

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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IN THE DOMINION.

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ten years before the time. Mr. Morris saw in the United States what many in Canada have discerned, that the appetite of the ever-growing cities and towns for horticultural luxuries or, rather, necessities, has revolutionized large areas of agriculture, in which the well-informed, persistent man, who carefully tills the soil, will find ten acres enough.

HORSES.

Use only the best available sire, and breed as early as possible, but better late than not at all.

The whip is best placed in the manger, in the form of good hay and oats.

A horse should never be required to do very fast work when full of grass or clover. This is often injurious to his wind.

Handle the young sucking colt as much as possible during the time he is on his dam. A little time spent getting the colt to lead and quiet to handle is time well spent, and it will be found that the colt will be easier to break as a result. One cannot commence the training of the colt too soon.

A few shade trees in the pasture are greatly appreciated by the horse, as by other animals, and fresh, cool drinking water is also essential. Do not cut down all the trees in the pasture, and keep the springs or troughs clean. It pays.

Poor fences make trouble with the horse. A horse, when he has had all the grass he can eat, is usually disposed to roam. Thus, good pastures are not always proof against the horses getting into mischief, and good fences are essential, even in regions of abundant growth.

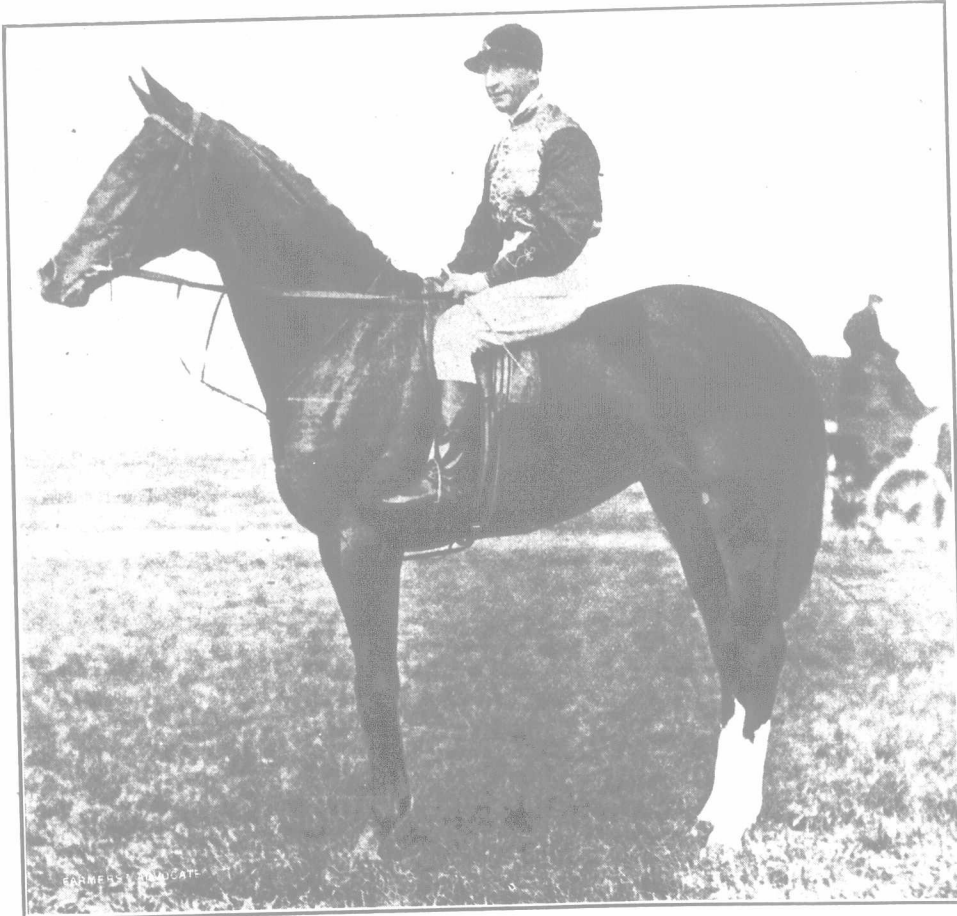
Care of Horses' Feet.

In the care of horses' feet, there are three points that require careful observance: (1) The feet must be kept clean; (2) they must be kept the proper shape; (3) moisture must be supplied. A large percentage of the sore-footed horses that we notice on the street and roads should still be sound, and would be if reasonable attention had been given to their feet. Too much is left to nature. Nature will, in most cases, attend to the three points named, provided she is not interfered with. Among wild horses sore feet are very rare, if seen at all. When horses run on the prairie at all seasons, dirt is not likely to interfere materially with the condition of the feet; the natural wear and tear is equal to the growth, hence the feet remain the normal shape; the rain and dews supply sufficient and regular moisture, hence they do not suffer in this respect. But so soon as horses are bred and kept under artificial conditions, nature no longer has full control. She is interfered with, and unless care be taken this interference exerts more or less serious effects upon the feet. This is noticed very early in the life of the colt. During its first winter it is kept the greater part of the time in the stable on straw or accumulated manure. Even when outside for a few hours daily, the exercise taken is often on snow. Hence, the growth of hoof greatly exceeds the wear, and the feet become ill-shaped unless periodically trimmed. Permanent injury from this cause is not uncommonly seen. Prevention, of course, consists in examining the feet frequently.

