

A Plea for Hope's "Quiet Hour."

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

How many of the readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" read the "Quiet Hour"? I venture to say that one-half of them know nothing about it. Well, if you have never read it, begin now, and begin by reading up some of the back numbers. If you can't get to church, just read one of these sermons. If you are trying to follow in the steps of the Master, you will find a great impetus from these discourses; or, if you find they have no interest for you, then you have good reason to doubt if you have ever known Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

What a soothing effect such reading as we get in Hope's Quiet Hour column would have on the brain that has been racked with business six days of the week, but how often we see such a one poring over the columns of the daily paper all day Sunday. Is it any wonder that so many have come to the conclusion that life is not worth living?

BRAE SIDE.
Bruce Co., Ont.

HORSES.

Preparing Horses for Spring Work

Many horses that will soon be required for regular and hard work in the fields have spent the last few months in comparative or complete idleness. As a consequence of such idleness (while they may be fat and apparently in good condition), they have lost muscular and respiratory tone. From want of function, the muscles have become soft and flabby, and the respiratory organs have become weakened, and the animals are not in fit condition to do a day's work. If this be allowed to continue until spring work commences, it will be found that the horses will tire easily, and for the first week or two they must be handled very carefully, and worked very easily, else they will become entirely incapacitated. In order to avoid such undesirable and expensive conditions, preparation for the work should be commenced at once. A horse that has been idle for a few months cannot be quickly fitted. It requires time, knowledge and patience. In the first place, daily exercise or light work should be given. Even though there be no work to do with the horses, and the time of the men is required for other purposes, it will pay well to have the men spend part of their time each day in exercising the horses. At first, a little exercise, say three or four miles daily, will be sufficient, and the amount of exercise should be gradually increased. As the exercise is increased, the grain ration should be increased in proportion. This will gradually give tone and strength to the muscles, the respiratory and digestive organs, and by the time the horses are required to do a hard day's work in the field, they will be at least in fair condition; and at that season, time of both men and horses is too valuable to be spent without being able to show reasonable returns. During the preparation, the harness that the horses will wear when doing regular work should be worn, and care should be taken to see that it fits well. This applies especially to the collars. It is quite possible that a collar that fits well at first will soon be noticed to be too small. The constant pressure upon the muscles of the shoulder when the horse is working has a tendency to harden and at the same time lessen the bulk of said muscles. This is noticed even in cases where a horse does not fail in flesh. Hence, the collar becomes too large, or, more correctly speaking, the neck becomes too small for the collar. In open-topped collars the size can to some extent be regulated, but this kind of collar is not popular, and is not generally used. If this condition occurs, and is not rectified, the rolling motion of the collar will soon cause sore shoulders, which will necessitate a rest, or the working of the horse under conditions that should not be allowed. Hence, the teamster should be careful to thoroughly clean the face of the collars every morning, and, if he notices that they do not fit sufficiently close, he should either procure collars that will fit properly, or wear sweat pads to fill up. Where proper attention and precautions are observed, sore shoulders should not be seen. In addition to the precautions mentioned, the removal of the collars at noon, or other times when the horses are standing in the stalls for an hour, or even less, allows the shoulders to cool and become dry, and tends to prevent trouble. Even the lifting forward of the collars on the horses' necks, when they are allowed to stand for a few minutes in the field, is a great relief to them when there is any tenderness, and, when there is no tenderness, it tends to prevent such. When this is done, of course, the collars should be readjusted, and the mane moved from under the collars before the team is again started. The horses, of course, should be fed grain in proportion to the amount of working done, but in no case should the change of food be violent. As to entering the theory that, "when a horse is

thirsty, he should be given water," should, with few exceptions, be carried out, the exceptions being: when very warm, the amount of cold water allowed should be limited; also, a horse that, owing to weakness of digestion, or other causes, will become colicky if watered after a meal, or if worked immediately after being watered. These exceptional cases must be treated accordingly. On general principles, we think that horses should be given water both before and after meals, and at all other times when they are thirsty.

"WHIP."

A Percheron Merger.

Perhaps the most important move that has taken place in the history of American Record consolidations took place on February 9th, when an amicable arrangement was reached between the

