

opinions upon diaphones in the St. Lawrence, the accessibility of Fort Churchill harbor, the value of certain timber lands in Northern Saskatchewan, and other questions of remote interest, but never have we known a member of parliament, or a candidate for the honors, to be asked for his attitude upon this question of the responsibility of the railways with regard to damages to stock.

Here is an instance, where politics may be brought to a practical basis, for this is a matter that will have to be remedied by act of parliament.

## HORSE

### Premium Pictures of Great Horses

We have just completed arrangements for new premiums for horsemen. Splendid photo engravings of the celebrated Clydesdale Stallions, Baron's Pride, Hiawatha and Oyama, have been purchased, and will be given to anyone who helps us with our subscription work. For two new names at \$1.50 we will send the three pictures, or for one new name at \$1.50 which ever two pictures are asked for.

Many of our readers already have a Baron's Pride picture, and this gives them a chance to make an interesting collection, as we will from time to time get pictures of other great horses.

The engravings are 8 x 11 inches in size, and are printed in soft tones, on heavy coated paper.

### Feeding and Management of Farm Horses

W. C. Niblock, in an address at the Saskatchewan Provincial Fair, describes the following system of feeding and managing farm horses. This is the system Mr. Niblock follows on his own farm:

After summer's work is over and fall plowing ended, say about the first of November, we reduce the quantity of grain our horses receive, giving them about a gallon of mixed oats and bran per day. During the winter season, the horses are turned out in the yard every day, from about nine o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon. In addition to the yard they have a four-acre pasture to run in. During the time they are out, we clean the stables, and put in feed for the night. This system of winter feeding is carried along until within about a week of the time seeding opens. Then we increase the grain ration from one to three gallons per day. The grain consists of oats, ground fine, and mixed with about one-third bran. Before seeding begins, we always get a hundred bushels or so of oats ground, and feed the horses six quarts of the mixture of oats and bran, and four green oat sheaves. After seeding, when the work gets slack again, we reduce the grain to a gallon and give oat sheaves as before. When the grain is threshed in the fall, the horses are given straw instead of oat sheaves as roughage.

In spring and summer, the horses are fed at four o'clock in the morning, and are ready to start work in the field at a quarter of seven. We plow right across the section so the furrows are a mile long. The men are allowed twenty-five minutes to cross the field, and if they make the other side on time, they take five minutes to rest, but if, for any reason they have lost time, the resting is reduced, or not taken at all. Our outfits make sixteen miles each per day. We unhitch in the field every day at eleven o'clock. The horses are unhitched there in turn, the same horse first every day. The first man in unhitches and runs his team into the stable, and then pumps water for the rest. The other men leave their horses when unhitched in the yard, and get feed into the mangers. All are ready for dinner at exactly twelve o'clock. At a quarter of one, the horses are all out of the stable, and are ready to start work in the field at one o'clock.

In the afternoon the same course is followed as in the morning. The teams are given an hour to make the two-mile round. Work in the field stops at 5.20 o'clock. The horses are taken into the stable, the harness stripped off them, and all turned into the pasture near the stable while the men are at supper. After supper they are taken in, cleaned and fed for the night.

Grand Coulee, Man.

W. E. NIBLOCK.

### Draft Horse Breeding

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. THOS. MCMILLAN, SEAFORTH, ONT., AT THE SASKATCHEWAN WINTER FAIR.

I do not feel in every way qualified to discuss, from the viewpoint of the Western farmer and horse breeder, this question that has been assigned me. You have problems to solve, and conditions to face, that I know not of, but I want to say, at the very outset, that, insofar as it has been permitted me to judge, the farmers of Saskatchewan are approaching the true solution of the largest problem confronting horse breeders everywhere, viz., this question of providing yourselves with high-class breeding stock—females particularly. In the past twenty-five years I have seen most of the Clydesdale rings at the leading fairs in Eastern Canada, but never before have I seen so large a number of excellent mares in the various classes as have been before me today. You are starting right in this matter, and be careful you keep right. The first requisite to successful draft-horse breeding is a good stock of females. If the showing made at this fair is any criterion, you have such a class of mares upon your farms here in Saskatchewan. See that you breed them to such sires that there will be no possibility of the offspring deteriorating from the excellence of the dam. There is nothing truer in all this world than that like begets like. It pays to remember it in engaging the services of a male, to remember that the few dollars saved in service fee is lost, generally, twenty times over when one comes to sell the colt, that the best is none to good to breed from.

We want always to be certain of the results of our breeding. Certainty of result rests on the purity of the strain in which we breed. The longer we breed in one strain with fresh infusions of the same blood, the more certainly can we predict results from breeding in that strain. We concentrate the blood. We intensify the characters of the strain so that individuals born of stock from it can have no characteristics other than those possessed by their sire or dam, or of other ancestors more or less remote. Good results are never attained from cross-breeding. If you prefer the Clydesdale breed, get females of that breed, and breed them to sires of the same blood. If your fancy runs to the Percheron—and, it seems to me as if the draft horses of France are coming into this country, into the West particularly, in greater numbers than ever before,—get mares of the Percheron breed, and breed them to Percheron sires. And the same is true of Shires and Belgians and Suffolk Punches, or any other breed of draft horses. One of the secrets of successful breeding is to avoid violent crossings. Never, in any circumstances, cross-breed. You are too apt to get a non-descript.

