TREADS OR CALKS FROM OVERREACHING, AND QUARTER CRACK—WHAT TO DO TO EFFECT A CURE.

Western Sportsman.

A tread or calk is an injury inflicted on one foot by the "calkin —or, as it often happens, the edge of the shoe—on another foot, producing a contused wound, which is often troublesome to heal. This sort of injury differs from any incised wound, inasmuch as it is a sort of bruise by which the surrounding parts are lacerated and violently torn from their horny attachments, and the wound, although simple in appearance, is of such a complicated nature that it often requires several weeks to restore the parts to a healthy state.

The treatment consists in allaying irritation, removing the dead parts and promoting granulation. First apply a poultice of carrots, then, with a pair of scissors, remove any partly separated portions of skin or hoof. The wound is then dressed with balsam, having first sprinkled the chasm with a portion of finely pulverized myrrh. This substance forms a coating over the newly-formed granulations and protects them from injury.

In the winter season a calk, unless attended to early, often becomes a serious affair. A foot disease of a very malignant character has prevailed of late. It sometimes appears without any apparent cause except slight febrile symptoms; at others a calk seems to be the exciting cause, the disease speedily extends above the coronet and within the hoof. It is a species of inflammatory gangrene, and is generally attended with sympathetic and occasionally typhoid fevers. The best local remedy is a mixture of pulverized charcoal and fir balsam; the constitutional treatment according to the nature of the case. Whenever a horse is calked the chasm should be cleansed and filled up with fir balsam.

QUARTER CRACK.

All horsemen understand what is meant by quarter crack. It consists of a loss of continuity in the fibres of the hoof, leaving an opening through its substance. It generally occurs in the fore, although often in the hind feet. A fissure of this kind is not considered of much importance; yet, after the cure has been effected, there remains a cicatrice, which is by some horse dealers looked upon as an eyesore; and they often refuse to purchase an otherwise perfect animal solely on this account. If the crack be only a simple fissure and does not extend to the sensitive parts of the hoof there is no perceptible lameness; hence, when such a fissure is first observed it should be at once attended to, in order to prevent lameness, which, however, is generally slight.

THE CANADIAN STAND AT THE BIRMINGHAM SHOW.

At stand No. 107 a most comprehensive and interesting collection of samples of produce from Manitoba and the Canadian North-West was arranged by Mr. Alexander Begg. The exhibit comprised several varieties of wheat in the straw and threshed, oats, barley, beans, peas, 50 varieties of prairie grasses, turnips, mangolds, beets, pumpkins, squashes, carrots, radishes, parsnips, as well as potatoes, several of the latter weighing over 2¾ lbs. each; tomatoes, peaches, prairie hen, wood (several varieties), soil in glass cases, and coal from the Saskatchewan district; interspersed with photographs of Canadian scenery. Attention was drawn to the fact that the grain, roots, vegetables, etc., had been raised from the soil without any artificial aid whatever. A very fine pair of buffalo heads was shown to advantage, forming, together with the Royal Arms, a centre piece to this unique display.

OATS.

Spirit of the Farm.

There is not among all our cereal crops a more important or a more neglected one than oats. The impression prevails generally that the crop does not pay. In the first place, the farmer selects the most indifferent land he has to sow it on; then the preparation for it is of the most meagre kind. Again, there is not, except in rare instances, seed enough put in the ground. It is unreasonable to expect good crops or paying crops under such conditions. A farmer generally selects good ground for wheat or corn, or for any other crop, but gives what is left to oats. A natural sequence is poor returns. If he will change matters somewhat, select good soil and proper preparation, as in other crops, oats will give just as satisfactory returns. *They will not grow to do any good on poor land;* they require rich, porous soil, or even a heavy, clayey soil does well if manured. A gentleman sowed the red chaff variety, and got eighty-two bushels per acre. The land he sowed was black loam, on a very steep hill side. Another sowed the same variety on a red, clayey soil, rich with clover culture, and received sixty five bushels. Either crop was a good yield, and the same can be done on any good land suitable for that grain. Do not sow on poor ground—do without rather; but on first-class land no cereal will make better returns.

