

animal of his choice. The Anglo-Saxon people for more than a thousand years have been noted for their love of the horse and the horse race, and those who love the running horse and the racing sport most and best are not as a rule the worst examples of moral decrepitude to be found in the communities where they happen to reside.

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One of the worst evils that has grown up in connection with horse racing is the tipster, who sells tips on races he knows nothing about, and the pool-rooms and gambling joints, common in certain cities on the other side of the line, but not operated to any extent in this country. Selling tips, however, is a well-worked line in the Dominion. Here is a specimen tipster's advertisement from the sporting pages of an Eastern Canadian daily:

DAVY JONES

Room 73, Accord Building,

127 Leicester Street.

To-day a 10 to 1 shot, one you can't lose on. Last week four out of six of my best bets won. I have the goods again to-day, boys. Something that you can bet the rent money on and cash your bet. This is oil in the can. Come in and get it. Price three dollars.

It is this kind of thing in connection with horse racing and race-track gambling that some act of parliament requires most to put down, this and the other games worked by touts, tipsters, track hangers-on, etc., that detract from the real interest of horse racing as well as bring the sport into disrepute.

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George Randolph Chester, in one of his Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford stories, tells how Blackie Daw opened a tipster's office in Boston and with a stock in trade of a list of all the horses entered in the various events on the different circuits and two or three girls to open letters, take out money and send the tips back, proceeded to constitute himself into an authority of the first magnitude on racing matters. Blackie's methods were characteristic of tipsters generally. Ten horses, say, were entered for a certain race in a certain city. Blackie's ample sized advertisements on the sporting pages of half a dozen dailies covering the territory he was drawing his suckers from, were sufficient to apprise would-be sports of the fact that for \$5.00 they could get a straight tip that would win them a pot of money. When they came over with the five spot, Blackie furnished the "tip." Suppose ten horses were running: Blackie selected the ten towns or cities from which most of the inquiries and five spots came. To "clients" in one place he sent the name of one horse and to "clients" in each of the others the name of some other horse of the ten entered for that race. Consequently it was bound to happen that for clients in one town at least, Blackie was absolutely certain to pick the winner in each race each day. He couldn't, if he tried, prevent himself from becoming a tipster of authority and so the money flowed in and the "tips" were handed out and Blackie flourished as he never had in any easy money game before.

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The average tipster has just about as much inside information as to the way certain horses in a certain race are going to perform, as Blackie Daw had on the races he sold "tips" on. He knows the names of the nags that are to be jogged over a certain track on a certain day and probably has some record of their previous performances. With this fund of information and an unwarrantable stock of gall, he spreads some strong talk in the form of an advertisement on the sporting pages of such papers as will sell him space, and when the boys send in the cash sum specified he comes over with the name of a pony that is to be the sure-enough winner in the race his client is seeking inside information on. Of course nobody but a fool would ever buy a "tip" on a horse race for it stands to reason that a man as adept at picking winners as the average tipster professes to be, would make several thousand tips as much money by going out

to the track and betting on his own "tips" as he would in selling those "tips" to several hundred hungry sports for a few paltry dollars each. But the world is full of men who are willing to separate themselves from five dollar bills if another more nerry individual will only advertise himself as having that much desired information—the name of the horse that is to win the race, known for a certainty, before the race is run.

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It is this kind of business that needs to be vigorously suppressed, this and pool-room gambling and gambling in similar joints, where the layout takes the victim's money every time they want to take it, and where the player has not more than one decent chance in a thousand to win. That is the kind of horse race gambling that stands most in need of being restricted. We do not believe in betting in any form, but we do believe that each individual is entitled to certain liberties in personal conduct and that if he wants to wager a few dollars on a nag that looks to him like the one that is going to slide under the wire ahead of the field it won't hurt anybody's moral character very much by his being permitted to do so.

EQUITANT.

### Should Oats be Crushed or Mixtures Fed?

In the matter of feeding crushed or whole grain to farm horses, the subject for discussion in this issue, two contributions are herewith published. It is a noteworthy fact that farmers who have written us on this subject now, or have discussed it on previous occasions, are agreed as to the merits of grinding or crushing grain. It is doubtful, however, if the practice is generally followed. In the saving in the grain consumed, crushing would probably pay for itself, and it becomes more important when we remember such further advantages as fewer weed seeds being scattered about the farm than when horses are fed on unground, weedy oats. Everything considered the practice of grinding grain has much to commend it. The prizes are awarded in the order in which the contributions appear.

