

HORSE

A new hoof stuffing is coming into general use among horse shoers and is said to be superior to either tar or oakum, besides being cheaper. It is a patented preparation, compounded from peat moss and petroleum, and possesses the merit of not drying out or accumulating dirt as other stuffings do. While the use of hoof stuffings is of doubtful value there are some cases in which treatment of this kind is helpful.

To Stop Horse Kicking

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

In your issue of 12th inst. I notice a question on how to stop a horse from kicking, also two different ways to do same, both of which act on the mouth, which, to say the least, is very harsh. I will give you my way.

Get a small double block and fasten the same with a surcingle under the horse's belly. Get four hame straps and strap them about the fetlocks. Have two ropes long enough to go from the fetlock of front foot to fetlock of hind foot over the pulley in block. Fasten the ropes to straps about the fetlocks, making both feet on one side fast together, with the rope just a little slack. It will be best to hitch the horse to a long shafted cart to start with, for the first time he tries to show you the bottoms of his feet he will take a very sudden fall, the front feet being jerked from under him. He may try to kick two or three times, but it will soon stop him.

This hitch will also stop a horse from jumping or running away, as he cannot lope at all. He may trot as fast as he pleases, so long as he is satisfied to trot, but the instant he breaks down he goes. If the horse will not stand while you buckle the strap on the hind foot raise the front foot on the same side and he will have to stand, or fall if he moves the hind foot.

Sask.

HORSE-SHOER.

Advice Re Buying Horses for the Farm

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

It can be taken as an axiom in Western Canada that weight is money. Given soundness the larger the horse the larger the price realized. A man breeding large sized mares to good big stallions should get the weight required, and any undersized horses be gets can be sold as general purpose. However, a man has to be content with what he can get. There are very few big mares in the country, and what there are are not for sale. For those who can afford it undoubtedly the best policy is to import pure mares and stick to whatever breed is fancied.

Let those who cannot afford to import, buy the biggest mares they can. If there are any doubts as to the legs call in a qualified veterinarian, and in any case make sure the horse is a worker before parting with any cash.

I take it for granted that poor legs will condemn any horse, but I don't think that a very large foot, feather, a long sloping pastern, bone of extreme flatness and a high showy action are essential, except for show purposes. They are a matter of opinion. Rather let the veterinarian assure the purchaser as to the soundness of the leg, and let the purchaser see for himself that the horse has straight action, is a willing worker and can walk as fast as the horses he will have to work with. The body should be large and roomy; especially should there be no pinch in the flanks. One of the weakest points of the average Western horse is the flat rib. He is very often too long in the back and badly ribbed up. I believe such horses are hard to keep in good condition and have poor constitutions.

In regard to age for buying, personally I should want to know the reason for a man selling a horse that he has had some time. Unless he had to have money I should conclude he had a good reason for selling. It should not be difficult to calculate the value of an aged horse on the basis of expected years of usefulness. A mare too old for much work can often raise a number of good foals, so make sure she is a breeder.

I should be very careful, indeed, of buying old horses from the East. Horses there are subject to various diseases unknown in the west, also to the manipulations of horse capers, past masters in the art of fixing an old horse to look like a young one. Unless a man has a trusted friend on

the spot, qualified to advise him, I should recommend the average Western farmer to think a long time before buying horses in the East. With pure bred he has, of course, the papers to guide him, and here I might say, never believe that the papers of a horse have been lost. If he has not them, he never had them and never will.

Except in exceptional cases fillies must be more valuable than geldings. Even when in foal mares can and ought to do a fair day's work and after a few weeks' rest they can work and raise a foal as well. The foal of such a mare learns to eat oats and weans better than one always in a pasture. Also if a mare from any cause cannot work she can raise foals when a gelding would have to be shot. A farmer should not keep any geldings beyond their prime, say 5 or 6 years, but sell them to the cities. When broken he should have enough mares for his work. Brood mares are wasted in the city. The average farmer can only value a horse by his size, or at least he would get better value for his money if he could always have the benefit of the opinion of a trusted friend, possessing a real knowledge of horseflesh. In any case two heads are better than one. The ideal farm horse is the horse that can do the most work in the least time on the least feed and lasts the longest. Such a horse might never take a prize in the ring. He might or might not possess the points necessary for success there, which leads one to conclude that the best use of shows is to stimulate among the farmers interest in and a love of horses.

Alta.

NORMAN JAQUES.

Objections to Broken-winded Eastern Horses

The buying of old horses in the East, horses affected with heaves of respiratory troubles of one kind or other is not so much practiced now as it formerly was, but still large numbers of such horses are brought in every year. Buying them may, or may not, be a bad practice. In certain circumstances they are about all a man may be able to afford, and if he is lucky in getting animals that are not too far gone in the wind, he may come out all right. But, as a rule, it doesn't pay.

