

thing that is worth doing is worth doing well, hence if it is worth while to breed them, it is worth while to take care of them, that is, give them comfortable quarters, keep them clean, feed the sow well with suitable food and continue the same course with the pigs when weaned; then at from six to eight months old you will have a crop that will bring you a lot of money.

One word more—don't run away with the idea that by lean pigs we mean thin, with sides like inch boards. No, we mean well-fed, thick, fleshy animals.

With your permission we will in your next issue say something more on proper feeding, treatment and marketing.

WILLIAM DAVIES & CO.

Toronto, March 18th, 1889.

### A Feeder's Experience.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—I take great pleasure in reading the JOURNAL; it is just the paper a farmer and stock-breeder needs. With your permission I will give your readers my experience in cattle-feeding. Two years ago this spring we sold a pair of grade fat steers that I consider paid for feeding. These steers were weighed about a month before they were delivered, and one, aged 3 years and 3 months, weighed 2,120 lbs.; the other, 3 years and 2 months old, weighed 1,850 lbs. When delivered, after being driven twelve miles, these steers averaged a ton each. The heaviest made an average gain of 2½ lbs. per day during the winter feeding, and the other a little less. These steers were not fed over a dozen times by any one other than myself, for I am of the opinion that good results are not easiest attained by having too many hands tending to the same stock. I fed a bushel of turnips each a day, half a bushel night and morning, and 11 to 12 lbs. of meal each day, consisting of 8 lbs. of crushed oats and 4 lbs. of crushed small wheat, fed in two meals night and morning, on cut feed or chaff. Stock feeders have to use their own judgment a good deal as to the amount of meal to feed an animal. Some will stand more than others, but be careful not to over-feed, as this will cause them to bloat and scour, which will throw them back considerable. Keep them gaining right along every day, and also keep them well curried every day, and give them plenty of room to lie down comfortably. The main idea is to get the right quality of cattle, and also the right kind of a man to look after them. Some farmers seem to think that any kind of a cheap hand will do to look after stock. These are the men that are crying out that cattle feeding does not pay. If I wanted to hire a man to look after my stock I would rather give a good herdsman good wages than give a careless hand his board. There are some raw-boned cattle that will not take on beef fast, no matter how you feed them. The sooner you get rid of them the better. If one feeds cattle all winter for the British market they want to have good heavy cattle, for I do not think it pays to feed small ones that length of time. Hoping that others may give us the benefit of their experience, I remain,

YOUNG FARMER.

### Shorthorns as Milkers—A Breeder's Testimony.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR—I cannot let pass without a few comments that excellent paper on "The Future of Shorthorns," read by Richard Gibson, Esq., before the D. S. H. B. Association, which is full of well-grounded hope for the breeders of that useful breed of cattle. Permit me to say in conjunction with that paper, that my experience fully bears out the truth of every statement regarding their excellent qualities. I do not think, however, it would be in the interest of the breed for them ever to realize the fabulous prices they did 12 or 14 years ago. We have in our herd five two-year-old heifers (all sired by that well-known bull, Prince Albert) that calved last October and November, which are now, and have been since those dates, giving an average of 28 lbs. of milk daily. Also the eight-year-old cow, Leane 2d, has been giving 9 lbs. of butter per week since last November, and in seven days, when fed extra, two months after calving, gave 9 lbs. and 5 oz. The same cow last fall took first prize at all the local shows where she was exhibited. She has had a calf every year since she was two years old. In the summer her feed was grass alone; milking

nine or ten months every year, and every year, one month before calving, would be a prime butcher's beast, barring being in calf. She is also the dam of three Provincial prize-winners. The heifers above referred to would, if dried up, be in one month ready for the block. I cite these cases to prove the fallacy of the arguments of the breeders of rival breeds, that it is impossible for a breed to be good at the pail and good beefers as well. I do not say it boastfully, for I have no doubt others could give equally good results—perhaps better.

The fact is that on the fertile lands of Western Ontario, there is no use for any other breed than the Shorthorn. I admit that on the more sterile districts in Eastern Ontario, the Ayrshires might be kept with profit, but I doubt very much that even there the Shorthorn would be found more profitable. Therefore we would say to the breeders of this breed that is in possession of so many sterling qualities, don't drop the pedigree of a single female. In a few years they will all be required, especially if the breeding of the purely milking breeds is persisted in; for then not only will the natives require to be graded up, but the grades of the milking breeds as well.

Now I have not written this in antagonism to any other breed. They may, and, no doubt, have their uses, but certainly not in this country, and I believe a great mistake has been made in introducing them here.

Sylvan.

STEPHEN NICHOLSON.

