

in mud this is necessary, but, according to the very successful smith interviewed, clinching nails is not absolutely necessary. As pointed out by him the clinch always works up, not down into the hoof. He believes that the dove-tail of the hoof is all that is required to hold the shoe fast and solid, and for the good of the foot it is better to lose a shoe than to tear away a great portion of the wall. Of course, the nails must be rasped down smooth to prevent injury from interfering. Clinching is necessary where horses work in deep mud or on soft fields, and where it is done the nails should be well bent over and filed down.

SHOEING FOR CORNS AND OTHER TROUBLES.

Always remove the cause by overcoming pressure on the parts. Horse owners should make an effort to keep their horses' feet as soft as possible, by the use of damp, clay floors. Water is much to be preferred to grease or any of our so-called hoof ointments, although some of these may be used when a damp stall by day cannot be secured.

In cases of acute laminitis (founder) shoeing has little effect, although the dressing of the feet, where there is an excessive growth of hoof, especially the sole, is to be recommended. The clay floor can be used with much satisfaction to the shoer, and to the relief of the animal. If the animal is shod the shoes should be made large and wide for the foot, so that the nails are not in any way likely to compress the inflamed laminae or the shoe to press the sole. The best thing to do is to pull off the shoes and lay the horse off work, preferably allowing a run on grass.

Blistering for navicular disease is sometimes helpful during the earlier stages, and like acute laminitis shoeing does not help much, the better plan being to pull off the shoes and turn the horse out to pasture. Where a horse with navicular disease is shod, the shoe should be made a little lower at the toe than at the heel.

THE BAR SHOE.

The bar shoe costs about twice as much as the common shoe, but is an advantage in the shoeing of horses having weak or low heels, and also horses suffering from corns by preventing the shoe from springing and bending, it remaining flat at all times. It may also be given some frog pressure, the frog being nature's cushion to prevent concussion, naturally should come to the ground. The bar shoe is not of much service with horses having excessively strong walls and deep-cup feet, the common shoe without calks being equally as valuable in such cases.

MISTAKES IN HORSE-SHOEING.

Every man, no matter what business he is engaged in, makes mistakes, and shoeing-smiths are no exception to the rule. Mistakes in shoeing are common, and as our local smith informed us "hoof butchering" or working at the hoof as if it were a piece of wood or metal, the smith not fully understanding the structures of the foot or uses of the same, is the most common of all errors. Many shoers make the mistake of shoeing all horses alike, regardless of the conformation of the feet or class of work to be done by the animal. Many pare the frog away, but the knife should not be used on this portion of the foot if it can be avoided. Pull away all rags (loose ends) or clip with nippers. Forty-five per cent. of the frog is water, and the shoer should aim to retain this and do nothing to allow its escape.

HOT VS. COLD FITTING.

People are frequently heard to say, "Never burn a horse's foot," "Never rasp above the nails," "Never pare the frog." These are more or less "notions." "There is no set rule whereby the shoer must do this or that." The shoer must use good judgment, and treat the horse as conditions warrant. The shoer questioned favors the fitting of the shoes hot if proper care is taken, although the practice of cold-fitting shoes, when carefully levelled, both shoe and foot, appeals to common sense as the best method. The hot method should be so slight as to merely indicate the high spots on the hoof to the shoer, and these should then be removed to make the foot perfectly level and the shoe a perfect fit. This shoer pointed out that the material of which the hoof is composed (keratin or horny matter) is much the same as that composing the hair on our heads. We get the barber to singe our hair to prevent its falling out, owing to dryness. For the same reason singeing applied to the hoof is good, because the singeing closes the cells preventing the escape of moisture, while pairing opens the cells permitting the hoof to dry out. Always have the shoe fitted to the foot after it is properly shaped and prepared, and never under any circumstances fit the foot to the shoe. The horse-nails supplied at the present day are excellent, containing strength where

needed at the shoe and slimness and stiffness where they penetrate the hoof.

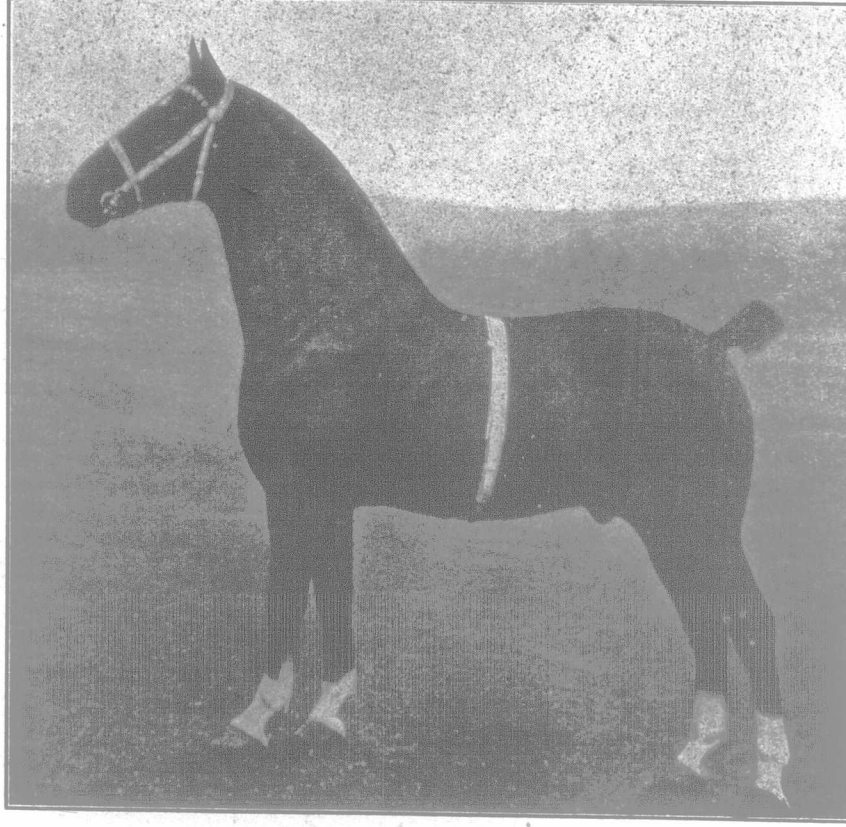
OVERCOMING OTHER FAULTS.

