

ays an Actual t

ollowed the practice
ng work began, and
this matter I shall
experience has been.
sed a horse clipping
or the first time that
t the start because
s were new at the
could skin the hair
apidly. We clipped
pril, completing the
nd commenced, and
can before starting

ts I noted from the
e into working trim
work for horses dur-
sult of their idleness
he spring work soft,
they get into work-
together put their
emed to help them
when I bought the
se I was pretty well
theory, that a horse
ng, muscles flabby,
and very likely the
quite a job getting
pores of his hide, a
nd, and very likely
The results have
for I find much less
m days at the be-
re.

actual dollars and
i work one can get
in that it pays in-
d comfort to the
my horses to go
out of hair on their
r their protection
uld expect to start
ly clothed as I was
he circumstances.
id see how long you
ns and a coon coat

have seen horses
believe it is a mis-
er is cold and wet,
table, and if he is
ie, whether he is
et in the stable or
ilts from clipping,
nza, etc., nor any
clipping, that ap-
with which I can
in outfit of four or
f it, as one should,
never particularly
s the horses didn't
A-clipped horse,
t order and better

to make on the
My neighbor and
speed. We both
outfits, generally
urs is a Chicago
nply followed the
ine and had no
e got accustomed

L. MCGREGOR.

Knee Action

ry hard, brittle
the heels. She
d. Her mother
s.
fore shoes with

increased?

G. W. M.

e predisposition
e contraction of
y action within
care to prevent

If you do not
shoes and get
as low as pos-
sible. The in-
course, need to
a blister to the
round the hoof
Make a blister
f mercury and
s vaseline. Tie
Rub well with
ys, and on the
rn her into a
en floor prefer-

able), oil the parts daily until the scale comes
off. Then tie up and blister again, and after this
blister once monthly, as long as you can give her
rest. In the meantime, keep the heels, etc., well
pared down. The blistering stimulates the secre-
tion of horn, and tends to prevent contraction;
also allays internal inflammation. If you cannot
give rest, all that you can do is to keep the feet
as soft as possible, by applying poultices of lin-
seed meal every night, and, of course, having the
shoeing-smith keep the heels as low as he can
safely do. In the summer time, it will be wise
to wear bar-shoes. We may say that the princi-
pal points are to keep the feet moist, avoid
standing on hot, dry surfaces, and keep well
shod.

2.—This is called "forging," and in many cases
is very hard to check. The manner of checking
or preventing depends considerably upon the kind
of action. In some cases, shoeing the fore feet
with rather heavy shoes, without toe calks, and
the toe of shoe rounded off, so that he will lift
the feet more promptly, and get them well up be-
fore the hind shoe comes forward, will succeed.
In other cases, very light shoes in front, without
toe calks, do better. As regards the hind
feet, the same may be said; that is, in some
cases heavy, and in some cases light shoes are
needed. The shoeing-smith must experiment,
and, when he finds the peculiar method of shoeing
that suits the horse, he will continue to shoe him
in that manner. The habit is a very disagreeable
one, though not dangerous. Few horses forge
when driven sharply at a good speed; but few
men care to drive this way all the time, and
when jogging the horse will forge. Some young
or weakly horses forge, but when full-grown and
stronger the habit ceases.

3.—The manner of increasing knee action, like
forging, depends to considerable extent upon the
individuality and peculiarity of action. On gen-
eral principles, weight of fore shoes and rolling
toe action—that is, an absence of toe calks, and
the toe of the shoe rounded off—tends to in-
crease action. The weight of the shoes that give
the best results can be ascertained only by trying
shoes of different weights. Some horses go bet-
ter with 1½-pound shoes, others with 2-pound
shoes, and other with still heavier. Except in
winter time, when heel calks are necessary, it is
better to have no calks—simply the shoes
slightly swedged at heels. The horse should be
driven with a little curb on bit, the head checked
up fairly high, and driven smartly, with reason-
able tension on bit, and at whatever gait he will go
highest. I might say that the development of
action, and, at the same time, a reasonable speed,
is, to some extent, an art, and requires special
adaptability and experience. It requires not only
a man who has an intelligent idea of the mechan-
ical actions of the limbs and feet, but one who
has good light hands and knows how to uses
them, as the extent to which natural or developed
action in a horse is exercised depends to nearly
as great a degree upon the mouth of the horse
as upon his limbs and feet, and a man with what
a horseman knows as heavy hands will worry a
horse's mouth to such an extent that he cannot
act well with either fore or hind feet. At the
same time, any horseman who understands the
principles of action, and has ordinary observa-
tion, should be able to develop action to a rea-
sonable extent, provided he has the time and
patience to devote to it.

WHIP.

