

Time Lost on Bad Roads

The vehicle and roads are but parts of the one machine. The roads of to-day are not equal to their counterpart, the horse-drawn vehicle now in use. Signs are not lacking that in the near future motor vehicles, adapted to the carrying of farm produce rapidly over long distances, will be available. With roads equal to the weight and speed of such a means of transportation, the possibilities as regards farming are tremendous. But a necessary condition to the efficiency of such a vehicle is better roads.

Ratepayers generally, are possessed of the idea that their roads are now built and maintained almost solely by statute labor, and that if this work is not performed in the most faithful manner no serious crime is committed. They fail to realize, however, that owing to the very imperfect manner of doing the work, municipal councils are obliged to impose a direct money tax. The amount of this tax, the indifference displayed in expending it, and the inferior results produced, comprise one serious phase of the question.

It has been said that there is no direct cash value to the farmer from a saving of time in driving over the roads; that it does not matter whether he can take one load or two to market in a day; that he has plenty of time to spend in driving over the roads, but has little money to spend in improving them. The day when that argument was effective has gone by. A farmer of to-day who realizes his opportunities, has no more time to waste than has any other business man. The time that users of the road waste in driving through mud, if expended in road construction would do all the work necessary and we would have the benefit of good roads in addition.

HORSE

The Coat in Autumn

The summer coat is the ideal one as regards the ease with which the horse may be cleaned and kept in good working spirit. When the hair is rather short, the skin can rid itself of dirt and other impurities by the sweating that follows the animals' work. A horse in summer, coming in from work, perspiring freely, can be sponged off, dried by exercise outside or by means of a woollen cooler, groomed out thoroughly when dry, and made to appear fresh and well, and in the best of condition for the most exacting performance.

In autumn, it is a little more difficult to keep the coat in condition. At this season there is a partial moult, the temperature extremes between day and night are more marked, both conditions causing growth of the hair. The increase in length of the coat increases the tendency to sweat during the day, makes it more difficult to clean the horse out properly, and the hair takes longer to dry.

Care and Feed of Farm Horses

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Much has been said on the care of farm machinery. Articles have been written on feeding the beef steer, and instructions offered on the management of the dairy cow, but very little has been said or written on the care of horses. The care and feed of the farm horse is a subject in which we, as farmers, are all interested. I do not think I can do justice to it, but can give my experience in handling my own horses.

To start with, in the fall when my work is done, say about December 1st, I trim off the horses' feet, examine their teeth, and if I find that any of them need filing, I file them, and if I cannot do it satisfactorily myself, I have a veteri-

narian do the work for me. I keep rock salt in their boxes at all times. I turn the horses out in the yard to water at 9 o'clock, no matter what the weather is like and they run into a four acre pasture till 5 o'clock. This gives them plenty of exercise every day, which I think is very important to their health. At 5 o'clock, they are put back in the stable. This system is carried out until three or four days before I start seeding, when I put the horses in the stable.

After fall work is through I keep them in for three or four days, gradually reducing the oats to one gallon per team twice a day, along with oat straw, until such time as I get oats that I am going to feed next summer cleaned. The small oats and seeds I get crushed very fine, and I mix one-third chop and two-thirds bran. Of this I feed one gallon per horse twice a day. I feed this grain mixture for about one month, till, say, about December 1st, after that I feed one gallon of bran night and morning, until about March 20th, with bran mash once a week. From March 20th until I start seeding I feed bran and chopped oats, equal parts, one gallon to each horse twice a day. When I start seeding I feed six quarts of chopped oats to each horse three times a day, and four oat sheaves per day per team through seeding. When through seeding, they get a few days off. The rest of the season I feed one gallon whole oats well cleaned and four oat sheaves per team per day.

In summer the horses are fed at 4.30 a. m., cleaned and harnessed, and the stables cleaned out. The men are ready for breakfast at 6 o'clock. The horses are brought out at 6.20 and watered, ready to start at 6.45. Twenty-five minutes is allowed to cross the field, a distance of one mile, and five minutes rest is allowed at the far end. If on time by this system, the men are able to unhitch at 11 o'clock and come to the well and water. Each teamster has his place to stop in yard at well, and the horses are in the stable, and the men in the house ready for dinner at 11.45. The horses are taken out at 12.45 and hitched ready to start at 1 o'clock sharp. In the afternoon the same system is followed. The men are ready to unhitch at 5.30, and the horses watered and turned out in pasture at 6 o'clock, for half an hour to roll and get some grass. At 6.30 they are put in stable, fed, cleaned and bedded for night.

If horses are given good food and water, are well cleaned, and worked regularly, they will be in good shape to withstand a few months of hard work. I would like to point out that regular and systematic feeding is of the highest importance. Whatever feeding ration one may use, and whatever system is adopted, regularity and uniformity should prevail at all times.

Sask.

W. NIBLOCK.

STOCK

Pessimists On Hog Raising

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In following the discussions on the agricultural press dealing with bacon production I feel that many are too pessimistic in their views. A great number of farmers come to conclusions as to probable losses, or, at least, probable lack of profits, along this line of live stock exploitation after too casual or too careless consideration of facts as to cost of raw material, price of finished product, and value of by-products. Let me illustrate my meaning by reproducing as nearly as possible a conversation between a farmer and the writer some time ago:

Writer — Well, Mr. S., how did you make out with that bunch of August pigs I saw with you last October?

