

Feeding Up a Team.

A reader has a team which he has worked hard all summer, and they have got down in flesh. The hide is tight, and they are dull. He would like to know what to do for them, and the recipe of a good condition powder.

Ans.—As there is likely to be considerable work for teams from now until winter, it cannot be expected that horses will lay on much flesh, but something can be done to bring working horses into healthy tone. First prepare them for a change of diet by giving a feed of boiled barley or oats on Saturday night instead of their regular grain, and give very little, if any, hay. Then the following morning give more boiled feed, so that the bowels will move freely. Feed lightly during the day, mostly upon boiled grain or bran. For subsequent feeding, where possible, give about two quarts of bran with the oats. Also give a feed of boiled grain about once or twice a week. As a tonic, feed in the grain twice a day for a week one dram each of the following: Sulphate of iron, gentian and nux vomica, and three drams of bicarbonate of soda. A pint of flax seed in the grain would also tend to make the coat soft and the skin loose. Before giving any treatment, however, make sure the teeth are in good shape. See that there are no sharp edges on the grinders and that they are even in length. After the above directions have been followed out feed liberally on good hay and clean oats for the main fodder, and give pure water. The amount of grain will have to be regulated by the amount of work done and the size of the horses. Idle horses, however, should have about three quarts of grain three times a day, and more in proportion to the severity of their work.

The Horse's Shoulders and His Collar.

The shoulders and collars of the hard-working horses deserve the closest attention and special care. Autumn plowing and other hard duties are dependent on the soundness of the shoulders, which in turn is maintained by the perfect adaptation of the collar to the conformation of the sides of the horse's neck and shoulders. Almost everybody talks knowingly about the different makes and styles of collars, yet it is the rarest thing to hear anyone mention the style of hames. The hames, to bring the collar up to the sides of the horse's neck, must be so changed in form that the collar can be forced up snugly to every part of the sides of the horse's neck, which can be done by tacking on pieces of wood or leather so as to have the hames fit the exact form of the horse's neck, then there is no question about the shoulder coming up to the neck when the hame straps are properly buckled.

As no two horses' necks and shoulders are alike, it is the duty of the owner or driver to see to it that the hames are first altered to fit the sides of the horse's neck that is to work in them. If the neck is thin through its central portion the hames must be built out to fit into this depression, but when the neck is thick through its central part (staggy) then the hames must be filled in at the upper portions in circular form to fit such fulness, and so on, whatever the conformation may be. Unfortunately, almost all makes of hames are straight about the bottom portion, and if all horses had flat necks of even thickness, then there would be little trouble in fitting collars or changing harness. Every horse should have his own working collar and harness with as much propriety as each one of us should have our own shoes. Just think of a whole family or neighborhood changing shoes with one another every day or week, as the horse's collar and harness are changed about, and how long would it be before there would be a great complaint about sore feet? And if the horses could talk there would be a great demand on the drivers to keep each horse's harness sacred to its owner (the horse).

While the attention of the reader has heretofore been called to the method of preparing the collar for its perfect adaptation to the neck and shoulders of the horse, it will probably make it doubly impressive to repeat that every worker of leather to a specific form invariably soaks the leather in water before the shaping process is commenced, and the collarmaker cut and sewed the leather dry, but, before it is stuffed and put into form the leather is made as pliant as water can make it, then filled and placed on a block or form supposed to be about the breadth and thickness of a horse's neck, then shaped to its contour to the taste of the manufacturer by beating and manipulating its shoulder surface, and left there to dry and hold its form.

Now, why is it that the horseman or driver does not take a lesson from the collarmaker when he wants to fit the new or old collar to the horse's neck, and give the horse a fair chance to mould the bearing surface perfectly to his shoulders? Well, it is probably for the reason that he supposes that the hame-maker, as well as the collar manufacturer, knew just what was needed for every horse, and he picks out of a lot of collars those which seem to be about right, and trusts to luck until his horses' shoulders are so sore that he is obliged to lay them up or work

them with terrible suffering, and possibly ruin a valuable service animal. Hames and collars are made for the trade, but it is the duty of every plowman to aid the horses in every way towards perfect-fitting hames and collars. And it is to be done by first being sure that the hames are just the form for bringing the collar up to the sides of the horse's neck, then with the proper length of collar (say Saturday evening), wrap the collar to be fitted round and round many times with sacking, old blankets or other material, and keep this wrapping thoroughly wet. Monday morning unwind the wet covering, and with a piece of fork-handle or other smooth stick beat up the face or shoulder-bearing surface of the collar to loosen up the filling and make the leather pliant and yielding, put it on the horse's neck, buckle up the hame-straps top and bottom so as to bring the collar-rim snug to the neck, and in one day's moderate work the horse will fit the bearing surface to his shoulder better than it is possible for the collarmaker on his block.—[Farmer's Gazette.]

