

When the Day's Work is Over.

Hard work, comparatively long days, very often accompanied by soft footing, a heavy coat of hair not yet shed after the needs of winter, and consequent heavy sweating, associated with the usual large amount of dirt and gummy material adhering to the animal's coat and penetrating to his skin blocking the pores—All this coming at a time when the horse is not usually over-well prepared for it after his months of comparative or total idleness, and when the warm days seem oppressive, and his system is more or less clogged with the winter's impurities due to dry feeding, cannot but make the spring work a very hard period for the horse. His physical condition is not in the best possible state to withstand the demands made upon him, so when he slowly wends his weary way towards the stable after each hard day's work, his driver should plan to make his night as comfortable as possible, that he be refreshed and ready when it is time to take the field on the following day.

If the horse is very warm do not allow him to drink too much water. Pump a little fresh water in the trough and allow him to have a small quantity, then place him in his stall, remove his harness immediately and let him eat hay for an hour. Never feed grain when the horse first comes in in a very tired condition. Before feeding the grain ration take the horse back to the trough and give him what water he wants. Watering twice in this way removes the danger of a very tired and heated animal drinking too large a quantity.

Before feeding up for the night take the horse outside in the open air and with comb and brush give a thorough cleaning. Sometimes this is difficult where the horses have heavy coats and the hair remains soaked with perspiration. Such animals would likely do better clipped and certainly could be kept clean with less difficulty. It is well to bathe the shoulders whether they are sore or not. This ensures the removal of all dirt and sweat from them. If sores have appeared remove the cause by adjusting the collar and treat with a dressing made of one ounce each of sulphate of zinc and acetate of lead to a pint of water. Apply this four or five times daily—twice each evening, in the morning and at noon. Keep the collar clean and apply a little oxide of zinc ointment to the sore each time before putting the collar on. It pays to take good care of the shoulders.

If the land is soft and mud adheres to the legs, this often adds to the troubles of the teamster. Allow the mud to dry and brush it off. Do not wash it off because this very often adds to the trouble, makes the horse's legs cold and uncomfortable, unless the precaution is taken to wipe them thoroughly dry, which is absolutely necessary when washing is resorted to. Very few drivers in these days have time for this during the spring's work, so dry cleaning is the better, and especially is this true where the horses are predisposed to or there is any danger of scratches. If scratches or cracked heels appear dress them with a lotion composed of one ounce each of sulphate of zinc and acetate of lead and one dram of carbolic acid to a quart of water. Oxide of zinc ointment is also beneficial in these cases.

After thoroughly cleaning the horse and attending to his injuries, if any, place him in a clean stall and be sure to give him plenty of bedding, for a tired horse likes a good bed just as much as a tired man does. Give him a liberal feed of hay and his grain ration; arrange the ventilation so as to ensure an abundance of fresh air in the stable, being sure to avoid drafts—fresh air is essential to rest and drafts are dangerous—and leave him for the night.

Shire Horse Cups for Canada.

The English Shire Horse Society, on April 1st., ratified the decision to give a cup valued at \$250 for the best Shire stallion, and a similar trophy for the best Shire mare at a representative show in Canada, the offer to be made this year, and to be renewed each year until and including 1917.

The MacLeod Agricultural Association, Alberta, have asked for silver medals, and the Shire Horse Society are considering their case—chiefly from the point of the number of entries this show has enjoyed in past years.

It would be as well if Canadian applicants for medals would state these facts, and perhaps send an old catalogue (or programme) to let the English body see just how they stand.

This is a good move on the part of the parent Society to advertise the breed. A few old stallions in England have been advocating it for years.

It is up to Canadian Shire enthusiasts to return the compliment with big entries for those classes.

G. T. BURROWS.

Canada Buying Suffolks.

Canada is buying Suffolk Punch horses—from quite the right quarters. I learn a couple of entire colts from Rendlestram and several well-bred fillies from Morston, including Vesta, are destined for Canada. These, together with Oliver and Morston Gold Maker are being forwarded by A. T. Pratt.

The Suffolk is the beau ideal horse for the farm. This horse leans well into his collar, and every muscle and sinew tightens until the load is shifted, be it what it may. Docility, soundness and longevity are some of the breed's greatest features. His attractive and well-balanced body, quiet action, and ability to walk well and to trot as if it were a joy and not a labor all tell in his favor. The cry has been raised that the breed has too little bone, but the Suffolk proves by the hard work he is capable of doing and his freedom from bone troubles, that he has no shortcoming in this respect.

The Punch can be utilized for breeding strong but active horses of the vanner type, as we call it over here.

G. T. BURROWS.

LIVE STOCK.

If calf paddocks are not already situated in close proximity to your cattle barns, now is a good time to lay them out and erect the fences.

This is a time when a good barnyard fence is necessary, and gates leading to the yard should be kept securely fastened, for if the stock once break out and get a taste of grass, there is trouble in store for the owner.

