

AUGUST 1, 1902



HAROLD H.

such circumstances, as he will be getting stronger and the digestive organs will have become accustomed to this treatment. Still, reasonable precautions must be continued in order to avoid digestive derangements.

Water for Horses in the Harvest Field.

While in ordinary weather and at ordinary work the usual practice of watering working horses only three times a day may be deemed sufficient for their needs, it is more humane and, indeed, almost a necessity in the long, hot harvest days, when the strength and endurance of the animals is taxed to the utmost, to make provision for their refreshment between mealtimes by having water taken to the field, if it is not conveniently near, so that the horses may be given a drink in the middle of the forenoon or afternoon. A couple of barrels of water may easily be taken along on a stoneboat when the team goes to work, and this readily solves the problem of how to make the necessary provision. Men feel that they must have water to drink when needed, and their demand for it is usually acceded to without protest. Horses cannot speak for themselves, but their need in this regard may be quite as urgent as that of men, and it is economy, as well as humanity, to supply them. The horses must fail in condition if deprived of water when wanted, and, besides, they are liable to drink too much after long deprivation, and thus contract illness that may lead to their death and a serious loss to the owner. Prevention is always better and generally cheaper than cure, and in this matter to be forewarned should be to be forearmed.

Mating Mares.

A New Brunswick man, who has for years raised and sold horses for excellent prices, by using individually good mares, but without much breeding, mated to the best bred sires available, preaches a whole sermon in the following few words describing his method of breeding: "The first thing I always did was to look over the mare carefully and see where she was deficient, then in choosing a stallion to breed with her would select one that was strong in the points where she was weak. For instance, if my mare was a little heavy in the head, I looked for a horse with a small, beautiful head, and if she had flat feet selected a horse with a good cup foot; always bred to a pure-bred, a Standard-bred horse, and the best I could get, regardless of the service fee, and have found that it pays to do so. I feed the mares oats and hay every day from the date of service until they foal, and keep them at work until within a week of foaling. I feed the colts with the mares, bran and oats twice a day when at grass. During winter I feed a few roots along with their grains, but have no time to get them up a Fifth Avenue hotel bill of fare. I break them to harness the first winter, and the following summer drive them a little in a road cart. Doing a little by degrees they gradually become thoroughly broken in and without much trouble to myself."—[Raymond, in Horse World.]

Harold H. (2.04) for Winnipeg.

Harold H., by Roadmaster, the famous little Canadian trotter, whose turf performances were fully described in the last Christmas number of the "Farmer's Advocate," was sold at the Windsor (Ont.) races, recently, by Mr. Swartz, of Wingham, his owner, to R. J. McKenzie, of Winnipeg. The price is said to have been \$7,000. On July 8th, he was beaten in the match race on the Windsor track by Dan Patch (son of Joe Patchen and Zetica), who came under the wire in 2.06½, the first half of the mile being made in 1.01.

Remember the inaugural Shorthorn breeders' combination sale at Hamilton, Ont., on Aug. 13th.

Sir Walter Gilbey's Suggestion.

Sir Walter Gilbey, in a paper read before the Bishop Startford Farmers' Club (Eng.), suggested that the British Government should spend £250,000, or one-fourth the cost of a first-class battleship, on an experiment which might be likely to ensure to the army a constant supply of sound horses at a reasonable cost every year. Sir Walter dismisses as impracticable the idea that the Government should here start haras. He does not believe the country would tolerate such a venture, and experience in India does not suggest that it would be specially successful when all was done. The system of registration is also dismissed as hopeless. It does not admit of expansion, because the man whose horses are worth having as remounts will not reserve them for Government use for 10s. per annum. Tramway and bus horses, which may be profitably reserved at this fee, are not suitable as remounts, although very suitable for gun and wagon work.

What is wanted is to make horse-breeding in this country pay. This it never will do so long as the War Office only offers £40 for an undocked five-year-old horse. The crucial thing is to devise some means whereby horses could be bought from the breeders, when three years old, for £40, and kept during the intervening period of two years until thoroughly seasoned. Sir Walter Gilbey's proposal is that the Government should establish ten horse-training depots, capable of accommodating 400 horses apiece. In these the horses would be kept, and both they and their future riders schooled for a couple of years, so that when at length they were drafted into the army, they would be thoroughly seasoned and capable of enduring any amount of fatigue. Such depots, Sir Walter says, would cost about £25,000 apiece. They would be erected at six centers in England, viz., Carlisle, York, Northampton, Shrewsbury, Salisbury, and Tonbridge; at Ayr and Inverness in Scotland; and at Kilkenny and Mullingar in Ireland.

Breeding Army Horses.

In a recent issue, the Scottish Farmer has the following to say about breeding remounts:

"Major Dent seems a sensible kind of man. He acknowledges that it is impossible for farmers to breed the kind of horses demanded by the Government for remounts at the figure offered—viz., £30 to £40 for five-year-olds. His advice is that farmers should aim at breeding first-rate hunters and harness horses, and sell their misfits to the army. But what if the army buyers won't take the misfits? That seems an eminently reasonable question. The ordinary consumption of horseflesh during a peace season is 2,000 a year, but during the recent war the consumption was as many in a week. The effort to get remounts in this country must frankly be acknowledged a failure. The officers have attended various markets, but they have rarely had anything put before them which was worth buying. The best kind of horses which might make remounts are not to be had here for £30, and yet it is surely folly to trust to foreign nations to supply us with horses in time of war."

Grooming the Horse.

