

Effects of Exposure and Stint on Stock.

The most mistaken thing in the management of stock on any farm is to allow horses or colts to be exposed to autumn or winter storms, especially if fed only on what they can catch about the farm. Such treatment takes more out of a horse, and depreciates him faster, than the hardest work accompanied by good food and warm shelter.

Wild horses will certainly bear a great deal of exposure, and are often cited as an instance of hardihood and power of endurance under such severe trials. But it would be just as wise to quote the hardihood of wild buffalo cows in contrast with that of our dairy stock, as to make the same comparison between wild and domestic horses. Both are too absurd to be admitted as any arguments in favour of the neglect and exposure of domestic stock. There are a thousand reasons why wild animals are able to bear exposure and hardship without depreciation, and not one that will apply to any of our farm stock, so as to show that any benefit could result from such treatment. If you want to break a horse's wind, or give him the heaves, expose him in a strongly fenced, poor pasture field, to a three days pitiless November rain storm, and the probability is the animal will never again be what he was before it. Two or three moderate exposures to autumn rain and snow storms, will probably sometimes be borne by strong animals without much apparent injury; but the seeds of disease are sown, and will be certain to appear when aggravated by other casualties, or a renewal of the same cause.

These observations apply (although in a less degree) to colts. It is true, they naturally have been somewhat more exposed than working teams, and habit from the first becomes second nature; and then they have youth on their side, and have never done any work; but even with them such treatment soon shows its ill effects: they soon appear with staring hair, hide-bound, drum belly (arising from weakened digestion caused by exposure), cold, cough, strangles, or something very like, and more dangerous, and other injuries not noticed at the time so much, but which tell in later life, and render the colt what is called "soft"—a condition which is, in nineteen times out of twenty, some phase of ill health.

To have horses generally in good condition, under severe labour, they must have been accustomed to have been always fat and healthy—in fact, so kept that to be in good hard healthy condition is their normal state. If, on the contrary, it has previously been their natural condition to be the very opposite to what is wanted in a good working horse, how can we expect them to become what we most require all at once, when we have done our best hitherto to produce the very opposite results? It would be just as absurd to expect a horse with such previous

treatment, to keep fat under hard labour, (even if afterwards accompanied by plenty of food and care), as to expect a Blackamoor to grow white. We have done our best to make such a change the unnatural condition instead of the natural one. A growing hog shows an instance of this inclination to keep in the state under which nature was warped by commencement of bad treatment, more than any other animal.

If you want to dwarf an oak tree, you expose it to want and hardship, and in the process just feed the roots enough to sustain life, and after a few years you have so perfectly succeeded that you have an oak tree perfect in all respects, only probably not more than a foot high. The Chinese understand this process so well, that many gardens and places of pleasure are ornamented with plantations of such dwarf beauties, which, under more favourable auspices, would have grown in the same time thirty feet high; many of these dwarfed nurseries being fifty to one hundred years old; and moreover, after some generations of seed borne under such treatment, the dwarf habit becomes permanent. The same principle applies as correctly with a kitten, a puppy, or bantam fowl. Only follow the same rule, and the result is the same. Of course, necessity for the opposite mode of treatment applies more forcibly to the horse, as we expect him to work, whereas the others are only wanted to exist.

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Shepherd Dogs.

We were asked, not long since, by a beginner in sheep husbandry, how many dogs a man would need to properly herd a thousand sheep, and noted his astonishment when we answered, None! This was afterward qualified by explaining that so far as the good of the sheep was concerned, they, as a rule, needed no dog; and that even a fairly trained dog, in the hands of any other than a man who thoroughly understands the business, is, nineteen times in twenty, a source of absolute injury.

There are numerous occasions, when in the handling of a flock of sheep the services of a well-trained dog are valuable; but such occasions occur more rarely upon the range than on the farm or the highway. Where the flock is folded at night, as is mostly always necessary, they will, after a few days, pass in and out of the fold, night and morning, without any other urging than the call of the shepherd, and without the injury that almost invariably results from the crowding and trampling of the lambs and weaker animals when hurried in by a dog.

And as sheep are rarely disposed to leave a range to which they are accustomed, nothing more than the quiet walk of the shepherd, beyond the outer edge of the flock while feeding, will be needed to keep them within bounds, and turn their heads toward

home at sunset. Only upon the approach of another flock, when rapid wheeling or turning is necessary to avoid some more serious occurrence, should the dog be sent around the flock at a faster pace than the shepherd could make.

If we had a shepherd who knew how and when a dog should be used, and one we could trust to only use it at such times, we would let him take a well trained dog to the range, but if the man was ignorant or lazy, we should expect him to yield to the temptation to use the dog's legs instead of his own, and would keep our dog at home.—A. M. Garland, in *Western Rural*.

The greatest favourites of the bees, in early spring, appear to be the catkin-bearing shrubs and trees, the willow, hazel, osic, &c., from the male flowers of which they obtain the pollen, and from the female the honey.

HAVE YOU ENOUGH FODDER?—Cattle, horses and sheep will eat per day three pounds of hay, or its equivalent, per one hundred pounds live weight. Half pound of hay, two pounds of good straw, and three-fourths of a pound of grain, are usually equivalent to three pounds of hay. A little more grain will put on fat. On this basis fair estimates can be made.

At a recent sale of Shropshire sheep by Mr. G. Preece, at Shrewsbury, England, Mr. Byrd's Royal first prize ram was let for the unprecedented price of £163 16s.

The *Mark Lane Express* gives the particulars of the sale of Mr. Sheldon's short-horns at Brailes. The highest price was 415 guineas for a cow. The average price of the cows was £112 9s 5d; that of the bulls £44 4s 2d.

There was an extensive sale of Mr. McCombie's polled stock at Tillifour recently, which attracted a large company, and excited considerable interest. Prices, in comparison with those of Shorthorns, were not high, 60 guineas being the highest price given for any one animal. 32 females of all ages, and 14 males, were disposed of; the total sale realizing the sum of £1,405 19s.

FINE WOOL SHEEP.—A Vermont journal, giving the history of fine wool, says that fifty years ago not a pound of fine wool was grown in the United States, in Great Britain, or in any other country except Spain. In 1784 a small flock was sent to the Elector of Saxony as a great present from the King of Spain, whence came the entire product of Saxony wool, now of such immense value. In 1809, during the invasion of Spain by the French, some of the valuable crown flock were sold to raise money. The American consul, Jarvis, at Lisbon, purchased 1,400 head and sent them to this country. A portion of this pure and unmixed Merino flock is still to be found in Vermont at this time. Such was the origin of the immense flock of fine wool sheep in the United States at the present time.