the frog, an accumulation of dirt (especially if moist) in which tends to produce thrush. In addition to this, it is not uncommon to find a stone, nail or other foreign body in the sole, which, if not removed, may cause serious trouble. By regular attention to the sole, abnormalities are noticed early, and can usually be corrected easily; while, if neglected or not noticed, they may become serious.

Probably the most fertile cause of trouble in the feet is failure to provide moisture when horses are kept in the stable in dry, warm weather. This applies particularly to horses that are irregularly worked or driven, but stand a great deal of time, both night and day, on a dry, hard floor. Horses that are worked or stand in the stable during the day time, but are turned out on grass at night, do not suffer, as sufficient moisture is obtained from the dew and the earth; but those kept in the stable at night are a different proposition. The trouble can be lessened considerably by allowing them to stand on an earthen floor, but this has the disadvantage of being very hard to keep clean and dry, and the moisture obtained by earth that is moistened by liquid manure is harmful, principally from the fact that it is irritant and likely to cause trouble, especially thrush. Different kinds of "Foot Dressing" are manufactured and highly recommended for the purpose of supplying moisture and keeping the feet in proper condition, but experience teaches us that, while these dressings improve the appearance of the feet, they fail in supplying the required moisture. Water is what is required. The question may be asked, "Why is moisture required, and what are the results when it is not supplied?" Those who are accustomed to horses and have observed mat-

ters will answer: "The absence of moisture will cause the hoof to become dry and brittle, and as a consequence, become smaller, and inclined to crack and break." The wall loses its natural elasticity, which predisposes to quarter-crack; concussion becomes greater, which tends to excite internal inflammation, which causes an increased dryness of the horn, which naturally causes increased contraction. A man who understands the anatomy of the foot and the diseases to which it is subject, is often heard to remark that "Contracted feet are the result, rather than the cause, of disease," but we must admit that hard, dry feet predispose to disease of the internal structures. If we admit that the feet require moisture, and that the moisture should be water, the question arises, "How are we to supply



The King's Race Horse, Pentadeau—H. Jones up.

and, when necessary, trimming them with a shoeing smith's knife and rasp. During the summer months, when the colts are on pasture, nature will attend to this point. When the colts have reached the age at which they are to be put to work, and when not working are kept in the stable, the danger of ill-effects from want of attention to the feet increases. The advisability of having horses shod must depend upon the circumstances. Of course, when horses are required to work or drive during the cold seasons, it is necessary for them to wear shoes to prevent slipping; but when horses are used only for work on the farm, we think it is wise to allow them to go without shoes, except in slippery weather. When horses become accustomed to go without shoes, it is surprising the amount of travelling, even on moderately hard roads, their feet will stand, always excepting, of course, gravel or stone roads or pavement. When horses wear shoes, the feet are kept (or should be kept) in proper shape by the shoeing smith. Each time the shoes are removed (which should at the longest be every six weeks), a sufficient amount of the lower border of the wall and heels are removed by the knife and rasp to keep the feet in proper shape. It is unnecessary to enlarge on the fact that this removal should be done by the knife and rasp, rather than by burning with a red-hot shoe. When in the stable, a horse should stand in a dry stall, and each time he is groomed each foot should be lifted and well cleaned out by a foot hook or other instrument. This applies especially to the cleft of

that moisture to the feet of horses kept under the conditions noted?" The answer, of course, will be, "Keep the feet in contact with water for a few hours every day." This can be done in different ways. The horse can be stood in wet clay, or with his feet in a soaking tub for the required length of time daily, or wet poultices can be applied. Pads made out of wet felt or other material that absorbs large quantities of water can be buckled around the pastern and allowed to cover the feet. This plan has the advantage of being less trouble than the former, and can be left on all night without interfering with the horse's comfort. Another plan is to pack the sole of the feet with material containing moisture, as linseed meal, or even bran, or with clay or a special kind of rock that absorbs a large quantity of water and is kept for sale by most up-to-date harnessmakers or other dealers in horse supplies. The point is simply to apply water for a sufficient length of time to allow the hoof to absorb a sufficient quantity to keep it moist, and the manner in which this is supplied is not material, and, of course, this precaution is required only in dry weather, except in cases where horses stand a great deal on dry floors. "WHIP."

Breed as many of your mares as you can. It is surprising the small number of foals one sees being raised through the country. It doesn't look as if there were overstocking the horse market.