If the horse is flat-footed or inclined to be weak-heeled, shorten away the hoof at the toe and shoe with moderately high heels and very low toe. In some cases a bar shoe is an advantage.

Knee-sprung is a common trouble especially in driving horses, and is due to a weakness of the flexor or back tendons which may be assisted by the low-toed shoe. Do not have the heel lowered as some advise, as this only aggravates the trouble.

In cases of quarter-crack the pressure should be removed from the weak quarter by bar shoes, side-calks or other means, and above all, the foot should be kept soft and pliable. This is of greatest importance.

The greatest cause of all these unsoundnesses is the changed conditions, hard roads, pavements and plank or cement floors in place of soft, dewy, pasture grass and moist ground. Conditions under which horses are kept tend to cause dry, brittle hoofs, producing the many bad effects so often noticed. Keep the animal's feet as nearly



Hopwood Viceroy.

Champion at the Hackney Show, London, England.

under natural conditions as it is possible to do. Common sense and careful observation are important requisites of any shoeing smith.

Just as long as iron is used on animal tissue, bad results are sure to follow. Iron oxidizes and rots the foot tissue. Pick up a clipping of hoof in the smithy and look around the nail hole in it, and very often a good illustration of this fact may be seen in dead or injured tissue which has surrounded the nail. We cannot have natural conditions and shoes on horses. Horses must be shod, so the best that can be done is to stick as closely as possible to what nature intended for the hoof. Commence to care for the hoof while the colt is young, and where the horse is kept shod have it done regularly, systematically and by a man who understands his business if such is available, even though it does cost a little extra.

Thinks Inspection Unnecessary.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I read an article in "The Farmer's Advocate" of February 20th, 1913, entitled "Inspect the Stallion." I would like to tell you what I think of stallion inspection. I am certainly not in favor of it. Why should a first-class stallion be charged \$5.00 for inspection, and \$2.00 for enrolment before he can be bred to any mares? Why should the government dictate to the farmer about the stallion to which he should breed? Farmers will use their own judgment with regard to the horse to which to breed their mares. To prove this a grade stallion, in this section of the country, bred only twelve mares in 1912 at \$8.00 each. This was the only horse inspected in our village last fall. My horse, not inspected, bred 214 mares at \$15 to insure. He took first prize at the spring show in 1912. A colt sired by him took first prize at the fall show in the heavy-draft class.

I don't need any government inspection for this horse.

My experience of twenty years in the horse business is: give the people the goods and they'll pay the price. Are the people who are asking for compulsory inspection the owners of registered culls? If the government desires to do something in the interests of horse breeding, let them help the stallioner to purchase a first-class stallion instead of compelling him to pay high fees before he can use him. I believe that ninety per cent. of the horsemen in Ontario are opposed to the Stallion Inspection Act. Why not give the people in Ontario a chance to vote on this?

Simcoe Co., Ont.

JOSEPH CHAPPEL.

Prompter Shoeing Needed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for a number of years and like the paper, it is most helpful and interesting, anyone who reads it carefully can learn a great deal. I am not a farmer, but a blacksmith, and have reference to the letter, "Better Shoeing Needed." I don't hesitate

in saying there are more horses feet destroyed by farmers leaving the shoes on too long than there are by bad blacksmiths. A farmer will bring a four or five-year-old colt to the shop that has never been handled at all, not even taught to stand over, and expect a blacksmith to do a good job for the same price as for a any other horse, and thereby run a risk of being used up for a week or possibly for life.

I have only met a very few farmers who are even good drivers, let alone teaching their horses to hold up their feet.

As I have worked at the trade for eighteen years I know by experience that blacksmithing is a trade that requires much skill and hard work, and any person must be very ignorant who thinks a man can conduct a blacksmith business with a little experience he learned from an unskilled workman.

"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."

LIVE STOCK.

Marking Sheep.

On the range, conditions are such as to make a permanent brand a necessity, and even in settled districts like Ontario, Quebec or other eastern provinces it is often necessary and generally advisable to mark the sheep.

It is necessary that the brand of paint be of such material that it will scour readily. Every drop of paint placed upon wool must be removed before the wool can be manufactured into cloth. If the brand will not scour out by the usual methods, then hand labor must be employed to go over every fleece and clip off the brands. This not only means the loss of the wool clipped off, but it means a considerable amount of money expended for labor all of which eventually comes out of the pocket of the wool-grower.

In the big woollen mills the manufacturer of cloth takes no chances with paint brands. The fleeces are worked over by hand labor and the brands clipped off. Brands that will scour and brands that will not are treated alike. This is an exceedingly costly operation and is necessitated only by the too liberal use of undesirable paints. If all wool-growers would use a scourable paint the labor would be eliminated and the saving could be added to the price of wool.

It is the duty of the wool-grower to use as little paint as possible, placed where it will be the least injurious to the fleece. When the sheepmen appreciate the decreased price of wool due to extravagant use of paint, they will exercise more care in the selection and application of their brands.

Two characteristics are essential to a perfect branding fluid according to C. J. Oviatt, the author of a Wyoming Station Bulletin from which the foregoing paragraph was taken. (1) It