

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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HORSES.

Why Stallions Should Be Worked.

If racing is necessary to develop the Thoroughbred—and whether we admit this, or not, there is no doubt that fast work by the ancestors is essential to develop a high degree of speed in the progeny—then, why is heavy work not equally necessary to develop draft power in draft horses? Beyond doubt, it is necessary, not only to develop pulling capacity in the subsequent generations, but to insure health and strong procreative power in the stallion himself. The article, by Neil Blair, published in our Horse Department March 24th, contained some sound sense. It was a brief testimony from experience. Fuller explanation of the reasons for working stallions is contained in the subjoined article by Dr. A. S. Alexander, taken from Bulletin 186 of the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Alexander is one of the most eminent veterinarians and horsemen in America, and his words are worth pondering:

"Every stallion that is to beget work horses should be capable of doing the work that will be required of his offspring. He should be worked or abundantly exercised, and be fed like a work horse. Fat and flabby condition ruins the breeding powers of many 'ton' draft stallions. Blubber is the bane of the business. Substitute for it the hard muscles, health and vigor produced by labor and exercise in the open air. Lack of exercise, pampering, overfeeding, and the use of boiled feeds, slops and molasses may put on 'weight,' but they ruin the constitution of the horse, and with absolute certainty lessen his virility, lead to sterility, and induce weakness in the progeny.

"The foals by large, gross, abused stallions often come dead, or are fat, flabby, unable to stand up and suck, or are puny and weak. The foals of the worked, or thoroughly exercised, muscular, healthy stallions, on the contrary, usually are many and lively, and robust at birth.

"Every stallion should be kept in hard, muscular, healthy, robust condition at all times, and during the breeding season should gain every day, instead of losing weight. It is neither safe nor sensible policy to patronize a soft, blubbery, under-exercised, overfed, overfed or drugged stallion. Such horses are a detriment to the horse-breeding industry of the State, and should be let alone.

"No stallion need be in the undesirable, detrimental condition described. Render out the fat by work. Substitute hard muscle by labor and outdoor exercise. Feed sound old oats, bran, hay and any other ordinary work-horse rations. Avoid fattening and heating foods. Give no condition powders, stock foods or drugs. The sensibly-handled, pure-bred stallion then will be as sure as his mongrel rival, and his colts numerous, and likely to live and thrive.

"As quickly as possible we should produce the pure-bred stallions so much needed to take the place of the host of grades and mongrels now used. They should be bred from our own pure-bred mares, and, if managed, fed and worked aright, will be healthy, sound and prepotent. They also will cost far less than the imported horses which have to be acclimated and hardened before they can be relied upon as breeders.

"At present the State needs (and the same is true of other States, as well) some imported stallions to beget its breeding horses, but they should be sensibly used, and as soon as possible done without. Home-bred stallions of good quality are to be preferred. They might, by this time, have become sufficiently numerous to do all the breeding, had an adequate supply of pure-bred mares been imported with the stallions, and had the latter been more intelligently employed. Meanwhile, we cannot wholly blame the importers for offering fattened stallions. The purchaser passes by the home-bred horse and any stallion that is in condition for hard work. He selects the imported, fattened show horse that weighs a ton or more. It is weight he is after, and the plump show condition and shape he knows will please the eyes of the owners of mares, and so attract patronage.

"The use of such horses often results in disappointment. Mares fail to conceive, or the foals, in many instances, are of no account at birth. Surely it is time to abandon such foolish, ruinous policy in horse-breeding! The use of pure blood is imperative. By no other means can our horses be graded up. But with the needed purity of blood, it also is absolutely necessary that we shall have good individuality, breed type, fine character and quality, soundness, health, and a high degree of virility and potency. Fat, weight, polish and padding cannot be accepted as true value for these standard necessities. Their acceptance in the past has proved ruinous. From now on, let common sense, rather than faddism, rule, and virility and utility, as well as size and weight, be given due consideration in the purchase of stallions."

Plan for Small Stable.

There is a growing demand in towns and cities for small stables. The retired farmer wants to keep a horse. The doctor, agent, minister, as well as the host of business men who use delivery horses, require small stables. So does the man or woman who keeps a horse for the pleasure that driving brings. Here is the plan of a stable which answers very well.