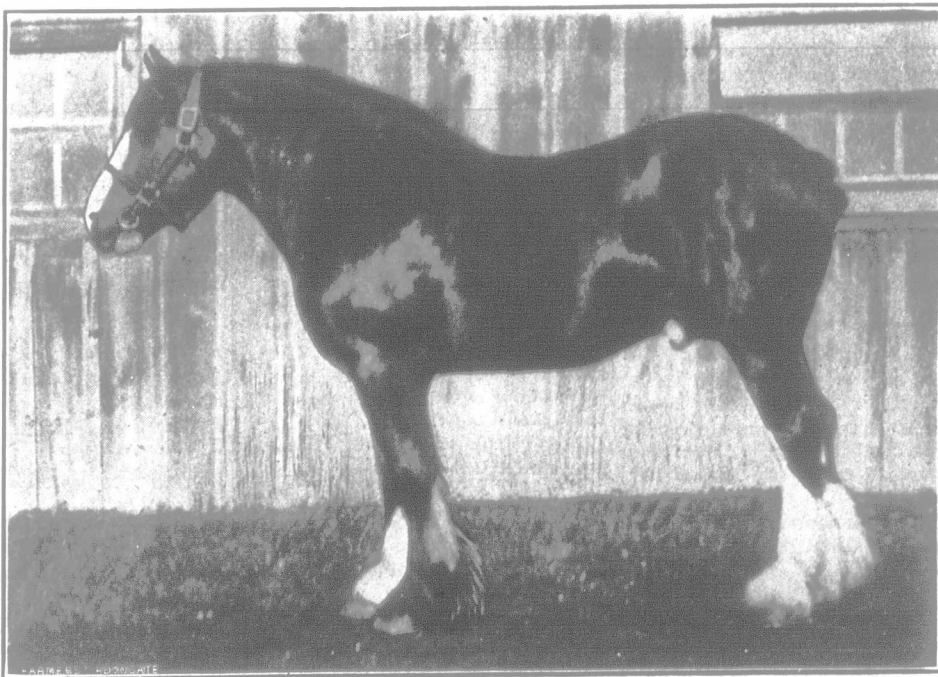


A Superannuated Team.

The accompanying picture shows a team owned by Isaac Willson, of Aldborough Township, Ont. They will be 31 and 32 years old in the spring, and are in good condition and good life, and did most of the work last year on one of Mr. Willson's hundred-acre farms, but will be turned out to pasture next season. They have earned a holiday, and it is hoped will enjoy the coming season's herbage.

representatives of the Percheron Society of America and the representatives of the Percheron Registry Company.

By the terms of this agreement, the Percheron Society of America has taken over all the books and records of the Percheron Registry Co., and recognizes as pure-bred the horses recorded by said Percheron Registry Company, for which certificates have been issued, bearing the name of William Bell, President, and Charles C. Glenn, Secretary.



Gay Sprig (imp.) [7794] (13849).

Clydesdale stallion; bay; foaled 1906. Second to Craigisla at Ontario Winter Fair, 1910. Exhibited by Graham-Renfrew Co., Bedford Park, Ontario. Sire Refiner, by Baron's Pride.

While the number of animals recorded by the Percheron Registry Company is not considerable, amounting to but 4,823 head, all told, the fact that they have been recorded by a separate company has worked hardship to many breeders.

A letter has just been issued by the Percheron Registry Company, calling attention to the fact that the Percheron Registry Company has joined with the Percheron Society of America, and directing that all mail from now on should be sent

to Wayne Dinsmore, Secretary of the Percheron Society of America, Union Stock-yards, Chicago, Illinois. All members of the Percheron Registry Company will receive a share of stock, which constitutes membership in the Percheron Society of America.

Benefits of Stallion Licensing.

From an address given by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, at the Ontario Fairs and Exhibitions Convention, 1911.

The proposition that licensing stallions should improve the classes at shows is self-evident, as can be easily demonstrated by reference to the conditions already existing in various parts of our own country. In the admirable report on the special investigation into the status of horse-breeding in Ontario, organized by the Provincial

Department of Agriculture in 1906, are to be found a number of proofs of the truth of this broad statement. In the whole Province of Ontario there were at that time 1,615 registered stallions, serviceably sound, being 60 per cent. of the total number examined, which was, as nearly as possible, a complete census. There were also 169, or 6 per cent., registered stallions which were unsound. Of the grade or non-registered stallions, there were classed as sound 740, or 28 per cent. of the whole; while of such animals in the unsound category there were 163, forming 6 per cent. of the total number examined, the same figure as that quoted for the registered horses. At first glance, this would appear to put them on an even footing as regards soundness, but when the totals in each class are considered, the result is altogether in favor of the registered horse. The number of unsound pure-breds, viz., 169, is only a shade over 9 per cent. of the class, while the 163 unsound grades constitute over 21

per cent. of the 740 unregistered sires.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the horses produced in the counties shown to have the highest percentages of pure-bred, registered sires are, as a rule, infinitely better and more valuable than those produced in the counties which show the opposite conditions, and in which the breeders are content to produce inferior horses through the use of grade or mongrel stallions.

A large percentage of farmers continue to use the scrub stallion, the result being that the country

is flooded with shapeless and often useless misfits and nondescripts, for which it is difficult to find a profitable sale; while there is always a ready demand for the well-bred, good-looking, special-purpose horse, whether heavy-draft, express, carriage, hunter or cob. Some of this perversity may be attributed to a short-sighted desire to economize in the matter of service fees, but, after many years of observation, I am convinced that by far the most important factors are the mendacity and misrepresentation resorted to by the owners of grade stallions, who do not care what they say or print so long as they succeed in making a good season.

The pedigrees printed on the route bills and cards of many of the worst mongrels travelling the country are so adroitly twisted, and so cunningly worded as to puzzle anyone but an expert in such matters. It is not unusual to see a horse masquerading as its own sire or grandsire. I recollect one case in which a horse was credited not only with the lineage, but also with the performance of his great grandsire. I have in my possession an extensive collection of pedigrees of