Fault in Hoof Grown Out

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Two years ago we purchased a heavy mare
that was very lame in front foot, at times crip-
pling her almost entirely. The cause of the lame-
ness could not be found, as her foot appeared to
be normal, except being slightly feverish and not
making very rapid growth. She was shod with
a low-calked shoe and a leather sole packed with
tow and tar. Black oil, which we knew to be a
good hoof application, was applied freely around
walls of hoof before she went to work in morning.
This treatment started a healthy growth of hoof.
In about three months there was noticed on the
inner side of the hoof a depression about a quarter
of an inch deep and an inch and a half long, run-
ning parallel with the top of the hoof. Of course
this could not be noticed until it had grown down
from above with the growth of the hoof. The
mare foaled in May, and then had her shoes re-
moved, and she did nothing but suckle the colt
all summer. By fall the depression had grown
entirely out of her hoof, leaving it smooth and
straight. The lameness, which was undoubtedly

due to this spot in the hoof pressing inward upon
the foot, has now entirely disappeared, thanks to
the black oil which started the growth in the
hoof, and I believe that many such cases could be
cured, or at least helped, by the use of this sim-
ple remedy, as it starts a healthy growth of hoof,
which in such lameness is what is needed to ef-
fect a cure.

(Note.—I am of the opinion the writer is cor-
rect in his idea of the cause of lameness, which,
no doubt, was a calk or wounding of the hoof
near the coronet, and as is usual in such cases,
the edges of the hoof surrounding the calk dried
up and turned inwards, causing pressure upon the
sensitive part of hoof. The lameness could have
been prevented by paring this away periodically,
so as to remove pressure. So soon as this por-
tion of the foot grew down, or, rather, was
forced down by the growth of new horn from
above, the cause of lameness ceased. The writer's
explanation of the cure is incorrect. There is no
special virtue or hoof-growing properties in any
kind of oil, whether black or white. Then, again,
he applied the oil to the hoof. Now, the hoof
does not produce hoof. The hoof is formed by
the coronary band, which is situated just between
the skin and the hoof, and in order to promote
growth of hoof this band requires stimulation,
which is best done by blistering. The facts are
that nature removed the cause of lameness, and
he gives the black oil the credit. Lameness
lasted about a year, and that is about the length
of time it requires for a new hoof to grow; or, in
other words, for a wound received near the coro-
net to be forced down to the lower margin of
the wall.—WHIP.)

STOCK

Comment upon Live Stock Subject Invited

Dehorning Calves

The proper time to dehorn is before the animal has
grown horns long enough with which to do injury to
its mates or herd, or mature enough to cause some
considerable pain in removing and a consequent loss
of a week or two of time and feed while the animal
is recovering a normal condition. The best time to
dehorn stock is in calfhood. It may be done then
with less pain to the animal and is practically no
check at all to its growth, either while the operation
is under way or afterwards.

Calves should be treated when a week old.
Caustic soda, or caustic potash is used, both
of which may be procured in the drug stores in
the form of sticks about the thickness of an ordinary
lead pencil and 5 inches long. These caustics must
be handled with care, as they dissolve the cuticle and
may make the hands or fingers sore. The preparation
of the calf consists in first clipping the hair from the
parts, washing clean with soap and warm water, and
thoroughly drying with a cloth or towel. The stick
of caustic should be wrapped in a piece of paper to
protect the hands and fingers, leaving one end of the
stick uncovered.

Moisten the uncovered end slightly and rub it on
the horn buttons or little points which may be felt
on the calf's head, first on one and then the other,
alternately, two or three times on each, allowing the
caustic to dry after each application. Be very care-
ful to apply the caustic to the horn button only. If
it is brought in contact with the surrounding skin it
will cause pain. Be very careful also not to have too
much moisture on the stick of caustic, as it will re-
move the skin if allowed to run down over the face.
After treatment, keep the calf protected from rain, as
water on the head after the application of caustic will
cause it to run down over the face. This must be
carefully avoided.

The Care and Management of Oxen

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Owing to the scarcity of money in the Northwest
during the last two years many farmers, other than
indigent homesteaders, have turned their attention
to buying oxen, in place, often enough, of an extra
outfit of horses. The growing demand for work-
oxen seems to show that they have generally proved
a success, so, perhaps, a few remarks on them may
not be out of place—and may call forth such sug-
gestions as cannot but be useful to all who have to
deal with them.

In the first place, the moderate sized oxen are
probably the best for general use as they can handle
any ordinary machine quicker than the larger,
heavier oxen, and do not, as a rule, puff and blow so
much. Further, if the owner is unfortunate enough
to have to team with them, they are more easily and
quickly handled, and less apt to lie down at inconven-
ient moments. With regard to judging oxen when
buying, beyond a general appearance of good health,

I know of no particular test, and should be glad to
receive information on this point.

