

THE HORSE.

Care of the Team.

During July, August and September, the average farm team has strenuous work under trying conditions, but yet does not as a rule receive the same care that it does during other seasons of the year. There is always a rush on the farm during the months that the crops are being garnered in, and frequently little time is given to grooming. Then, too, on some farms the horses do not receive their feed regularly. It is an all too common practice to rush the horses from morning until sundown, with but a short time to feed at noon. They may be tied to the hay mow while the men are having their supper, but when the last load for the night is under cover the harness is removed and the horses forced to pick their feed in the field. If the best work is to be secured and the horses kept in condition, they need their regular feed during haying and harvest even more so than at other times, as the weather is usually hot and conditions more trying. Time should be taken to feed and water the horses between five and six in the afternoon, and the careful horseman will give his team a drink at frequent intervals on a hot day. The spirit of many horses is broken during harvest time and they do not have the same life for the fall work. Grass is good feed for horses; it is a conditioner, and it is very often more comfortable for them in the open field at night than in the hot stable. It is a good plan to turn the team out, but they should have their regular feed of grain and be given a thorough cleaning to remove the sweat and dirt from the skin. Irregular meals tell on the horse the same as they do on man.

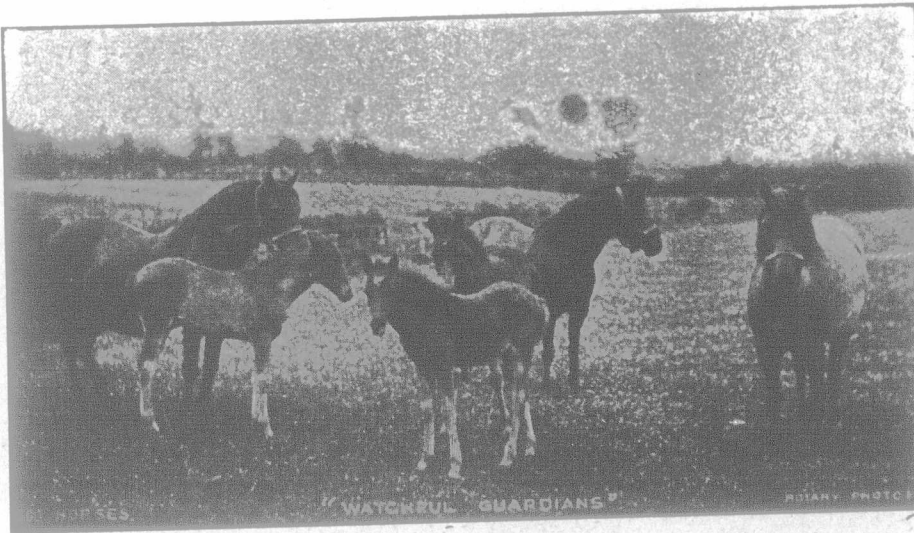
The heavy work of haying and harvest should be made as light as possible by providing trucks to relieve the weight of the mower and binder tongue, and by keeping the machinery and wagons well oiled and greased. During hot weather, the grease wears off the wagons very quickly, and we have seen some teamsters neglect this part of their work until the wheels were literally calling for grease. This cannot help but increase the draft on the load.

Unless the hames are properly adjusted and the collar fits, there is danger of sore shoulders developing, especially during a few days of exceptionally hot weather. This trouble can be lessened by paying attention to the harness and by raising the collar occasionally during the day to air the shoulders. Washing the shoulders with salt water and keeping the collars clean, aid in minimizing the danger of shoulders becoming galled and sore. If there is a little break in the skin, the use of the white lotion, which is composed of acetate of lead one ounce, sulphate of zinc six drams, and one pint of water is

recommended. This is a soothing, non-irritant lotion and should be applied freely. The careful teamster seldom has horses with sore shoulders. He prevents sores developing. It is the man who is a little careless about his horses who has the trouble.

The Feet of the Horse.