#### AGE OF BREEDING

The question frequently comes up where draft-horse breeding is discussed. "At what age should we breed our mares?" I cannot advise definitely on this point for the reason that a good deal depends upon the degree of development in the mare. Some mares can be bred at two years of age better than poorly nurtured females could at four or five. In Scotland, the home of the Clydesdale breed, where the mares are usually well developed early in life, they are often bred at two years of age. In my own practice I have bred mares at two years of age, and had good results. A good deal depends on the season at which they are bred, and the time of year at which the foal comes. I like to breed my mares after they are turned to grass in the spring. At that season, they are in as good condition as they will be any time during the year, in much better condition than they were in before being turned out. The green grass induces the very best conditions for conception, and I believe the condition the female is in at the time of service has a good deal to do with the vigor and health of the foal resulting. I would say, too, breed at such a date that the foal will be dropped about the time the mare is turned out to grass the following spring. That, in my experience, is the ideal time to have the colts come.

#### EXERCISE AND VITALITY OF SIRE

Right here, a word might be said about the sire. A good deal depends on the condition of the mare at breeding time, but quite as much on the condition of the sire. My experience in the horse business leads me to believe that the average stallion does not get enough exercise, before the season opens, to put him into that hard, vigorous condition necessary to enable him to work success-

fully through the season. Too many stallions start on the road fat and flabby. A month, or six weeks, before the breeding season opens, a stallion should be given vigorous exercise every day. If he will not move about in a yard by himself, it pays to put a halter on him and have a man exercise him continually until the season opens. Stallion owners make the mistake, too, of trying to use their horse on too many females. I have known stallions in our country to be used on as many as 180 mares during the season, but the percentage foaled was not very high. In Scotland, a stallion is seldom bred to more than 70 or 80 mares. Stallions are hired for service in a district, a percentage of the fee is paid by the owner of the mare at the time of service, the owners of the horse limit their stallion to a certain number of mares. The system is a good one, and one modelled after it, or based upon it, could be introduced with advantage in most sections of Canada.

#### WORK IN-FOAL MARES

The course of treatment, or management rather, of the female, starts at the time of conception. I am a firm believer in the practice of working in-foal mares. I have found always that the foals came stronger, were more thrifty, and seemed to do better, where the dams had been worked all the time they were carrying the foals. By working, I do not mean heavy hauling, straining or overworking, but such work as requires doing on every farm. In winter, hauling manure or wood, going to town and such like; and, in spring, the ordinary sort of seeding. For six weeks before foaling time I like to work my in-foal mares every day possible. A week or two before the foal is due to arrive, I reduce the amount of grain feed they are receiving. I might say, here, that I never feed oats alone to pregnant mares, always feeding bran along with it. There is no safer grain feed for mares than a ration of about two-thirds oats to one-third bran. Feeding grain heavily at foaling time induces a larger flow of milk than the colt is able to consume. Bran, in any quantity at this time, induces too large a flow. I have found that best results are attained, that there is less loss and less trouble with the foals, where the dams are light, than where they are heavy milkers. For a week or ten days after foaling, with a flush mare, I milk the udder out some by hand. The foal should never get too much food during the first week or so; if it does, serious digestive disorders may follow, and the colt never does as well afterwards.

#### TROUBLES OF THE FOAL

Among the diseases of foals, which we in Ontario have most trouble with, is inflammatory rheumatism, and, I presume, you have trouble with it here as well. The disease is caused by a germ that gains entrance through the navel. To prevent the disease, which is, by all means, a better practice than trying to cure it, I have found that washing the navel cord in a weak solution of carbolic acid, when the string is cut and tied, dressing it three or four times before the cord sloughs off, and, again, once or twice afterwards, will prevent practically all this trouble.

After the young is born and this matter attended to, after the foal is straightened up and able to walk, I like to turn the mare and colt out to grass. If the weather is favorable, they need no more attention, but if it is cold and wet, they are brought into the barn at night. The foal gets nothing but its mother's milk until it reaches the age of from six weeks to two months. About that age, I like to start bringing the colt into the stable and tying it up in a double stall beside the mare. A colt tied at this age, before it is strong enough to pull very seriously on the halter, may be taught to stand in the stall without any trouble, and a colt tied at that age will never develop into a halter-puller. At the same time it is learning to eat grain, which is important for it to learn, as it is well for the foal to be eating readily before weaning.

I believe strongly in working the mare right up to the day she foals, but after foaling she should not be worked at all. I know that on a good many farms it is impossible to let the mares run idle all summer, but we are discussing the best system of raising foals, and, in my experience, best results are always attained where the mare has no work during the suckling period. Raising a colt is drain enough upon a mare's system without her being required to perform work as well. As a rule, she raises a better colt too, a colt that will represent value over one raised on a working mare, sufficient to more than cover the value of the work done by the dam during the suckling period.

WEANING

Four months is sufficient suck. Some advocate a dam, but I have found when the mares are should be exercised in foal, of the feeding esp it a set back. A colt th weaning time, as a good develops into as good a liberally after the dam kept thrifty and growi check. Feed them libe will build up bone and whether you can get s farms in Saskatchewan after weaning, but in found milk the best of frame and muscle in tl variably to my foals. the nutrients it stands with a little grain, oats along in the best possib

It is unnecessary for feeding and management. By giving our colts pler the yard in the winte summer we have found speak of in developi draft horses, providing, the first place was right

### Action

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