

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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LONDON CANADA

We cannot do without horses; we can very conveniently dispense with automobiles. At least a thousand people use horses of necessity where one uses the auto, generally as a luxury. Which interest is more important, the horse or the auto? It is not narrow to curtail automobile traffic on rural roads. It is almost magnanimous to allow it at all. The subject of motor-traffic regulation is vitally important to the welfare of our rural districts. It is time this fact is realized by the Government and the Legislative Assembly.

THE HORSEMEN'S VOTING STRENGTH.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Farmers and other users of horses have been put under an obligation to "The Farmer's Advocate" that they will not soon repay, for the frank and manly way it has come to their help in the fight against that curse of the roads, the automobile.

The session of the Legislature just closed was a real disappointment to many, who fondly hoped that something would be done to give farmers at least a portion of the week that they could drive out without running the risk of having their bones broken or necks dislocated. Several bills were introduced in the Legislature, which, had they been allowed to pass, would have helped matters very materially, and would likely have quieted the agitation, at any rate, for a time, until it could be seen how it would work, but the city influence in that Legislature, and the determined lobby of the automobile interests was too much for any friend the farmer had in that Legislature, so those bills were cast aside with the curt remark that the automobile has come to stay. So there is nothing left us to do but fight it out, and fight to the bitter end, no matter who goes down in the struggle. Then, if we are beaten, and have to give up the roads, and have to take to the fields and lanes, we will have the satisfaction of knowing we did our best. But if the farmers and other users of horses stand together, it will not take much of a mathematician to figure out how it is going to come out.

In sending this to "The Farmer's Advocate," I am tempted to do as so many of your correspondents, and sign it "Farmer," "Farmer's

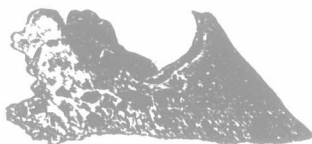
Son," or "Subscriber," or something like that, but I like the man who, when he has anything to say, or thinks he has, has the courage of his convictions and signs his own name. Then, if he says a good thing, he has a right to the credit of it; if he says a foolish thing, nobody else gets the blame for it.
JOHN PEIRSON.
Bruce Co., Ont.

HORSES.

SIDEBONE.

What is meant by sidebones in or on a horse? How does it affect him? Any information on this point will be thankfully received in the paper, which I prize highly.
J. H. T.

Ans.—If a horse's foot is cut off at the fetlock and skinned down to the hoof a cartilage may be seen which is a kind of prolongation from the coffin or pedal bone, and resembles the cartilage that prolongs the shoulderblade of mutton, which may have been noticed on the table. Sidebone is the condition resulting from a conversion of part or all of this cartilage into bone, by which process it loses its elasticity, and will not bend when compressed by the thumb. In light horses this cartilage is very resilient, but in thick, coarse pasterns it requires much delicacy and education of the touch to enable one to decide in recent cases, where only a slight degree of ossification has taken place. When more pronounced sidebones may be recognized as prominent hard bony masses, protruding above hoof at the sides of the feet towards the heels, and bulging the hoof under the part involved. Sidebones are common in draft horses with upright pasterns, and the toe shortened relatively to the heels or shod with high-heel calkins, increasing concussion in action. The tendency to



Sidebones.

Ossified lateral cartilages.

sidebone is hereditary. Among the artificial causes which tend to bring on the disease, Law mentions improper shoeing; cutting away of the bars or sole, so that the wall turns inward and bruises the sole; pressure of the shoe on the sole, whether from misfitting or from being left too long on; uneven bearing of the shoe, throwing too much strain on one part, pricking or pinching with nails driven too near the quick; the pressure of the dry hard horn after undue paring or rasping, and the continuous irritation which attends the partial separation of sole and wall.

The symptoms, other than those revealed by the eye and by manipulation, may be lameness, with a short, stilty step, and a tendency to stumble from the attempt to avoid shock on the heels. Bruises of the heel (corns) with bloody discoloration of the horn are a frequent result of excessive sidebones, the sensitive sole being pinched between the bone and hoof. Treatment consists in subduing any existing inflammation by rest and blisters and applying a bar shoe, the bar resting on the bulbs of the frog. Keep the hoof wall at the heels rasped lower than the rest of the bearing surface, so that daylight can be seen between this part and the shoe. The same shoeing should be kept up when the horse is put to work, or he may fall lame again from bruising of the heels. Sidebones often do not cause noticeable lameness, and in heavy horses are not considered a particularly serious fault. In light horses they are less frequent, but more serious, unfitting an affected animal for fast work.

