

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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IN THE DOMINION.

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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and machines. It is the cheapest and most effective material that can be applied, and, besides its preservative benefit, it also adds much to the appearance of the articles in question, and appearances cannot be ignored. There are scores of different odd jobs which can be attended to on wet days, work which in the end will make the rainy day just as profitable, as far as the results of human labor are concerned, as the finest day of the year.

HORSES.

It is seldom good policy to offer a thin horse for sale.

Are your work horses comfortably stabled these cool nights? If not, do not wonder at their rough coats and poor condition.

Herbert says: "There is no better beast in the world than the horse, nor any one which, though often most cruelly misused by man, so well deserves, and so amply, by his services, repays the best usage."

To get the high price, it is necessary to offer something buyers want. When speed is in demand, breed the fast horse; when weight is wanted, furnish it, but always remember that, no matter what the class of horse may be, quality is always a supreme consideration.

The profitable horse for the farmer is the draft horse. This class of horse invariably commands the most ready sale, at the best prices. In selecting the stallion to breed to the heavy mares next season, make the best drafter in your district the choice.

Modern conditions in the commercial world have increased the demand for heavy-draft horses. In the large cities, the congestion of traffic makes speed impossible; and as the population increases, the bulk of goods to be moved from place to place increases, consequently larger loads must be hauled; hence the need of the very heaviest class of horse.

Selling the good young brood mares is not the best method of improving your horse business. Buyers will offer long prices to get them, and this is often a great temptation to sell, but in the long run the good mares will generally bring in larger returns by keeping them for breeding purposes. It is a mistake to sell off all the good stock and expect to produce high-class individuals from the culls.

In grooming a fine-haired, tender-skinned horse, use the currycomb with care, if it is used at all. Sharp-toothed combs are instruments of torture when pressure is placed on them during the cleaning. Currycombs are necessary on most horses, but they should always be used lightly. The brush is the best for cleaning the horse's coat, and the main use of the currycomb is to clean the brush.

The horse's digestive system is able to handle considerable quantities of coarse, bulky feed, yet he cannot extract the nourishment from it so thoroughly as can cattle and sheep. While digestion is going on, he is also often obliged to do heavy or fast work, which makes great demands upon his system. Hard work makes it necessary that the horse consume large quantities of concentrated feed which must be digested under difficulties. It is wonderful how well work horses stand the strain on their systems. Horsemen must see the need of feeding easily-digested, energy-and-stamina-producing feed, and feeding so as to give the animal some time for digestion before he is forced into heavy or fast work.

If you have an old horse that has outlived his usefulness to such an extent as to make wintering him unprofitable, do not sell him to be abused by his new owner, who will endeavor to make him earn his keep, as well as the amount of the purchase price and interest on the same. This would be a poor reward for his faithful work. It would be better to end his misery in the most humane manner possible than to force him to do that for which he is not physically fit. A still more humane method would be to keep the animal until he dies of old age. In any case, the horse has earned a decent burial. An Hungarian nobleman, recently deceased, thought so much of his noble horses that in his will he provided for an income sufficient to furnish a comfortable home for his twelve faithful horses which had passed the age of usefulness; and, when these horses die, others are to be selected to fill their places. It would be well if horse-owners generally would follow his example, and treat their old horses as their best and most useful animal friends should be treated. They have worked day after day through long years, and have received nothing in return but food and stabling, and often none too much of either, and surely they are deserving of a comfortable old age.

Government Aid to the Breeding of Thoroughbreds.

1. Does the Canadian Government do anything to aid the breeding of Thoroughbred or Cavalry horses?

2. Do they furnish stallions to be used at different stations in this Province? D. R. M.

Ans.—Any person, firm or corporation owning or controlling any Thoroughbred stallion in regard to which all of the conditions set forth shall have been duly and properly fulfilled, shall, on production of satisfactory evidence thereof, and of the fact that a reasonable number of mares other than Thoroughbred mares have been served during the season, be entitled to receive at the close of each such season the sum of \$250 from the funds of the Dominion Live-stock Branch. If, in the event of a horse dying or becoming incapacitated for service during the season, an approved substitute is immediately placed in the same district, the Minister may, after due consideration of the circumstances, authorize the payment of the subsidy above mentioned.

