

### The Working Horse in Summer

Jas. Armstrong, Wellington Co., Ont.

THE hard-worked city cart horse has an easier life than the horses that do the work on the farms of Canada. The cart horse works hard every day of every week in the year, Sundays excepted. He gets uniform conditions of labor, uniform feeding, and consequently is almost always healthy.

When it comes to keeping the farm horse in condition, we are up against a problem. Some seasons of the year the horse is idle. At other times it is engaged in the most strenuous work. The wide divergence between these two conditions makes the keeping of the farm horse in good condition considerable of a problem. I advanced my ideas on the management of the working horse in summer through Farm and Dairy a year ago. The editor has suggested that my methods were good enough to stand repeating. They certainly have proved a satisfactory factory to me.

The feeding I consider the most important point in summer horse management. It must always be in proportion to the work required. Some farm horses are underfed. The grain is running short and there is a temptation to skip the rations with the hope of holding out until the new crop is available. An underfed horse cannot do its work properly. More cases of illness, however, are due to overfeeding than underfeeding. When the horse has an idle day the temptation is to continue full rations with the idea that we are building up its strength for the work of the next day or of the next busy period. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The horse that works strenuously one day and is idle the next will be much the better of reduced rations on that idle day.

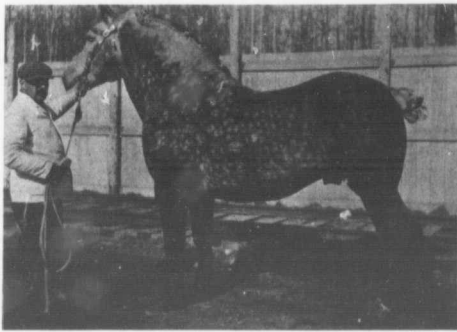
#### THE CAUSE OF AZOTUREA

The neglect of this principle of feeding is the cause of that serious disease Azoturea, or Monday morning disease. Here is the way the disease usually starts. The horse is worked hard on Saturday and given a full feed of grain on Saturday night. Full rations are given all day Sunday while the horse is standing idle in the stall. This congests the system, and Monday morning disease results. My own practice is to feed a reduced ration, between a half and a third so far as grain is concerned, Saturday night and morning and noon of Sunday. Sunday night the horse is brought back to full rations again. This I believe to be the very best practice. At present I am feeding a mixture of one-half oats and one-half corn. This is cheaper than an oat ration alone, and I find that the horses work just as well as when fed entirely. A couple of times a week I feed a bran mash at night.

The first thing in the morning the horses are watered. They are again offered a chance to drink before they are taken to the fields. I also believe in unhitching in the middle of the morning and the middle of the afternoon on warm days to give the horses a chance to drink. I am always good enough to myself to have a jug

of water sitting in some shady spot, and I like to be equally humane with my team. If working a long distance from the buildings or from a water supply, which is the case on some of my fields, I take a cask of water to the field with me. The horse has a small stomach, and it does not pay to work it hard all morning, and then fill it up with water at noon.

Another point I would like to emphasize. Do

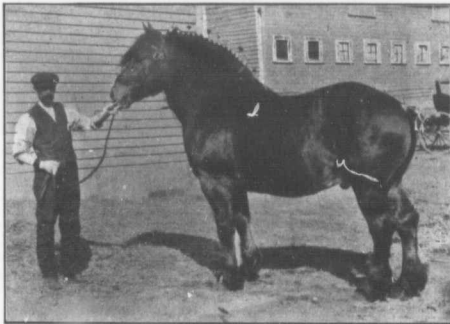


One of Two Breeds That is Gaining Popularity in Canada

The Percheron has qualities that recommend it to Canadian farmers. One of the features of Canadian fall fairs in the past few years has been the rapid increase in Percheron entries. This specimen of the breed was first prize and champion Percheron stallion at this year's Edmonton Spring Horse Show. He is owned by R. J. Manson, of Edmonton.

not expect the horse to work all day in the field and pick the most of its living at night on pasture. When cold nights are over I turn the horses to pasture at night. I don't expect the horses to get any food worth while from grazing at pasture. First thing in the morning they are brought in and given a small feeding of hay and a full feeding of grain.

