

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

With live stock, as with men, a pretty safe general rule is to give each time a little less than would be eaten up clean. Uncleaned mangers are the sign of a poor feeder; that is, a feeder who cannot expect to get economical results from the materials he employs. Some horses may require considerably less hay than they would eat. In such cases limit the amount of hay, and use oat straw for the balance of the feed. A horse getting some oats and hay is not very likely to gorge himself on straw.

Lincoln Co., Ont. P. F.

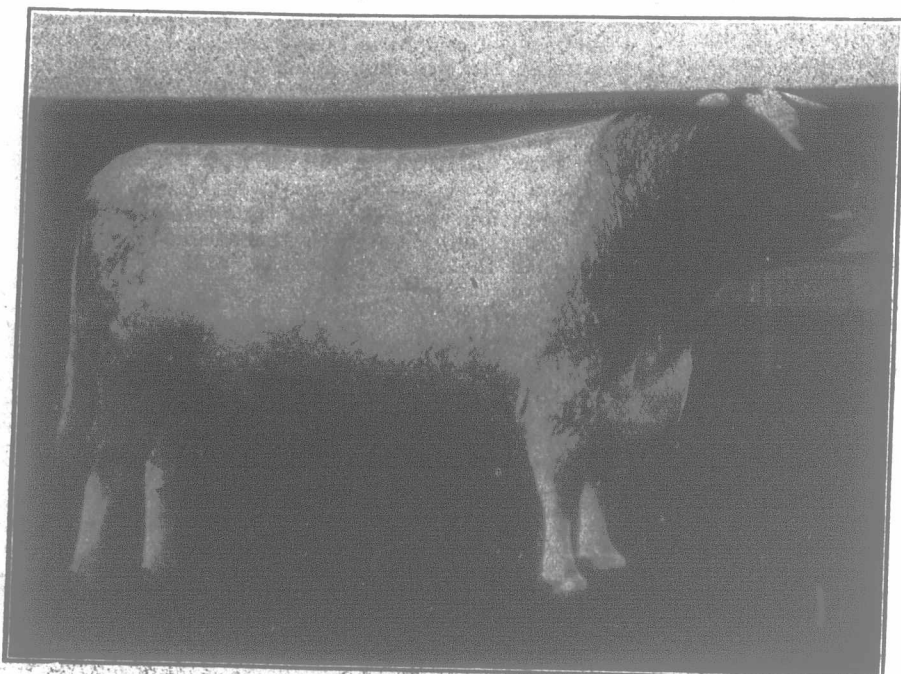
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed in last week's issue that you invite correspondence from any stallion men who are in favor of Government license and inspection, as well as those who endorse such measures. Around Mitchell, neither the stallion men nor farmers appear to approve of any such move. The farmers think they are as capable of selecting their horse as any Government appointee would be. As for not allowing any horse to stand for service that is not registered in an approved book, I would say that some of the best carriage horses are bred from unregistered sires; in fact, I know of a pair that sold a short time ago for \$1,000, and notice they are very often the prize-winners in the show-ring. If such a law had been in force, we should have missed the grand family of old "Clear Grit." He was, I believe, only eligible for registration through the performance of his get, being himself largely imbued with Thoroughbred blood. How, in the name of common sense, would it help the stallion men, to be compelled to pay \$25 or \$50 of a license fee? Some may say, oh! by shutting off the scrubs. I venture to say that there are not three unregistered draft stallions or five scrubs for service in the whole of the County of Perth. It seems as though the commissioners were trying to mould the opinion of horsemen, and for the moment they think legislation might help the business, but upon mature consideration don't see how it can.

ever scratching away at them with the combs. In grooming horses, main reliance should be placed upon the brush. The comb should be used to clean the brush, and is sometimes serviceable for direct application, though it ought to be rubbed in the direction the hair lies. Some men will ruffle the whole coat with the comb in order to loosen up the dirt and remove traces of scurf among the hair. The hard teeth of the comb injure the skin, and thus produce more scurf than they remove. The secret of keeping a horse's coat in good condition is to use the comb but seldom and the brush moderately, taking pains not to rub the hair the wrong way. A little regular brushing is better for the coat than a great deal of reckless currying, and very much better for the horse's disposition.

