

## HORSES.

Changing from old hay to new hay should not be made hurriedly. New hay should be well cured, and preferably mow-cured, before fed to horses. Digestive troubles frequently arise from the too-free use of improperly-cured new hays.

Working horses may have too much hay. A pound of hay per hundred pounds live weight is conceded best when hard work is being done. More hay and less grain may be used when the horse is doing light work. When a horse is idle, it is best not to give all the hay it will consume, as horses frequently develop enormous capacity for hay, and from overeating work permanent injuries to themselves.

The teeth of old horses almost invariably require occasional floating. If an animal is not properly digesting its food, if it is not thriving as you would expect on the feed given, or if it is not feeding well, examine the teeth. While this is especially necessary in horses that are getting up in years, it is also frequently found as markedly in young horses. One cannot expect a horse to eat with a sore mouth, neither can he be expected to work if he cannot eat.

Closed bridles, or bridles with blinders, are probably needed with a few horses of very nervous disposition, but in the great majority of cases horses drive much more safely with open bridles. Without the blinders, the horses certainly have a better opportunity to see things as they are, and consequently are less likely to shy at unusual objects. With work horses there is still less argument to present in favor of the use of these usually objectionable bridles.

The whip is generally a valuable implement in driving all other but work horses. Consequently, all horses should be thoroughly accustomed to it. The driving horse should regard the whip as an essential part of the master, and should fear it no more. Many horses, when the driver even approaches the whip give a great jump forwards, others threaten to kick, while most horses fear to have it brought near the head. None of these conditions should be, and their existence is due largely to a lack of proper training. When the horse is properly educated, the whip is very valuable; otherwise, its use is very questionable.

A study of the market reports indicates a firm present and very promising future to the horse trade. At this season of the year farmers do not have much to offer, nor is the trade strong in its demands, yet prices are keeping very steady, and buyers have a hard time to get what is needed. The indications clearly point out the proper course of action to be followed. Producers should retain their present breeding status and strengthen it as far as possible by the purchase of desirable young mares. What geldings may be for sale should not be hurriedly parted with to save on the feed bill, but should be put in proper market shape, when they will handsomely repay all investments in feedstuffs.

### Meeting the Market.

The growing cities and the Western Provinces are giving a large market for all sections producing a surplus of horses. They will continue to do so for a good many years. This fact should have a large influence in all farm sections, especially of the older Provinces. The strong prices that have and are likely to prevail have already had a depleting influence upon the horse stock in many sections. In reality, this circumstance should have a stimulating effect upon all breeding localities. Strengthening markets should produce maximum production, a result attained by the retention of all fecund females on the farm. This, through a period of a few years, would produce an increase in the number of brood mares and marketable stock in the country. However, the reverse condition results, and, after a period of high prices, there is a lesser number of animals in breeding centers. This is due to the irresistible temptation to cash in all animals that are not needed for work, on account of the apparently high values obtainable. Such action has a paralyzing effect. Horse stock is slow of replenishment; the dearth consequent upon the sale of mares makes prices still higher, so that producers, having sold short, cannot cover without loss. They therefore wait for the slow process of the years to multiply their small holdings of stock. In this way, a moderately high horse market usually is followed by a still higher one.

The proper policy is clear. Mares should not be sold, no matter how high prices are, unless they are unfit or undesirable breeders. Geldings should represent the salable horse stock, and should not be retained on farms, excepting, perhaps, one good team per farm for the very heavy work. It costs approximately ninety dollars a year to feed the average work-horse on a Minnesota farm. In Canada the expense cannot be much less. This is a large item, but it can be largely offset by the use of brood mares for work stock, thus producing a colt each year that will largely, if not entirely, offset the expensive feed bill. This double function of the horse has con-

fused many. The dual-purpose character must not be lost by emphasizing one or the other function unduly. Breeding and working are these two capacities, and few farmers can specialize upon one, to the elimination of the other, without suffering considerable monetary loss. It consequently behooves farmers to trim their sails according to the wind. Replacing geldings by suitable brood mares, and selling only geldings or undesirable mares, forms the basis of a policy that cannot easily bring a man to financial grief.

### Report of Committee on Horse Supply.

On the 17th of February last, the Council of the Hunter's Improvement Society of Great Britain entrusted the investigation of the subject of the supply of horses for army purposes to the Horse Supply Committee which it appointed. The Committee held six meetings, and have recently presented their report, which has been made public, and is of considerable interest to horsebreeders everywhere. In that report, their chief recommendations may be quoted as follows:

#### CO-OPERATION OF THE WAR OFFICE.

1. That horses for the Army should be purchased at three years old, at the same average price as now given for older horses, and, if older horses are purchased, that the price given should be increased.
2. That horses for the Army should be purchased, as far as possible, direct from the breeder.
3. That a certain number of high-class fillies should be purchased for the Army at two or three years old. That they should be served at that age by a Thoroughbred or registered sire, and left with the breeder until passed into the Army at four or five years old, the produce to be the property of the breeder.
4. That mares good enough to breed from should be cast from the Army at twelve years old, or preferably sooner, and be distributed to breeders.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO MARES.

1. That, in order to restock depleted districts with mares, facilities should be given to breeders to acquire them:
  - (a) By advancing loans for the purchase of mares.
  - (b) By purchasing mares and reselling them on easy terms to breeders.
  - (c) By leasing mares to breeders at a small annual rent.