It is 20 feet square, and is divided into two parts. One part is used for buggy, cutter, etc. The other part is divided into a box stall 10 x 12 feet, and a feed room 8 x 10 feet, marked F. Under the stair is a bin for oats, marked B. No manger should be in the box stall, but only two oat boxes, and the hay fed on the floor. It will not be wasted, unless you are feeding too much.



Plan for Small Stable.

The dotted line in the stall is a portable partition, to be used when two horses are in the stall, and tied up. H is a small harness cupboard, and W indicates windows. The large door of the buggy-room is best on rollers, which carry it inside the wall. The small door on the outside of the stall is used for cleaning the stall and letting the horse out into a paddock, if there is one. Both doors of the stall should be divided one-third from the top, and the top section can be left open in

warm weather. An earth floor is best both for horse's feet and buggy wheels, provided it is high enough that outside water does not flow in.

Perth Co., Ont. A. DOUGLAS CAMERON.

The Tipster's Frauds.

Discussing the Miller Bill, a correspondent of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," self-styled "Equitant," sheds these few rays of illumination on the resources (?) and character of the sure-thing tipster:

"One of the worst evils that has grown up in connection with horse-racing is the tipster, who sells tips on races he knows nothing about, and the pool-rooms and gambling joints, common in certain cities on the other side of the line, but not operated to any extent in this country. Selling tips, however, is a well worked line in the Dominion. Here is a specimen tipster's advertisement from the sporting pages of an Eastern Canadian daily:

"DAVEY JONES,

"Room 73, Accord Building,
"127 Leicester Street.

"To-day a 10-to-1 shot, one you can't lose on. Last week, four out of six of my best bets won. I have the goods again to-day, boys. Something that you can bet the rent money on, and cash your bet. This is oil in the can. Come in and get it. Price three dollars.

"It is this kind of thing in connection with horse-racing and race-track gambling that some Act of Parliament requires most to put down, this and the other games worked by tips, tipsters, track-hangers-on, etc., that detract from the real interest of horse-racing, as well as bringing the sport into disrepute.

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"George Randolph Chester, in one of his Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford stories, tells how Blackie Daw opened a tipster's office in Boston, and with a stock-in-trade of a list of all the horses entered in the various events on the different circuits, and two or three girls to open letters, take out money and send the tips back, proceeded to constitute himself into an authority of the first magnitude on racing matters. Blackie's methods were characteristic of tipsters generally. Ten horses, say, were entered for a certain race in a certain city. Blackie's ample-sized advertisements on the sporting pages of half a dozen dailies covering the territory he was drawing his suckers from, were sufficient to apprise would-be sports of the fact that for \$5.00 they could get a straight tip that would win them a pot of money. When they came over with the five-spot, Blackie furnished the "tip." Suppose ten horses were running, Blackie selected the ten towns or cities from which most of the inquiries and five-spots came. To 'clients' in one place he sent the name of one horse, and to 'clients' in each of the others the name of some other horse, of the ten entered for that race. Consequently, it was bound to happen that for clients in one town, at least, Blackie was absolutely certain to pick the winner in each race each day. He couldn't, if he tried, prevent himself from becoming a tipster of authority, and so the money flowed in and the 'tips' were handed out, and Blackie flourished as he never had in any easy-money game before.

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"The average tipster has just about as much inside information as to the way certain horses in a certain race are going to perform as Blackie Daw had on the races he sold 'tips' on. He knows the names of the nags that are to be jogged over a certain track on a certain day, and probably has some record of their previous performances. With this fund of information, and an unwarrantable stock of gall, he spreads some strong talk in the form of an advertisement on the sporting pages of such papers as will sell him space, and when the boys send in the cash sum specified, he comes over with the name of a pony that is to be the sure-enough winner in the race his client is seeking inside information on. Of course, nobody but a fool would ever buy a 'tip' on a horse-race, for it stands to reason that a man as adept at picking winners as the average tipster professes to be, would make several thousand times as much money by going out to the track and betting on his own 'tips' as he would in selling those 'tips' to several hundred hungry sports for a few paltry dollars each. But the world is full of men who are willing to separate themselves from five-dollar bills, if another more nervy individual will only advertise himself as having that much-desired information—the name of the horse that is to win the race, known for a certainty, before the race is run.

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"It is this kind of business that needs to be vigorously suppressed, this and pool-room gambling, and gambling in similar joints, where the layout takes the victim's money every time they want to take it, and where the player has not