

## VETERINARIANA.

## HINTS FOR HORSE-OWNERS.

It is generally admitted that all animals have some method peculiar to each class, of expressing their feelings and desires, and their language of signs and inarticulate sounds forms an interesting study. In the case of the domestic animals, however, and especially those that are impressed into the hard service of man, it might almost be said that it is a matter of duty that we should learn to understand their language. To many, such faithful beasts as the horse and ox are mere drudges, devoid of a sense of feeling fatigue or pain, and to be controlled only by whips and hard sounding words. These ideas are generally the result of ignorance of the habits and requirements of our animals,—even as regards most commonplace matters. Take for instance the simple ease of watering a horse. Many persons who are fully aware of the importance of pure water for their use, yet often suppose that any water is good enough for their animals, oblivious of the fact that foul water causes many ailments in our horses. Intractable skin diseases, ulcers and sores, indigestion and loss of condition are often traceable to this source. Even more serious disorders owe their origin to an unwholesome water supply, such as fevers and parasitic diseases. In Western India and Burmah there occurs in the horse a form of fever which runs a long course. Sometimes as long as three months—and invariably terminates fatally. All known remedies have hitherto been tried unsuccessfully. The disease is commonly known in the East as *as surra* (literally, rotten), and is caused by a parasite in the blood, that often enters the system through the medium of foul drinking water. The rule that every owner should enforce is, that the horse should be supplied with as pure water as is drunk by his master. It may here be mentioned that the quantity of water required by a horse is variously estimated: from 6 to 8 gallons a day will not be too much. An animal should be watered at least four times a day. Considering the large amount of water excreted by the skin or kidney of a horse, there should be no stinting in the water-supply. Water, it should be remembered, ought to be given before, and not after a meal. The stomach of the horse is comparatively small, and the intestines large. The water taken by the horse is believed to pass at once into the intestines, and hence it would be objectionable to water the animal after its meal, as undigested particles of food are likely to be carried into the intestines, and cause indigestion, colic or other disorders of the bowels.

The horse finds the greatest difficulty in drinking out of a shallow vessel: in fact it would hardly be able to drink unless there be a depth of at least 4 or 5 inches of water. This should be remembered by those who have to travel across country, and often expect their animals to make their thirst at shallow pools and streams. It is a useful fact to remember that a horse generally takes its fill of water in 2½ minutes.

The points I have referred to in connection with so simple a matter as watering a horse, may be thought trivial, but I can assure my readers that neglecting to give due attention to this is often of serious import. It is as well, therefore, that we should remember them, and it is with that object that I have written these notes, though there are perhaps some who may find nothing new in what I have said.—W. D. S.

## TREES IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE.

For the Southern Province the Provincial Engineer forwards a report, from which the following has been extracted. It is to be regretted that his efforts at ingasaman growing has been such a failure, but he is quite in error in his opinion that *Pithecolobium saman* will not grow near the sea. Some of the finest trees in Ceylon are to be found near a quite close to the sea; e.g., at Mu lattivu, Negombo, atticaloa, and many other places. It is surprising that more success has not attended shade tree culture in

the Hambantota District, where Mr. Macgregor is in charge for he has been generally successful at various stations in floriculture, and it was presumed that the cultivation of shade trees would have succeeded with him, if with anybody.—*Mr. Ormsby's Report for 1893.*

## EUCALYPTUS MICROCORYS: TALLOW WOOD.

This tree is variously known as "Tallow-wood" (owing to its greasy nature when freshly cut.) "Turpentine tree," and "Peppermint"—the foliage being remarkably rich in volatile oil. Another local name applied to it is "red shingy-bark" owing to its red fibrous bark. The term *microcorys* is made up of two Greek words signifying "a little helmet" in allusion to the comparatively small cup of the flower.

An Udupussellawa planter writing to the *Tropical Agriculturist* hears testimony to the fact that "of all Australian trees introduced into Ceylon, the tree which has grown beyond all compare is *E. Microcorys*. A specimen 8 years old" he says, "was 5 ft. 4 inches in girth, and tall in proportion."

The leaves of *E. Microcorys* yield an essential oil, which it is thought may be useful in varnish-making.

The gum is in many respects similar to the "Kino" of *Pterocarpus Marsupium*.

The timber, says Mr. Maiden, the Consulting Botanist to the N. S. Wales Government, is one of the most valuable the Colony produces: it is strong and durable under and above ground.

He mentions that it would be impossible to enumerate the various uses to which the timber can be put—among others being for naves, felloes, spokes, cop, flooring of buildings, decking bridge work in general, pickets, turned pillars, for moulding and architraves, in fact for all building purposes requiring durability.