### Veterinary.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

#### Interfering. Brushing. Striking.

BY F. C. GRENSIDE, V. S., GUELPH, ONT.

A good deal of misconception is abroad with regard to the remedying of the interference of one leg with another in a horse's traveling. Many people look upon it as a habit that can be altogether overcome by certain ways of shoeing. That improper shoeing exerts a considerable influence in encouraging striking there is no doubt, but it is not nearly so constant a cause as many think. Certainly it is one of the most annoying of faults in a horse, and it is well worthy of discussion, so that its various causes and means of controlling them may be more generally understood.

Heavy horses seldom give much annoyance from this trouble, on account of being used at a slow pace; but how infrequently colts used at a trotting pace are ever broken in without their inflicting some injury to the skin of their fetlocks; sometimes to such an extent that the skin is permanently hardened, thickened and roughened.

One reason that colts are so much inclined to strike is from the fact that they have not the power of co-ordinating or of regulating the control of their limbs with the same harmony or precision that they get at a more mature age. In other words, they are more awkward, as their muscles do not contract with that facility and accuracy which they acquire by repeated and continued use.

The carelessness with which they use their legs is frequently due to their whole attention being centered upon their mouths, the result of the irritation caused by over-sharpness of the bit, or undue pressure from a bearing-rein. However, some colts of an excitable temperament, are very hard to manage, so that irritation of the mouth is not caused; for their ambition in forging ahead necessitates the exercise of restraint.

The experience of the writer is that the first stage of breaking is more satisfactorily done on the farm than on the road. Steady work at a slow pace usually allays exuberance of spirit, and allows the colts to not only get used to the presence and pressure of bit, but cultivates a moderate sensitiveness which is indispensable to a good mouth. A fair-sized, straight bit, covered with indiarubber, answers very well for a

colt, and is not likely to make the mouth sore, and thus irritate and excite the animal.

In addition to awkwardness being a cause of striking, fatigue is a very important factor; and of course colts are very easily made tired, when compared with matured horses. But even horses, strong and well-developed, will, from excessive work, inflict severe blows upon their fetlock. Horses that would never strike when in good condition, and at ordinary work, become chronic interferers from either low condition or over-driving.

Instead of looking for a specific for "brushing" in some particular way of shoeing, the most important point is to look to the cause and remove it. No possible way of shoeing will stop the striking in a horse out of condition and over-worked. His condition must be improved by rational treatment, and in the majority of cases he will cease to brush.

There is one peculiarity about interfering that cannot in all cases be easily explained—that is, when a horse has struck his leg he will continue to strike it as long as there is any tenderness in it, if he is worked, even though there is no appreciable swelling in the injured part, possibly not more than a slight abrasion. It can sometimes be accounted for by the conformation of the animal, which causes him to travel very close; still he will not absolutely strike with any force, but simply brush, and if there is any scabby condition or roughness, he scrapes it off and leaves the part raw and easily irritated by further brushing. From this manner of going the brushed portion of the fetlock sometimes becomes quite bald, and the opposing hoof shiny, but if attention is given to shoeing and general management, no abrasion or injury is inflicted. Horses sometimes strike without any shoes on, particularly colts, after a soreness has been produced, and will continue to strike unless the part is effectually protected until the soreness disappears.

Nevertheless the mistake is frequently made of shoeing colts unnecessarily soon. They should not be shod until there is a danger of injury to the feet from wear and tear of the hoof, for the application of an appendage weighing often a good many ounces is apt to interfere with the regulation of the movements of the feet. If the hoofs are shortened to their normal length, and kept rounded by the rasp, at the margin, no breaking of any moment will occur, unless the colt is much used on hard roads.

There are frequently noticeable most evident causes for striking, in unduly heavy shoes, shoes too broad in the web, and too long at the heel, causing them to project further out than the hoof, too infrequent shoeing allowing the hoof to become too long and broad, and the gross carelessness of permitting loose and prominent clenches to remain in their dangerous position. The necessity for the removal of such palpable causes of harm is evident, and also the exercise of proper caution in seeing that they should not exist.

Many shoeing-smiths profess to have some secret method of preventing striking, by their particular plan of shoeing; but I for one am no believer in their mysterious plans. In my experience, if a horse is in proper condition nothing can be done beyond keeping him as near to nature as possible, by having the hoofs sufficiently short and narrow, setting level on the ground, no unnecessary weight, and projecting of iron, with perfect smoothness of the inside of the hoofs.

Some recommend the raising of the inside of the shoe in order to throw the fetlock out and keep it out of the way of injury. This plan is objectionable on account of tending to alter the relative positions of