

these portions require to be rasped a little. He sets the shoe on the floor while he does the rasping (we will notice now that there is not sufficient heat to burn the floor), when he again tries the shoe on. This is repeated until the whole bearing surface comes in contact with the shoe, and then he knows that it is level. This leveling process can be done by a good man without the aid of even a moderately hot shoe, but it requires much more time, and while it is the safer way (though probably in many cases not so accurate), we must admit that the process I have described, which is followed by most good horse-shoers, is not injurious. It is a practice that if carefully and intelligently carried out can do no harm, but if carried to extremes, as stated by "Horseshoer," becomes very harmful.

"WHIP."

Clydesdale Quality.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Why is substance lacking in Clydesdales? In your issue of December 24th you ask several questions about Clydesdales, and ask to have them discussed. Your first question: Is substance lacking in Clydesdales? The answer in too many cases must be yes. The second question: Are not Clydesdale breeders of to-day going too much to action and quality at the sacrifice of quantity? Certainly not. It is not necessary to neglect quality and action to acquire quantity. Many Clydesdales of satisfactory size are good actors, and of high quality, and no animal of extra size, if of poor quality and bad action, will be as useful and valuable as one of medium size, possessing high quality and good action. By this I mean that an animal of 1,600 pounds, of good form, action and quality, is more desirable and more valuable as a draft horse than one of 2,000 pounds, but of poor form, action and quality.

And then size is not all dependent upon breeding. Feeding and care has more influence on size than breeding. The use of desirable sire and dam as to size, form, quality and action, as well as long line breeding through desirable families, having the parents well conditioned and kept so, and then feeding and caring for the colt to develop bone and muscle and not excessive fat, will produce much greater size in many cases than is now acquired.

The care will include the stabling. When housed a thoroughly ventilated and well-lighted box stall is preferable. Plenty of good water when desired, sufficient good food given three or four times a day, but not kept before the animal all the time, and exercise every day; preferably twice a day. The exercise is very important, as only by it can an animal, whether colt or horse, keep the various organs of the body active.

Another question: Are not many so-called draft horses simply medium-sized agricultural animals? In many cases they are not even that, nor are they fair representatives of any class, unless it be plugs or farm chunks, and the same can be said of every other class, whether heavy or light.

As to horses possessing action and quality, but not substance, being cheap in the Old Country, there is no doubt. Horses of considerable size, but lacking in quality and action, are also cheap both there and here as compared with animals possessing size, good form, quality and action. There are many desirable Clydesdale stallions and mares in Canada, and the draft horses are improving, but not so fast as might be.

People who condemn the Clydesdale and claim that they can be better improved by introducing some other breed and crossing them with Clydesdale mares, either have some other end in view or have but little (if any) experience with high-class Clydesdales; for, as draft horses, many Clydesdales come as near perfection as can be found, and all that is necessary to make many more good ones is to select the good ones in the breed and mate them and attend to the colts while growing. Experienced Clydesdale admirers do not pretend that all Clydesdales are perfect, but rather that none of them are; still, that many of them are nearer perfection as draft horses than any other breed, and that greater improvement can be made by careful selection in that breed than in any other way.

According to the report of the special investigation on horse-breeding, in 1906, there are over three times as many Clydesdale stallions and grades of that breed as of all other draft breeds and their grades together, and more than three times as many mares bred to the Clydesdale than all others, evidence that a goodly number of Ontario breeders are admirers of the Clydesdales.

Bruce Co., Ont.

J. STANDISH, V. S.

I beg to acknowledge with much pleasure the premium carbo-magnetic razor just on hand, and am delighted with it, and you may rest assured that it will be my earnest endeavor to secure new subscribers for your most valuable paper. I was more than pleased with your elaborate Christmas number.

ALF. BARDWELL.

Wintering Colts Outside or Inside.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

What do you think best for a spring colt: Let him run at large all winter in open prairie and fields, or to keep him in a good warm stable, fed with hay and one gallon of oats per day? And do you think the difference in value of the colt next spring would compensate for the work and expense of stable-keeping? "INQUIRER."

Ans.—Here are two extremes that should be avoided. Many a man has tried giving colts what he considered specially good care, by keeping them in a "warm, comfortable stable," and fed them on hay and oats, only to find them come out in the spring wobbly in the legs, gummy in the hair, "scrawny" and debilitated. It has also been demonstrated that colts which run on the prairie all winter are invariably in better condition than the colts kept as described above. Neither treatment is ideal, and the man who follows either plan will not get the best horse his colt is capable of growing into.

One can hardly realize the ill-effects of a dark, badly-ventilated, and, consequently, damp stable. Generally, the colts get lousy early in the fall; then, as they continue to breathe foul air, they become less able to make growth and flesh, and lack of exercise destroys their relish for food. After a while they develop a habit of eating, and eating so that they overload their digestive organs, and get less out of their food than if they ate half as much.

The ideal way to winter colts is to give them a shelter that is light and dry, plenty of exercise in a yard that is protected from the cutting winds, and food that is clean and wholesome, such as green oat-sheaf hay and some straw. There is no need to keep the temperature of the stable up above freezing; it is better to be far below than to be foul, but, of course, the colts should be protected from drafts. Give plenty of pure water, access to salt, and a little bran once a day.