The real benefits to be derived from careful grooming of horses are apt to be lost sight of these days, when labor is so scarce on the average farm. As a rule, the principal object aimed at is to remove the dirt and give the animal a passable general appearance as he goes out from the stable on his daily round of labor. This, however, should be a mere secondary consideration: regular grooming has many other and more important advantages. It stimulates the secretory organs of the skin, tones up its muscular structures, and removes much of the soreness caused by severe exercise. Proper grooming is a process that requires practice, and, sometimes even patience, but the neglect to perform this duty to our noble friends means the encouragement of skin diseases, both parasitic and eruptive. Where horses are working steadily, the principal grooming should be done in the evening, because at that time the work is needed most, will be most effective, and the horse will afterwards rest better.

STOCK.

Judging in the Ring.

BY PROF. A. J. FERGUSON, MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

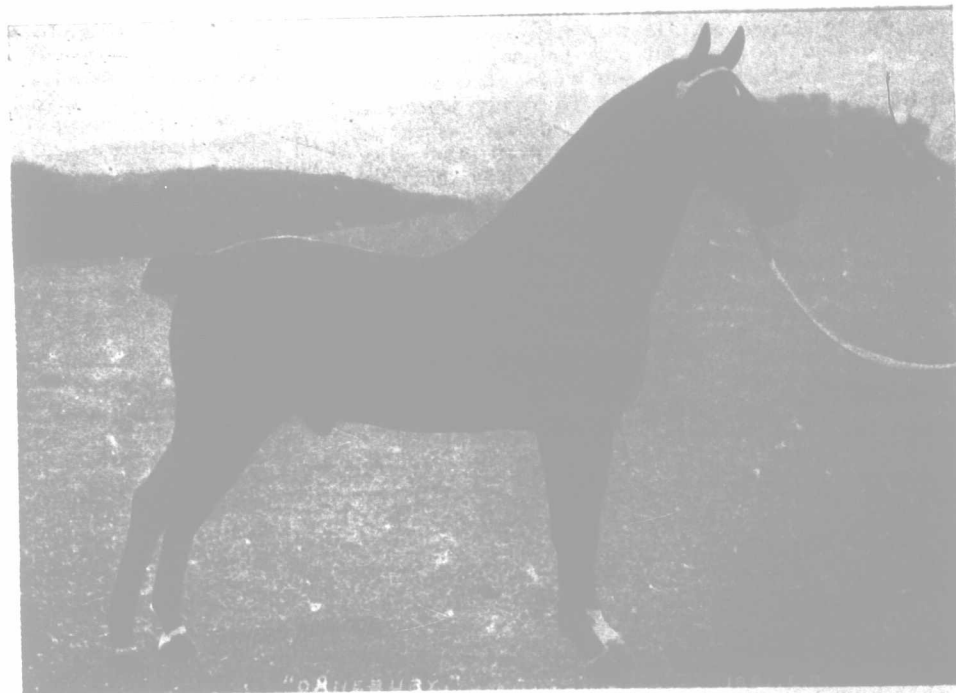
With few exceptions, stockmen are agreed that the competition and friendly rivalry engendered through the medium of the show-ring is one of the most potent factors in the development and advancement of the interests of pure-bred live stock. During the past five years more than ever have stockmen and farmers been looking to the same source for positive information and education as to what was correct in form and type in the different breeds represented. Few of our judges realize to the full the responsibility thus resting upon them. In the case of our larger shows this responsibility becomes something more than that forbidding the giving of false impressions and ideals to the onlooker; it means much in the way of dollars and cents to the exhibitors, and also more to them in that the ring is the final tribunal which shall approve or condemn the result of long years, perhaps, of careful work. Hence, to be thoroughly competent to do the work of an expert judge, a man must have a close and thorough knowledge of what has been and is the correct ideal of the particular class of animals with which he has to deal. With some of our breeds there is even yet a considerable legitimate latitude through which a judge may range. It seems to us that the commercial mart is the final test of an animal's worth for any specific purpose, and whether that mart be the pure-bred sale-ring or the stock-yards pen, the man placing awards should be guided largely by what is most in demand from those centers. Over and above all this there will come in the indefinite something we term quality, which will vary as breeds themselves vary. Quality is clearly something you cannot measure in cold type. Often we find two animals practically alike in general conformation, but one possesses this indefinable something which the other lacks. Ring reporters try to voice it when they speak of "an aristocratic bull," "a matronly cow," or "a sweet, winsome heifer." We believe, and we say it with all due respect, that a large percentage of the men who officiate in the ring are seriously deficient in a proper conception of the finer points of breed quality.

USE OF SCORE-CARDS.

The time is past, if, indeed, it ever existed, when men claimed to be able to enter the ring and do good comparative work by means of these. The poultry show is the only place where we find them in use to-day. In college work we use score cards to acquaint our students with detailed points of conformation, but we always tell the men that score-card work alone can never make skilled expert judges. If it were for no other reason, they are too slow. Think of a man working over a ring of 35 yearling Shorthorn heifers, score-card in hand. Such a one would need the supplementary service of an expert accountant.

The following were drawn up for the benefit of our graduating class, many of whom will shortly be called upon to do ring work at their local fairs. They are given with the hope that they may be helpful to the judge starting work for perhaps the first time:

1. Have confidence in your own powers.
2. Concentrate your thoughts on the breed and breed type of the animals you are working upon.
3. Do not hurry. Take time to decide. Having done so, stick to it. "Be sure you are right, then go ahead."
4. If possible, watch the class as it comes into



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