Heaves, asthma, broken-wind, etc., are various names given to a disease of the lungs, affecting the equine species. The scientific or technical name is "pulmonary emphysema." The disease is of a non-inflammatory character, characterized by difficult, and peculiar respiration with a prolonged deep cough. Almost any experienced horseman is able to detect heaves. The peculiar movement of the flanks (double expiration) point out the ailment at once. But in recent cases the affected animal does not always exhibit the characteristic breathing unless under the strain of some exercise. After exertion, the breathing is quickened, and heaving of the flank can be noticed. The breathing is peculiar, inasmuch as the inspiratory act is regular, or nearly so, while expiration is difficult, and is accomplished in a more or less violent manner, by a double effort, giving rise to a more or less bellows-like movement of the flanks.

In old, chronic cases the disease can easily be detected by the average horseman while the horse is in the stable, or standing quiet. There is the long, deep, sonorous cough, and the frequent passage of foul-smelling gas from the bowels. Horses affected with heaves are usually greedy feeders, and are in many cases possessed of heavy, pendulous bellies, and are more or less troubled with flatulency. All the usual symptoms are much worse on hot, muggy days, or when the animal is kept in ill-ventilated stables and fed on coarse, indigestible feed, such as straw and clover hay. Frequently a broken-winded mare will fail to breed.

In itself heaves is not a fatal disease, but death may be caused by an affection closely connected with it. The post-mortem lesions found depend much upon the length of time the animal has suffered from the disease. In recent cases very few changes are noticeable, but in animals that have been affected with heaves for a considerable time, the changes are well marked. The lungs are paler than normal. The walls of the smaller bronchial tubes and the membranes of the larger tubes are thickened. The right side of the heart is enlarged, and its cavities dilated. The important condition found in the lungs is either an enlarged capacity of the air cells, or where the air cells, from over dilation, have ruptured, then coalesced and formed a number of

large cavities, from which the air escapes into the lung tissue. This condition is known technically as pulmonary emphysema.

The cause of heaves is essentially the result of faulty feeding and working on an over-loaded stomach, though possibly pre-existing diseases of the respiratory system, and severe muscular exertion predispose to its development. It is a well known fact that in countries where it is difficult to obtain bulky food the disease is unknown, although horses native of these countries are noted for their endurance—the Arab, for instance.

But where horses are over-fed and worked hard, or are fed on such fodders as alfalfa, clover, straw, or damaged feed of any kind, especially where they spend considerable of their time in the stable during winter, with their racks kept well filled with hay or straw, the disease is frequently met with. Green feed, with a limited hay, straw, and grain diet, are the conditions in which broken-wind does not appear. Horses running at pasture do not become affected with heaves. The question may be asked: Why a disturbing cause operating directly upon the digestive organs, should affect the respiratory system, in such a marked manner? The explanation is to be found in the fact that a certain large nerve (the vagus) innervates both the lungs and the stomach, besides other organs, so that when this important nerve becomes impaired at the stomach, it also reflexly affects the lungs, at first functionally, but later structurally.

There is an impression prevailing among horsemen that Western horses do not become affected with heaves. To a very great extent this is true, but, nevertheless, the disease is occasionally met with in Western horses, that have been fed and worked in such a manner as would be conducive to its production. Heavy horses imported from the East or South generally improve while in the West; especially does this apply to mild cases. This improvement in the symptoms is no doubt due to the atmospheric conditions peculiar to Western Canada, and to the hay made from the succulent native grasses. These grasses being less fibrous, and carrying less dust than Eastern timothy, which has been allowed to become over-ripe before cutting.

But old, chronic cases, on account of the great structural changes which have taken place in their lungs, will manifest the most alarming symptoms upon the slightest provocation. Their breathing becomes very much distressed, almost to suffocation during hot, sultry weather.

VETERINARY EDITOR.

North Dakota Stallion Law

On January 1, an act regulating the public service of stallions in North Dakota went into effect. It is claimed for the North Dakota stallion law that it offers the public more security in regard to the qualifications, merits and soundness of the stallions standing for public service in the state than is offered by any stallion regulation law hitherto enacted in any state in the union. The North Dakota measure provides for a stallion registration board consisting of five members, the executive officers of which shall be the professor of animal husbandry at the state agricultural college, the members including the president of the state livestock association and the professor of veterinary science at the agricultural college.

The law requires every person, firm or corporation stand or using any stallion for public service to secure a license for the stallion. Before a purebred stallion is granted a license his certificate of registration must be verified and show that it is authentic. The registration certificates must be issued by one of the breed associations recognized by the United States department of agriculture. The law provides that licenses shall be issued for both grades and purebreds, but the licenses must designate in bold faced type whether the stallions are grades or purebreds.

In addition to the requirement that purebred stallions possess proper certificates of breeding, both purebred and grades must pass a veterinary examination for soundness and infectious diseases under the provisions of this law. The stallions will be examined by veterinarians selected and employed by the stallion registration board. The method by which this examination will be conducted will be to have the stallions brought to different town in each county where

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