

TROTTING TRAINER'S EXPERIENCE WITH TOE-WEIGHTS.

BY FETH T. HANE, CHATHAM, ONT.

(From the Spirit of the Times.)

SPRIT, - Your issue of March 24 came to hand, and contents have been noted with interest and pleasure. "Old Trainer's" in this number, is highly interesting, and aims to impart to it must prove highly valuable to all horsemen who will study and take it. This article, alone, is worth the subscription for your paper for one

month. I also find my article on toe-weights, and, as I promised in it, in case you find it worthy of publication, to give you experience with toe-weights on horses that their legs in the various places, which are liable to when unsteady, and more particularly when their formation is faulty. I will proceed to fulfill my promise. Since "Old Trainer" has established the fact that a piece of tallow candle, when forced out of by the explosion of a proper amount of powder, will kill a man, I am encouraged in my taking, although I may not be able to fire a shot as some more experienced men.

As I may be able to induce others to experiment with similar means as those I have used of. Should they establish the fact my experience is based on a solid and sound foundation, or any part of it, I shall conclude that tallow, when thoroughly applied, is as penetrative as lead.

I will now give my views on toe-weights and shoes, as used on horses that brush the edge of their front leg with the toe of the opposite foot. That part of the foot or shoe that causes this kind of injury is located on the edge of the toe, usually about where the two nails are driven through the inside of the shoe. Some horses will only brush the edge of the shoe, while others will brush higher up on the wall of the foot, at the place where the clinches are turned down. In such cases the nail clinches, should be set into the shell of the foot, so as to leave the part as smooth as possible. The shoe should be formed with a beveled edge, and set at its edge will not project beyond the edge of the foot.

The location of the point at which a horse injures himself by this kind of brushing depends on the rate of speed he is driven. When travelling at a walking gait, or slow, he may brush the fetlock joint. When a little faster he may brush on the shin, and, in a few cases, a faster rate of speed may cause him to brush his knees, and, in a few cases, as high up as the arm. Few horses trot in light shoes brush themselves in this manner when they do, the injury is not of a serious nature.

Many different kinds of boots have been invented and used on horses that brush in this way to prevent them from injuring themselves. A practical demonstration has shown that many of them are not only useless, but injurious. They are useless, inasmuch as they do not protect the part or parts that are liable to be injured, and injuries from the fact that many of the parts upon which they are applied, and, further, by interfering with the natural motions of muscles, tendons, and joints. When boots are well made, fashioned after the best patterns, and properly applied, much is derived from their use; but when we can do without their use, we incur expenses, lessen the power of the horse, and permit the blood vessels, muscles, and joints, to perform the natural motions unrestrained. All trainers who have had any experience in the art of training horses, and who are worth naming, know that, by proper use of toe-weights, much of this kind of injury can be prevented.

The shoe that is generally recommended, and that was commonly used before toe-weights were invented, is formed by making that part of the shoe that is attached to the outside of the foot heavier than the inside. Practical demonstration has shown that, when a horse wears a weight on the outside, i.e., lateral portion of his feet, than on the inside, either by the use of the above-named kind of shoe, or by the use of toe or side weights, that it causes the horse to travel wider, and the foot upon which he is placed to be carried when the horse is in motion further out from the opposite leg than it would be when the weight is equally distributed over

In the second place, I have learned that it is a fact that we can apply, by means of toe and side weights, all the lift that is ever required to be used on a horse for the purpose of squaring and balancing him in his gait, and at the same time use a light shoe.

"But," says one who has always been used to using toe-weights attached to the feet by means of straps and spurs, "you cannot apply the toe-weight without increasing the bulk of the foot at the point that causes the injury. The straps that hold the weight on the foot must necessarily pass over that point, and consequently increase the bulk of the part more than a heavy shoe would do when applied." To him I would say that there are now manufactured toe and side weights that can be securely attached to the horse's foot by means of screws, without the aid of straps or spurs. These are the kind I now use on horses that brush in the manner above spoken of. They are constructed entirely out of metallic substances, and a greater amount of weight may be applied to the foot by their use and create less bulk than a lesser amount applied, when applied by means of straps and spurs. This kind of weight may be conveniently placed on the outside of the toe of the foot. When it is placed in this position it cannot come in contact with any part or parts of the opposite leg. It is also at the same time in the proper position to cause the foot to be carried out further from the opposite limb when in the act of passing it.