Other points are to groom thoroughly. It may mean going to the stable before bedtime to comb the horse down and make it comfortable, but that is only a humane thing to do. In very hot weather I always make a practice



A Champion of Another Breed Recently Became Well Known

This Belgian was champion of his breed at the Edmonton Spring Show. The Belgian has an unusually solid, thick body, is low set and is said to be superior for crossing on rangy mares of common breeding. As a breed they have not the dash and action of our better known draft breeds. Belgians are making more progress in Western Canada than in the East. This specimen is owned by W. Hunter, of Alberta.

of pulling the harness off the horses at noon and sometimes give them a rub down with straw. These little points all pay, and it will be a long time before a good horse will be so cheap that we can afford to neglect it.

### Common Ailments of Young Foals

By M. W. Harper

DURING the last few days of fetal development there collects in the digestive tract of the foal a yellowish, rather hard, waxy substance called meconium. This fecal matter must be passed soon after birth or it will prove fatal to the new-born foal. If the digestive tract has not been cleaned of this material within twelve hours, and the youngster presents a droopy, listless appearance, such as eyes not bright, ears lopped over and the like, something must be done to stimulate the action of the bowels. This usually can be done by giving internally two ounces of olive oil or castor oil, and by an injection of warm water into the bowels.

The oil must be given carefully to avoid strangling the foal. The water used in the injection should be at blood heat and have added to it a little glycerine. Inject gently into the rectum with a common two-ounce hard rubber syringe, taking care not to rupture the tender membrane. This will lubricate the passage and stimulate the bowels to action. The injection may be repeated each hour until the matter is passed, which should be within five hours from the time of giving the oil.

#### DIARRHOEA A COMMON TROUBLE

Young foals are often troubled with diarrhoea, or scours, which often proves fatal soon after birth. There are a number of causes of this disease, perhaps the chief one being changes of an unknown character in the composition of the mare's milk, due to poor health, lack of exercise, or to the mare becoming fretful when kept away from the foal for a time soon after foaling. The foal feeding on this changed milk induces indigestion and diarrhoea. Some mares give a very large flow of milk, particularly when fed rich and stimulating food, and if the foal is permitted to take it all digestive disorders and diarrhoea are likely to result. The same often happens in early spring when the mare is pasturing in a rank growth of succulent grass. Other causes are the non-removal of the fecal matter, mare and foal confined to unclean stables and the like.

The treatment is the avoidance of conditions likely to cause such disorders. If the dam is properly housed, fed and exercised there is very little danger. At the first appearance of such trouble we should attend the foal and remove the cause, for even then it may be too late. If it is due to an over-supply of milk, the dam should be milked in part by hand. Never give an astrigent with a view to cutting off the discharge, as the trouble is probably caused by an irritant in the stomach or bowels which must be removed before a cure can be effected. The best plan in all such cases is to expel the disturber with a laxative of olive, such as two ounces of olive or castor oil, and later when the irritant has been removed to check the discharge.

Young foals are very commonly troubled with navel infection or joint ill, which is a very fatal disease, particularly after the joints become af-

(Concluded on page 8)

### Keeping th

James Bro

PERHAPS the most particularly in the off to a better spring. The soil tillage. It was not that it worked up in regards friability. by a cool season th



Voyna Queen is of a Farm, Olds, Alberta. the feminine head, co

admit of germination did root system. Just may there was a frequent showers that incredible rapidity. had their opportunity

The weeds had not seemed to have bright and early on the second day of the that the ground was A stroke of the weed of the surface of the by the million. This every few days or so will permit, till the permission of so doing, run the sifter so that the surface of the soil freely stirred. The superficial cultivation destroy the weeds can they may not absorb the moisture needed to deeper weed seeds so for want of air or be fall when turned up by ing; to leave the root injured, and so promote the additional advantage moisture.

Very much the same handling of corn. The corn that it admits of a change of more frequenting, and for this reason weeds by two horse in that it does not do to in the case of either. Quite close up to the where it cannot possibly the cultivator, but we do most damage to it quickly find a weed as the moisture that spills If these weeds are left to re-seed the field labor in cleaning his fi