

THE HORSE.

It is important that the feet be given proper attention. This applies to the colt as well as to the working team.

The spring-born foal can never be more easily halter-broken than now. A little schooling at this age will not be time wasted.

A well-fed colt will be as big at two years of age as a poorly-fed one at three. It does not pay to stint the young growing horse.

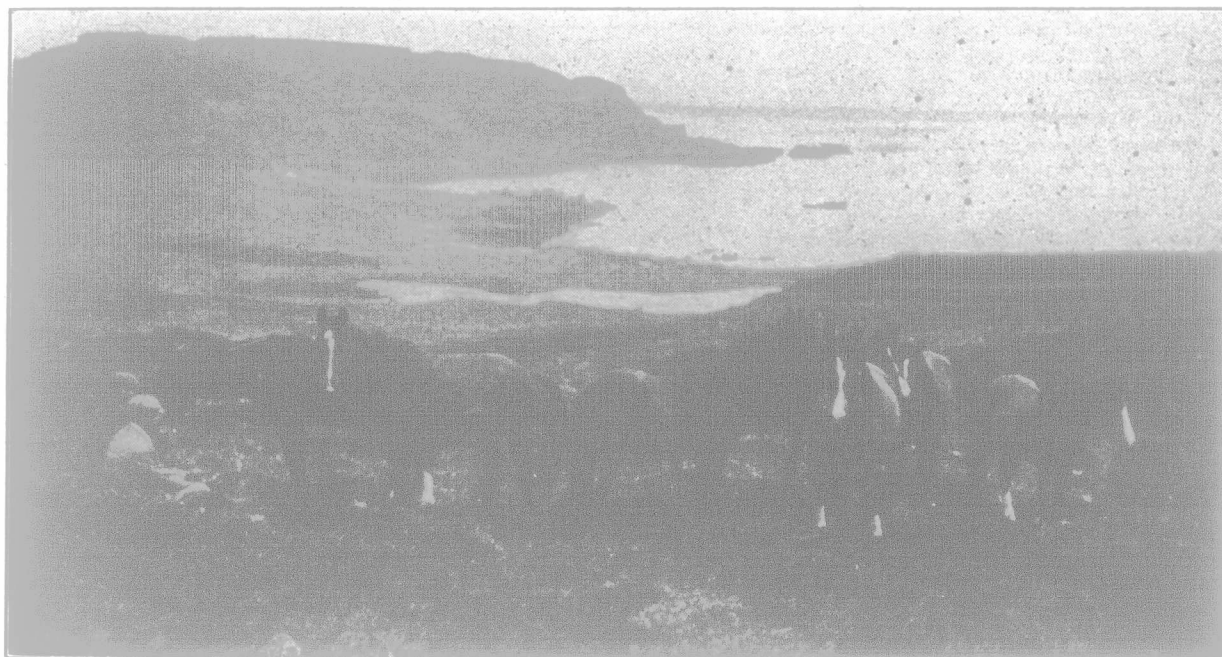
The colts should have a moderate supply of oats. This with a little clover or alfalfa hay will give that development that all horsemen desire.

The team that is working every day requires more feed than it can pick in the pasture field. Oats and some hay should be fed if the horses are to be kept in condition.

Horse owners should make it a practice to have the teeth of all their animals examined and cared for by a capable person. Quids of grass finely chewed and rolled together and found lying about the horse pasture are evidence that there is trouble with the teeth.

A good many farm teams are worked down rather thin at this season of the year, with the result that the collars do not fit properly. There is too much play; consequently sore shoulders result. A sweat pad can be used to advantage, and may tend to prevent a horse having to work under the discomfort of a sore shoulder.

Thorough grooming is important if the horse is to be kept in condition. Far too many teamsters spend but a few minutes with the comb and brush on each horse, and call it a grooming, when in reality they have only removed a little of the surface dust and have not loosened up the dust and dirt which has become matted on the body owing to the perspiration of the previous day.



A Horse Holiday.

Some drivers are very careless when harnessing the team. Some do not take the trouble to clean the collars or sweat pads, or to have the hames fitting tightly to the collar. The result is that a few days' hard work causes sore spots to form on the horse's shoulder. Everything possible should be done to add to the comfort of the horse that is in the collar day after day.

It is not a good practice to jam the horse's manger full of hay at noon. Hay that is left over in the manger tends to become stale and is not as appetizing for the evening meal. The greater part of the hay should be fed at night, and comparatively little in the morning and at noon. A horse's digestive system is not built for a heavy roughage ration. Many horsemen feed altogether too much hay.

Market Classes of Work Horses.

By DR. G. H. CONN.

The market classes of work horses will vary considerably in the different markets, and even when the classification is known, it is next to impossible in many cases to decide to just which class that the animal may belong. It is a fact, however, that our work horse belongs to the power type and in all classifications for show-ring and market he is so considered. This classification is based upon mechanics; the purpose of the power or work horse is the moving of the maximum load with minimum of muscular effort and at a slow gait. In most markets, however, the work horse or drafter, is classified according to the work that he has to do. This accounts for the wide variation in the classifications, as buyers in some sections like a horse of a certain

weight and type, while buyers in another section doing about the same line of work, like a horse of a different type and size. So it is next to impossible to draw a fine line of distinction between the various classes. It is decreed, however, by most authorities upon the subject that a horse must weigh at least 1,500 pounds to be classed as a drafter; and from my inspection of several thousand horses in the markets, I concluded that this is more nearly the proper weight than is 1,600 pounds, which is the weight set by one well-known writer upon the subject.