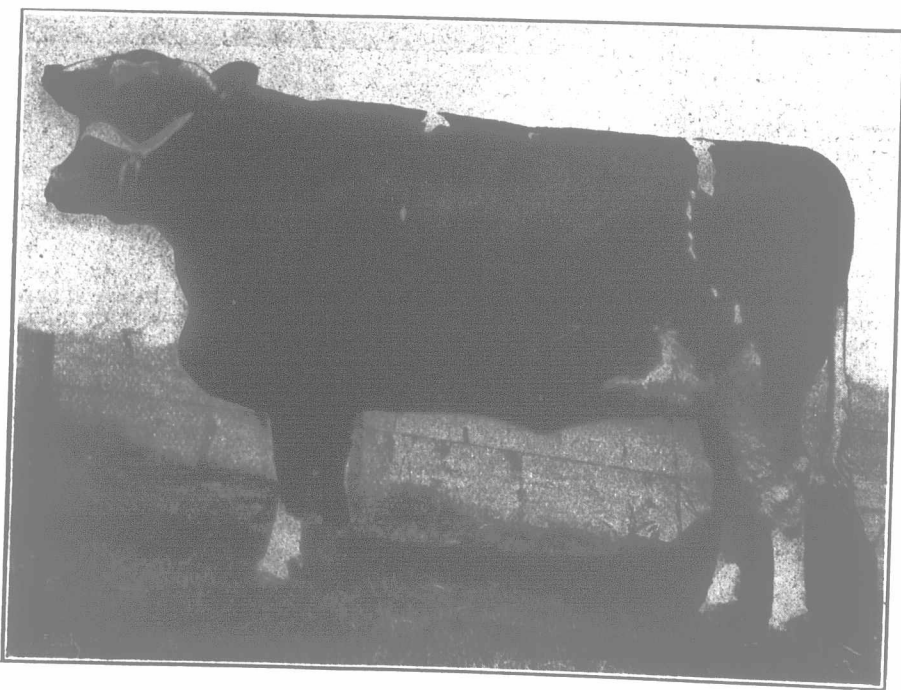
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

To a great many farmers there will be three divisions of their horses in the winter time, each

**Linksfield Champion (86401)**

Three-year-old Shorthorn bull. First in class and reserve champion, Royal Show 1906

of which require different feed and management. First of all there will be the horses that will be worked throughout the winter. These the average man can care for quite successfully. However, they will put up a much better appearance when taken out if they are kept well groomed; besides, feed will be saved, and the horses will be in much better condition. To this end, blanketing them in the stable gives good results, as a blanketed horse will have a much sleeker coat, at the cost of a great deal less labor, than one that has not been blanketed in the stable. When the horses are blanketed a little more ventilation can



Rolleston Regina.

Shorthorn two-year-old heifer. First at Royal Show, 1906.

be allowed, thus insuring the better health of the animals.

But how to treat the idle horse, and do it economically, and at the same time insure his future usefulness, is a question open for more discussion. First of all, if shod, his shoes should be removed. If the horse is in fair condition, his feed should consist of a maintenance diet ; that is, one that will keep him in the same flesh, without either loss or gain of weight. This can

be done by feeding straw (preferably oat straw), with some silage, roots or bran, to keep the bowels in good condition. This, together with say two quarts of oats per day, will keep him thriving nicely throughout the winter. Hay is not at all essential, although, in changing from hay to straw, or vice versa, care should be taken to do it gradually, or you will occasion a harvest for your veterinarian. In watering, it is much to be preferred to have water where the horse can get it at will; but if the horse is watered three times a day (preferably before feeding), no ill results should follow. Next comes the question of exercise, and the system of a horse simply demands this. The best means of solving this, and

means of solving this, and the one most commonly practiced, is to turn the horses out to the straw stack in the barnyard for a short period each day, and in favorable weather for a longer time. Where this is practiced, grooming is uncalled for, although a little time spent in grooming, even on these horses, will be repaid in the better health and condition of the animal. Where exercise cannot be given, the horse should by all means be provided with a loose box stall, and in this he will voluntarily obtain enough exercise for the safeguarding of his health.

Lastly, we have the foals to winter, and I might say that there is very little danger, with the average man, of their being too well cared for. Upon no class of stock can our care be so well spent, at present, as upon these youngsters of the equine race. The future of the mature

horse depends, to a very great extent, upon the care given the foal during the first winter. He should be kept in a loose box, alone, if possible, for where two are kept together, the one is usually master of the other, and fares accordingly at the manger. Of course, water and exercise are essential, the barnyard again answering for the exercising paddock. He should be fed liberally upon good clean, well-cured mixed or clover hay. Especial care should be taken not to have feed left in the manger between meals, as this soon tends to put the animal off his feed. For grain, a liberal ration of chopped oats and bran is unexcelled feed—at least a quart three times per day. The foals should not be stinted in their

not be stinted in this respect, even if the grain has to be held back from the other stock in order that the foals may have it; for, with the present price of horseflesh, it will pay better dividends here than elsewhere. This ration followed out, with an occasional root or two or a handful of silage, to keep the bowels in good working order, will be found to prove very satisfactory.

If any reasonable care and forethought is extended to our horses, there should be no excuse for their getting out of sorts, no need for condiments in their ration, and very little call for the skilled practitioner to attend them.

I. C.
Brant Co. Ont.

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