

**Sore Shoulders.**

Large, ill-shaped, flat-faced collars, hames projecting an inch below the bottom of the collar, long, tangled manes allowed to work in under the collar, heavy-tongued implements, careless drivers, steady work on hot days when the horse is soft, dirty collars on which sweat-grease has accumulated—these are a few of the preventable causes of sore shoulders. To know them should be to avoid them. Many collars are too large for the horses that work in them. A collar should fit snug against the shoulder, not on the shoulder-point. It should be about as snug as it can be without hindering the breathing. An old collar, in which the stuffing has got all worked out of place, till the face is flattened out, is liable to cause pressure on the shoulder-point. Such should not be used for any heavy or steady work. Care should be taken to keep the hames strapped together at the top, so as to prevent them sliding down and bringing the point of draft too low on the shoulder. By the way, we noticed, lately, a simple iron device, got up by a harnessmaker, for riveting onto the bottom of the collar, so that the hame-strap could be slipped through it. The device keeps the hames up in place. Long hames, projecting above the collar, have an advantage for working harness, in that they may be easily made to fit a collar of almost any size.

When the horse is first put onto heavy work in the spring, start him easy. It is poor economy to rush in the first field seeding, and finish the work with jaded, shoulder-galled, run-down teams. The first day should accomplish not more than half a day's work. Stop the horses at the headlands every few rounds, lift the collars to let the air circulate under them, and straighten the manes. Overheated blood is a most prolific cause of abrasions, galls and sores.

When the horses have cooled off at night, bathe the shoulders with water containing a little salt. In the morning, brush the collar thoroughly clean. With sore shoulders, as with most other ailments, prevention is easier than cure, and a great deal better.

**Horses versus Motors.**

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact, writes Sir Walter Gilbey, in the Live-stock Journal, that competition has arisen between horse-power and motor-power, and this is a serious consideration for the horse-breeders of this country. While not for a moment disputing the fact that the motor traction for quick transit and for business purposes will supersede, and is superseding, the ordinary harness horse, I think we may safely leave it to the public taste to prove that for visiting and driving in the park, especially for ladies, the horse conveyances will still be found to more than hold their own.

On my recent two visits to France I witnessed ample proof of the increased popularity of both riding and driving horses. In Paris, I found in that fashionable part of the city, the Bois de Boulogne, a large number of beautiful carriage horses and riding horses ridden by both sexes—more than I ever remember to have seen on previous occasions. This may be considered the more remarkable, as France was the first country to create the fashion for motor cars. Under all circumstances, I do not think that the effort of our Hackney breeders will suffer in the future, as some people would have us believe.

A good deal has been said lately as to the predominance of the chestnut color in our Hackneys, but, from my forty years' experience in breeding, I can state, without hesitation, that such horses can be bred to any color by using a Hackney sire and carefully-selected mares as to color, and bays, browns or chestnuts produced as may be desired.

**To Prevent Abuse of Old Horses.**

A law intended to abolish the trade in broken-down horses has been signed by the Governor of Massachusetts, and goes into effect April 21st.

Section 1.—It shall be unlawful for any person holding an auctioneer's license to receive or offer for sale, or to sell at public auction, any horse which by reason of debility, disease or lameness, or for other cause, could not be worked in this Commonwealth without violating the laws against cruelty to animals.

Section 2.—It shall be unlawful for any person to lead, ride or drive on any public way, for any purpose except that of conveying the animal to a proper place for its humane keeping or killing, or for medical or surgical treatment, any horse which, by reason of debility, disease or lameness, or for other cause, could not be worked in this Commonwealth without violating the laws against cruelty to animals.

Section 3.—Any licensed auctioneer violating any provision of this Act shall forfeit his license, and any person violating any provision of this Act shall be punished by a fine of not less than five nor more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than six months.

**LIVE STOCK.****Mr. Harding Replies to Mr. Flatt.**

I notice in your issue of March 15th, Mr. D. C. Flatt insinuates that, in the short article on the hog question, which appears in the Feb. 22nd issue over my signature, I was slinging mud at the bacon hog. In reply, I would say I had no intention of doing such, and will leave it to the many readers of your valuable paper to decide whether I did or not, as no doubt the paper is on file in every home where it goes—or if it is not, it ought to be—and can quickly be referred to. I never intended to say anything that would injure any breeder, nor did I attempt to put forward the argument that the much-abused Chester White was an ideal bacon hog; but I will say, now, that if farmers would sprinkle some good Chester blood into some of those extreme long, narrow, cat-hammed hogs (many of which have been scattered throughout this fair Dominion, and have done their share in driving people out of the business), I believe they would have larger bank accounts to-day, and the reputation of Canadian bacon would not be injured. If I am to believe the statements of very many feeders throughout this country, which have been freely given to me, unsolicited, I have to come to but one conclusion, and that is that they could not make money feeding the packer's type of hog and selling at a flat rate. I quite agree with Mr. Flatt that we should produce ideal hogs, but that ideal should be from the feeder's as well as the consumer's standpoint, and we should then be paid for what we produce, according to quality. In conclusion, I wish to say I did not expect to gain any further notoriety from writing that short article, nor do I enjoy replying to such, yet I feel it to

**Snelgrove Mabel.**

A bacon-type Berkshire sow. Bred by Snell & Lyons, Snelgrove, Ont., and sold to Joshua Lawrence, Oxford Centre, Ont.

