

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

TWO DISTINCT PUBLICATIONS—EASTERN AND WESTERN.

EASTERN OFFICE:
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:
IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BANNANTYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

BRANCH OFFICE: CALGARY, ALBERTA, N.-W. T.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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Iowa Bars the Faker.

In his annual report President Morrow, of the Iowa State Board of Agriculture, says:

"If any excuse ever existed for side-shows and fakers in general, it seems to me that that time is past, and I want to recommend that all such be excluded from the grounds, and that the great Iowa State Fair be conducted on such a high plane as will meet the approval of the intelligent people of the State."

The "pea-in-the-nutshell man," and kindred humbugs in the form of humanity, have done nothing to elevate mankind in Iowa, or any other State, and his presence at the fairs has always been degrading.

Directors of agricultural societies in this young country, who delight in the thought of having young Canadians develop into a highly moral and intellectual people should consider the experience of our American friends. The faker cannot be given too wide a berth in this country.

"All but Perfect."

Mr. J. G. Hurst, Waterloo, Ont., writes: "I am glad you changed the 'Advocate' to a weekly. This was the only thing necessary to make your paper an all but perfect farmer's journal. I bespeak for the 'Advocate' greater prosperity than ever."

A Glowing Tribute.

Mr. John McGlashan, Lincoln, Ont., says: "I am more than pleased with a weekly issue of your very valuable paper. I consider it the best agricultural and practical in the English language today. I wish to see that success in your laudable enterprise. Although it is but a merit."

HORSES.

Horseshoeing.

It is desirable that every horseman have a certain amount of knowledge of shoeing. The peculiarities of the gait of each individual horse should be studied in order to avoid accidents to the animal and expense to the owner. If the gait of every horse were true and clean, all that would be necessary in shoeing would be to put the shoes on carefully, so as to interfere as little as possible with his natural action, but the natural gait of many horses is faulty, hence we must endeavor to shoe to remedy different evils. Blacksmiths alone cannot be depended upon to do this, for the reason that they have not an opportunity of observing each horse's action, so that it behooves the driver to understand the situation and its remedies.

The most critical shoeing of a horse is his first shoeing. Many smiths can shoe an old tender-foot well, but fail when they come to a green colt. In this, they are not always alone to blame. In many cases the horseman furnishes old unsuitable shoes, and attaches too much importance to the first cost, little thinking that improper shoeing may blemish the horse for life, or prevent his sale.

In this article I wish to direct a few remarks to both horsemen and blacksmiths on interfering, and certain fads and fancies, as spur heels, improper ground bearings, etc. Some smiths will say they have shod horses with weights on outside and inside for interfering, with practically

toe calk in center of toe. When finished, the ground bearings of this shoe—that is, the calks—should all sit firmly on a level anvil, as a test before nailing. The last sentence contains a rule that should govern all kinds of shoeing. The use of a file or rasp will soon bring the calks to their bearings, when all other parts are correct. Fig. 2 is a common shoe set in position, according to common sense, with equal weight on both sides, and equal ground bearings on both sides. With such a shoe the ordinary horse will go very well. For a very close going horse or colt, I would recommend the shoe illustrated in Fig. 4. This shoe, when properly set, will have a tendency to spread the horse's action. Of course, any horse may touch lightly once in a while; the weighting, with this peculiar set, will keep the colt or horse from doing any very serious damage to himself. This shoe is intended to be just as long on the inside as the outside, and the inside heel calk, having a larger ground bearing than the outside one, makes a good firm prop, as it were; now, by having a fine calk on the outside and tucked under the foot, we bring more weight to bear upon it, insuring the ankle against going in too far. The inside heel may be raised or lowered to suit circumstances, as no two horses are alike. It will be plainly seen that the ground bearings of Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 are very different. The latter will serve as a hind or front shoe. It is a good one on the knee banger, as well as the horse that interferes behind. Put a spur on this shoe and you counteract to a great extent the good that the side weight may do. Of course, spur heels belong to fancy shoeing used on some trotters in fast work; no good on gravel roads for everyday use.

SANDY COLTS.

Fitting Horses for Spring Work or Sale.

Those who expect either to sell horses in the spring or have them ready for heavy work, will do well to prepare now, and gradually fit and improve until appearance and muscle have reached a high standard of marketable usefulness. We do not approve, however, of the method practised by many dealers, of adopting rations suitable only for increasing weight, soft fattening food, such as would be considered both economical and profitable were horseflesh sold in this country for table use. Horses thus fattened are usually very attractive to the eye, and, consequently, sell for a high price, but such a course is not advisable, for the reason that fat is laid on rather more than muscle. Another disadvantage of the above plan is that horses so fattened are rarely, if ever, exercised sufficiently to keep their flesh firm and muscles capable of standing endurance. Carbonaceous foods are freely used for the purpose of rapidly increasing weight, and the nature of these is to produce fat instead of muscle.

