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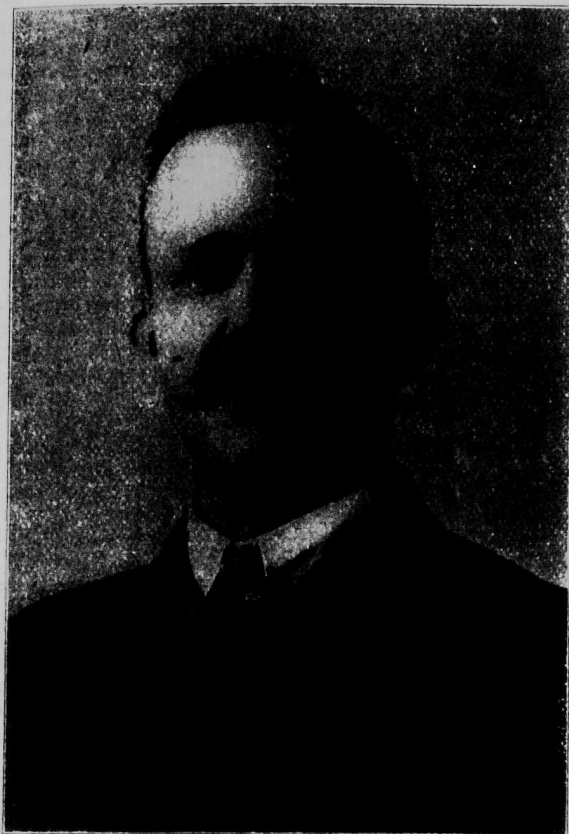
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GEO. HOADLEY, OKOTOKS, ALBERTA.
PRESIDENT ALBERTA HORSE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

who have given attention for generations to the foot and bone qualities of their stock have an opportunity now, if they will breed animals of greater substance, of combining, better than the breeders of any other of the heavy draft breeds, quality with weight, and horses of that kind are what the market at the present time cannot get enough of.

Indigestion in Horses

IMPORTANCE OF ATTENTION TO TEETH

Digestive trouble in horses may be chronic or acute. Chronic indigestion is by no means rare. The usual cause is inability to masticate the food properly, on account of irregularities of the teeth. The animal will probably consume a reasonable amount of food, but will not look or feel well. His hair will be dry-looking and staring; he will be low in flesh, dull in spirits, and will tire easily. He is sometimes subject to more or less severe attacks of colic, due to trouble in digesting the imperfectly-masticated food. His appetite is often capricious, and digestion irregular. Periodical attacks of a semi-diarrhea, often followed by a semi-constipated condition of the bowels, are frequently noticed. An examination of the mouth will usually reveal irregularities of the teeth. The outer margin of the upper molars and the inner margin of the lower molars will present numerous little sharp projections, which irritate the cheeks and the tongue, which often present abrasions. In many cases, especially in old horses, one or more teeth are quite long, the bearing surface being from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch above or below their fellows. In such cases, from some cause, the opposing tooth or teeth are either absent, or worn down until the long tooth or teeth press upon and lacerate the gums during mastication. It is surprising how many horses suffer more or less inconvenience—often more—on account of the condition of the teeth. When we, for a moment, consider the anatomy of the mouth, we can readily understand why this is. The upper jaw is wider than the lower, hence the rows of teeth are further apart. Both the inner and outer surface of the molar teeth are uneven, presenting grooves running the whole length of the teeth. The motion during mastication being lateral, we can appreciate the fact that the table or bearing surfaces of the upper molars become beveled from within outwards and downwards, and those of the lower molars from without upwards and inwards. This leaves the sharp points as stated, viz., on the outer margin of the upper, and the inner margin of the lower, molars. Those who are not accustomed to examining horses' mouths will be surprised to notice how many horses, even quite young ones, will present this condition sufficiently marked to interfere to a greater or less extent with mastication. A horse has a full mouth of molars at four years of age, and, on general principles, we may say that his teeth should be dressed once every year after that, and it is not uncommon for them to need dressing at an earlier age. Of course, there are exceptions; some young horses do not require this attention, but there are few that would not be improved by it. It would not do for the practicing veterinarian to tell his patrons that all their horses should have their teeth dressed. He would soon be classed as a faker. At the same time, there are

