

LIEUT. COL. MASSIE  
OPPOSED TO THE OVERHEAD  
CHECK REIN.

He Explains Why it Should Not  
Be Used—Is a Hindrance to  
the Horse—and Liable to  
Cause Defective Sight.

Kingston, March 15.—(To the Editor.) I was interested in reading an extract from the report of the British Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in last Saturday's issue of the Whig. I would like to add my quota to what has already been said in regard to the use of the overhead check rein.

I have found in my experience as a professional rider over thirty years standing, that the overhead check rein is not only a hindrance to the natural bearing and movement of the horse, under all circumstances, but is a prolific cause of weak knees and lameness of the legs and fetlocks, owing to the undue strain and weight transmitted to the ligaments and muscles of the head and neck. I have also found it a frequent cause of defective sight and blindness. This is not surprising.

Let any man, however, consider the effect which is wrought in a horse's eye by the overhead check rein. It is a strap that is fastened to a strap at the middle of his back, to turn his face and eye to the glare of the sun and in all kinds of weather.

Horses are taken out of stables (which in many cases are dark and dirty), and hooked up for a journey on the day's work as the case may be. The head when these check reins are used in a longitudinal direction, the nose protrudes and the top of the head is pressed down. The tension is more or less great according to the tightness of the rein, but the position of the head is not natural, and is disadvantageous to the animal and loss of power and atrophy of the muscles of the throat, neck and shoulders is induced.

The effect of the sun shining directly into the eyes of the upturned head, particularly when accompanied by wind, and dust from the road, must be quite evident to any who give the matter a serious thought. The optic nerve becomes irritated, and impairment of vision is liable to follow. In some cases total blindness is the result.

The question may perhaps be asked: How it is that the overhead check is so generally used by those who have to do with horses? Well, several conditions exist, due to ignorance and thoughtlessness.

We know that at first the overhead check was invented for horses that were vicious, kickers, and unsafe to drive. Why? Simply because the horse was under partial restraint all the time he was checked, and as a horse must lower his head in order to kick out viciously with both feet, he complied the means to prevent him from so kicking.

Trotting horse men generally use the overhead check for the reason that they can control nervous and vicious horses better with it, while the race track, not because the horse can go any faster that way, but because in some cases a little more speed can be forced out of them as they are more under the horse's control.

Leon Dillon and other fast ones go without a check rein at all. John Spurr is not an advocate of the overhead check rein. The side check is not so objectionable as the overhead.

TO VISIT EXPOSITION.  
He Will Be at Jamestown this Year.



DUKE DE GRUISE.  
New York, March 16.—Duke de Gruise, the Danish nobleman, well-known in America because of his fondness for singing American, will be one of the special visitors to the Jamestown fair. He now lives in Paris, where he and his duchess recently entertained the king and queen of England.

THE KINGSTON MARKET.

Prevailing Prices in the City.

Kingston, March 16.—The following prices prevailed in the city to-day: Flour and feed—Flour, bakers, \$2.10; \$2.20; \$2.30; \$2.40; \$2.50; \$2.60; \$2.70; \$2.80; \$2.90; \$3.00; \$3.10; \$3.20; \$3.30; \$3.40; \$3.50; \$3.60; \$3.70; \$3.80; \$3.90; \$4.00; \$4.10; \$4.20; \$4.30; \$4.40; \$4.50; \$4.60; \$4.70; \$4.80; \$4.90; \$5.00; \$5.10; \$5.20; \$5.30; \$5.40; \$5.50; \$5.60; \$5.70; \$5.80; \$5.90; \$6.00; \$6.10; \$6.20; \$6.30; \$6.40; \$6.50; \$6.60; \$6.70; \$6.80; \$6.90; \$7.00; \$7.10; \$7.20; \$7.30; \$7.40; \$7.50; \$7.60; \$7.70; \$7.80; \$7.90; \$8.00; \$8.10; \$8.20; \$8.30; \$8.40; \$8.50; \$8.60; \$8.70; \$8.80; \$8.90; \$9.00; \$9.10; \$9.20; \$9.30; \$9.40; \$9.50; \$9.60; \$9.70; \$9.80; \$9.90; \$10.00; \$10.10; \$10.20; \$10.30; \$10.40; \$10.50; \$10.60; \$10.70; \$10.80; \$10.90; \$11.00; \$11.10; \$11.20; \$11.30; \$11.40; \$11.50; \$11.60; \$11.70; \$11.80; \$11.90; \$12.00; \$12.10; \$12.20; \$12.30; \$12.40; \$12.50; \$12.60; \$12.70; \$12.80; \$12.90; 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\$152.