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THE TRICKS OF HORSE TRADERS EXPOSED,—No. 3*

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Did You Ever Buy an Apparently Sound Horse that Went Lame Soon After? A description of two Systems of Disguising Lameness. How the Purchaser may Detect the Fraud.

THE ability to temporarily check or disguise a case of lameness is another act in which the unscrupulous trader has attained considerably proficiency. Of course the practice of this art is seldom possible in cases of acute lameness, but when the lameness is not acute or well marked, it may be, and often is, successfully accomplished. In some cases the methods employed would render the operation liable to prosecution for cruelty, while in others probably an act of cruelty could not be established.

When a horse that is to be disposed of is lame in one foreleg below the knee, the trader knows that if the nerve supply to the foot can be temporarily rendered inactive, the lameness will disappear; hence when he is about to show the horse to a prospective victim, he will, with a hypodermic syringe, inject a little cocaine or other drug that acts directly upon the nerves underneath the skin on each side of the leg just below the knee. In the course of about 20 to 30 minutes the nerve supply to the parts below the knee has become paralyzed, and the horse not experiencing any pain during progression will go sound. This practice, when skilfully carried out, is liable to deceive even an experienced horseman, and unless there be something about the horse, as a small or ill-shaped foot, enlargement of joint or tendon, or some other abnormality to indicate probable lameness, or the victim has some reason to suspect trickery and dishonesty, he is very liable to become the owner of the horse, only to discover in a few hours that he owns a cripple.

THE WILY WAYS OF THE TRADER

Horse dealers know that apparent anxiety to dispose of a horse tends to make the "other fellow" suspicious, hence they avoid exhibiting this anxiety. They always have some excuse for their willingness to dispose of the animal. In fact, they have studied the art of horse trading until they have practically made it a science. They, of course, are regardless of the truth, will misrepresent matters to any extent, and thereby render themselves liable to actions for damages. But they have little fear of such actions, one reason being that in most cases they are financially weak. Another is the fact that the man who has been bitten by such gentry will generally "take his medicine" rather than enter suit and advertise his lapse from sound judgment evidenced by his dealing with a professional horse trader.

Fortunately the practice of using drugs hypodermically to stop lameness is not general. It

requires special instruments and special skill, and if repeated frequently on the same animal is very liable to result in serious local disturbance. A more common, more cruel, and less effective plan of attempting to disguise slight chronic lameness in one foot is to set up slight irritation in the other foot. This may be done by paring down the sole or quarter and having the shoe clinched very tightly so as to cause pressure upon the thin parts or upon the parts so closely related to them that the effects of the inordinate pressure will extend to them. The same result



An Attractive Farm Entrance

First impressions are apt to be lasting. What then can we better afford to improve than the farm entrance? Notice the entrance to "The Highlands," the home of Mr. Geo. Elze, Oxford Co., Ont.

is accomplished by introducing irritating substances into the cleft or the frog or driving a tack or nail nearly through the unsensitive sole so that while not quite penetrating to the sensitive sole it presses upon it and causes slight pain during progression. If operations of this nature are practised, but not overdone, simply to such an extent as to make the tenderness of the foot operated upon equal to that of the diseased foot, the horse will progress with a short, groggy action, but cannot be said to go lame. If the operation be overdone, the tenderness of that foot will exceed that of the other, hence he will go lame.

TO DETECT THE FRAUD

The fact that a horse steps short and quick and when standing rests one foot and then the other should be sufficient to dispel a person's anxiety to become his owner. In cases such as described, a careful examination will reveal the fact that one foot has been tampered with.

Horse traders or dealers who have some means but little horse often spend considerable time and some money in patching up a crippled horse for sale or exchange. Horses that have become sore in one or both fore feet, and hence of little value, but being generally good individuals and probably high-class and valuable fellows, if going sound, will often, after a few months' rest

and attention to the feet, probably having the coronets blistered frequently, make a temporary recovery and go apparently sound. They are then sold or exchanged, and the new owner finds out after having used them for a short time on the roads that they commence to go tender or groggy. Some cases of this kind will deceive the most expert horseman and pass a critical examination by a veterinarian. The vendor of such horses is often anxious for the purchaser to have the animal examined by a veterinarian before purchase, as that relieves him (the vendor) from liability of an action for damages when the animal shows unsoundness. Anxiety of this nature by the vendor of a horse, unless he be known to be honest, should be sufficient to arouse suspicion in the prospective purchaser, as in a case such as cited even the veterinarian is not liable, because, as stated, there are cases in which there are no symptoms to arouse suspicion and the veterinarian is expected to exercise only reasonable care. He is not supposed to be able to detect obscure diseases, the symptoms of which have been temporarily checked.

On the other hand, if the purchaser buys the horse on account of representations made by the seller, who sells him as sound, and later on the new owner can prove that the horse had previously gone lame from some chronic disease, but as the result of rest and treatment he became temporarily sound, he should be able to collect damages. Hence we repeat the anxiety on the part of the vendor to have a veterinarian examine the horse, or his refusal to sell under warranty, should always cause suspicion. A horse that is affected with a chronic disease, although not at the time showing symptoms of it, is not sound.

We are changed through out activities, and when you give a man a pleasurable job, put upon him responsibility, set him to work, he then, for the first time, gives bonds for his good behavior, and evolves the virtues that make for length of days.—Elbert Hubbard.

It is the farmer's own fault if he does not benefit and make progress along dairy lines, as the Dominion Department of Agriculture and our Provincial Department of Agriculture, are doing fine work for the farmers along those lines, such as cow testing, association lectures on dairying, etc.—D. N. McKay, Queen's Co., P. E. I.

I believe a man can put a cow out of business by heavy feeding and shorten its life and usefulness. It will not help the progeny either. Take yourself. If you overdo your stomach you will not be feeling as good as you otherwise would; it is the same with the animal. If a man has good ensilage and good clean hay, he can get along without very heavy grain feeding. For myself, with cows milking moderately well, I believe that a couple of pounds of cotton seed, a couple of pounds of pounds of cotton seed, a little oat chop, is about heavy enough.—D. A. MacFarlane, Huntingdon Co., Que.

This is the third of a series of articles that Dr. Reed is writing for Farm and Dairy. All of the contents in the series. Watch these articles. Call the attention of your friends to the value of these and other articles that run in Farm and Dairy. We will Farm and Dairy known among your friends and so will they.