

### Clipping Horses.

The practice of shearing horses is quite popular in some of the European cities, and it is not entirely without followers in this country, and even in Chicago. It is done in the fall and winter, in order to produce the same appearance in winter as the short, natural summer coat gives to the carriage and driving horse in the warm season; and is claimed to exercise a favorable influence on the health of the animal, giving tone to the system, and bracing up the constitution generally.

We are not sure that the operation in connection with the treatment which such horses generally receive can be defended on the score of either beauty or utility. It is a violent, unnatural operation, to rob a horse in November of the protection which nature provided for him in the hair of his body against the rigor of winter in this latitude. That it may be done without serious detriment is conceded, but that one driving horse in ten is so carefully handled as to avoid serious danger to his health by exposure under such circumstances, is doubted; and in a large majority of cases, it becomes simply a barbarous outrage upon the health and life of our most valuable speechless servant. Spans of stylish carriage horses may be seen frequently before our fashionable dry goods stores, waiting for their mistresses to finish shopping, shivering in the breeze—the mercury down about zero—the driver too ignorant or too lazy even to throw a blanket over their closely shorn forms. That pneumonia or some other fearful acute disease does and must follow every such brutal exposure, is a reasonable certainty. So much for the utility. In regard to beauty. Few persons who really love a fine horse, and truly admire his qualities, fail to find pleasure in the soft, silky coat of a high-bred, well-groomed horse in winter. It is a feature which every horseman expects and values.

We have taken some pains to ascertain who are the advocates of this practice, and find they may be classed about as follows: First, a few gentlemen who know very little of the danger which attends it, and who are really pleased with the change it makes in the appearance of the animal. Second, a few self-dubbed veterinary surgeons, who having been hangers-on in foreign stables, have come to this "blasted country" full-fledged "horse doctors," anxious for practice. But third and chiefly, a lot of lazy, presuming, ignorant grooms, who are not willing to rub dry the natural winter coat of a horse after he comes in from exercise. It takes fifteen minutes longer, and a good deal more honest work, to groom the latter well, than it does to dry out the former. No consideration of comfort or health to the dumb brute, or of the interest of the owner, enters into their calculations. The long hair once wet with perspiration, must be thoroughly rubbed, or it will tell the tale of neglect until it is, but a few passes of the cloth suffice to cover up all such evidence on the other. The clothing is thrown on almost immediately on the arrival of the latter at the stable, and the work is done.

It is sincerely hoped that this practice will not become "fashionable," but should it be otherwise, we may look for a frightful increase of lung diseases among horses subjected to it—a harvest of employment for the doctors, and a harvest of death to their unprotesting victims.—*Prairie Farmer.*

**SWELLING OF LEGS.**—When the legs of a horse swell upon standing in the stable it is an evidence of debility, general or local. It would be well to increase the food in quantity or quality. The following might also be of use—viz.: Powdered sulphate of iron, one and one-half ounces, gentian root, two ounces; chlorate of potassa, one ounce, mixed and divided into twelve powders. One of those given in cut feed as little moistened as possible night and morning. Ground oats would be better for feed than corn. Friction by rubbing with a coarse woollen upon the parts would also be helpful.—*American Agriculturist.*

**GUTTA PERCHA FILLING FOR HORSES' FEET.**—Gutta percha has proved the best thing yet discovered to keep horses from baling with snow, and preventing accidents. The kind that is sold in thin, wide strips is considered the best. It takes about a pound and a half to fill the fore feet of a horse, and it costs \$2 a pound. When a horse's feet are stuffed with gutta percha it gives him a good foothold, and he lifts his feet free from snow. Melt the article in warm water, and then stuff the foot. This can be taken out and put back every day during the winter if necessary.—"Horse notes" in *N. Y. Herald.*

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## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, FEBRUARY 2, 1874.

### Salutary Legislation.

Among the measures now engaging the attention of the Local Legislature, not the least important, is that contained in a Bill recently introduced by Mr. Clark, M. P. for Wellington, the object of which is to provide as far as possible against the casualties and frequent loss of life occasioned by threshing-machines and other dangerous farm implements. Most of our readers are aware that in the large majority of instances these accidents result either from contact with the cog-gearing of the machine proper, or getting caught by the knuckles of the "tumbling-rod" when in the act of stepping over. The Bill, therefore, provides that all such exposed portions of the connections and gearing be securely covered. The necessity for some such enactment, every one who has given the matter the slightest attention, will be prepared to admit. Scarcely a week passes without its record of blood, and unless some steps are speedily taken to arrest the evil, "Caught in a Threshing-Machine," will soon have become as stereotyped a heading as "Market Reports," or the "Arrival and Departure of Trains."