Anyone who will put aside their prejudices for a sufficient length of time to learn how to use toe and side weights will be, as I am convinced of the many and great advantages they possess over heavy shoes when used on horses that brush in the different ways heretofore spoken of, provided they possess sufficient natural and acquired abilities to give them a proper trial. It is no more to be expected that all trainers that use toe and side weights shall be successful in their use than it is to be expected that all horses that have had weights used on them, in educating them to speed, 14 lb. toe-weights, as the horse Grafton had, will learn to speed as fast as he did when they have the like amount applied to them. All men that saw on the violin do not become expert players, neither will all men who use toe-weights be successful in their use.

To properly use toe and side weights, it requires a knowledge of the laws that govern the machine, and when those laws are complied with, by the aid of mature judgment, good results will be produced by their use.

But when I remember how many men would be trotting horse trainers before the public today, I am not astonished when I hear of bad results being produced by the use of toe and side weights.

Trainers, these days, spring up like mushrooms, and such trainers are about as useless as some of that class of plants. A young man rubs a trotting horse in a certain locality a season. The next season, in another locality, he springs up a trainer, and if he possesses a smooth tongue and plenty of cheek, he is liable to get plenty to do. Cheek is usually well developed in this class of trainers. Occasionally one of this class of trainers get hold of a natural or matured trotter, and was drawn out for him by said horse, a reputation, and in some instances soon becomes noted as a skillful driver. A hybrid of this species may, like a similar cross with the horse, be useful for certain kinds of work, but will never do for general purposes.

I am frequently reminded, by this class of trainers, when I see them riding around the track, of monkeys that I have seen riding around a circus ring. When a monkey, well dressed, seated behind a well-trained horse, enters the circus ring, he presents a very respectable appearance, and frequently gets great applause from the audience. That part of the audience that does not know that it is a trained horse that the monkey is riding behind, that the horse knows more than the monkey, may conclude that the monkey is a first class driver. Those that know the facts of the case are liable to have a different opinion with regard to the monkey's abilities. Under similar circumstances the would-be trainer frequently enters the trotting ring. When well dressed, and seated behind a well-educated trotter, he presents a very respectable appearance, and frequently gets great applause from the spectators, especially from those that don't know that it is a natural or well-educated trotter that the would-be trainer is riding behind, and more particularly when they are not cognizant of the fact that the horse knows more than the man behind him. Many conclude that the man is a first class driver, but those that are better acquainted with the man are liable to come to a different conclusion. I had an opportunity to witness some of the

Obituary.

THE DEATH OF "GREYBEARD."

Mr. John P. Burhans, the familiar "Greybeard" of The Turf, Field and Farm, we regret to write, has passed away. Last winter he went to Florida, as had of late been his custom, for the benefit of his health, but in the "land of flowers" he grew worse instead of better. He started for the North in March. He landed in the city of New York a helpless invalid on the 28th day of that month. He was carried from the steamer to the residence of his friend, Mr. Roworth, of West Fifty-first street. Here the broken man received the best nursing and medical assistance, but neither skill nor kindness could bring him back to health. He died, April 14, of the malarial fever contracted South. Before he breathed his last he whispered a request that his body might be taken to the home of his childhood, Roxbury, Delaware County, New York, and laid by the side of the remains of his wife. No kindred closed his eyes, but the last request of the dying man was faithfully attended to by his friend. Mr. Roworth and his wife accompanied his remains to Roxbury and stood by the open grave. Mr. Burhans was borne in 1818, and he came to the city in 1838. He made hosts of friends and he prospered in business. But after he had amassed a competency, he met with reverses, and so went out of the world about as poor as he came into it. He was a genuine sportsman. He took delight in shooting as well as fishing, but he preferred to cast his line and dream upon the banks of the winding stream. Some of the most brilliant letters published by us were written by "Greybeard." Those who have lingered over the printed page which he graced so well will mourn with us the loss of this kind-hearted man of brilliant parts. Mr. Burhans had traveled extensively in the United States, and wherever he went he made friends; therefore the news of his death will pain thousands of hearts. He has one brother at Roxbury, and another who is now a resident of this city. He left two sons, one of them at present the City Editor of the Danison, Texas, Daily Crescent, the other a citizen of Charleston, South Carolina. Alas! that bright spirits of the "Greybeard" kind cannot tarry here forever and temper the cold air of a hard, driving world.—*Turf, Field and Farm*.