"No foot, no horse," is a very true saying, but yet some are negligent regarding the care of the colt's feet, in particular, and very often of the feet of the team they are working. If the hoof is allowed to grow out unduly, it cannot help but affect the trueness of the legs. It interferes with the animal when moving and increases the danger of blemishes developing. When the colts are on pasture the natural wear will sometimes keep the hoof in shape. However, the feet should be looked at occasionally during the summer months and the hoofs trimmed back if necessary. Some use the hammer and chisel for trimming the feet, but it is a good plan to get the nippers and knife, commonly used by the black-



No Family Quarrel Here.

smith for doing this work. A better job can be made than with the chisel. With the high price of shoeing, there is a marked tendency for people to leave their horses go as long as possible without changing the shoes. This is not good practice, as it tends to injure the feet. The horse going barefoot does not suffer as much from inattention to the feet as does the one that is neglected after being shod. On most farms it is necessary to have one team with shoes on for going on the road, but for the regular farm work shoes are not an absolute necessity, unless it is at harvesting time when the ground is hard and dry and there is a heavy pull into the barn. In dry weather the hoofs become brittle and there is the danger of them cracking and breaking. The feet of the horse should be looked after from the time it is a colt. To neglect them is to injure the horse.

LIVE STOCK.

Pig Pastures.

The cost of the production of pork can be materially reduced by the use of pastures. Under ordinary

conditions where a pig is fed on grain alone, it takes careful feeding and a very thrifty kind of pig to make 100 pounds gain from 500 pounds of grain, and more frequently 600 to 700 pounds of grain are consumed. Experiments with pasture and self-feeders at Brandon Experimental Farm have shown that it is possible to make good gains at the rate of 300 to 400 pounds of grain to the 100 pounds of pork with the addition of pasture. Pasture cannot be used satisfactorily to replace grain, but it may very profitably reduce the grain consumption by one-third. As the pasture can be grown very cheaply and the pigs do the harvesting themselves, the cost of producing a pound of pork may be reduced 20-25 per cent. This may mean the difference between profit and loss.

There are a considerable number of crops that may be used for pig pasture. The ordinary grain crops, such as wheat, oats, barley and rye, are quite suitable. Sown in the spring, these crops are ready for pasturing at the time that spring pigs born in March and April are old enough to use pasture to advantage. Spring rye is the first of these crops to be ready to use. The pigs eat it well and produce good gains on it. However, it soon passes the most palatable stage and becomes more woody as it shoots into head. Oats and barley are about a week later than rye in reaching the proper stage for harvesting, but are relished rather more by the pigs, and continue in a suitable condition for pasturing for a longer time. Wheat also produces good pasture, but is no better than other grains, and the seed is more expensive.

For later summer and fall pasture, there is nothing better than rape. Sown in early spring it is ready for pasture about the middle of July, or, if sown later, it reaches pasturing stage in about six weeks from the date of sowing. Pigs like it very well; it produces a large amount of feed and stands pasturing well. It is one of the best plants for hog pasture.

Another good fall pasture is fall rye. If sown in mid-summer it is ready to pasture in a month from the date of sowing. It produces a good grade of pasture until severe frosts come, and does not head out in the fall.

Perennial crops may also be used as pig pasture. Alfalfa will produce more pasture per acre probably than any other pasture crop. Pigs do very well on it, and produce economical gains. However, it costs more to start with alfalfa, as the land must be prepared two years ahead and sown one year ahead of the time it is to be used. Also, its greatest growth is in May and June, when, on the average farm, there are few pigs to use pasture as the spring litters are too small, and very few fall pigs are raised. The second crop of alfalfa comes in well for later summer pasture for spring pigs. Pigs root out alfalfa and soon destroy it if allowed to. It is advisable to put rings in their noses when they are pastured on alfalfa.