be my duty to defend myself, or try to. Surely Mr. Flatt is not so down on Chester Whites that he has written the article in question hoping to take from them the portion of credit that belongs to them. If he thinks he can offend me by telling your readers that I am a Chester White breeder, he makes a great mistake, for, although I am not actively engaged in hog-breeding just now, on account of my farm being in grass, yet I would say good ones of the breed suit me very well, and they are not the only breed I have tried. Lest anyone should think, from the tone of this article, that I am advocating a short, thick hog, let me just say I want a pig of good length, with smooth shoulders, well-sprung ribs and deep sides. If this class of pig is fed a goodly portion of roots for a winter ration, and a fair amount of green feed in summer, along with a reasonable amount of exercise, I venture to say they will be produced as cheaply as it is possible to do it, and culls will be scarce. Trusting that you will find space in your valuable paper for these few words, I close for this time.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

R. H. HARDING.

**Large Yorkshires in United States.**

In a lengthy article on "The Place of the Large Yorkshire in American Swine Husbandry," J. J. Ferguson, an ex-Canadian, now employed in the packing business, of Chicago, says: "I do not recommend the general introduction of Yorkshires over the country to the exclusion of present types, which in many cases are producing maximum results with greatest profits. However, it cannot be denied there is an ever-increasing demand for them from all sections of the country, for the purpose of crossing with the present stocks for increasing their vigor and improving the amount and quality of bone. In any section of the Northwest where the production of bacon hogs is already a well-established and profitable industry, the Yorkshire is strongly in demand, and this demand will continue."

**Notes from Ireland.**

The past few weeks have witnessed the occurrence of numerous important events in Irish agricultural circles, and among these, perhaps, the most notable has been the actual appointment of the

**COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY**

into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, to which I made a preliminary reference in a recent letter. What invests the appointment with a peculiar interest for Canadian readers is the fact that included among the members of the committee is a prominent agricultural authority from Ontario, in the person of none less than the Hon. John Dryden, ex-Minister of Agriculture for Ontario. A feeling is prevalent in some quarters that the inclusion of Mr. Dryden in this committee is but the prelude to a more important appointment for that gentleman, namely, to the onerous position of Vice-President, in succession to Sir Horace Plunkett, about whose work I have also had something to say lately. Though some narrow-minded individuals cavil at Mr. Dryden's appointment on the Committee of Inquiry, on the grounds that he cannot possibly have much knowledge of Irish affairs, the more sensible view is generally taken, that his experience of agricultural development in one of our principal competing countries is a great acquisition to the efficiency of the committee. The scope of the inquiry is not by any means a limited one—to review, to report on, to amend by suggestion, both in respect of popularity, efficiency and economy, the work of the Department may be said to summarize the objects for which it was called into being. The effects of a thorough inquiry are looked forward to on all hands to make for progress, and more lasting results from the operations of the Department in the country.

**IMPROVING DAIRY COWS.**

Arising out of many resolutions and conferences on the subject, the Department of Agriculture have at last drawn up and issued a scheme intended to bring about an improvement in the dairy stock of the country. Constructed as it is on sensible lines, there is good reason to expect that with the co-operation of the farmers of the country the scheme will be productive of much good in advancing the welfare of the important dairy industry. Briefly summarized, the scheme put in operation is as follows: The Dept. will keep a register of cows selected; the inspection of these cows to be carried out by their own officials. Owners of cows—cross-bred and pure-bred—are invited to apply on a prescribed form for the inspection of their stock as regards (a) general merit (i.e., appearance), and (b) milk yield. All cows will be inspected twice. At the first inspection they will be provisionally selected on the ground of general merit. The cows so selected will then be subjected to a second test later in the season as to the quantity and quality of their milk, and if they come out of this successfully they will be marked and numbered, and will become eligible for entry on the register. Owners of cows, after the first inspection is passed, are required to weigh the milk yielded every seventh day during the entire milking period, and record the same on a prescribed form, and they must also keep a record of the breeding and dates of birth of produce, for the purposes of future registration. All cows entered on the register must be served by a pure-bred bull of her own type approved by the Dept., and the female progeny from the service will also be subjected to inspection. The foregoing indicates shortly the lines upon which the scheme will work. As will be seen, it is not a very complicated programme, and though its effects will not be apparent for some years, it may confidently be expected that the milk cows of the country will in time undergo a distinct levelling up.

**THE ADMISSION OF CANADIAN STORES.**

By the time these lines appear in print, the decision of the Government regarding the opening of British ports to Canadian store cattle will, in all probability, be known. Writing beforehand, one hardly knows what to prophesy, for the Prime Minister and his colleagues in the Cabinet have throughout the agitation studiously avoided any statements that could possibly commit them to a definite course of action. One thing, however, they have done—they have afforded every facility for the expression of all opinions from all points of view, and have promised to give full consideration to the relative merits of the appeals made by both sides engaged in the agitation. Needless to say, the issue is one most seriously affecting Irish farmers, and, consequently, the result is awaited with the keenest suspense and anxiety in this country. Our agriculturists have not been idle by any means, and as far as lay in their power they have given very emphatic expression to strongly worded protests against any change in the existing restrictions being made. Throughout the country resolutions galore have been unanimously adopted, by county committees, agricultural societies, boards of guardians, and other similar public bodies, and one can be pardoned for assuming that a united expression of opinion, such as is thus indicated, will carry enormous weight when the decision is being come to. Of course, Ireland is not the only country affected. Influential gatherings of English and Scotch breeders have also raised corresponding protests against any alteration, but it is Ireland that I am principally writing about, was the most typical protest made in this country pointed out in this memorial to the Royal Dublin Society. It was the Act of 1866, Irish flocks and herds have practically enjoyed entire security from foreign diseases; the important industry of dairying has much increased, and