An ink has been made by steeping chips of tallow-wood in water for a day or two (presumably in contact with iron.)

Against this timber it may be said that it is liable to attack by white ants, and that it does not hold nails well. On the other hand the charcoal from tallow-wood is thought by some to be one of the best for the smiths, and no timber suffers less by exposure after being cut down.

The tree is generally admitted to give satisfaction as a well formed shade tree, so that its increased propagation in Ceylon is most desirable.

## COMPANIES' MEETINGS.

## AGRICULTURAL COMPANY OF MAURITIUS, LIMITED.—LORD STANMORE PRESIDING.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the shareholders was held on July 24, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G., presiding.

The MANAGER and SECRETARY (Mr. Alfred G. Dick) read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then said: Gentlemen, on the occasions on which I have presided previously at similar meetings to this, it has been my ill-fortune almost always to have had something more or less unpleasant to say; either a bad season, a hurricane, or a statement of affairs that was unpleasant, and on account of which we were unable to recommend any dividend to be divided amongst you. I am happy to say that this time I come before you under more favourable auspices, and I hope that I shall not again be regarded as a bird of ill-omen, for this year I have announcements to make to you of a satisfactory character. In the first place, instead of having to tell you of a loss on the year's transactions, I have to announce to you—

A CLEAR PROFIT OF £12,285 18s.

Last year, reverting from the general finances to those in connection with the management of the es-

tates, our net loss on the working of the estates was £21,297; but this year I am happy to say that on the working of the estates there is a profit of no less than £38,529, and but for the extraordinary expenses which had to be incurred on account of the hurricane losses, some £4,000 or £5,000 might have been added to that sum. The proceeds of the call which the directors made on the shareholders have enabled the board to reduce the debenture debt of the company by an amount of £25,820; that is to say, they were able to reduce it by that amount at the close of the financial year, and the reduction is still going on. We propose to go further in that direction. The deficiency on the profit-and-loss account has been brought down to £25,652, the payment of which it is proposed to spread over a period of four years, and the directors consider themselves in a position which will justify the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. on the capital paid up—that is, on the 31st March last, which will amount to about 2s 6d per share. So much for our general affairs. Then, turning to our balance-sheet, I may as well make one or two explanations, although the main part of them is already given in the report. Under the head of capital liabilities, the amount of share capital called up is now £3 per share, and taking into account the financial troubles of the last four years, the calls have been fairly well met, and it is hoped that the

#### SATISFACTORY ACCOUNTS

which we are now able to present to you on the condition of the affairs of the company will induce those shareholders who are still in arrear to pay up what they owe. By means of the calls thus received, the directors, as I have already told you, have been able to reduce the debenture debt by £25,820. Then, under the next head of liabilities, the sundry creditors in London show a reduction of £1,178 while the Mauritius debts, including the amounts due on current accounts, are increased by a sum of £4,520. Then the liabilities on mortgage of company's estates, including the Government loan of 400,000 rupees, repayable by yearly instalments extending over a period of 30 years, show a slight reduction. The exchange account remains the same, £39,740. Now, coming to the column of assets, the advances on produce in Mauritius show a reduction at the closing of the books of £21,954, which is satisfactory; while the interest derived from the same yielded

#### A SENSIBLE INCREASE.

The estates held by the company show an increase of £17,513, made up principally by the amount of hurricane repairs which have been added thereto. That is explained in the third part of the report. The business premises in Port Louis are the same as before. The investments in sugar estates companies have been reduced by £780. With regard to sugars unsold, the account is larger—£27,042, as against £9,955 last year; but it must be remembered that the past crop having been a good one, it took a proportionately longer time to realise. We have, therefore, no cause for complaint on that score, the bulk, if not all, the sugar on hand having been disposed of at prices which we believe will show not only no loss but a profit. Investments on securities at cost have been reduced to £4,991, and have been represented by securities which have been produced to the auditors. The cash at bankers and in hand in London shows a reduction of £2,239, and in Mauritius an increase of £13,580. The bills receivable in Mauritius show no change. Sundry debtors in London amount to £7,233, of which by far the greater part—that is to say, £7,000 out of the whole—are loans at call. In Mauritius, the debtors show an increase of £1,503. In office furniture there is no change under that head. The profit-and-loss account deficiency to the 31st March, 1891—namely, £32,065, has been written down to £25,652, and the directors feel sure the shareholders will approve of the course taken to extend the payment of this for a period of another four years.