Horse too Keen.

A Manitoba correspondent writes that he has a horse which is too keen and wants to pull the whole load. He would like to know if a severe bit would do any good.

We have found that horses of this kind can very often be made to take life a little easier by giving gentler treatment. A bit severe enough to hold the horse easily, but not so harsh as to irritate him, should be used. So much depends upon the toughness of the mouth that one cannot say with certainty what sort of bit would be best. Sometimes a simple two-piece bit is effective, but we have had to use a chain bit on some horses. Very often a horse will go much steadier without blinkers than with them, and it is always best to hitch two fairly smart horses together, as, if one is slow, it often excites the other to hurry up his mate.



Baron Gartly (Imp.) [4789].

Second prize in the aged Clydesdale Stallion class at the National Exhibition, Toronto, and first and male champion at the Central Canada, Ottawa, 1905. Property of Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont.

Splendid Paper—Splendid Knives.

I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the knives which you sent me as a premium. They are all you represented them, and any farmer should be pleased to have one in his possession. I will try and secure some more subscribers for your splendid paper. Wishing you every success.

WILLIAM ALLUM.

Frontenac Co., Sept. 27, 1905.

Full Address Necessary.

Writers of questions or contributions to the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" are again reminded that no attention can be paid to communications or enquiries which are not accompanied by the full name and post-office address. This is imperative. Writers will please govern themselves accordingly. Several persons have been sending us letters and post cards, some having no name at all, others merely initials, and others giving no post office.

STOCK.

Fredericton, N. B., Exhibition.

The City of Fredericton, beautifully situated on the banks of the St. John River, becomes the Mecca every two years of the agriculturists and others of the Province of New Brunswick, for here, at the Provincial capital, is held alternately with the City of St. John the Provincial exhibition.

President Campbell and Secretary Hooper had everything ready on the opening day, and by the end of the second day everything was in full swing. The only delay was in the arrival of the stock from Halifax exhibition, which came by a special train. It is a pity that the three leading shows of the Maritime Provinces (Halifax, Fredericton and Charlottetown) should run into one another quite so close. We hope to see some arrangement made so that the dates will not lap. Weather was favorable, except on one day, and the attendance good.

The display of live stock, though not quite so large as at Halifax, was good. Many animals were exhibited at both places, and although there were different judges in some classes, the rating was much the same. Entries were about on a par with two years ago. Duncan Anderson, of Rugby, Ont., judged beef cattle and hogs, assisted with the latter by John Campbell, of Woodville, Ont. W. F. Stephen, Huntingdon, Que., placed the dairy cattle; C. M. McRae, of Ottawa, heavy horses; Dr. H. G. Reed, of Georgetown, Ont., the light horses; John Campbell, the sheep, and G. B. Cottrelle, Milton, Ont., the poultry. In nearly all cases, we believe, the exhibitors were well satisfied with the awards. In last issue of the "Farmer's Advocate" appeared a brief report of the horses. The remaining classes will be also reviewed rather cursorily, as many of the entries had been previously considered at Halifax.

BEEF CATTLE.—In Shorthorns, Lieut.-Gov.

Snowball, of Chat-ham, N. B.; F. W. Thompson, Ft. Lawrence, N. S.; and C. A. Archibald, Truro, N. S., were the chief exhibitors, and made a creditable display. Archibald won first on aged bulls and diploma with Hunt-lywood, but for the latter honor was hard pressed by a two-year-old bull owned by Lieut.-Gov. Snowball, a bull with a splendid top line, good substance and good fleshing. Yearlings were an even lot. Archibald won first place, and Thompson second. Lieut.-Gov. Snowball won first place in the next class with a roan of good quality, and second with a white, also a good sappy fellow, but a little bit leggy. The younger calves were just a medium lot. In the cow class six lined up before the judge. Archibald's cow that stood second in Halifax, was first

here, Thompson taking second, and Lieut.-Gov. Snowball third. In the three-year-old cows the placing was the same as at Halifax, viz., Thompson and Archibald. In two-year-olds Thompson took first on the diploma female, a nice tidy, smooth, well-fleshed heifer, and also got second in the same class. In one-year-olds, Archibald got up with a sweet, sappy roan, Thompson taking next two positions with a pair of compact heifers. In heifer calves under six months, Archibald won first place, Lieut.-Gov. Snowball coming second. In herds, Archibald stood first, Thompson next, and Lieut.-Gov. Snowball third. In young herds Thompson led with a smooth, even, uniform lot of heifers, and the second-prize yearling at their head, Archibald coming second.

W. W. Black, of Amherst, N. S., was the only exhibitor in Herefords, and, as at Halifax, they were brought out in fine form.

In Polled or Aberdeen-Angus, C. R. Harris was the only exhibitor.

Polled Norfolks were represented by an aged and a three-year-old cow.