### Favors Crushing Grain

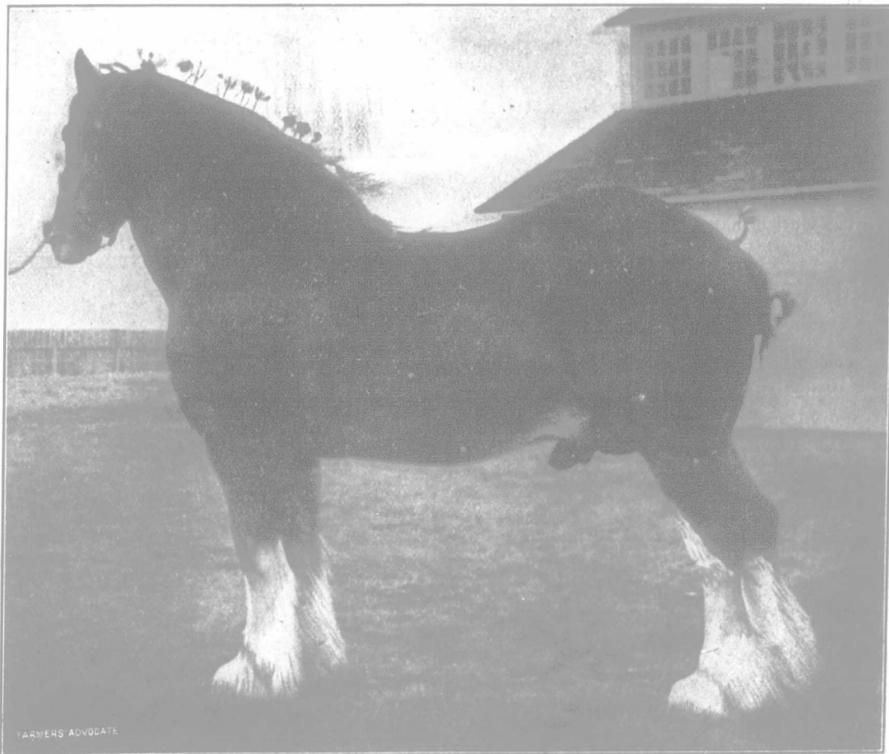
EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Last season I was short on oats and long on barley when seeding started, and before spring

work was over I found it necessary to feed a ration compounded from these two grains. I had never used barley as a horse feed, and was doubtful as to its value. I had fed boiled barley to colts, but for the working horses had always used uncrushed oats. It would have paid me better in this case to have sold the barley and bought oats, for at the price each was selling oats were about 20 per cent. cheaper. However, I hadn't time for that. I was feeding oats at the rate of about 20 lbs. per day to horses that weighed an average of about 1,400 pounds each. This was not as heavy a grain ration as is sometimes fed, but sufficient for them. I started them on barley by making about one-quarter of the ration of that grain, and not grinding. They didn't eat it very well, so I hired a chopper half a day and crushed enough to last me several weeks. They relished the crushed grain, and did much better on it. The proportion in which the barley was used was about one to three by weight. I mixed one bag of barley with four of oats, and figured that by weight the mixture was about one to three. Of this I fed practically the same quantity by volume as I had of whole oats. That is where I had been feeding four gallons of oats per day, one gallon night and morning and two gallons at noon, I fed the same quantity of the crushed mixture, thus making the quantity by weight about one-fifth less, the crushed grain bulking up more than the whole grain.

Now as to results: I do not think I ever had horses do as well as these horses did last spring. I have heard of barley causing the blood to become hot, but noticed no effects of it in this case. Another thing that struck me was that the grain was more thoroughly digested. Ordinarily in feeding whole oats a large quantity passes through the system undigested and is voided without the animal receiving any benefit therefrom. On crushed grain the digestive fluids seem to act more readily; at any rate I believe the horse derives more nourishment from the digestion of one quarter or one-third less the quantity of crushed grain than he does of whole grain.

This spring I am feeding crushed oats, using no barley, for the reason that at present prices oats are the cheaper. In crushing oats for horses it is well not to grind them up fine. The best job of crushing I ever saw was done with an old-fashioned roller crusher, two rollers working together and simply flattening the oats between them. This will not destroy many weed seeds, but weed seeds are more thoroughly digested



ROYAL CHOICE, BY EVERLASTING, FOALED 1904, IMPORTED AND OWNED BY TRAYNOR BROS., CONDIE, SASK.—FIRST FOR CLYDESDALE STALLIONS FOALED PREVIOUS TO 1907, AT SASKATCHEWAN SPRING SHOW, 1910.