

THE HORSE.

Make increases gradually, until at the time the animals take the field they are on full feed.

It is time to begin increasing the grain ration for the work horses in preparation for spring work.

Save plenty of straw for bedding for the work horses during summer. The hard-worked animal surely deserves a good bed after his day's work.

Continue the feeding of roots up until the time the horses go to work. They will help keep the digestive system in good order when increasing the grain ration.

Give the in-foal mare the advantage during spring work. Many practice allowing her a double-tree advantage of about two or three inches. Avoid putting her on the tongue if possible.

It is folly to feed on straw and roots only, and then start the horses on a gallon of oats each three times daily the day seeding opens. This is responsible for digestive troubles which prove costly.

Colts which are to be worked in seeding cannot be expected to do a full day's work in the beginning. Where a man has two colts it is good practice to work them half a day about beside an older horse.

Give the colts the lightest of the seeding work. They are far more able to do harrowing than they are to take their places on the cultivator or disk. Where they are to be used on the cultivator do not put them on the tongue.

The first day in the fields allow the horses to stand for a few minutes at frequent intervals. Remember they are soft, have done little work through the winter, and there is a danger of over-doing them, especially if the day be hot with little breeze blowing.

Be careful in watering over-warm animals. Some will stand it, but many will not. It is good practice to give them a little water when coming in from work, and allow them more when going out again. This insures against their taking too much at once.

Give the colts that are going to help with the seeding this year for the first time exercise in harness as often as possible. Let them do the light team work around the farm from now until seeding begins. They will then be much more fit when the hard work comes.

Raise the collars off the horses' shoulders frequently, and with the hand rub down the shoulders well. This may be done when allowing the horses to stand for a breath of fresh air. It will cool the shoulder, remove the sweat and prevent, to a considerable extent, scalding.

Many a case of colic has resulted from feeding too heavily on grain during the first few days of heavy spring work. The work is a strain upon the animal's system, which weakens it and places it in no condition to handle the extra concentrated food which is sure to cause trouble.

Look to the harness and see that all parts are in order, and that they fit the horse which is to wear them. Where possible avoid changing harness from one horse to another, and always provide a special collar for each horse. A collar which fits one animal well is not likely to fit another to so good advantage.

Don't forget, in the preparation of the horses for spring work, to use the curry comb. It is almost as important as feed, and its use should not be left until such time as the horses are actually engaged in the seeding operations, although it is very important that they be cleaned each night and morning then.

It makes extra work, but it is good practice to remove the harness while the horse is feeding at the noon hour. It gives the sweating collar and all other parts which are in contact with the heated animal when working an opportunity to cool off, and also gives the horse a chance to rest from carrying the weight of the harness and allows him to cool down more quickly.

A correspondent claims that in place of shutting British officers out of Canada and sending them to the United States to buy horses for the Imperial army they should be encouraged to buy in this country, stating that there are thousands of available horses here, and horses which would fill the bill, but there is no demand for them. The horse market is very slow, and horsemen would welcome any move to improve conditions.

The Demand For Remounts.

While the European war continues and trans-Atlantic traffic is open the demand for horse flesh in America will continue. At the present time it is understood that the buyers of six different European countries are scouring the United States for mounts suitable for cavalry and artillery purposes. When the war began the call was for light horses ranging from 14.3 to 15.1 hands high, and an American paper states that the prices paid then at the point of inspection ranged from \$155 to \$165, but later on the figures rose to \$175 and \$180 and the inspection became more rigid. These figures appear to be rather low compared with those authentically given in "The Farmer's Advocate" for Feb. 25th as paid in Great Britain; and when the average life of a horse in the campaign is reported at little over fifteen days if substantially sound and effective for the admittedly trying purposes required, it would seem needless to insist on absolutely faultless animals. In the case of mares it is a distinct loss to the future breeding operations of the country that such should be drained away and the inferior sort left. In the United States prior to the present time, France and England have been the heaviest buyers, but the prospects of more active field operations in the spring and the use of more horses is stimulating the demand from those named and other countries. It is said that the type of horses taken are not equal to those demanded as remounts by the American Government army service. "When peace is finally restored," observes the writer, "the demand will be even greater than it is at present, but a

usage. The farmer usually rams the manger full of hay in the morning, feeds his oats at the same time, and leaves the horses for an hour or an hour and a half to eat before going to the field. At noon he again feeds hay, gives them their grain, and at night crams all into the manger that he possibly can get there. It would seem better practice to feed a very light feed of hay in the morning, no hay at noon and give the usual big feed at night, relying on oats or a grain mixture only, for the noon feed. It stands to reason that a horse will work more easily afternoon if he is not gorged with hay, and it will not be so hard on his digestive apparatus to simply digest and assimilate his gallon or so of oats as it will if he must do his hard afternoon work on an over-loaded stomach. Besides the horse rests better. We know at least one farm where this system is followed, and the horses are kept in good condition throughout the entire season. It is worth a trial when feed is high. Any of our readers who see fit to try this plan might give other readers the benefit of their experience. A little discussion of feeding horses for spring work is in order and our columns are open.

LIVE STOCK.

Don't plow up too much of the old pastures so that there is a danger of it causing a shortage during the coming summer. It may still prove as profitable in grass as in any other crop. This, of course, depends upon circumstances.

