

upon the efficiency of the team depends the economy of the farmer's and his hired man's time, but experience shows that the quantity of oats per meal is by no means the only important factor in keeping horseflesh in good shape. Judgment in working and increasing or diminishing the allowance of heavy feed, regularity in time of feeding, and working, also, as far as may be practicable, frequency of watering, and care in fitting harness and matching teams—in a word, that rare quality called "horse sense"—are the secrets of maintaining the teams in presentable shape and strong working condition. It is not so much what you feed as how you feed it; not so much what you do as how you do it. Horse sense without oats is better than oats without sense.

Economy of Horse Power.

A writer in an English exchange probably touches one of the main handicaps of Old Country agriculture when he refers to the waste of horse-power, indifference of teamsters and other laborers to the value of time, and failure to alter methods readily to meet changes in the times, as exemplified by the adherence to labor-expensive implements. "How is it," he says, "that we tacitly agree that an acre per day is too sanguine an estimate even for ordinary two-horse land, and remain content with from half to three-quarters of an acre? Nine-inch furrows are narrow enough, and loose land can be plowed with 10 to even 12-inch furrows. There is, therefore, no difficulty in plowing $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1-1-3 acres of loose land in a day, and yet it is generally thought that one acre a day is an overestimate of what may, on an average, be expected from plowmen. Single-furrow plows are gradually giving way to double and triple-furrow implements, drawn by two or three, and possibly, in the case of triple plows, by four horses. This is a great economy, as the double-furrow plow drawn by three horses (and many farmers use two) may be relied upon to turn over from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 acres per diem without any difficulty. On light land, or land already plowed, there is no difficulty in two horses drawing a double-furrow plow, and the saving in horse labor is then very considerable. The same principle holds good in all other tillage operations, so that, by using double-furrow plows, two-horse drills, light one-horse seed harrows, spring-tooth cultivators, etc., the number of horses may be reduced, or tillages can be more effectively performed."

Two-horse drills and one-horse harrows just coming in! No wonder British agriculture is depressed! The remedy is more energetic application of the principle the writer suggests. The same holds true, only in less degree, in Canada. The moral of the age is surely plain.

How and When to Water.

A good deal of discussion has taken place and considerable diversity of opinion still exists regarding the best order in which to feed and water horses. Many have advocated watering before feeding, to avoid washing the grain ration out of the stomach, an organ which, as we all know, is relatively small in the horse. A difficulty is generally met, however, in the fact that many horses cannot be induced to drink much in the morning until they have eaten for a while. The writer has found that the best way is to let the horse eat enough to make him thirsty, and then water and give the grain allowance. This is in accordance with the animal's appetite, and approaches what we might expect his habits to be under natural conditions. People are yearly less inclined to attempt to make nature conform to men's theories, and more inclined to adapt their practice to nature's demands, as indicated by the preferences of the animals in their care. Of course, if we were to press this point too far, we might be at a loss to justify certain methods commonly considered essential. Theorizing is interesting, but not always assuring. However, in this matter of watering, we feel pretty certain of the soundness of our doctrine, having tested it as well as we could in the school of experience, and our advice is to feed hay first thing in the morning; then, just before breakfast, water, and feed grain. When taking the team out, water again after breakfast; once, if possible in the middle of the forenoon—on hot days particularly; then again at noon, before going in to dinner; and after dinner, when going out to work. Divide the afternoon, like the forenoon, if practicable, and water again on coming in at night. In the evening, after a good cleaning, give them another drink, and leave them with enough hay to eat during the night. It doesn't take long to hold a pail up to a horse, and if he doesn't drink promptly, it may be taken for granted that he is not thirsty. When watering thus frequently, there is no harm done if he misses once in a while.

One point more, do not stand a sweltering, throat-parched horse in a stuffy stable, and expect him to eat hay all the noon hour, with nothing to drink. Think how you feel yourself. When you come in hot and tired from the field, do you sit down and eat a dry dinner, and then take a

drink just as you are going to the field? Not if you are wise. You may take care not to swallow down all the ice-water you would like, but you take a cupful from the well, at least. So with the horse. There is a deal of exaggerated fear about watering horses when warm. In the first place they should not be brought in from the field lathering wet, but if they are, water is the very thing they need. A large amount of perspiration has been secreted while working. This leaves the system parched. A fair amount of water of moderate temperature is the best thing that can be given, and it should, ordinarily, be given at once. If the water is very cold, take the chill off it by having a drawn pailful or two standing ready when you come in. Horses prefer water not too cold, and if precautions are taken about the temperature, a pailful will not hurt a horse in the least, but rather refresh and do him good. As Dr. Reed, of Guelph, has very well put it, "When a horse is thirsty, he wants a drink."

The Winner of the King's Plate.

The annual racing events, under the auspices of the Ontario Jockey Club, which opened at the Woodbine track, Toronto, on Saturday, May 19th, drew a larger crowd of spectators than usual. The principal contest of the day was, as usual, that for the King's Plate, with \$4,000 added, for which, on this occasion, there were originally thirty-seven entries, which, from one cause or another, had dwindled to nine on the programme, and three of these were withdrawn, leaving six to start, the same number as last year, and less than in any other year for the last quarter of a century. Of the six, two wore the colors of



Slaughter.

