

Shoeing Interfering Horses.

Among all the defects in roadster horses, probably there is no other so great an "eye-sore" to man or "leg-sore" to the horse as that of interfering. This is especially true in the cities, while a great many of the country drivers wear interfering boots, or pads, or bang the skin off their fetlocks before being driven more than a few miles. As hind interfering is most prevalent, we will confine our remarks to it. Says Thos. F. Cowhey, in a paper read before the Master Shoers' Association in Detroit: "Lack of strength in the hindmost parts of the horse is the most frequent cause of this defect." Besides this, leg weariness, wearing too heavy shoes, and defective conformation, are common causes of this trouble. Very often, too, a horse is made to interfere by wearing shoes of irregular and uneven surface. Says Mr. Cowhey: "The remedy applicable in the case of a weak or leg-wearied animal, is to use as light a shoe as possible, using a weight extending from the centre of the toe, following the outside to about the centre of the shoe; placing a light inside side calk, slightly raised, following the outside heel around with the foot, leaving it slightly longer than the foot. To the horse with his feet placed straight on the ground and striking with the centre of the foot, I apply a shoe made with the inside web, turned edgewise,

who should make it his business to observe the horse's action very closely, in order to understand his peculiar case. In every case it is advisable to shoe light, and when all else fails, wear on him strings of interfering rubber beads, as low on the fetlock joints as they will sit, and always remove them immediately after a drive.

The illustration of aluminium horseshoes will be suggestive to owners of faulty-acted colts and trotters.

ALUMINIUM HORSESHOES.

The accompanying illustration represents a case of nine handsome hand-made aluminium horseshoes made by W. R. Pryne, Oshkosh, Wis., reproduced from a cut in the (April) Horse Shoers' Journal.

We may explain, just here, that aluminium is a very light, bluish-white malleable and ductile metallic element. It does not oxidize or tarnish like most metals when exposed to dry or moist air. When hammered and rolled, it becomes as hard as iron, and it is lighter than glass. It has been proposed for use in many cases where lightness and strength combined are desired, as for air-ships, as a substitute for iron in the manufacture of boats and bridges, and as a structural material. As yet, however, its chief application has been in alloys. The tenacity with which aluminium clings to its oxygen, made it at first an exceedingly expensive