Water and feed regularly; give plenty of exercise; increase the ration slowly, making oats the chief grain portion. These are points that require attention. Barley, or wheat of fair quality, may safely form from one-third to one-half of the grain ration, if the balance be oats, and the price favors using these grains. The change of ration should be made slowly, so as to avoid the danger of disarranging the digestive organs. Boiled barley with a little flaxseed given once a week for the evening meal is well-known to horsemen as a splendid help in keeping the digestive organs at their best, and also useful in increasing weight. Bran or laxative food of some kind, such as roots, should be fed regularly when hay and grain constitutes the main diet.

Be careful to groom well, freely using a good brush, and the currycomb but little. Never use a real sharp comb, as it not only means cruelty to the horse, but is positively injurious to his skin.

A great amount of exercise is required to give best results, and while this is being done be careful to insure against the danger of limb unsoundness by caring for the feet. Horses should have their feet carefully trimmed, especially if they are young and the hoofs growing rapidly. When the hoof grows out of shape, the ligaments and joints of the limb are naturally under a constant strain, therefore the more likely to sprains, which probably will result in permanent injury. Ringbones, curbs, spavins, etc., are frequently caused by inattention to the feet.

It is very essential when breaking colts for farm or dray purposes, that every effort be made to induce them to walk up smartly, and if this be persisted in the lesson will not be easily forgotten.

To sum up: Feed and water regularly, using good muscle-forming food, with sufficient of a laxative nature to keep the bowels in perfect order and the coat silky; care for the feet, either by trimming or shoeing; give abundance of exercise, either in a large paddock or in harness; give careful and regular grooming, and in every way encourage fast walking.

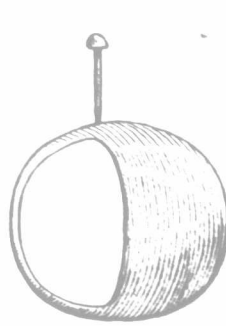


Fig. 1.

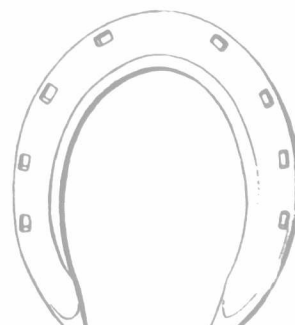


Fig. 2.

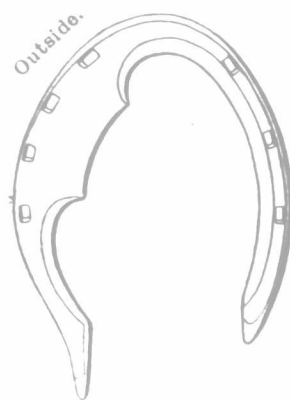


Fig. 3.

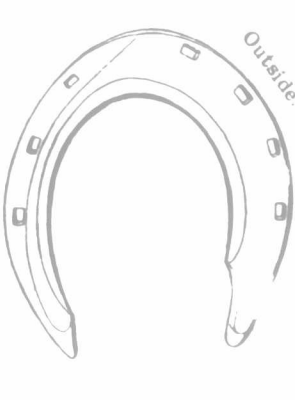


Fig. 4.

the same result, and, therefore, have no faith in weighting. Now, I have seen horses shod according to the horseman's orders, raised on the inside, but the raised heel was so near the center of the foot that both heels were raised, the outer calk not coming within one-half inch of the floor. This, I should say, was raised in the center, the foot being liable to tilt either way, and the shins banged to pieces. Any amount of side weight would not have saved him with such a setting. Spur heels have been considerably used by many smiths for weighting the outside of the foot, but on our roads, where the center becomes scooped out like a hog-trough, the spurs only tend to throw the legs against each other. Generally speaking, both horsemen and smiths labor under the impression that the particular portion of the hoof or shoe that strikes the opposite leg is the heel or back part, and in shoeing often set the inside of the shoe too far under the foot. In my experience the interfering part of the hoof is the toe, and hence shoeing as above only tends to intensify the trouble.

I give here a few illustrations, for instance take Fig. 1, representing an iron ring weighted on one side. Now, if you pick this ring up by the stem and swing it past your own shin a few times, draw it in far enough to tap you on the shin with light side, then turn the heavy side toward your shin and give one tap, swinging at same speed. This would give the shoer an idea about weighting—how, where, and why.

Fig. 2 is a front shoe, with no side weight, set squarely on the foot, with heel calks of even size, at equal distance from the cleft of frog, which is supposed to be the center of gravity;

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