few that have reached five years or over, upon whom a dollar each spent for dressing their teeth once every year would not be money well spent. Slight irregularities of the teeth are not usually sufficient to cause chronic indigestion, but they interfere to a greater or less extent with mastication, and, as imperfectly-masticated food, while not necessarily causing disease, does not digest thoroughly, hence the animal does not get all the good he should from what he eats. The trouble may not be sufficient to cause visible symptoms during or following mastication, but an examination of the mouth will reveal many sharp points already referred to, the removal of which, a little consideration will convince us, will enable the animal to masticate more comfortably and more thoroughly. There are many so-called "veterinary dentists" who do not understand the operation, and there are many who think that any person who has a tooth rasp can dress teeth properly. This is a mistake. It is not necessary for a man to be a veterinarian in order that he may be able to dress horses' teeth properly, but the two usually go together. Many of the so-called dentists apparently think that, in order to earn their fees, it is necessary to rasp a good deal off the teeth, and often rasp the bearing surfaces, which, of course, is radically wrong. The bearing surfaces of the molars are quite rough, in order that, when pressing upon each other with a lateral motion, the food between them may be reduced to fine particles. If these surfaces are made smooth, this grinding cannot be done, and the horse is in a worse state than before. Some farmers and horse-owners, without any instructions or special knowledge of the subject, think that all that is necessary is to rasp the edges a little, and they do their own dental work. An examination of the mouth so dressed will usually reveal the first two or three molars in each row fairly well dressed, but the molars further back not touched. The competent veterinary dentist always uses a mouth speculum (an instrument by which the horse's mouth is kept open at whatever width desired). This enables the operator to insert his hand with safety, and feel all the teeth—the only way he can tell just what should be removed. If any of the teeth are very much too long, he uses a shears to cut off the projecting portion; then, with rasps of different shapes and designs, he carefully rasps off just such portions as should be removed, and no more. The ordinary horse-owner can, with some study and practice, become proficient in the art, but he must spend some money in purchasing the necessary instruments, and gradually acquire skill by practice, and it requires considerable practice to give proficiency. On the whole, we think it better to employ a veterinarian, but the work should not be entrusted to any faker who travels the country as a veterinary dentist, as these are out simply for the money they can make. They have no reputation to maintain, as they seldom visit the same locality the second time, and, so long as they can get a job, they do not care whether or not the horse requires the operation, nor yet whether it is properly performed.

(To be continued.)

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"I shall always remember the FARMER'S ADVOCATE as one of my best friends."

J. J. WHITE.
Brandon, Man.

STOCK

Comment upon Live-Stock Subjects Invited

A Manitoba drover has an order to supply 2500 stockers to the Knight Sugar Co., of Raymond, Alta. The prices are \$22.50 for two year olds and \$15.00 for yearlings.

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It is estimated that there are 3000 head of cattle being fed in the Stettler district of Alberta this winter.

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Nelson Morris and Company are shipping cattle from Alberta this spring via Boston, to fill the space they have contracted for on the boats, and also to make a little profit for Nelson Morris and Company.

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This has been one of the best winters for stock that the ranchers have ever seen. The number of losses is practically nil and cattle are going out in good heart although the spring is backward.