The necessary form will be furnished on application to the Veterinary Director-General and Live-stock Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

The conditions under which assistance will be given were published in the June 29th issue of "The Farmer's Advocate." They will bear repetition, as it is deemed important to the light-horse industry that breeders avail themselves of this opportunity. They are as follows:

1. All horses on account of which aid is given to the department must be registered in the Thoroughbred Studbook of the Canadian National Live-stock Records.

2. Horses shall be of good size, quality and condition, and shall be free from all hereditary defects. These conditions to be insured by a certificate from a thorough, careful examination made at the hands of the Veterinary Di-

rector-General or such other members of the Veterinary Staff of the Department, or other persons, as the Minister may from time to time appoint for this purpose.

3. Horses so approved shall be duly and properly advertised to stand for service of mares under the ordinary and general conditions usual in the districts in which they are to be kept, at an annual service fee (except in the case of Thoroughbred mares) of not more than \$10 to insure such service fee to become due and payable only when mares prove to be in foal.

Use and Abuse of Horse Blankets

There are horse blankets and horse blankets, all classes of horses and every kind of weather and condition in which to use them, but so often are horses forced to suffer through their use, or, rather, misuse, in many cases they would be better without them. Yet, the blanket used, along with good horse sense, is invaluable in keeping the working horse in good condition during the winter.

The common practice of blanketing horses along in the fall, when their winter coat begins to come in, to keep the animal looking "fine," is a source of, to say the least, discomfort to the animal; to keep a horse in a warm stable, heavily blanketed, and then work him throughout the day without this "wrap," shows lack of judgment. No doubt a sleek coat can be maintained in this way, but it is rather hard on the horse. The use of heavy blankets under normal conditions cannot be condemned too much. Their place is for use in severe weather, where horses have to stand outside or in open sheds during the winter. For stable use, a light sheet only should be used. Even during fall months, the horse, unless very hot, should receive only a light covering.

The heavy blanket, while it is invaluable to protect the horse in certain conditions, and should always be in a handy place on the farm ready for use, can be greatly abused, and indiscriminate use can cause the horse as much or more discomfort than if it were taken away entirely. Blanket the horse for protection, and not for show.—*Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal, Winnipeg.*

The Shetland Pony.

Sir Walter Gilbey, in his book, "Ponies Past and Present," writes: James Goudie, whose essay on "The Early History of the Shetland Pony" is published in the first volume of the Shetland Pony Studbook, thinks there is every likelihood that it was brought to the islands from Scotland at some very early period. The "Bressay Stone," a sculptured slab, which was discovered in Bressay in 1864, bears, among other designs in low relief, the figure of a horse on which a human figure is seated. "As this monument is admitted by authorities on the subject to belong to a period before the Celtic Christianity of the islands disappeared under the shock of Norwegian invasion (A. D. 872), it may be inferred . . . that the animal was known and probably found in the islands at this period." Early writers state that the Scandinavian invaders introduced the foundation stock some time prior to the fifteenth century. Buchanan makes passing reference to the Orkney and Shetland ponies in his History of Scotland, written three centuries ago; but the first description which has completeness to recommend it is that of Brand, who visited the islands in 1700, and wrote "A Brief Description of Orkney, Zetland, Pightland, Firth and Caithness, which was published at Edinburgh in the following year. This author writes:

"They are of less size than the Orkney Horses, for some will be but 9, others 10 nives or hand-breadths high, and they will be thought big horses there if 11, and although so small yet they are full of vigor and life, and some not so high as others often prove to be the strongest. . . . Summer or winter they never come into a house, but run upon the mountains, in some places in flocks; and if any time in winter the storm be so great that they are straitened for food, they will come down from the hills when the ebb is in the sea and eat the seaweed. . . . which winter storms and scarcity of fodder puts them out of ease and bringeth them so very low that they recover not their strength till St. John's Mass-day, the 24th of June, when they are at their best. They will live to a considerable age, as twenty-six, twenty-eight or thirty years, and they will be good riding-horses in twenty-four, especially they'll be the more vigorous and live the longer if they be four years old before they be put to work. Those of a black color are judged to be the most durable, and the pyeds often prove not so good; they have been more numerous than they now are."

Bengie, in his "Tour in Shetland (1870)," after remarking on their sure-footedness and hardness of constitutions, suggests that the sagacity, spirit and activity for which they are re-