#### THE HURRICANE REPAIRS

which appeared in the previous balance-sheet has been charged to the cost of estates held by the company, the total of which still stands below the valuation which has just been made. Turning to the profit-and-loss account on the expenditure side, the current expenses in London have been reduced by £110, and in Mauritius by £44. Debenture interest and charges show the substantial reduction of £1,572. Loss by exchange amounts to £7,429. This, of course, is an item that always appears, and it depends on circumstances over which we have no control; but, at the same time, I must ask the shareholders to bear in mind that, as far as our company is concerned—the Agricultural Company of Mauritius—it is not wholly a loss; in so far as we are an estate-owning company there is some benefit from the low rate of exchange. We must not regard that as if we were a company, not actually holders of estates and possessors of them. The interests on mortgages is higher, owing to the loan from Government. On the income side the figures are most encouraging. The interest and commission account shows an increase of £3,154, while the profit on the working of estates amounts to £38,529. There is as against a net loss last year of £21,297. I think, therefore, we may fairly congratulate the shareholders upon the

#### IMPROVED PROSPECT.

that is before them. (Hear, hear.) To me it is of course a source of gratification. In the first place, as a shareholder myself, I share the first gratification which my brother-shareholders must feel at the improved position of things. As one of the directors I rejoice to be able to present to you a more pleasant state of affairs. Finally, as chairman, I am delighted to be relieved of the duty of making the sort of speech I have made during the last two years, only bearing always in mind that during those years I always said I had not the faintest shadow of doubt as to the essentially safe condition of affairs, and that hope and trust, which has never failed me or any of the directors in the slightest degree, I hope will now be admitted to have been well founded, even by some of those who may have entertained an opposite view. (Hear, hear.) It is now twenty years since I ceased to be connected with Mauritius as its governor, but it is impossible not to take the greatest interest in the affairs of an island over which one once ruled as well as in the affairs of the company with which I am now connected. Therefore, in regard to the accounts of the Island of Mauritius and of this company, I am heartily rejoiced at being able to place before you a more prosperous picture of the state of affairs. (Cheers.) I now beg to move—"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts to the 31st March 1894, be received and adopted."

Mr. G. J. LINDSAY NICHOLSON seconded the resolution.

Mr. ATKINS asked at what amount the debenture issue now stood.

Mr. FISHER desired to know whether the unpaid calls represented the full amount of shares, or only portions of shares.

Mr. HAIGH asked how many shares were represented by the calls unpaid. He also wished to know how it was that whilst the liabilities on mortgages had decreased by £692, the interest in the mortgages had increased by £1,251. He presumed the difference was accounted for by the loan from the Government to the company. He was glad to see there was a decrease in the current expenses in London, and hoped these expenses would be still further decreased. In conclusion, he suggested that when a vacancy occurred on the board it should not be filled up, as in his opinion five directors were sufficient to do the work of the company in London.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, said the amount of the debenture issued at the present time was about £154,000. There were only a few shareholders who had paid nothing on their calls. Information would be given to Mr. Haigh at the office as to the number of shares on which calls had remained

unpaid. That gentleman was quite right in supposing that the Government loan accounted for the increase of interest on mortgages. As to the expenses in London, the directors were always on the watch to reduce them as far as possible, and they would in future seize every opportunity to carry out the same policy. The board would take into serious consideration whether when a vacancy occurred in the directorate it would be advisable to fill it up or to.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then moved:—"That the declaration by the board of a dividend of 2s 6d per share on all the shares of the company be sanctioned." He remarked that it was practically equivalent to 5 per cent on the amount of capital paid up.

Mr. W. J. TANNER seconded the resolution, which was agreed to *nem. con.*

On the motion of Mr. NICHOLSON, seconded by Mr. HAIGH, the retiring directors, Messrs. W. Stanley and W. J. Tanner, were unanimously re-elected; and on the proposition of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. FISHER, the auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co., were re-appointed.

Mr. FERGUSON proposed—"That a cordial vote of thanks be offered to the London and Mauritius boards and to the managers for their continued care and ability in the management of the affairs of the company."