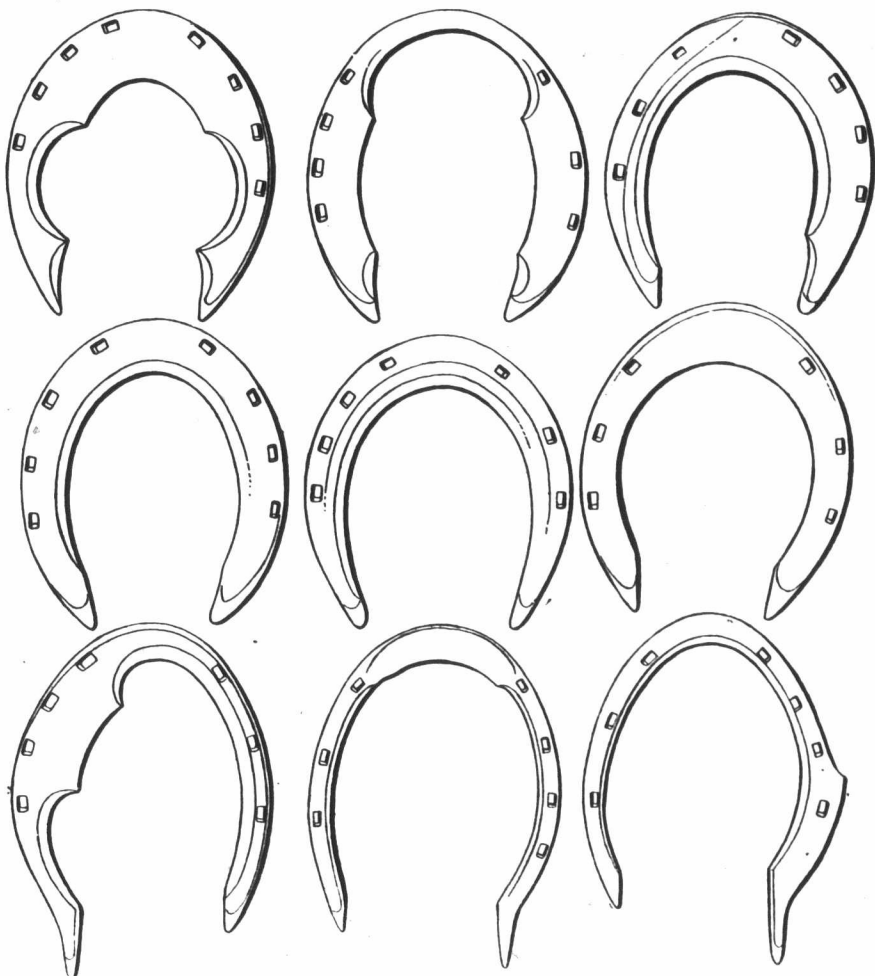


FIG. 1.—Shoe with the weight in the toe; extends the stride and takes the place of toe weights.

FIG. 4.—Is a plain plate—a perfect shoe for a horse of faulty action.

FIG. 7.—A side weight shoe, causing a faulty action horse to go wider behind.

FIG. 2.—This is a heel-weight rolling motion toe shoe; shortens the stride and gives more knee action.

FIG. 5.—Is a convex rolling motion shoe, intended to quicken the stride of a dweller.

FIG. 8.—Is a scoop toe hind shoe. The scoop toe enables the foot to break over more rapidly than if calked, and holds the foot better than a toe-calk.

FIG. 3.—Is a side-weight shoe intended for a knee bumper.

FIG. 6.—Is a scoop toe shoe; the scoop takes the place of a toe-calk.

FIG. 9.—A shoe with a heel side weight; a good device where the ankle rolls out, strengthening the ankle and giving wider action.

with the nails driven well towards the toe. While I carry the outside heel around well with the foot, and apply a slight weight on the outside toe of the shoe, the inside web slightly raised. To the cow-hooked legs, I have met success by applying a shoe similar to the one which I first recommended, with a side calk placed on the inside web about a-half or three-quarters of an inch from the extreme inside heel, bringing the extending part in perfect circle with the quarter.

To the horse that strikes with the toe quarter, judgment must be used in what manner the animal travels. I have met success by applying a heavy outside weight extending from the centre of the toe to the outside quarter, drawing the inside web as light as possible with the nails driven well towards the heel, slanting the inside toe quarter in accordance with the position by which it passes the defective part, with the toe calk and outside heel well lowered. Many cases of interfering can be noticed by the horse continually scuffing or rubbing the wall at the edge of the coronary band, until in frequent cases the entire strength of the wall is worn away. In such cases, I apply an ordinary shoe with the inside heel brought in perfect circle with the quarter, allowing the foot to extend over as much as the case will possibly stand.

There are other remedies which a proficient shoer can adopt, if he receives advice from the driver,

metal to extract from its ores; but since the more recent advances in electricity began, methods have been devised for their electrolytic reduction, and now it can compete in cheapness with copper in the manufacture of articles that may be made of either. The specific gravity of aluminium is one-third that of steel, and its tensile strength is equal to malleable iron.

At Weaning Time.

Lambs that came at all early should be weaned towards the end of July or beginning of August. After that time they pull the dams down more than the lambs are benefited by the milk. They should have a nice green field to go into, such as clover or rape, and get a bite of grain in the mornings. When the lambs are taken away, it is necessary to watch the ewes, especially those which are good milkers, lest the udder may be hurt by an overstocking with milk. It is a good plan to divide the ewes, keeping those with the most milk by themselves, feeding them sparingly, and, if necessary, milk them in part once in one or two days to relieve the udders. Unless they are looked after in some way, the udder may cake and become spoiled for future lambs, or they may fester and the flies get into it, and then there will be serious trouble.