### The "Arch" Movement.

The following rather spicy extract is from the *Sportsman*, a widely circulated English journal, and an unflinching supporter of Mr. Arch. We quote as follows:—

"Mr. Joseph Arch, the laborer's friend, is getting into a row. Very 'large' people are being 'down upon' him—including a few subsidized provincial and one or two straggling metropolitan editors—so he must go to the wall. Mr. Arch has, according to the *Spectator*, been a prolific source of agricultural joking; he has been called the 'arch-agitator,' the 'arch humbug,' and in one instance the 'arch-fiend'—in the last case we fancy the letter 'r' has been accidentally omitted; but still the wit is good. Why, under the awful circumstances, does he not bolt, and be done with it? He has asked for a shilling or two more a week for a class of men who have hitherto been housed and fed like dogs—and not anything like so comfortably as many other inferior animals—but what manner of right had he to make such a request? He is an 'interested agitator,' and should be put down. All 'agitators'—notwithstanding that they are the choice of hundreds of thousands of their

fellow-men—should be put down. Does not the *Pall Mall Gazette*, in a wonderfully plain report, inform us that the Queen's Osborne laborers are receiving 12s. a week? And is this not sufficient for them? They should be ashamed of themselves. Then has not this terrible man Arch said that 'agricultural machines require quite as many laborers to manage them as if they were not adopted?' What a horrible fellow he must be—a fellow nearly as bad as one called George Stephenson, who once said, 'The greater the number of machines, the greater the number of men required to work! We are getting into a sad state when "interested agitators" like Arch, and a few "penny-a-liners" in Fleet Street, are left to decide how the biggest interest in the country is to be housed and fed! But there is more and more to follow. This terrible man Joseph Arch has had, it appears, the temerity to request, and in the end has succeeded in getting an interview with Mr. Gladstone. Arch must be, as is recorded in a small way, a very large Wat Tyler! Why, this man Arch once worked in the fields, and now he would dare to enter the sacred precincts of St. Stephen's! It is something shocking for the poor starved farmers of this country to contemplate. But Arch and his band of agricultural conspirators had better beware. The farmers may emigrate, and where will the laborers be?"

### Agricultural Politicians.

We are glad to notice that the Hon. Geo. Brown, of Toronto, has been made a Senator of the Canadian Government for life. Mr. Brown is editor of the *Toronto Globe*, the leading newspaper in Canada; likewise of the CANADA FARMER, the most prominent exponent of Canadian agricultural interests. He is an enthusiastic lover of agriculture, and a prominent breeder of Short-horn cattle. His inherent hatred of shams of all descriptions made him a successful journalist, and, we trust, will ensure his success as a politician. Hon. David Christie, another Canadian Short-horn breeder, whose personal acquaintance is enjoyed by many American breeders, is also a Senator for life, and is besides the Secretary of State of the Dominion of Canada. Hon. M. H. Cochrane, another breeder, whose acquaintance is quite general among American breeders, is also a member of the Canadian Senate. We do not know but in speaking of these gentlemen in the same breath, we are making strange bed-fellows, for Canadian politics are a sort of Chinese puzzle, which we never had the patience to study out, and between "Grits" and "Tories" (we are not sure but they mean the same thing) we could never perceive the difference. But whatever Canadian politics may be, we feel inclined to say, that if they result in bringing Short-horn men to the front, they cannot be very bad. We should have less Credit Mobiliers, salary grabs, subsidy schemes, deceptions and rascality generally, on this side, if political affairs were relegated to Short-horn breeders. We have got to come to the same thing on this side of the line. And if ever Hogenes comes around again with his lantern, he will ask the first thing for a list of Short-horn breeders, and he will find as many honest men as there are names on the list.—*Buffalo Live Stock Journal.*

### Concrete for Building.

To the Editor of the Canada Farmer.

SIR:—Can any of your scientific gentlemen give the cause of scab in potatoes, and a remedy if there is one. I also want to know what thickness would the walls of a concrete building require to be, say 13 feet high, and would it not do to put the stones in the frame first, and pour the lime and gravel over them, as well as to mix all together, and also in what proportions the lime, gravel and sand should be mixed. Would not equal parts of each do, that is, one bushel of lime, to two of sand and gravel, and I think wash sand is the best, for it is more binding than pit sand.

I hope he will be explicit on this, as I intend, (God willing) to put up a house next Summer, and give me all the information he can.

E. A. SIMPSON.

[Our correspondent will find a very full article on the subject in the third number of the CANADA FARMER, Feb. 15, 1873.—Ed. C. F.]