

the class of labor which can be of use on our farms nowadays is very different from what may have sufficed 50 years ago. There is room at times for a certain amount of unskilled labor; but speaking generally the ignoramus, the slacker or the bungler is worse than useless in farming. He is literally worth less than nothing, and farmers are generally quite justified in declining this kind of help. We shall watch with no little interest the result of certain kinds of city labor which may be available for agriculture this year.

With respect to the cost of land much can be done, and should be done, by the authorities to cheapen land. Taxation should be so levied as to utterly kill speculation in land. It is criminal folly to withhold suitable land from cultivation. Nothing that can be done in this matter will be of much assistance this year, however. Labor is so scarce that a great many farms in Old Ontario—the garden of Canada—will be quite abandoned this year, and can probably be had, with their buildings, for the asking. Under such conditions land could not be any cheaper. But when the war is over labor will be more plentiful, and the need for increased production will be as imperative as now. Then it will be of vital importance for legislation to prevent land speculation. Not very long ago I saw in one of your papers a seductive advertisement, by a land company, for the purpose of getting people to invest in land. The argument was put that the demand for land, after the war, would be tremendous; and readers were counseled to invest now, when land was cheap, so that when the returned soldiers got back, and labor turned again to the land, owners could "soak" and bleed these prospective laborers before allowing them permission to produce. This sort of hold-up is not only permitted, by Canadian legislation and public opinion, but is even condoned or excused. And yet, when one comes to think of it, could any policy be more utterly damnable and unpatriotic? Reconstruction after the war will depend largely upon our land policy, and woe be it then if we have not a new breed of politicians from what we have had in late years.

Brant Co., Ont.

W. C. Good.

THE HORSE.

Sweeny.

Sweeny or shoulder slip consists in a sprain, followed by atrophy or a wasting away of the muscles covering the shoulder blade. In severe cases the shoulder joint (the bones of which are held together simply by a capsular ligament, there being no lateral ligaments) appear to slip out and in to a greater or less extent at each step, hence the name "Shoulder Slip." This motion can be understood when we know that the shoulder joint is what is called "a ball and socket joint." The head of the humerus (the bone of the arm) has a very large convex articular surface, which articulates with a concave surface at the lower end of the scapula (the shoulder blade). The surface of this concavity is much less in extent than that of the said convexity, hence when the muscles which tend to keep the bones in place become shrunken and weak a greater degree of motion is allowed, a partial disarticulation takes place at each step; the joint appears to slip. This trouble is noticed principally in young horses that are put to work on soft or uneven ground, and especially in young horses worked in the furrow to the plow. The horse, not being accustomed to such work, will frequently place the near fore foot upon the land, while the off foot is placed in the furrow. This uneven treading tends to sprain the muscles mentioned, and the bones of the joint, being held practically by the muscles, will, when these muscles have wasted away to a considerable extent, show the slipping action noted.

Symptoms.—Lameness in the early stages is not well marked; in fact no lameness may be noticed. The first symptoms noticeable are heat and swelling of the muscles, which is soon followed by a wasting or shrinking of them. In many cases, there being an absence of lameness, the swelling escapes notice. The shoulder blade is a flat, somewhat triangular bone, placed upon the ribs with the base uppermost, and held in place by muscular attachment. On the outer surface of the bone there is a ridge of bone, running from above downwards, almost the whole length of the bone. This ridge is called "The spine of the scapula." It divides the scapula into two unequal parts, about one-third in front of and two-thirds behind it. This spine, while easily felt just underneath the skin in a healthy horse, is not visible, as the muscles on each side are of sufficient size to make the surface practically smooth; but when the muscles become atrophied, it is quite visible as a ridge running from above downwards, with a more or less well-marked hollow on each side. The skin appears to the touch to be quite close to the bone, but there is an absence of heat or tenderness to pressure. Inflammatory action has become allayed, and as a consequence swelling has subsided, and as a result of the inflammation, the muscles have become atrophied, or lessened in bulk. When the muscles which pass over the joint have been involved and have become atrophied, the slipping in and out of the joint during progression is quite noticeable, but in a large percentage of cases these muscles are not involved. Lameness is not pronounced, except, in cases where this slipping is present. Action is defective, but it is not probable that the patient suffers pain. The lessening of muscular fibre renders the patient unable to use the limb properly. The limb is brought forward with a rotary motion of the foot, and more or less difficulty is experienced in lifting the foot over obstacles. The patient stands

sound, and, except in the earlier stages, there is no heat or tenderness to pressure. As the disease progresses, the peculiarity of action and the wasting of the muscles become more marked, and, in advanced cases, considerable trouble in progressing is sometimes noticed. Horses affected with sweeny in an ordinary degree progress with considerable ease on level ground, but in soft or uneven ground the defect in action is usually well marked.

Treatment is slow. It requires several months to effect a cure in a well-marked case. Treatment must be directed to cause a reproduction of muscular tissue. The muscular elements are still there, but have become so reduced in size and strength that the muscles are unable to perform their functions. It is better to give the patient complete rest, but at all events, he must not be used on soft or uneven ground, and should not be asked to do heavy work on ground of any nature. While a little light work on hard, level ground may be given without danger of serious results, recovery will be quicker if he be given rest. In order to cause a reproduction of muscular tissue, it is necessary to set up, and keep up, a local irritation. Different methods are adopted. Some recommend seatons, extending from the top to the bottom of the shrunken muscles, both in front of and behind the capsular spine. Some recommend often repeated friction with the hand or a smooth stick. Some recommend the daily application of a strong, stimulating liniment, while some favor repeated blistering.