As stock food oats are superior to corn, or, indeed, to any grain. It supplies within itself all a horse demands—the grain for support, the straw as an adjunct. It is cooling and refreshing, and a horse after hard service is not likely to injure itself from overeating. No one sees a horse founder on oats. It is the great reliance of the older countries. *Only in the south are horses confined to corn.* Its usual yield is from forty to sixty bushels per acre, though the almost universal way of feeding it is to cut it in a straw cutter. In Europe it is always fed as grain, being threshed and generally crushed or ground. Wheat at the average crop and price, 15 bushels at $1 per bushel, gives $15 per acre, while oats at 50 bushels and 40 cents per bushel, yields $20; or at its minimum, 40 bushels and 30 cents per bushel, makes $12, and wheat is as often 10 bushels per acre as the other is at 40 bushels. So, in any aspect, either to sell or feed it is equal to the much-vaunted cereal, while it is far more reliable as a sure crop. The quantity per acre for seed should on good ground be never less than two bushels per acre, and on very rich land two and one-half bushels is better. Never sow on bottom land, for it is almost certain to fall down and be lost.

OIL MEAL AND CORN.

Chicago Breeders' Gazette.

A Kansas subscriber asks whether he can profitably pay $30 per ton for oil meal to feed two-year-old native steers, on cut sheaf oats, cut millet, and corn meal, corn being worth 20 cents per bushel, or about one-fourth the cost of oil meal. He wants to push these cattle and get them in market in February.

We think the difference in price is too great. Oil meal is too expensive to feed with 20-cent corn. The advantage of the oil meal would be largely in promoting the health of the steers, keeping the stomach properly cleansed. We should advise our correspondent to buy a few bushels of flaxseed, boil a small quantity of this, and give each steer, twice per week, one-half pint of flaxseed mixed with its feed. *This will prevent constipation, promote* digestion, and be worth all it costs as food. The feeder might find it better to give this small amount of flaxseed three times per week. Another and better way is to grind the grain and flaxseed together, mixing one bushel of flaxseed with nineteen bushels of oats and corn; but, as our correspondent does not grind his oats, he might grind one bushel of flaxseed with fifteen bushels of corn, and feed this meal on the cut sheaf oats. It requires fifteen bushels of other grain to grind with one bushel of flaxseed to absorb the oil, so as not to clog the mill. One-twentieth part, or even one-thirtieth part of flaxseed will regulate the stomach and keep the skin in a soft, velvety condition. It will take less flaxseed to give a half-pint, boiled, three times per week, and will answer every purpose, requiring only one-fortieth part of flaxseed. It has a little better effect after being boiled in four to six times its bulk of water.

The cut sheaf oats and millet should be moistened and then the meal mixed in, so that the meal and cut fodder must be eaten together. In this case the meal will be well digested, and produce the best effect. Each steer should be fed six quarts of meal upon two bushels of cut feed per day. Of course, this feed should not be allowed to freeze. It is better mixed some twelve hours before using, and, by lying in mass, it will warm up and commence a slight fermentation, and this will assist in its digestion. With this slightly laxative ration, the steers can be pushed on to maturity for market rapidly, but the feeder should always be careful not to overfeed, or feed more than can be fully digested and assimilated, for this will retard, not hasten maturity.

POTATO CULTURE.

At the winter meeting of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, Edmund Hersey, of Hingham, read a paper on potato culture, in which he gave the results of certain investigations as follows:—

1. The shape of the potato cannot be changed by the continued selection of any particular form of the seed planted. 2. The crop may be increased by selecting for seed healthy, well-kept potatoes, and diminished by selecting for seed diseased and poorly-kept potatoes. 3. Hard potatoes that have sprouted but little are better for seed than those that are soft or have long sprouts. 4. Long-continued planting of any variety gradually changes its character, often improving it during the first twenty years after it comes from the seed; it then frequently begins to lose its good qualities and to become more susceptible to disease. 5. Large crops are only obtainable on rich soils well prepared by being thoroughly pulverized. 6. In ordinary field culture the size of the potato should be sufficient to give the young plant a vigorous start; whole potatoes, or pieces weighing from one to two ounces, are not too large. 7. Neither the size nor the form of the potato for seed is of so much consequence as its healthy condition or its vital powers. 8. No rules can be laid down in regard to the quantity of seed per acre, the amount of manure or the particular method of cultivation that will apply to all farms. 9. One of a half-dozen experiments are not sufficient to establish any particular facts. It is only by numerous experiments, covering a long period of time, and tried on different farms, that it is safe to settle down to any results as undeniable facts. 10. While the successful cultivator may gather from others much valuable information to assist him in his investigation, for the details, if he would produce large crops at the least possible cost, he must rely principally upon the experience he has obtained by working on his own farm.

The London *Live Stock Journal* says:—"The noted horse, Crown Jewel, 2708, has been sold to Messrs. Brooks and Colquhoun, Mitchell P. O., Ontario, Canada. These gentlemen two years ago exported the horse Commander, 2029, which they had the misfortune to lose, and Crown Jewel is to take his place.