The ordinary grasses such as brome and timothy make first-class pig pasture in the spring months. But, as in the case of alfalfa, there are usually not many pigs to use pasture at that time. In mid-summer and fall when pigs need pasture most, the grass pasture is often dry and harsh and not so suitable for pigs. Consequently, better results are usually obtained from the annual crops first described.

Pastured pigs should be confined to pens for a few weeks at the last before shipping to market. While on pasture, they take a great deal of exercise, especially if of the more active breeds, and as a result grow well and make good frames with plenty of lean meat but may not put on enough fat. By shutting them up for about three weeks at the last, they make amazing gains in weight, thus increasing the profit, and get into a more finished condition for market. Pigs of the more sluggish breeds may be finished on pasture.—Experimental Farms Note.

Out After the Scrub Bull.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The scrub bull is a great hindrance to the improvement of live stock in Canada. There is no doubt, but that live stock is a great deal better than it was twenty-five or thirty years ago, but there is chance to improve yet for in a great many districts it is not what it might be. Far from it, and it will not be any better if the scrub bull is not put out of existence. I have known men to breed their heifers to a scrub when they could get the service of a pure-bred sire. The main reason was, the pure-bred cost a little and the scrub did not, but they pay dear for it by raising such inferior calves. If they are bull calves they are not worth raising, on the other hand if they are sired by a pure-bred they make beef if not wanted for breeding. I know of different large pastures that are rented every year and the owners keep a scrub there. A good many people pasture their heifers there to save time and trouble in getting them with calf. There is no difficulty in telling what kind of stock they are raising, just by passing along the road. We keep grade cows of a dairy breed on the farm, and breed to a pure-bred and raise young stock that make good returns. That is the way most farmers do around here. I am hoping that before long something will happen to the scrub bull as did the scrub stallion; forbidding the use of them all together. I am sure I would do all I could to wage war against them, for if Canada ever needed to raise the best stock possible it is now.

I. C. J.
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Blackfaces on the Hillside.

on to ask for. This, of

in regard to the general condition of the average said condition and situa- Not very much has been years in the way of put- farms or the making of improvements, but bank they say, is a pretty some of our Government farmers from this part a occasional pointer these carrying on of the public manner. If there was as political office-holders of our individual farmers ies wouldn't be running t present. Government of a farm would shortly

Diary.

I, M.A.

s of Two Agricultural

nce Edward Island it has interesting to others, as it the birds of this district, ay, with those of Central s both regions are pre-

h are equally common in e Robin, Song Sparrow, n Swallow, Tree Swallow imilarity ends, for in the Bobolinks, no Meadow- y Vesper Sparrows, but rge numbers of Savanna row, which is one of the rows, is quite common in l Ontario, but here it is he fields and roadsides. d by the yellow line over er sharp streaking of the high-pitched, somewhat ee-zur-r-r," not an im- and easily over-looked, has been drawn to one's

quite common here, but en by the Slate-colored ark gray head and back o white outer tail-feathers sly when the bird is in ics is a trill which while pping Sparrow is louder, as a more ringing quality. he songs of different in- duality, some having the rked than others. In a very common species ot remain to breed, while rs and is one of the most on.

n called the Crow Black- l, is common throughout ore conspicuous here, as e woods has a colony of rds. As we have pointed species is of very doubtful ts a good many injurious and garden products, and ore beneficial than itself. ouse in Central Ontario e not seen in the Malpeque d the Baltimore Oriole— rking song, and one of ing plumage. The Red- e two other species, which Ontario which I have not

a very common breeder g-ring-ring-ring" song of n early morning till dark This species is common grations in the early part ptember and October, but o breed. The Magnolia species is one of the hand- th his black crown, pearl t with black streaks, is as a migrant, but is quite dent.

chickadee occurs here the not found at all in Central species, which is of the ed Chickadee resembles e crown brown instead of h instead of gray. The adee is a rather husky aker and lacking the cap.

ict which does not occur e-sided Flycatcher. This flycatchers, and has the dead branch and uttering " the first syllable being rt of the song, so that at a all. It makes frequent uit of insects which wing