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Feeding of Horses.

The Horse while it is the most useful, is also the most expensive animal of the farm. In this country the same animal is generally used for various purposes,—in drawing the pleasure carriage as well as the plough or wagon, and also for the war. Ours are in fact horses of all work;—generally of large size and powerful muscle, light and active, and wiry, and not unfrequently possess great power of endurance. Per-son on the whole, they are pretty well suited to the wants and peculiarities of the country. We believe, however, that our horses of late years have not kept pace in improvement with horned cattle, and others of the domesticated animals. The infusion of fresh blood is, in many districts, much needed; and the importation of a few first class bloods of the hunting and racing types, will soon bring about changes and improve-ment of the most desirable and important kind. A horse should be both fed and worked as hard as possible; avoiding alike great exertion and pampering. He is by organization a sensitive animal, and greatly affected for good or ill by the nature of the treatment he receives, and the conditions in which he is placed. As a rule, the food of our horses is not sufficiently varied. Hay, straw, and oats, in a dry cut state, constitute their only food for a large portion of the year. These valuable manures should be rendered much more suitable by steaming the two former, and bruising

the latter. Steaming in some instances may be thought inconvenient, and too troublesome; but cutting or bruising all kinds of dry food can be readily practised, and will be found economical. When whole oats are fed to horses a considerable portion, by escaping mastication, passes through the intestines, without yielding up to the wants of the animal but a small portion of nutritive matter.

We have said that Horses should be fed with systematic regularity, and both the quantity and quality of their food should be modified according to the kind and amount of work they perform. The amount of hay and grain fed to horses may be considerably diminished by giving them a small quantity of bran and roots daily. Swedish turnips and carrots, either boiled, steamed, or given raw, are an excellent food, and potatoes and mangels, in moderate quantity, may be given with advantage. During our long Winters and protracted Springs, succulent food of this nature will greatly tend to keep horses in a thriving healthy condition; and every farmer should grow roots for his horses, as well as for his cattle. The white, or Belgian Carrot, yields a heavy crop in Canada, if properly cultivated; and when fed to horses tends to promote a soft sleek coat, and to strengthen the functions of the respiratory organs. Systematic feeding, cleanliness, a liberal supply of pure water, and sufficient warmth and protection, combined with adequate ventilation, will not only promote the