Estimated expenditure .....£7,000

2. That approved mares should be given nominations to the value of £2 or £3 to approved stallions.

Estimated expenditure .....£14,000

#### RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO STALLIONS.

1. That, in order to keep in this country some of the high-class Thoroughbred stallions, they should be purchased by Government, with a view to their resale at a reduced price, on conditions, to breeders, or to their being let out to breeders.

Estimated expenditure .....£5,000

2. That there should be a system of loans to breeders for the purchase of approved stallions.

Estimated expenditure .....£6,000

3. That approved stallions should be registered for the purpose of serving mares awarded nominations. (Estimated for under mares, £14,000.)

4. That the annual spring show of stallions in London should be continued.

5. That entire colts (Thoroughbred or registered) should be purchased, preferably as yearlings, with a view to resale to breeders when four years old, for use as stallions.

Estimated expenditure .....£2,700

6. That no stallion should be allowed to travel the public roads for hire without a certificate of soundness from hereditary disease.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO ORGANIZATION.

1. That the funds provided should be under the control of the President of the Board of Agriculture, as Minister responsible to Parliament.

2. That he should be assisted by an Advisory Council consisting of representatives of various bodies.

3. That the Advisory Council and the Board of Agriculture should work through local committees with a paid corresponding member.

Estimated expenditure .....£ 5,000

Contingencies ..... 300

£40,000

That a separate grant should be allotted to Ireland .....£10,000

Total .....£50,000

Of the suggested grant of £40,000 to Great Britain, about £20,500 would be annual non-productive expenditure. The balance of £19,500 would be, to a large extent, reproductive. The annual income thus obtained, after the first five years, could be added to the fund, and would admit of extended operations on those parts of the scheme which proved to be the most successful—

[The Farmers' Gazette, Dublin, Ireland.]

### Regulation of Importations.

The more important rules, adopted at a recent meeting of its executive by the American Percheron Registration Society, regulating importations to United States, are:

1. The registration fee, owing to additional expense incurred in the new plans, to be increased, after October 15th, 1910, to \$50 for members, and \$75 for non-members, provided the application is made within ninety days after landing.

2. From June 15th, 1910, no imported horses will be accepted for record by the Percheron Society of America until they have been inspected and checked by an authorized representative of the society.

3. By action of the Board of Directors at a meeting in May, the by-laws were so amended as to permit the employment of inspectors for these purposes. Under the new by-laws covering such inspection, authority is so broadened as to provide for a rigid veterinary inspection for soundness, and a general report as to whether the animal is of suitable size, conformation and quality to be of value in improving American Percheron horses. This veterinary inspection will be begun whenever the directors deem it advisable. Horses reported not fit will be refused registration, but any owner may, on suitable showing, be granted a reinspection. Any American breeder may call upon the society for such official inspection, and the society may, at any time, order the inspection of any, or all, American-bred horses before recording them. On account of the magnitude of the undertaking, no attempt will be made to put this full plan into force at once, but authority for such work now exists, and it will be extended as rapidly as the Percheron breeders of America deem wise and expedient.

4. At a meeting between representatives of the Percheron Society of America and officials of the Department of Agriculture, held in Washington, D. C., June 16th, the Department was requested to establish a thorough inspection, both as to identity and soundness, for all imported horses. It was pointed out that such inspection should properly be made at the European port of shipment, as cattle are inspected for disease before being loaded in ships for transfer to the United States. In event such inspection cannot be made there, the Percheron interests urged that it at least be made at the port of entry to the country, so that full information as to the horses imported may be at once available to the Percheron Society of America.

This action of the American Society is of importance to Canadians. It will result in the culls and dubious animals being debarred from the States. The general tendency will be to unload them where there is a less careful supervision exercised. Canadian buyers of Percherons will do well to make the strictest scrutiny of their purchases.

The Percheron Society of America is to be commended most highly for the steps inaugurated. While it will be some time before the rules become fully applied, they undoubtedly will exert a great influence upon importers in causing them to be keenly discriminative in their selections. The highest standards for the breed are evidently to be sought, incidentally, it will work a vast influence upon the horse product throughout the country.

## LIVE STOCK.

The feet of sheep, and especially of rams, should be carefully trimmed whenever they begin to get long at the toes. A sharp knife is the only implement necessary.

The ram will be in better shape for his autumn work if kept in a small pasture away from the flock of ewes. He should not be expected to pick his living entirely, but should receive a small daily portion of oats.

Sheep should not be turned upon a clover pasture when it is wet. When dry, it is scarcely excelled by any pasture, but when wet, bloating follows very quickly. The same applies to cattle, though probably not quite so markedly.

Salt should always be available for all kinds of stock. Some use rock salt in the fields; stock get plenty, and never too much, from it. However, it is more costly, and contains many impurities. Most men who are really interested in their stock prefer not to use it. A trough is easily arranged, with a cover to protect its contents from the weather, and in it pure, coarse salt may always be kept. Taking a pail of salt to the field once a week, and, as it were, feeding it to the stock, is not the best plan.

It is often necessary to keep the bull confined, since he, becoming regardless of fences, develops into a veritable traveller. Care has to be taken that, in confining the bull for the summer, serious damage is not done to him. Too often bulls become stiff and crippled from summer stabling. It is best to construct a paddock from which it is impossible for him to escape. It is preferable to have this a couple of acres in extent, so that it affords grazing. In such a place he may remain