Alfalfa is a great feed for sheep and lambs. A subscriber recently told us of having two lambs at less than three months of age weigh 78 and 83 lbs. respectively fed largely on alfalfa and nursing on their dams also fed on this. These lambs gained over 10 lbs. each during the last twelve days of feeding. Good lambs, good feed and good gains.

Unfortunately for Canadian cattle-raisers many calves are lost each year through the accident of premature birth. While no doubt many of these losses are due to injuries a much greater number are caused by contagious abortion. When



Drusus.

Bull calf eight months old, which topped Lord Rothschild's sale in England, on March 26th, selling for 260 guineas, or \$1,328.60. He is a son of Dorothy, the heavy-milking cow illustrated in our issue of March 27th.

this disease obtains a foot-hold in a herd the consequences are apt to be serious, as it is readily transferred from animal to animal making it almost impossible under usual farm conditions to raise calves for perhaps a series of years.

For the information of cattle-raisers the Veterinary Director General has issued a reprint of a leaflet of the British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries on this disease which is being made the subject of very careful study and experiment in the Old Country.

This reprint which constituted a brief pamphlet of less than four pages deals with the subject under the following heads: Animals affected, the microbe, virulent material and method of infection, symptoms and prevention.

It is written in plain language and contains information of great value to all cattle-raisers and persons who are studying the disease. It is printed for free distribution to those who apply for it, but it is not sent out to the regular mailing list of the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

Sow Some Alfalfa or Clover Near the Barn.

The stock-farmer, whether he is working on a large or small scale, generally keeps a part of his stock inside during the entire year. A few calves are kept in during the day and allowed out at night (or they should be) in fly-time; the bull is kept stabled almost entirely, being allowed the run of a paddock for a short time each day, if one is provided, but on many farms such is not available, and stands in his stall the remainder of the time; pigs are either housed in pens or in the yard near at hand, so it is necessary if the best conditions are to be had, that something be provided to take the place of pasture grass. Nothing is better for this purpose than alfalfa or common red clover, and when seeding this spring, those stockmen who have not already a plot of one or the other of these crops growing near the barn, could do no better than sow a piece of ground to one of these. It is also well to provide in the planning of things, for a piece of corn close to the buildings. It is surprising what these crops mean to the stock fed as soiling crops.

Our English Correspondence.

"COMMUNITY" INSURANCE PIG CLUBS.

On your side of the Atlantic you have "Community" live-stock clubs I believe. We, in England, have quite a host of cow and pig insurance clubs, the membership of which is enjoyed by working men. In the hope that their system may be useful, I am sending some particulars of the Welland High Bridge, Spalding, Lincolnshire Pig Club. This club pays its members seven-eighths of the value of any pig that may die in consequence of disease or accident, and during the nine years it paid on the 28 pigs that died £65. 14s., which gives an average of £2. 7s. per pig that died, and an average of 2s. 9d. per pig insured. The management expenses amounted to £8. 3s., which gives an average of 4d. per annum per pig insured, so that the total expenditure proper of the club for insurance purposes was only £73. 17s., or almost exactly 3s. per pig insured. But in addition to this expenditure the club defrayed the cost of an annual supper amounting, for the nine years, to £30. 1s., equivalent to 1s. 3d. per pig insured, and thus the total expenditure of the club amounted to £103. 18s.

The income consisted almost entirely of premiums, amounting in all, during the nine years, to £108. 16s., or an average of 4s. 6d. per pig insured, the insurance contribution being charged at the rate of 1d. per week, that is, 4s. 4d. per annum for every store pig, with 1s. extra for a breeding sow. Besides this, there was an income of over £2. 14s. from interest received, so that, even after defraying the cost of the annual supper, the income of the club exceeded its expenditure by £7., and the reserve fund, which represents the savings of past years, rose during that period from £24 to £31. This is equivalent to nearly 10s. per pig on the number of pigs now insured, and as the average expenditure on claims is 2s. 9d. per pig insured, this reserve fund is now in itself sufficient to pay the losses of nearly four average years. Thus the club is now in a fairly sound financial position.

There is a flourishing cow insurance at Prees, Shropshire. It consists of 179 members, mostly small-holders, and insured 537 cows and calves against death from disease or accident. The average death rate for the last ten years is only 2.1 per cent. per annum, which compares favorably with the average rate (2.4 per cent.) for the 22 registered-cow-insurance societies in England and Wales. The members pay an insurance contribution of 1s. per quarter for each cow, and 9d. per quarter for each calf, which has been found more than sufficient to cover the losses, so that the balance to the credit of the insurance fund has increased in the ten years from £724 to £1,040. Until three years ago the maximum amount payable on an insured cow was £10; but the society, finding that its income exceeded its expenditure, then raised the maximum payable per cow from £10 to £12. It has now re-