Mr. ATKINS seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in the last paragraph of the report, through a typographical slip the local manager had been omitted from the expression of thanks on the part of the directors. The proceedings then terminated.—*Investors' Guardian.*

### THE BRITISH NORTH BORNEO COMPANY.

The half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the Cannon-street Hotel under the presidency of Mr. Richard B. Martin, M.P.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said he was happy to inform them that the country appeared at last to be emerging from the gloom caused by the depression of 1892 and 1893, and he had a more cheerful report for them than he had been able to give them for some time. They had only to glance at the comparative statement of trade returns printed with the report to be satisfied that the progress was real. In 1888 the total exports of the country amounted to only \$525,000, whereas the figures were now not far short of four times that amount. Tobacco formed about half the total exports—a very important fact if they would watch the progress of the country. Previously to 1892 the imports were always in excess of the exports; but now the figures were all the other way and in favour of the investor in Borneo, who was at last receiving a return for money and goods imported. They had always stated in connexion with tobacco-growing in British North Borneo that those companies which had the necessary financial strength to hold on over the bad times would eventually succeed, and this belief was being borne out by the results of this year's sales. The New London Borneo Company had just declared a dividend of 12½ per cent for 1893, and had about paid their expenses by the sale of less than one-third of their crop this year. The prices realized in Amsterdam for Borneo tobacco grown on the Kina Batangan river and Maruda Bay estates had ranged from 3s to 4s a pound, and it had been demonstrated that it could be grown at less than 1s 6d per pound. A good deal of this tobacco had been shipped to New York, and no matter whether the duty were reduced from \$2 to \$1 per pound, as proposed by the modified tariff scheme, or to \$1½, as suggested by the Senate, the demand for America would continue. They had already heard of one or two schemes for reopening estates which had to close during the late crisis. The Tobacco Company of British North Borneo proposed to form a small company to work one of their estates

in Darvel Bay on land where first-rate tobacco had been grown. They also heard that there was another scheme for opening the Tungood estate on the Labak river, where excellent tobacco had also been grown, and where the closing of the estate was due entirely to pioneer difficulties. The reports they received from Borneo on other products were highly encouraging, especially as regarded Liberian coffee. Ceylon owed its prosperity chiefly to the immigration of young Englishmen with English capital, and it was hoped that history would again repeat itself in Borneo, where similar conditions of soil and climate prevailed. To encourage enterprise the directors had recently adopted more liberal land regulations. They had also inaugurated a labour department, under State control, and what was of more importance still they were turning their attention to the establishment of more rapid communication. Since their last meeting a cable had been successfully laid between Singapore and Labuan by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, with which they had arranged, in consideration of their connecting Labuan with the company's territory, to continue a land line across to Sandakan. They believed communication could be established for the moderate sum they had voted for the purpose; but this would only provide a rough track across country, and the question of road-making could be considered later, when it was seen what sort of country would be opened up. Their territory was a field ripe for British enterprise. The fall in the price of silver, which had capsized the financial equilibrium of the world, had worked in favour of silver-using countries. For instance, in Borneo the purchasing price of the dollar in the matter of coolie wages, &c., was the same now that owing to the fall in exchange, nearly \$10 could be got for a sovereign against \$6 two years ago. This was a very important fact. It should also help the owners of coal mines in Borneo and Labuan, as he saw that the Peninsular and Oriental and the Messageries Maritime Steamship Companies had entered into very large contracts for Japan coal to be delivered in Singapore at \$6 per ton. That was about 13s a ton against 20s., the price it cost to lay down English coal in Singapore. As Labuan was so much nearer Singapore it ought to be able to compete with Japan. They had hoped to have a further report from Captain Beeston on the Darvel Bay Goldfields, but unfortunately that gentleman had had to come to England for the benefit of his health. He was, however, very sanguine of ultimate results. They had recently granted one gold concession to a syndicate with a paid-up capital, and their mining engineer would soon be at work. They had two other applications under consideration, and meanwhile they had sent to Borneo for 6 cwt samples from various promising points. He could not conclude without paying a tribute to their Governor and officials for the loyal manner in which they had endeavoured to carry out reductions and for the cheerful way in which they had worked through trying times. It was necessary a few months ago, in pursuance of postal regulation of the International Bureau, to remodel the Company's stamps, and they had the satisfaction of seeing a comment in *The Times* that of all the modern stamps which delighted the hearts of stamp collectors those published by the Company were much the best. He was glad to state that the call made last January was at the present time almost intact. Some part of it would be required for the telegraph, but otherwise they sincerely hoped that their profits this year would enable them to pay all expenses. They had established a most valuable property, which they had developed to a certain extent, but of which the fringe only was touched at present. Since their last meeting they had had the advantage of the assistance of the two new directors, Mr. Brodie and Mr. Cowie.

Mr. William C. Cowie, in seconding the motion, stated that the telegraph line referred to would connect Sandakan, and serve the tobacco estates on the Kina Batangan River; and it would also bring the remote villages of the interior more under the company's control. The branch line to the south would traverse the goldfields and connect Darvel Bay,