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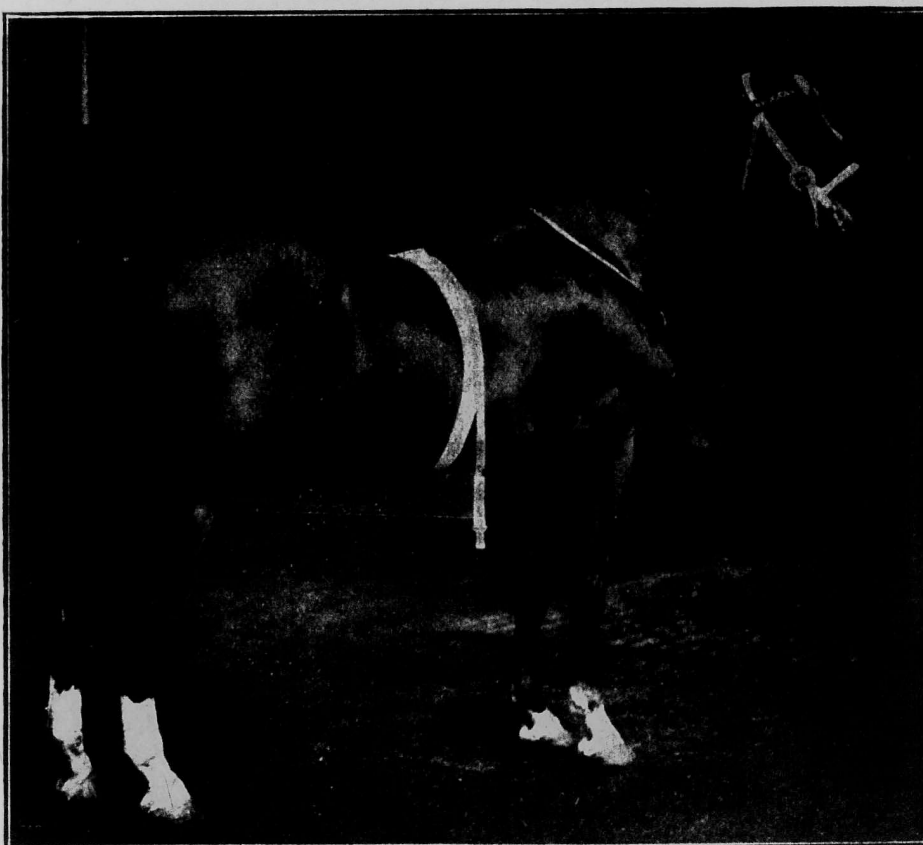
Alberta is giving a man a farm, if he can demonstrate that it pays to work it his way. Isn't that a backhand compliment to the thousands who have taken up land? Duncan Anderson says he would like the opportunity to demonstrate that it pays to keep milking Shorthorn cows, raise beef steers and hogs, and will give his time for six years if the government will furnish the farm and give it to him when he has concluded his demonstration.

* * *

Soja beans are being introduced into Great Britain for the first time, as a cattle food. Large supplies of this grain are said to be produced in China, Manchuria and Japan, and it is expected that soja meal will soon be as well known to British cattle feeders, as cotton seed or linseed is now. The soja bean is a very oily seed, from a leguminous plant. The cake or meal used by feeders is the residue remaining from the extraction of oil from the seed. It is rich in protein and forms an excellent food for milch cows.

Australian Wool

In a letter from D. H. Ross, Trade Commissioner at Melbourne, Australia, wool conditions are discussed as follows: Since July 1st, 1908, the sales of Australian wool within the Commonwealth, to the latest available dates, totalled 1,199,325 out of 1,211,232 bales offered. The wool exports to the close of January show an increase of 198,278 bales as compared with the same period last season. The abnormal increase is the result of great activity in the local sales, as compared with a stagnant period last year. Later returns will reduce the present increase, as very little wool will be available towards the close of the season. According to reports from Bradford, "The one article of world-wide consumption, the production of which is not keeping pace with the world's requirements, is wool." A steady demand has set in from the United States, contrary to January and February, 1908, with the result that better values are obtained by the grower. The outlook is considered to be a satisfactory one, and it is expected that present prices will be maintained for some months ahead.



[KIRK BURN TOREADOR 8534]

Hackney Stallion; Chestnut; foaled 1901. First and champion stallion, London Hackney Show, 1909.