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## Take Care of the Harness.

If there is one necessary part of the farm equipment which receives less care in proportion to its everyday use than another, it is the harness. On a very large percentage of our farms, harness is bought and never cleaned again. Subjected as it is to all kinds of weather and to all classes of filth, it soon becomes tarnished and the leather dries and cracks. The life of harness may be doubled by good care, and the comfort of the horse increased. Harper, in his book on the training and breaking of horses, says: "Harness should be properly cared for, as this will increase the length of its usefulness and lessen the liability of it injuring the horse. It is very important that the bearing parts be kept scrupulously clean at all times. This applies especially to the parts in constant contact with the animal, as the collar, saddle crupper, and the like. It is not possible to prevent sore shoulders, sore neck, and sore tail, if these parts are permitted to become dirty, which they will (because of the sweat and dandruff) unless they are carefully watched and frequently cleaned. These parts should be thoroughly cleaned each morning before harnessing, or, better still, immediately after removing the harness.

"The entire harness should be thoroughly cleaned and oiled, at least, once a year. The simplest way of doing this is to take the harness apart, and soak the parts for fifteen minutes in a wash-tub of luke-warm water containing a handful of washing soda; then scrub the parts with a scrub brush, and, when dry, oil with neat's-foot oil, to which a small amount of kerosene and a little lampblack have been added; next, hang up to dry, taking care not to dry in the sun or by fire, and finally sponge with castile soap and buckle the parts together. Yet there can be no denying the fact that water injures the harness, particularly the polished and fancy parts. In the case of fancy harness, the mud and dirt should be permitted to dry. Then it should be removed with a brush stiff enough to answer the purpose, but not so coarse as to injure the grain of the leather. It is important that the straps be rubbed with the grain, which lays down the fiber and gives a smooth edge. Next, the harness should be taken apart and cleaned with a sponge dampened with soapsuds, using only as much water as is necessary. When cleansed, wipe dry and oil with a little neat's-foot oil applied with the sponge, then apply some good harness blacking and polish. Harness treated in this way will neither turn red nor become grimy, and, if often sponged with white castile soap, can be kept looking like new.

"When not in use, the harness should be covered with a sheet and hung in a room constructed especially for it, as dust, dampness, and vermin tend to injure the leather, and tarnish the fixtures. It frequently happens that the harness is hung on hooks just back of the horse in the stable. This is very objectionable. In the first place, gases escaping from the manure are very destructive to the leather, and, in the second place, the harness is often knocked down under the horse's feet, and becomes soiled with the manure. It is much more desirable to have a harness-room convenient to the horse stable where all harness can be kept, as it is much less difficult to keep in order, and, if we have a hanger for each horse's harness and hang it there each time, the work will be much lighter than otherwise.

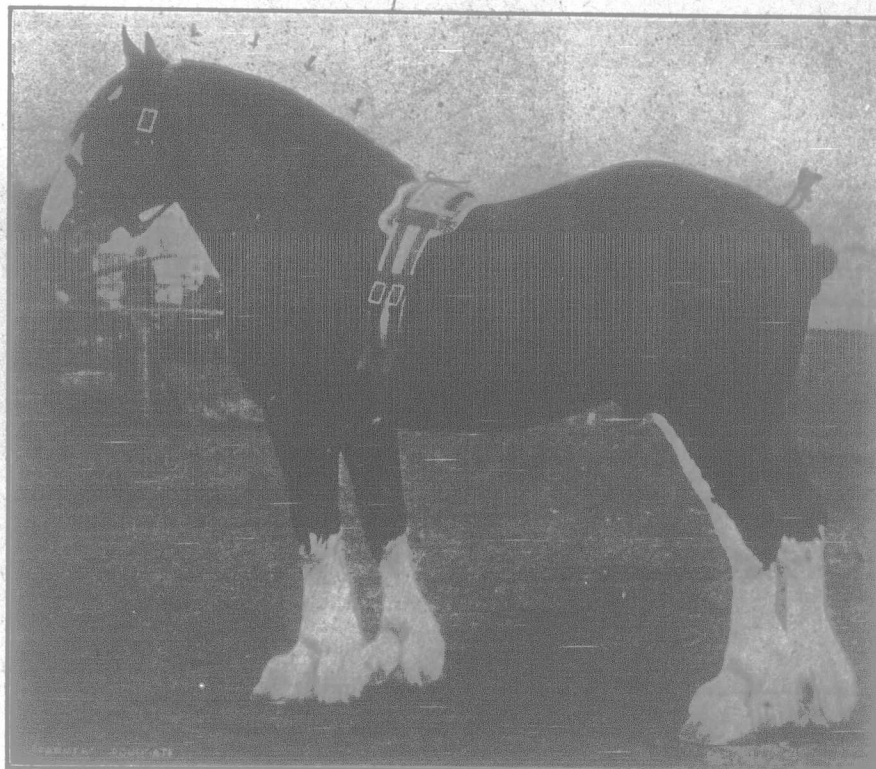
"It is often very convenient and sometimes economical to be provided with a repair kit to mend harness whenever needed, as it often saves delay in sending to the shop. To make simple repairs is not difficult, and the repair kit is inexpensive. We should provide a wood clamp for holding the leather to stitch; round knife; gauge knife; square-point trimming-knife; four-tube punch; three different-sized awls; collar awl; rivet set; box of assorted rivets, and a pair of pliers; all of which can be obtained for approximately five dollars. With such a kit of tools on hand, one can keep his harness in the best of repair at a very small cost."