It is generally held that an ox derives and main-
tains his strength just from his very nature, and that
provided he has plenty of hay and grass he will do
practically any amount of work required of him, and
keep in good shape all the year round. I worked
oxen on this plan for one season, but have since been
convinced that they do much better on an additional
and moderate feed of grain. Steady sheaf feed, on the
other hand, is unsuitable, since the ox passes it away
without taking the full nutriment from it.

For about a week before spring work begins (when
the oxen should be in good shape after the winter's
rest), each ox should have a gallon of crushed grain
once a day, in addition to all the hay he will eat.
This will, no doubt, make them frisky when they come
to be hitched up, but the patient ox-driver will soon
get them settled down to their business. As soon as
the work is in full swing, two gallons of crushed grain
a day should be fed, preferably one at morning and
one at noon, with hay, and occasional feeds of flax or
clean oat straw. (It may be well to mention here
that about this time lumps occasionally rise on the
ox's shoulder where the hames fit, and that these
should not be cut, but bathed with hot salt-water).

As long as the oxen are worked regularly, this feed
should be kept up till the green grass comes, when the
quantity of grain feed should be gradually decreased;
and finally dropped altogether, as a good fill of new
green grass is sufficient to keep oxen in good health
and strength, and will largely prevent that panting
which is consequent on the commencement of hard
work after the long rest. If the ox-driver is lucky
enough to possess a saddle pony the best way is to
turn each ox loose; they will find the grass they like
best, and after a good morning's plowing, will be too
hungry to think of "hiking off" very far.

The greatest essential for oxen, however, is water,
and without a good fill of this they are not much good.
Immediately after unhitching, the oxen should be
driven to the slough or well, and if not panting too
badly, should be allowed to drink all they will, and
then turned on to the green grass. It is as well to try
them again before hitching up after dinner, for trying
to drive thirsty oxen is a sorry business, and one which
often ends in a move-off into the nearest slough,
plow, ox-driver and all.

If a man has handled his oxen steadily and regu-
larly, and with any degree of care, he will find he has
done a very considerable amount of plowing by the
time the land has dried out, and if he can afford to let
them rest till fall plowing begins, he will do the best
for his oxen and yet find he has had his money's worth
out of them. But, if, as is often the case, the oxen
have to do a share of the discing or backetting, a
certain amount of care should be exercised, for it is in
the discing season that many oxen break down.
About a week's rest should be given after the plowing
is finished, and a little crushed grain should be fed
again, because from about the middle to the end of
July, the grass is losing its nourishing freshness, and
fails to wholly support the oxen when working on the
disc across the hot plowing and in the hottest part of
the summer. The amount of grain should be in-
creased to two gallons per day again, and plenty of
fresh water supplied. During this time, any oxen
will puff and blow, and though some people give a
little salt-petre to prevent it, it is as well to leave this
severely alone so long as the oxen are in good health.
Common salt, of course, should be fed in small
quantities every two or three days all through the
season. The best way to prevent panting is to work
the oxen in the coolest part of the day—early morn-
ing and late night—and certainly not less than three or
even four hours should be given for rest in the middle
of the day, especially during the hot months. In this
way the oxen will do their twelve miles a day right
along.

It is best to let the oxen rest during harvest, feeding
hay, and oat straw or flax, and when the fall plowing
begins there should be no need to feed grain, since
hay and the loose sheaves left on the stubble after
threshing, should be enough, with an occasional oat
sheaf, to hold them over till winter without failing
too much.

During the winter they should rest, having plenty
of hay, oat straw and flax, and being housed in very
severe weather. If water is scarce it is best to give a
little every day rather than a good fill one day and
none the next, as this leads to the oxen floating
themselves.

It will thus be seen that it costs very little to keep
oxen in good working condition, and yet a great many
farmers are strongly prejudiced against working
them, mainly on the ground that they are "stupid,
senseless, brutes," but, I fancy that if a man decides
at the outset that they are simple and straightfor-
ward—always doing the same thing in the same
circumstances and not taking notions as horses do—
with a little patience he will find they are agreeable
and profitable to handle, and will rightly come to
know that in most cases it is he who is to blame when
anything goes wrong.

And so, considering the small expense incurred both
in initial outlay and in the up-keep of oxen, the little
risk run from injury, runaways, diseases, etc., the
little trouble they give, the excellent plowing as well
as the amount of general work they will do, there can
be little doubt that for the man who has a great deal
of plowing ahead of him, an outfit of oxen is the
"best paying thing on the farm."

W. S.