His Majesty the King had rather a bad season on the turf last year, his winnings amounting to about £5,000, which it is estimated would not pay entrance fees and forfeitures. Persimmon, the great sire, left many big money-makers, but few of them fell to the lot of his Royal owner.

LIVE STOCK.

A Simple Cure for Abortion.

A reader, B. Hibbert, who is ranching in the Knee Hill Valley, Alberta, writes "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg, that he has had the very best of success in treating cows for abortion. His method is to pour crude carbolic acid over salt, and give the cows access to it at all times. He claims not only to have cured chronic abortion among his own cows, but has treated several for his neighbors, and has bought others that were persistent aborters, which, he says, have become regular breeders. The remedy is simple, and is endorsed, with more or less qualification, by members of the veterinary fraternity. Many of our readers are aware that the administration of carbolic acid has been tried and recommended by the well-known stockman, Geo. Rice. However, while it is well to remember that carbolic acid is a specific for this trouble, it would be very unwise indeed for anyone to take any chances of introducing contagious abortion into his herd, with the expectation of curing it with carbolic.

Stable Ventilation.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Replying to your inquiry re ventilation, I may say that practically no stables in this district have ventilation systems installed. Farmers, I believe, are aware of the importance of pure air in the stable, and the majority of stables are fairly well ventilated by openings in the floor above the stable (feed doors), and by the opening of windows in the wall and the top half of the stable doors. Drafts can be avoided by a judicious use of these openings, and good ventilation attained. Where a water system is installed, openings in the stable, of course, must be more or less closed in frosty weather to protect the pipes from freezing. I have no doubt, however, that a complete ventilating system in a stable would be a profitable investment, if air could be moderated in cold weather by passing in through underground pipes.

CHESTER NICHOLSON.

Wellington Co., Ont.

Tariff on American Pork.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Is it possible to revive the hog business? I think it is, but not under conditions existing at present. I have read in the columns of our agricultural papers many articles on this important question, and almost every writer seems to have a different opinion, but, to my mind, what is most influencing the price of hogs on foot, and causing the market fluctuations, is the importing of American hog products by our packers in very large quantities. This practically means that we are controlled by the American market.

Our packers are shrewd business men, and buy the American hog products on a low, glutted market, thus enabling them to fill their cellars with all kinds of hog products, which puts them in a position to dictate whatever price they may see fit for hogs on foot to the Canadian farmer for months to come. This is very unfair. The Americans, on account of their cheap corn, can produce a certain class of hogs cheaper than we can.

The Canadian farmer has demonstrated that he needs no preference in the production of live stock; but is it fair to assume that this American pork should come into our country at 2c. per pound duty, while, when we, as Canadians, wish to ship pork into the United States, through the same ports which this came, we are obliged to pay 5c. per pound duty.

I understand that a deputation from the Swine-breeders' Association waited upon the Dominion Government and asked to have this difficulty remedied by increasing the tariff on all American hog products coming into Canada.

This question is a live one, and I believe farmers will stand in a body for it in the future. The majority of farmers might favor free trade, but, as all manufacturing industries have high protection, why should the farmer, who is the source from which all other industries spring, have practically none? The answer is this: The farmer has been asleep, and has never made his request known to the proper authorities. One thing we censure both packers and Government for is that they have never branded our hog products going to the British market, and the result is that other countries that do not attempt to produce as good a class of goods as we do, can ship their thick, fat-back product to the British market, and it is put on the retail counter and sold as Canadian, thus injuring our reputation.

It seems to me that the packers do not care what becomes of the export trade, and are catering to the home markets, where competition is not so keen, and profits naturally larger. We might ask, what does it mean to see one firm controlling twenty stores or more in Toronto alone?

If the Government and the packer will give us a square deal, we will produce the goods to fill all requirements.

H. A. DRUMMOND.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

English Show-ring Shorthorns, 1908.

[Specially written for "The Farmer's Advocate," and illustrated with photos by G. H. Parsons.]

The visitor to the leading English shows during the past year could not fail to be struck with the immense and increasing popularity of the Shorthorn. There were large entries at the leading exhibitions—no less than 356 animals being stalled at the Royal. The quality throughout was excellent, the winners meriting their positions, while in spite of the largeness of some of the classes there was a decided absence of "tail," and a marked levelling up in the quality of the exhibits as a whole. The unfortunate outbreak of foot-and-mouth in Scotland put rather a damper on the export trade, but an animal of outstanding merit is invariably eagerly sought after, there being no lack of purchasers at a remunerative figure to the owner for anything really good. The spring sales opened well, though there were no four-figure animals at Birmingham, several made good prices, such as 450 gs., 300 gs., 420 gs., 370 gs., etc. Mr. Sidney Hill's well-known herd was dispersed in the summer, 35 females averaging £109, with a top price of 325 gs., which was eminently satisfactory. The highest price at the Royal Show auction, which has now become quite an institution, was 500 gs.

That rising young breeder, Mr. A. T. Gordon, of Combescauseway, had a successful draft sale of the calves from his herd in the autumn, Bandmaster, the first-prize calf at the Royal, realizing 600 gs.

There was a considerable drop from the phenomenal average that Mr. Duthie's calves made in 1907, which was expected, but his latest return of £235 for 14 bull calves shows there is still some animation in the Shorthorn trade, and it is gratifying to note that all the best lots fell to the bids of home breeders.

It is usual in these annual notes for us to deal with the outstanding animals that have appeared in the show-ring individually, so we will now