Mr. S. — Don't talk to me about pigs. I am sure I lost a hundred dollars on those pigs.

Writer — Why, that is too bad. Let me see, you had thirty of them, had you not, when I was there?

Mr. S. — Yes, around thirty, and a good healthy lot they were.

Writer — Three dollars' loss per pig looks bad. How do you feed them?

Mr. S. — Oh, I fed them well — too well to make any money. You know that six-acre field of barley; well, they got it all. Then, I am sure they got 200 bushels of oats, and I bought four tons of shorts, and that's a hundred dollars, almost.

Writer — That looks like a lot of feed. What did you get for them?

Mr. S. — Oh, I sold them well; I got \$7.80 at the cars.

Writer — What did that amount to?

Mr. S. — I got \$418 for twenty-nine pigs.

Writer — Was that the whole lot?

Mr. S. — No, I kept one as a sow, and killed two for pork at home.

Writer — Were they as good as the average?

Mr. S. — Oh, yes; I guess, about the same.

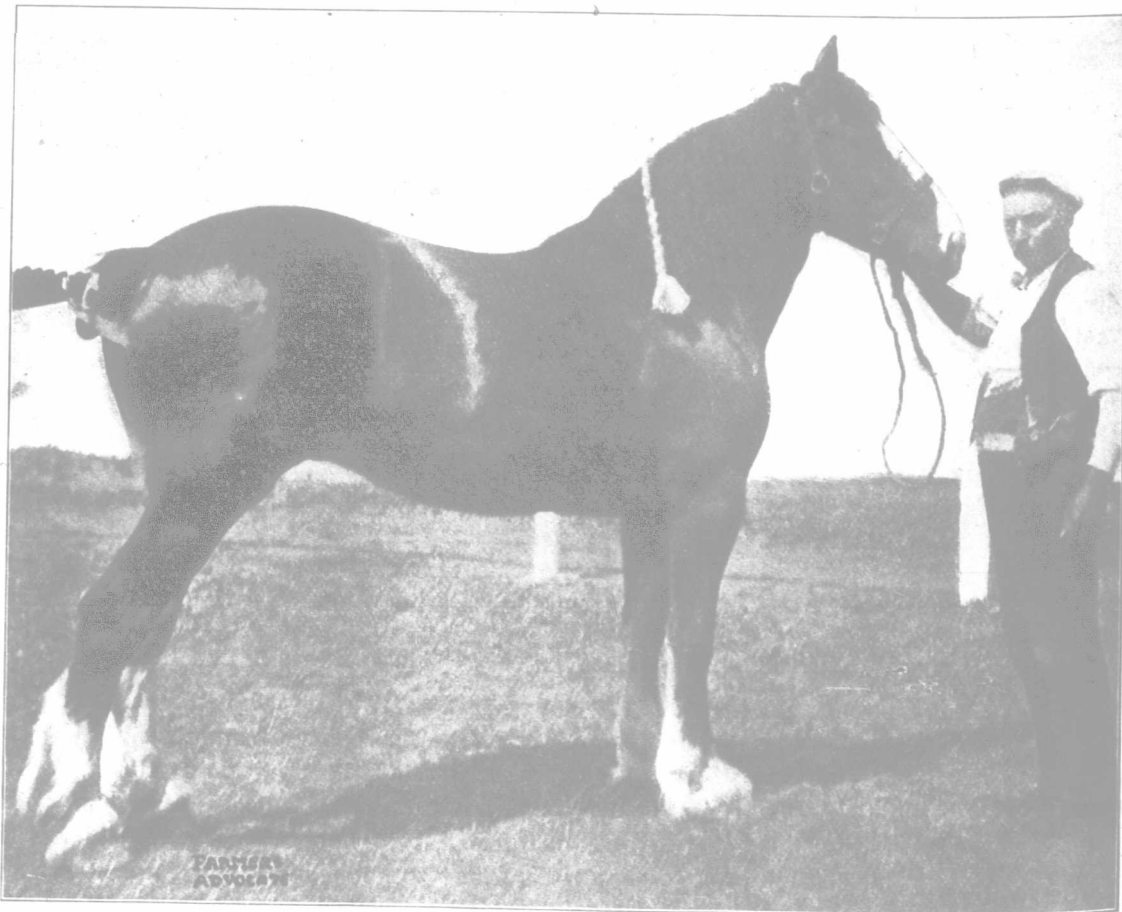
Writer — They would, therefore, be worth about \$45, or the whole lot of 32 was worth about \$463.

Mr. S. — Yes, I guess that is about right.

Writer — Let us figure the cost. Did your barley thresh 30 bushels to the acre?

Mr. S. — Just about it, I guess.

Writer — That is 180 bushels, or 8,640 pounds; 200 bushels oats is 6,800 pounds, and four tons shorts 8,000 pounds. That is 23,440 pounds



FLOSHEND PRINCESS (IMP.) 13788

Five years of age, first in yield mare class and champion Clydesdale female, Brandon Exhibition, 1909. Owned by G. C. Porterfield, Brandon.