KILLING OLD HORSES.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed some time ago in your valuable paper a piece about shooting old horses. The writer thought an axe more humane, and said a man did not care to keep a high-power rifle just to shoot old horses. He said a 22 or 32 was not strong enough.

I have had a good deal to do with guns, and will kill any horse I ever saw with a 22-calibre rifle. I have seen them shot with a shotgun with number 4 shot, at six or eight feet, and humanely too. I love a horse too well to care to see an axe used, and I have seen one used.

Perth Co., Ont.

HORSEMAN.

KEEP SHIRES AND CLYDESDALES SEPARATE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In the April 16th issue of your valuable farm weekly, "Subscriber" deals with question of amalgamating two prominent breeds of draft horses, viz., Clydesdales and Shires. Both breeds are believed to be distinct enough to have separate studbooks, to have separate classes at all leading shows, and to fill somewhat different uses in actual service. It is true that in color, markings and feather, there is a similarity, but in type, weight, quality and action, enough difference exists to keep them two pure breeds, as they are.

Amalgamation here simply means mongrelization. It does not strengthen the argument for uniting these breeds by pointing out that they have a common origin. All horses have had a common origin, and yet promiscuous breeding among all known varieties of horses would result in destroying the varied purposes to which different breeds of horses are used. Mingle the blood of a Shire and a Thoroughbred, and you have neither a draft horse nor a race-horse. In like manner, all other cross-breeding would be destruction of the special-purpose horse. Without him, enormous loss would ensue. Heavy freight in cities would need either lighter horses and very much lighter loads, or more horses to draw them, which would add largely to the cost of transportation. Aristocrats of Rotten Row and plutocrats of Broadway would not be seen riding behind hairy-legged, low-actioned farm chunks hitched to elegant carriages. Imagine the nobility of England, headed by the King, going out to witness a Derby, the blood of whose starters had been diluted with the blood of a Hackney or Cleveland Bay! Another and a slower generation would have to be reared before the royal sport of kings could exist.

Let me say, horse-breeding, perhaps, requires more skill than the breeding of other classes of stock, but it is more profitable. Of course, one reason is there is a good demand; another reason is a stricter classification than formerly makes it possible to get the paying price for the horse which is in the front rank of his class. How is he bred? Almost always from the pure-bred sire? Without him the business would have little pleasure and less profit.

Now, with reference to the merits of Shires or Clydesdales to produce the market-topper, I believe both are about equal. In bone, hair, weight and strength, the Shire is king of the soil. But in places where a lighter horse fills the bill better, where quality, action and style are looked at most, then the Clyde stands unrivalled. According to high authority, the cities are calling for a heavier horse than that produced by the Clydesdale. The Shire sire is preferred where the heaviest drafters are aimed at. Then, any propositions to "blend" these great breeds, no matter how flashy it looks, is a mistake, because there is plenty of room for both. Both must essentially lose their best characteristics, which would probably let two inferior breeds in at the top. Shires and Clydesdales have won their crowns of supremacy for long, not only on their native soil, but wherever man has blazed the earth in the name of progress. So, let the advocates of these wonderful horses carry them forward still further in the scale of usefulness for man.
A. J. DOISEN.

LIVE STOCK.

DOCK THE LAMBS.

The tails of lambs should be docked at one to two weeks old. There is less danger of loss from bleeding or shock at this early age than later. Let an attendant hold the lamb by the head, standing on its feet, the operator feels for the second or third joint from the rump, and with a sharp knife cuts up against his thumb, and the work is done with less shock to the spinal cord than by any other method. If docking has been neglected till the lambs are three or four weeks old, and bleeding continues, it may be stopped by tying a soft cord around the stump, the cord to be cut away a few hours after bleeding ceases. If attended to at the proper time, there is very little danger of loss from this operation. Indeed, we have seen lambs docked at six months without a loss, the stump being tied to prevent bleeding, but there is much greater risk as the lambs grow older. Castration of ram lambs not intended for breeding purposes should take place at same time, just before docking, preferably at ten days to two weeks old. An attendant holds the lamb by the legs, back down on the ground, and the operator first cuts off the end of the scrotum, and then draws the testicles singly with the finger and thumb, or a pair of forceps, or, as English shepherds generally do, with the teeth. Attention to these operations at the proper time will save much trouble in the fall, when ram lambs become a nuisance by worrying the ewes, and they fail to put on flesh, and are therefore heavily discounted on the market, selling for one to two dollars a head less than wether lambs. Thousands of dollars are annually lost to the farmers of Canada owing to this neglect. Attend to it now.