Let the poor calves go for veal. They will not pay for keeping longer, but by all means save all those whose breeding and individuality indicate that they are likely to grow into profitable breeding animals or profitable feeders later on.

There is one place that increased production is important, and that is in the growing of coarse feed for live stock. More corn, more roots, and more clover hay is a good motto for the stockman. If he follows this out he will soon have more stock and bigger crops.

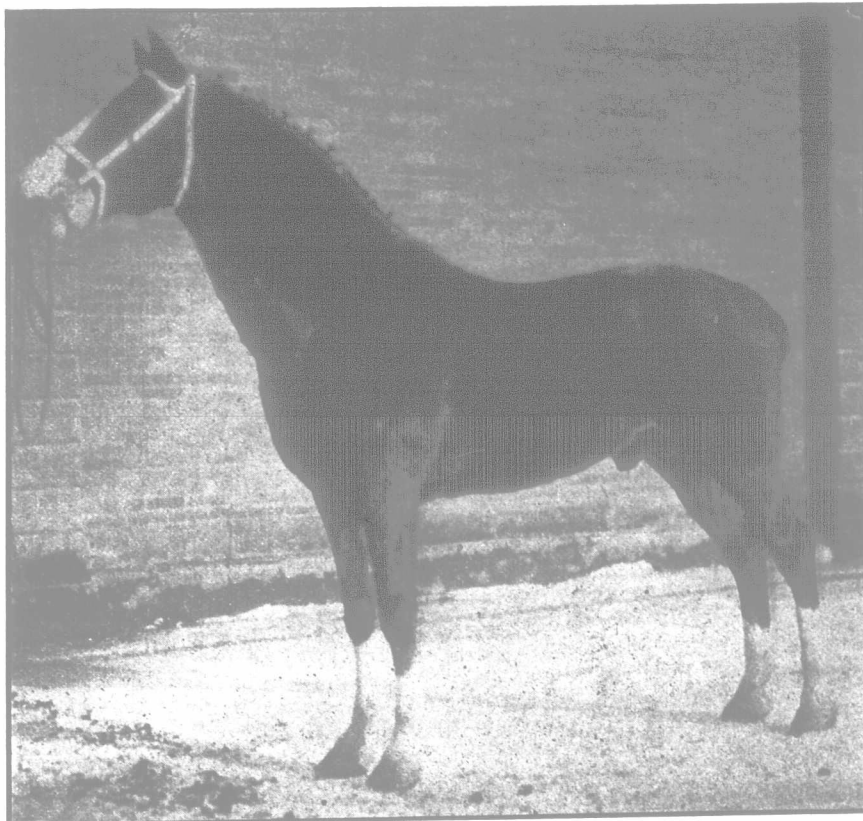
There is fairly good money, as a general thing, in the hot-house lamb business, but it is getting late in the season now for selling these at a good price unless extra large, fat lambs are offered. It might pay better to carry these on to be sold next fall.

The stockman who hopes to break even on feeding stock at the present prices of grain and feed must plan on as much roughage as possible. Leave a larger acreage for corn this season, and put it in better than ever before and follow this up by more after-cultivation.

Remember when seeding this spring that a mixture of oats and barley, one bushel of each, will grow more grain for feed than any other mixture so far experimented with, or either grain sown alone. This is important, and where followed out means cheaper feed next winter.

The demand for canners and cutters is so brisk that we fear many of the good breeding old matrons from the herds in Canada will be sent to the butcher before they have completed their period of usefulness. It is a good thing to get rid of the culls, but it is not in the interest of stock breeding to dispose of the tried and proven females when they still have several years profit in them as producers.

We still believe that it will pay to finish the feeding cattle well before putting them on the market. One reason why prices have dropped so materially is because of the fact that too much thin stock is being rushed to market. A drover told us the other day that many of the cattle marketed as finished cattle this spring would surely find their way to the pastures as stockers and feeders to be finished. If it will pay another man to finish them will it not pay the present owner?



Anticipator 258.

This Hackney stallion, sired by Rosador, is well known to patrons of the breed. He was recently sold by H. M. Douglas, Meaford, Ont., to Howard Mills, Bay View, Ont.

better horse will be required. High-class animals will be wanted for agricultural and commercial purposes, as well as for the rehabilitation of the breeding studs in these countries, and since it takes time to build up the horse stock of any country the demand will continue for a number of years. There is little fear that this exportation will result in a scarcity of horseflesh or that our own agricultural and military demands will suffer."

Hay Twice a Day.

Never in the history of Canada has the feeding of live stock been such a problem as it is at the present time, and horse-owners are wondering just how they can use their feed to best advantage and keep up the horses during the spring work. We believe it would be a good practice for the farmer to take a leaf out of the books of the liverymen and cartage companies in the feeding of their work horses this spring. As a general thing on most farms we believe that horses get too much hay, and hay is valuable. We do not think it would require very much, if any, increase in grain rations to carry the horses over the spring work in good condition and omit the feeding of hay at noon. Livery horses and horses working at city cartage work are seldom fed hay at the noon hour. They go into the stable, get an hour to rest and munch their ordinary feed of oats, and these horses are fitted to do the hardest of work and to stand the worst kind of