FARM.

Care of Farm Machinery.

BY W. J. STEVENSON.

It does seem a pity that farmers in general are so careless with their implements. Do they ever stop to think of the tens of thousands of dollars' worth that are every year allowed to get out of repair, first, chiefly owing to the want of a little attention on the part of the owner, and then discarded and replaced by new, when such implements could be made to last for years longer with ordinary care? Speaking now, after about fifteen years' experience as a binder expert and general agent for farm implement manufacturers, I can truthfully say that as many machines are used up by careless handling as by actual wear in the field. I have been called many times on long trips to see binders that had gone wrong. When I examined them I usually found that first a few nuts were allowed to get loose, and then a moving of the working parts from their seats; consequently no more work, with the danger of breakages. Such breaks are almost always the result of loose nuts and bolts. As harvest is now about on, every man who owns a binder should, without delay, get his machine out where he can thoroughly examine it and tighten every loose part. Do not leave it until you get in the field, because you go there to cut grain, not to make repairs. Examine the knotters. Give it a good dose of coal oil to remove last year's dirt that you left on when you put it away. I know it is there all right. You had no time then to clean it—at least, you thought so. But try and do it this season; and mark the result next year. Clean out every oil hole and fill with coal oil before using; that will clean the bearings and make room in the boxes for the oil; also removes old dirt and prevents cutting of shafts, etc. The same rule stands good for every tool on the farm. A little care will often save, if applied at the right time, many vexations as well as much money. Farmers all know I am stating facts when I say that they have often had to pay well for very little in the way of repairs, etc., when by the attention I speak of, if it had been applied at the proper time, the trouble would have been avoided. Too much care cannot be given to the cutting parts. Keep knives sharp and in good repair at all times, as a dull knife makes a heavy-running machine. Use only the best oil—it is the cheapest. Ditto twine. Why not keep a pot of paint ready, and in the fall when you are putting away your plows, harrows, etc., give them a coat, and they are then ready to withstand the changes of the weather the following season. When your plow mould-boards are bright at the time of putting away, a good application of tallow, or any old grease, will preserve them from rust. The comfort of having a plow clean in early spring will amply repay you for the trouble as well as the protection it affords against the ravages of rust, that destroyer of metal, if allowed to accumulate.

Hints on Fall Wheat Growing.

SIR,—Since the price of fall wheat is higher than it was, farmers will probably pay more attention to its culture, which by our own experience on sandy loam soil has proved to be very satisfactory. Our experience is mostly on land where barley or peas were grown. If it is to be sown on such land, it should first be ploughed shallow, say, with a gang-plow, and then harrowed smoothly. The grain that has fallen out while harvesting the peas or barley will grow up if not too dry, and make fine grazing, especially for sheep, or if left growing till ploughed the second time (which should be done with a large plow, and fairly deep, just before sowing), will enrich the soil as green manure. If the land is covered with thistles—a great hindrance to wheat—plough a few days before the new moon, at both ploughings, which will check them wonderfully. It may seem a little superstitious, but my experience has proved the utility of the practice. After this is done it should be thoroughly pulverized with harrow and roller, alternately, till it is very fine and mellow, after which it is sown with the drill. To guard against freezing out—which is often the case in seasons when there is not enough snow to cover the plants—it is advisable to make the drill run north and south, which is at right angles with the prevailing winds, as they generally blow from west to east in winter, blowing crosswise over the drills; what little snow is carried along by the wind is arrested by the drills, thereby forming a shelter for the plants. By this it may be seen that it is best not to harrow after sowing.

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[NOTE.—With regard to cutting or ploughing down Canada thistles "a few days before the new moon," in order to their destruction, we will no doubt hear from other observant readers. Our own experience and observation is that the weed dies because it has reached a condition in growth toward maturity when the cutting will be most fatal to plant life, and not because the moon is at a certain stage in her course. —EDITOR.]