DEMISE OF A WONDERFUL HUNTS-MAN.

A Yorkshire correspondent of the Sporting Gazette writes that Mr. John Carr, who died last week at Grimsthorpe, near Sheffield, at the rare old age of 93, who was a most extraordinary person, who from a very early age displayed such an ardent liking for field sports, particularly the chase, that he kept up the character until within a very few years of his death. At the juvenile age of seven John Carr took part in his first run with the Fitzwilliam, under the old Earl, when that celebrated pack was, as it has been more or less up to the present day, the pride of Yorkshire hunting men. After this the boy, who was of good parentage, though unfortunately not overburdened with "the means that make the mare to go," used regularly to join in the Earl's runs, and his little figure has been familiar to at least three generations of sportsmen connected with the Fitzwilliam Hunt. When he was some forty years of age his passionate devotion to the grand old sport procured for him the post of huntsman of the Ecclefield Harriers, which he held for a long time, and was greatly liked. Wonderful stories are told of his powers of endurance. Once while out with the harriers on Attercliffe Common the dogs ran among some growing oats, and Carr had great difficulty in getting them out again. This was in the early part of the season, and while he was waiting he observed an unusual number of courtesans driving towards Doncaster, it being the glorious morning of the St. Leger. He made no more to do but started off on foot, got there in time to see the race, and walking back to Crabtree, where he lived, ar-

CROWDING IN A CHURCH.

A despatch from Strathroy reads: "The Tennessee Jubilee Singers were billed to sing in the Music Hall here, on Friday and Saturday nights last. On Friday night they sang to a fair house, and the audience were pleased, and everyone expected a big house for Saturday night; but during the afternoon it leaked out that they were going to sing in the Methodist Episcopal church on Sunday evening, and the conclusion became general that the admission fee might be saved and the troupe heard all the same on Sunday evening gratis. The consequence was, that the troupe had a very small house on Saturday night, and are out of pocket several dollars. Sunday night came, and the M. E. Church was filled; pews, aisles, and galleries were crammed. The usual time for the service to begin arrived, but no troupe. The minister was a stranger, and, no doubt, thought the announcement that he was to preach had an electric influence in Strathroy, and he looked eloquent. But twenty-five minutes had come and gone and no troupe had made its appearance, the minister waiting all the while and beginning to look blank and disturbed. By this time it began to be whispered that the troupe were debating whether to come at all or not. They had been served shabbily on Saturday night and the temptation was natural and strong to pay the audience back in kind by refusing to sing at all. The audience saw the position and well known church officials were seen flitting about in great excitement. At length; after the audience waited just half an hour, the singers, or a part of them, put in an appearance, and the service began. A collection was taken up and \$4.50 paid them."

CATTLE FOR ENGLAND.

To-day Mr. James McShane, Jr., ships by the s. s. Quebec of the Dominion Line, fifty steers, and on Thursday next ninety additional head by the s. s. Lake Megantic, of the Canada Shipping Company.

The above are the first shipments out of a lot of 600 head bought from Mr. J. P. Wiser, of Prescott, for shipment to the English market, and are decidedly the finest and heaviest lot of cattle ever fed in the Dominion, being mostly three and four-year-old steers, and weighing nearly 1,700 each. Mr. Wiser has been for many years an extensive feeder of cattle, feeding yearly upwards of 1,000 head. We understand that to him and Mr. McShane is due the credit of being the pioneers in the shipment of Canadian beef cattle to England, (against a strong feeling of prejudice there), and it will be remembered that the first shipment of cattle from Mr. Wiser's establishment, of some 90 head of steers, 1,600 average, were lost in the ill-fated Vicksburg. The venture so unfortunately commenced has now grown into a trade of enormous proportions. In addition to his cattle feeding and distillery, Mr. Wiser is owner of the Rysdyk Stock Farm, of 600 acres, on the St. Lawrence, half a mile west of Prescott, on which he has over 100 head of the finest trotting stock in the Dominion, and will compare favorably with any in the United States. Here is the home of the famous trotting stallion, Rysdyk, purchased for this establishment at a cost of over \$10,000, also the celebrated stallion Phil Sheridan, sire of Commonwealth, Adelaide, and many other fast trotters. The stables are in charge of Mr. H. W. Brown, whose experience in similar establishments in the United States, eminently fits him for the position.—*Montreal Herald*.