Winner of the King's Plate, at the Woodbine, Toronto, May 19th, 1906. Bred and owned by Joseph E. Seagram, M. P., Waterloo, Ont.

Jos. E. Seagram, M. P., of Waterloo, Ont., and four of the six were productions of the Waterloo Stud, which has won more victories than any other in the history of the Club. The favorite with the crowd was Mr. N. Dymont's Court Martial, who, in appearance and in his preparatory work, gave promise of being the probable winner, but, as has not infrequently occurred, so on this occasion, a comparatively dark horse proved the winner of the coveted trophy, as Mr. Seagram's three-year-old colt, Slaughter, by Havoc, after a spirited and hotly-contested race, won out by five lengths ahead of Court Martial, who was second, four lengths ahead of Mr. Seagram's Haruko, who was third.

LIVE STOCK.

Stock Bloating on Clover.

There is always more or less danger of loss of cattle and sheep from bloating when turned upon clover in spring. Care should be observed not to turn the stock into clover when it is wet with dew or rain, or when very hungry; better put them in at midday, or soon after noon, until they get well used to the new pasture. Prevention is much better than cure in this, as in other cases, but when bloating occurs in cattle a simple remedy is 2 ozs. turpentine and $1\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. raw linseed oil, given slowly and carefully as a drench. For a sheep half the quantity may be given, and if the oil is not on hand the turpentine may be given in water. Sometimes relief is gained by simply placing a round stick in the mouth, fastened there by means of a rope attached to each end, and tied over the head, back of the ears. This device may also be used for a bloated sheep. In cattle, if the case is a very severe one, the breathing difficult, the animal moaning and

slaving, and there is danger of death from suffocation, tapping with a trocar and canula should be attended to without delay. The trocar is a sharp-pointed instrument, while the canula is its sheath; the place to tap is in the middle of the depression between the last rib, the backbone and the hook bone on the left side; the puncture is made about equidistant from each of these points, the trocar being withdrawn and the canula or sheath left in the opening while the gas is escaping. If this instrument is not on hand, or promptly available, the next best thing in a serious case is to take a common goose quill, cut off the point and the feathered portion, and take out the pith; then with a sharp-pointed penknife make an incision deep enough to go through the skin and lining of the stomach, insert the quill and hold it firmly while the gas escapes. A little carbolic oil should be applied to the wound to prevent flyblow, and to heal the sore.

Expert Judges.

When the powers that be proposed that expert judges should be provided for our annual agricultural fairs, not a few exhibitors and patrons of such exhibitions thought that a decided step in advance was about to be taken. They believed that such judges would ensure, not only justice to each exhibitor, but that the spectators and all who cared to listen would be enlightened by a brief running comment that would make clear to all why the various awards were given, or why, in some instances, the prize was withheld. In this way, it was hoped, the agricultural fair would become, in practice, what it was intended it should become—an educator in agricultural pursuits.

Some societies have been disappointed in this, and are, regretfully, abandoning expert judges.

Some of the causes for their doing so are these:

1. The experts promised, in some instances, have not been forwarded, and the fair directors have, at the last moment, been obliged to take someone whom they did not choose, and whom they did not care to have. Satisfactory reasons for the changing of judges have not always been given.

2. Other so-called experts have proven to be men whose rulings were not consistent one with the other, and who, when questioned, failed utterly to explain why they used one standard in one instance, but another standard in another instance.

3. Others, again, have been lacking in the ability—or in the willingness—to give the running comment so much to be desired.

4. The rate of payment is too high for the value of men. It is thought that five dollars per day is quite sufficient for any judge whose labors rarely extend over a few hours.

Now, it will be a pity if any backward step should be taken.

It will be a greater pity if our system of judging should lose in efficiency in any way. If the agricultural fair is to come to its own, it can do so only by stimulating all who attend or patronize it to both think and work towards an ideal. It is surely a judge's business to indicate, not only the strong points of the animals exhibited, but to indicate the ideal that is sought for in such a class of animals. The same rule applies in all the exhibits. Ability to do this does not come in a day, but is, in most cases, the result of long practical experience and of hard thinking and working. One notes with satisfaction the general improvement in some of our smaller fairs, both in exhibits and in management, and this letter is written, in order that those whose business it is to manage such matters, should give more attention to the kind of men who are sent out with the high-sounding title of "expert" judges. Few complaints may have reached the Department. That isn't the point. What is wanted is a body of judges whose work will be so satisfactory that they will be regarded as a necessity at any price. O. C. Wentworth Co., Ont.

Railroad construction, and the opening up of new territory, will make horses so scarce that we will excuse the man who puts the harness on the clothes-horse. You may be late starting to prepare for the demand, but there is no reason why you should not start.

A drink of water in the field on a hot day is sometimes as good as a quart of oats in the stable. At any rate, it is cheaper.