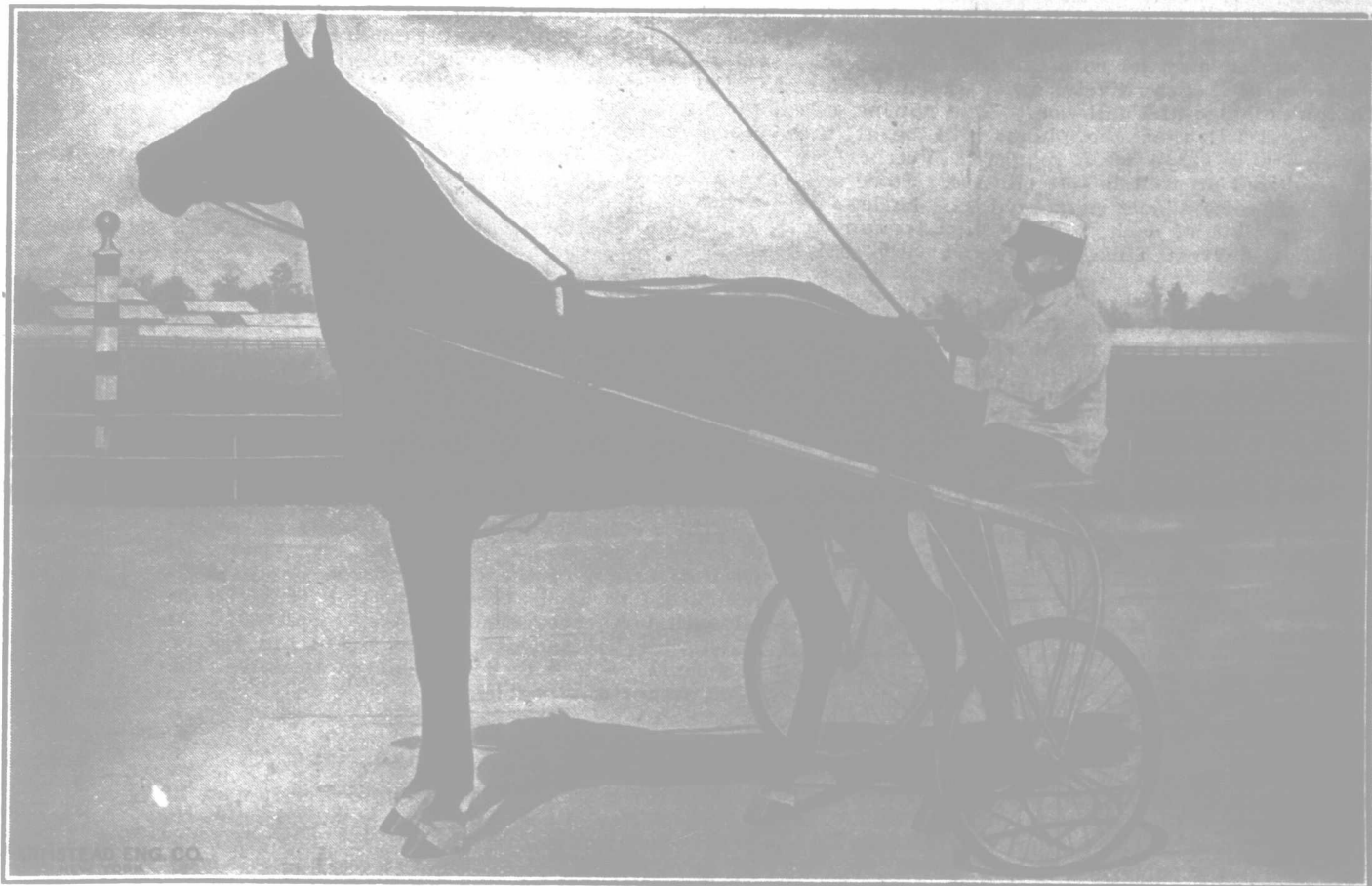
To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Regina, January 7th, 1903.

Your Christmas number of the "Advocate" is a most creditable production, and replete with useful and interesting information. I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

CHAS. W. PETERSON,
Deputy Commissioner.

Uniformity of finish can only be secured by uniformity of stock at the start, and that can best be secured by a man being fitted to do his own breeding as well as feeding.



DAN PATCH, 1.59½.
Recently purchased by M. W. Savage, Minneapolis, Minn., for \$60,000. (See Gossip, page 83.)

Winter Care of Work Horses.

At this season in our climate the average farm horse is not as well cared for as his usefulness demands. Lack of exercise is very injurious, and yet how common it is, through being more convenient, to allow the horses who during the busy season have to work hard every day, to now stand idle from one week's end to the other. This plan is directly opposed to all known methods of maintaining strength or even ordinary health. Muscles unused gradually weaken, and following the same line of thought, healthy bodies through lack of exercise lose some of their power and become less capable of performing the same heavy labor, through lack of constitutional vim, which has been indiscreetly robbed from the willing worker by his easy-going master.

Another point that needs watching is the ration. During the slack periods a rather larger proportion of laxative food is required. This can be composed of linseed meal, flaxseed, bran or roots; bran, perhaps, being the most suitable for our conditions. Give the horse some variety of foods if you possibly can, but in doing this be very careful that you do not change in any marked degree the percentage of succulent food in the ration.

STOCK.

Veterinary Progress in Canada.

Happily for Canadian live-stock interests, both at home and abroad, the lethargy which seemed to beset the profession, and its particular branch in the department of agriculture, bids fair soon to be entirely dissipated. The new incumbent of the Chief Veterinary Inspectorship for Canada has, in the short period of his office-holding, been instrumental in helping the live-stock interests very materially. Two illustrations of such progress are afforded by the constructing and equipping of a pathological laboratory at the Central Experimental Farm, for the purpose of investigating animal diseases and the formulating of methods for their suppression, and for the making of the various serums and vaccines for blackleg, glanders and tuberculosis. The direction of an investigation into the cause of swamp-fever, a disease more costly to Canadian horse owners than any other, is another proof of the indefatigability of the present chief of the veterinary branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Through Dr. Rutherford's efforts that great international professional body, the American Veterinary Medical Association, made up of the brightest minds and most expert surgeons in the animal world on this continent, will convene this year of 1903 at Ottawa, September 1st to 4th. The advertising benefits to Canada of such a visitation from so many veterinarians from south of the boundary cannot be estimated, neither can the resultant benefit to the profession north of the boundary. In the past, the veterinary profession in Canada, although possessing some men of undoubted ability and education, has been pointed at with semi-derision, for which many reasons have been ascribed. The lack of primary education of many veterinarians, the non-demand