Probably better results are obtained from blisters than from other modes of treatment. The ordinary paste blister, made of 2 drams each of cantharides and biniodide of mercury mixed with 2 oz. vaseline or lard gives good results. The hair should be clipped off the shrunken muscles, with a slight addition all around the sound muscles, and the blister well rubbed in. The effect of a blister depends greatly upon the manner of application. In order to get well-marked results



The Straightness of the Row Depends to a Large Extent on the Horse.

it is necessary that it be rubbed well in with smart friction. The animal must now be tied so that he cannot reach the blistered surfaces with his mouth, else he will get his nostrils, lips and mouth blistered and possibly tear the skin off the blistered parts. In 24 hours a little more of the blister should be rubbed well in, and in 24 hours longer the parts should be well rubbed with sweet oil or fresh lard. He may now be turned loose into a box stall, and the parts oiled every day until the scales come off, when he should again be tied up and the blister again applied as at first. After this the parts should be blistered every 4 or 5 weeks, and between the blisterings (after the scale has come off) it is good practice to use friction by hand-rubbing or the occasional application of a liniment, as one made of 4 oz. alcohol, 2 oz. oil of turpentine, ½ oz. gum champhor, and water to make a pint. The length of time necessary to effect a cure varies in different cases. Any length of time from 3 or 4 months to a year, may be necessary, but treatment should be continued until the muscles have regained their normal bulk and tone.

WHIP.

The Horse Outlook in the United States.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The United States, now actually at war, confronts the tremendous task of increasing its production of foodstuffs sufficiently to provide amply for its own people and to supply all the foodstuffs needed by the allied nations.

Maximum crop production requires plenty of horses, men, and efficient farm machinery. Powerful draft horses do more to compensate for labor shortage than any other factor. Gang plows of two 14-inch bottoms, with five powerful draft horses, will turn from five to five and a half acres per day; will, on a 20-wheel disc harrow, cutting 9 feet in width in the field, disc from 14

to 18 acres per day; and on a 20-hole disc seed drill will seed from 18 to 20 acres per day, and cover it in the same operation. Only heavy draft teams can make such efficiency possible. Horses weighing over 1,600 pounds each in working condition are needed, and five of them to each farm teamster employed. Where such heavy draft horses are not available, smaller implements are used, and the daily turnover in work accomplished falls to approximately half that which is being done by men with heavy teams and plenty of them.

The United States does not need an increase in mere numbers of horses and mules. It does need an increase in well proportioned, powerful draft horses. There is no danger of an overproduction of draft horses within the next ten years, nor is there any danger of an overproduction of good thick farm chunks weighing from 1,300 to 1,600 pounds. The latter can be, and are being, produced by breeding common light mares of mixed blood weighing from 900 to 1,400 pounds each, to sound well proportioned Percheron stallions. Every mare of this kind should be bred to the best draft stallion available, and every draft mare should be bred to the best stallion within reach. The demand for heavy draft horses is already far in excess of the supply. Prices have increased from \$50 to \$75 per head, and the difficulty of obtaining the very best draft horses has been so great that city buyers have been obliged to purchase horses that are only three years old this spring in order to fill the demands of their trade. The best informed men in the market respecting city trade are agreed that draft horses will never be entirely displaced in our large cities, and that they have already reached what is practically a solid basis for the future. They are more efficient and do trucking more cheaply on short hauls than auto trucks and for this reason will continue to be used.

The demand for Percherons has shown steady improvement within the last twelve months. Transfer certificates issued by the Percheron Society of America

during the first four months of the present fiscal year exceeded 3,000, an increase of more than 16 per cent. over the same period during the preceding year.

The breeders of small numbers of Percheron horses, who make up 90 per cent. of American breeders, are unanimously of the opinion that they have never had so prompt sales for good stallions rising two or rising three, nor received so satisfactory prices as during the past eight months. Importations are practically nil, and the steady increase in demand for good draft horses gives promise of a most excellent future for the shrewd farmer who realizes the advantage of using Percheron mares in his farm work.

Exports of horses to Europe for war purposes from September 1, 1914, to March 1, 1917, totaled 853,116 head, valued at \$182,994,406, and 289,002 mules, valued at \$58,051,914. British Army officers have given unstinting commendation to the grade Percherons,

which have been sent from this country to Europe for artillery purposes. The effectiveness of the Percheron has been so great that studs of pure-bred Percherons have been established in Great Britain in consequence.

The vast majority of the mares in the United States will be bred or left unbred within the next ninety days. All good mares should be bred to the best available draft stallions. I hope, for this reason, that you will give publicity to this article in the news columns and emphasize the importance of intelligent horse production in your editorial columns as well.

WAYNE DINSMORE,
Secretary Percheron Horse Society of America.

LIVE STOCK.

If you want high-class stock, (and who does not?) you can never get it by breeding to the scrub sire.

Begin now to prepare and train animals intended to be shown at the coming fall and winter fairs.

Don't forget the salt when the live stock go out to pasture. They require it then as much or even more than ever.

Keep the fleeces clean when shearing; fold them with the bright side out and store where there is no possibility of getting damp.

After all that has been said against tying fleeces with binder twine one would have to be rather stubborn to use such a string.

There is still time to increase the acreage of spring crops considerably by planting corn, and there are few crops that will yield as much feed per acre.

Only an actual and serious shortage of meat animals