It requires considerable weight in the draft horse to secure a firm footing while drawing a heavy load, and weight thrown into the collar is efficient assistance to muscular exertion. To secure the greatest power in a draft horse we must have a low-set, blocky, compact animal, that has plenty of width and depth of body. The legs should be short and large and the muscles well developed as it is a well known fact that those with short bones and large muscular development are the ones that will be excellent power animals. The animal should be compact, that is short of body or closely coupled; the superiority of this conformation over a long rangy horse, is often noticed among the farm chunks. We have observed horses of this type weighing 1,100 pounds or less that were demons for work; they would do more work and stay in better condition than many horses 250 to 300 pounds heavier in weight, but of a looser conformation.

We feel that work horses should be classified as follows: drafters, loggers, feeders, wagon horses and chunks or farm horses.

The drafter is the horse of more than 1,500 pounds in weight that has plenty of quality. While the lower set, the more power is produced, yet the market demands for draft geldings require that they do not appear too squatty and short. The height most in demand is from 16-2 to 17 hands. This adds greatly to the appearance of a team and it is a well-known fact that many large companies buy their horses for the purpose of advertising as well as a means of transportation.

The logger is a drafter that does not have enough quality to sell to first-class trade or one that has some defects or blemishes that make him unsuitable. Such

of space to the heart and lungs. Horses that are narrow and shallow of chest are usually of weak constitution and do not have great staying powers while at hard work.

The fore-legs should be straight, well set under the body and heavily muscled. A vertical line downward from the point of the shoulder should equally divide the arm, knee, cannon and the foot. A vertical line downward from the center of the elbow joint, should fall upon the center of the knee and pastern joints and just back of the foot.

The knee and fetlock joints should be broad and well defined and free from any coarseness. This provides favorable attachments for the tendons.

The pasterns should be rather sloping, about 45 degrees being the desired angle. This insures a springy, elastic step. If they are too straight the gait is stilty and inelastic and the concussion is greatly increased, which produces many unsoundnesses of the feet where they are used upon hard surfaced roads or upon pavements.

The feet should be large, dense, with a concave sole and large, plump frog. The angle of the toe of the foot should be about 50 degrees. It is argued by some that the color of the horn should be dark, but in a wide experience with diseases of the feet, we have never noticed any difference regarding freedom from injury or unsoundnesses that would give us any reason to prefer either one to other. The hoof head (which is the opening at the top of the hoof) should be open to give sufficient room for the structures within.

The body should be short, the withers of medium height, the ribs well sprung. The depth of the body is important as it provides room for the digestive organs. The space between the last rib and the point of the hip should be very short. The loin should be broad and thick, which is an important point of a good work animal.

The croup should be broad and well covered with muscle. The croup in some horses has a decided slope which detracts very much from the appearance of the animal. The strength of the croup, however, is in proportion to the degree of muscling that it has.

Thighs and quarters should be heavily muscled as it is the hind legs that furnish the propelling power for the body. It is a very serious defect in a draft horse to have deficient muscles in this region.

The hocks should be wide, properly set and well defined; they should not show any coarseness or fleshiness. This is one of the most important points of the body due to the amount and character of work that it has to perform. The hock should not appear full and baggy.

While it is the walking gait that is mostly used in the work horse, yet when purchasing or judging for the gait, the trotting gait shows the walk of the animal very well, only greatly magnified. The stride should be of medium length, snappy and elastic. The legs and feet should meet in unison and should travel in a straight line. Faulty gait in a work horse does not have the same relation that it does in a light harness horse, but it is objectionable, nevertheless.

LIVE STOCK.

Quality is what counts in our herds.

When starting a herd buy good foundation stock.

Be a booster for better quality live stock, and help the other fellow to improve his herd.

Size, smoothness and strong constitution are points to be considered when buying the feeder steers.

Better herd and flock headers mean better feeders for the stable and pasture, with ultimately larger profits on the feed consumed and labor expended.

When at the fair do not let the midway, machinery hall, horse races, etc., monopolize all your time. The live stock is worthy of your close inspection.

Endeavor to make the live stock exhibit at your local fair the best ever. The fair board needs every live stock breeder's assistance and co-operation.

It is not too early to look around for winter feeders. If you have a field of rape you can give them a good start, before it is time to stable them for the winter.

There is more waste in killing thin stock than in dressing prime stuff. Plan on finishing the animals for the block before disposing of them to the drover.

When purchasing breeding stock or feeding stock the utility of the animal should be considered. To be profitable an animal must be more than good to look at.

When choosing a brood sow select the pig whose ancestors have proven their worth. The dam should be a good milker and one which farrows a large, uniform litter.

There is a temptation to sell the best breeding females in the herd when some one offers a long figure. But, if you sell the best what will your herd be ten years from now?

Although there is an abundance of straw this year there is no excuse for wasting it. Put what the barn won't hold in a neat stack and use it first, saving what is under cover for use during the blustery winter weather.