THE GAME FOWL.

This noble bird is coming into favor again in all parts of the country. Some years ago Asiatics were all the rage, and a breeder of games was almost placed outside the pale of respectable poultry fanciers. But now a reaction has come, and the neat, graceful, plucky game is gaining in favor on the great, clumsy, awkward Brahmas and Cochins. Of course circumstances have much to do with our choice of chickens. The man or woman with but a small town lot wishing to live at

English Turf.

THE NEWMARKET SPRING MEETING.

THE RACE FOR THE TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.

The following is the full report of the race for the 2,000 guineas taken from our London files. From this it will be seen that there can now be no doubt that it was Mr. S. J. Brown Prince that won the race.

The Two Thousand Guineas Stakes, a subscription of 100 sovereigns, 1 lb. for three years olds; colts, 8 st, 10 lb. fillies, 8 st, 10 lb. second received, 200 sovs; the third saved stake. R.M. (1 mile, 17 yds.) 101 m.s.

Count F de Lagrange's Chamant, by Mr. J. Goutier 1

Mr M H Sanford's Brown Prince, 8 st 10 lb 2

Lord Falmouth's Silvio, 8 st, 10 lb 3

Mr C Alexander's Thunderstone, 8 st, 10 lb 4

Mr Alex Baltazzi's by Buccanier—Vol 5

tella, 8 st, 10 lb 6

Lord Calthorpe's Monachus, 8 st, 10 lb 7

Mr F Gretton's Monk, 8 st, 10 lb 8

Mr F Gretton's Kingsclere, 8 st, 10 lb 9

Mr C Rayner, junr, Warren Hastings, 8 st, 10 lb 10

Baron A de Rothschild's Strachino, 8 st, 10 lb 11

Duke of Westminster's Morier, 8 st, 10 lb 12

Betting—2 to 1 agst Morier, 9 to 4 agst Chamant, 7 to 1 agst Strachino, 100 to 8 agst Thunderstone, 100 to 7 agst Silvio, 25 to 1 agst Monk, 100 to 4 agst Brown Prince, and 50 to 1 each agst the Voltella colt and Warren Hastings. At the second attempt the lot were despatched to a capital start, Monachus, however, in the centre soon working his way to the front, and making play with a slight lead of Brown Prince, who was alongside of him, while wide on the lower ground Monk was coming on third, just in front Silvio and Chamant, who were on his whiphand, the Frenchman being about a length behind Lord Falmouth's colt. Just behind the leaders were Thunderstone and the Voltella colt. The colors of Morier in this early stage were seen well up on the right in company with Kingsclere, the absolute being Strachino, who was wide on the right by himself; and in a corresponding position on the left behind Chamant and Monk was Warren Hastings. In much about this order the lot ran to the 1. Y. C. winning post, where, to the horror of his friends, Morier was seen already to be in difficulties; while here Strachino also began to draw near his horses. On the other hand, Warren Hastings and Kingsclere were already falling off. With reference to the leading division, Monachus was still sailing along in company with Brown Prince, who close up was Monk, Thunderstone and Silvio, Chamant also being handy with them, and this was the state of affairs as they came to the Buttes, where Monk, Thunderstone and Voltella colt withdrew from the front, and Silvio took third place, with Chamant along side with Strachino, being widely by himself, also looked up, Morier, Kingsclere, and Warren Hastings now toiling hopelessly in the rear. As they came down the hill to the dip Monachus resigned his lead, and Brown Prince and Silvio held but a trifling advantage of Chamant, who was going well within himself. Before reaching the hollow Strachino was finely settled, and Gater just here brought Chamant to the front, and though the American, who had always been a second or third, and Silvio made a gallant effort, the race was really over, as directly Gater shook up his mount, he drew to the front without an effort, and won in a canter by a length from Brown Prince, with Silvio next, three-quarters of a length off, then came clear of these, the Voltella colt, Monachus, Monk, and Thunderstone, in the order named, with Strachino several lengths off next, in front of Morier and Warren Hastings, with Kingsclere last. Time, as taken by Brown Prince