## Clean the Watering Troughs.

If there is one animal on the farm which is deserving of fresh, cool water, it is the horse. Hard-worked as he generally is, the hot weather is doubly trying on him. How often does his driver take a refreshing drink? And the driver always insists upon clean water. So often at this season of the year the watering troughs become filthy and slimy from a growth of the lower forms of plants. This is due to the fact that stagnant water is allowed to remain in them day after day and week after week, without being cleaned out. The horse does not relish a drink from such a trough, and water from it is not so good for him as water from a clean trough. Let all the water out of the trough from time to time, and take an old broom and give it a thorough rinsing out. Then pump it full, and see how the thirsty horses will shove their noses down into it and drink their fill, going away refreshed and satisfied.

## On Breeding Two-year-olds.

The much-debated question as to whether or not it is profitable to breed two-year-old fillies, is never likely to be settled one way or the other. We recently heard a very strong argument on this point, and our attention was called to a big, growthy, fine type of Clydesdale mare which had raised a colt in her three-year-old form, and is suckling another now at four years of age, and, as far as may be told at this time, is again with foal. Her size is all that could be desired, and she does not seem to have been injured in any way by early breeding. She now gets in foal almost as surely as she is bred. But this mare was an exceptionally well-grown colt. She was as much matured at two years as many are at three, and she never works while the colt is suckling, but is used in the team after the colt is weaned and up to foaling again. With good care there seems to be little danger from breeding a two-year-old if she is well-developed. But there was a point made in the argument, that if the two-year-old failed to conceive throughout the season there would be considerable trouble experienced in getting her to breed in after years. This seems to be, to some extent, true, but whether or not a three-year-old would not act the same, we are not prepared to state. Experience has proven, however, that it is a little more difficult to get a two-year-old in foal than it is a three-year-old or four-year-old mare. However, a stable mate of the afore-mentioned mare was bred all season in her three-year-old form, the same season as the other mare began breeding as a two-year-old, and she did not conceive. The following year she took the horse several times, and finally after the season was over got with foal and promises to become a regular breeder. It was more difficult to get her started, whether or not any of this could be laid to her missing the first season. There will always be a difference of opinion on the advis-



Baronet of Ballindalloch.

Clydesdale stallion, 1st at the Highland Show, Paisley.

ability of breeding two-year-olds, because there will always be two-year-olds which would not be injured by being bred, and there will, at the same time, always be those too under-developed to throw good colts and not have their growth impaired.

## Handle the Colt.

It will soon be time to wean the colts, and before this comes around it is always advisable to have the colt accustomed to being handled. If his mother is quiet, it is more than likely that it will not be a very difficult matter to get up to him in the pasture field and scratch him a little. All colts like to be scratched or rubbed. Begin cautiously, and each day handle him a little more than upon the previous day. Soon he will become accustomed to these daily visits, which need not take much time—a few minutes is all that is necessary. Most colts will turn their rumps to you at first. Be careful not to get kicked, for the kick of a foal is often dangerous. Begin by gently rubbing the parts he will let you touch. Gradually work towards his head, until finally he will let you handle him anywhere. Pick up his feet and tap them occasionally. Handling quiets the colt, and he gets better acquainted with his master, which is a great help during the trying weaning process.

## LIVE STOCK.

The pastures are now quite dried up. If possible give the stock the run of a field or two which is showing a nice second growth after hay has been removed.

It is surprising how cattle crave for salt. If their salt troughs are empty only two or three days, and they scent a new supply coming, how they will rush for it. It is a good practice to keep salt before them at all times.

Where the pastures are very short a little corn thrown to the cattle will serve to tide them over until the fall rains come and the aftergrass gets started. Don't let the cattle fall too much in flesh. Keep them up in condition, if possible, for if they go down it will take all the fresh fall growth, and perhaps more to bring them back to their former fitness, and to have them winter easily it is necessary that they are in good condition when stabling is commenced.

Now that many of the fields are cleared, it is very often profitable to turn the shotes out to pick up the grain which has been lost in harvesting. Young pigs grow well on stubble, especially if a little feed is also supplied them from the trough. Do not feed too much or the pigs will get too lazy to hunt up the heads which have been cut off by the binder. But it is generally well to give some feed besides what is picked up for it is never good practice to allow a pig to stop growing.

## Rape for Sheep and Other Stock.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate."

Rape is a most valuable feed for sheep. It is greatly relished, and produces rapid gains, both in growing and fattening stock. Rape is an easy crop to grow, and yields abundantly when properly handled. The variety of rape most suitable to grow for fodder is the Dwarf Essex. This yields very heavily of leaves.

Early sowing is not essential for rape. It is well to get the land ready for sowing as soon as the ground is warmed up in the spring. It may be sown any time before the last of July, and after the ground is well warmed. When rape is sown in rows, cultivation should commence as soon as the fine of plants can be distinctly seen from one end of the row to the other. The cultivator should be run at first as near as possible to the plants without burying them. Shallow but thorough cultivation should follow

at frequent intervals. The crop may be pastured off at various stages of its development, according to the object sought. When eaten down before it has made a maximum growth, it will grow up again with more or less vigor. But the pasturing should not commence in any event until the rape has become well established in the soil, that is to say, until it has made a growth of several inches. It is a question as to whether more food is obtained by this method than by allowing the rape to attain its full growth before pasturing off. Authorities on the subject are inclined to believe that the latter method is the most profitable to follow, especially when sheep pasture on it, as it is quite possible for sheep to eat it down so low as to injure its capacity for further growth. It may be pastured off with cattle, sheep, swine or fowls. Cattle waste more by trampling than do the other classes mentioned. Milk cows should not usually be allowed to pasture on the rape as it has a tendency to taint the milk, but it may be cut and fed to them after each period of milking. On the whole sheep will do better on rape than will either cattle or swine. Neither cattle nor sheep should be turned on rape when very hungry or when it is wet with dew or rain, as they are liable to overeat and bloat, which, in a short time, if not looked after, will cause death. In moist climates such as that of New England or