

Rubber Shoes For Horses

"Rubber tired" mules have joined the fast-moving parade of American rubber achievement. In really exclusive mule circles, discriminating animals regularly wear rubber shoes and hoof pads.

Not to be outdone by his stubborn half-brother, the well bred horse now cavorts in stylish fashion in ready-to-wear shoes, according to scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The ready-to-wear idea for horses was encouraged by the passing of the blacksmith shop and the consequent difficulty of the farmer in getting his horses shod. Regular equine shoe sizes are readily obtainable.

The use of rubber shoes and rubber hoof pads is becoming general because these protectives have been found helpful when horses and mules must work on hard surfaced streets and highways. The new styles relieve sore and lame feet and often prevent corns and other foot ailments.

Rubber shoes prevent slipping on certain treacherous surfaces, thus reducing to a minimum the number of horse injuries due to falling. Hoof pads and rubber shoes, the department advises, should be used as a protective, rather than as a cure for the many ailments caused by the constant driving of horses and mules on hard surfaced roads.

Rubber pads are not recommended for farm horses, because the soil works its way under the pad, causing lameness by extra pressure in the navicular joint. Where rubber pads are used, pine tar with a thin layer of oakum should be applied to the sole to keep it moist and prevent contraction.

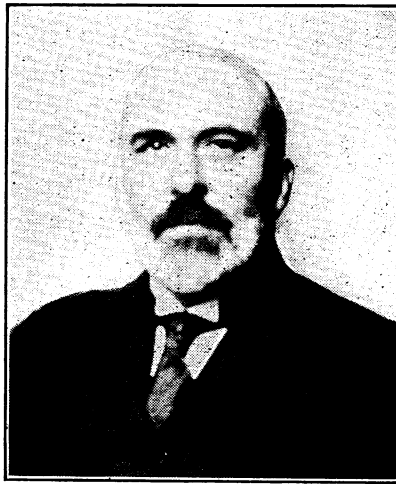
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ENGINEERING

Auto Crankshafts Honed

Automobile crankshafts are now honed, much like a razor, in order to make them smooth and true. L. A. Becker, Cleveland engineer, has reported to the Society of Automotive Engineers, how honing the shafts with abrasive stones is replacing the grinding and polishing with emery usually practiced. Automobiles will not take so long to break in since honing will allow smaller clearances, eliminate initial wear and reduce oil dilution, he declared.

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THEODORE SHERMAN PALMER

Aigrette Exterminator

The fact that America's birds and game animals are now on the road to increase rather than extermination is probably due as much to Dr. Theodore S. Palmer as to any other one man. The aigrette, robbed from the snowy heron during the nesting season to be the pride of chapeau and coiffeur a generation back, was suppressed as an article of commerce largely through the efforts of this ornithologist.

He has had a large part in forming the Federal laws and the treaty with Canada for the protection of migrating birds and in instigating the establishment of bird refuges throughout the United States. He is author of one of the standard works on the classification of the fauna of North America. One of his achievements, that ranks high in the estimation of fellow biologists and bird lovers, is his share in keeping the mongoose out of the country. Many attempts have been made to import this weasel-like little animal on account of its predilection for a diet of snakes. Unfortunately it kills everything in its way up to two or three times its size, including all ground nesting birds and rabbits. So Dr. Palmer has held up the immigration bars against the mongoose.

Dr. Palmer is a *rara avis* himself, a bona fide native son of the Golden State. He was born in Oakland in 1868. He finished his undergraduate work at the University of California in 1888 and received the degree of M.D. at Georgetown University in 1895. Since 1890 he has been associated with the U. S. Biological Survey in the capacities of ornithologist and game conservation expert.

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Prizes For Honey Locusts

Fodder for stock will be harvested from the farmer's fencerow and woodlot trees, as well as timber for posts and other uses, according to a plan now being promoted by the *Journal of Heredity*, of Washington, D. C. Honey locust pods are eaten eagerly by hogs and cattle, which find them very tasty and nutritious, and \$50 in prizes are offered for the tree with the biggest and best yield of pods. They invite anyone who owns an exceptional locust tree to write them for particulars of the competition.

Some of the elongated fruits of the honey locust tree are a foot or more from tip to tip, and the small, hard seeds are embedded in a matrix of sweet, gelatinous substance. The pods are somewhat similar to those of the carob of the eastern Mediterranean countries, which has been used for centuries as stock food in its native land and is planted to some extent in our own Southwest. The carob will even do, at a pinch, for human food. When the Prodigal Son found himself reduced to "the husks that the swine did eat," it was these thick, sweetish carob pods he was eating; and under the name of "St. Johns bread" they are regarded by some as having been the frugal diet of John the Baptist.

Some experiments already in progress indicate that the native honey locust may be a fair competitor for the carob as a fodder producer.

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ENTOMOLOGY

Beetle Dangerous to Corn

Entomologists are viewing with alarm the latest addition to the bill of fare of the Japanese beetle, that has been committing serious depredations in eastern states for the past few years.

When Dr. A. L. Quaintance, associate chief of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, accompanied by several fellow scientists, visited the headquarters of the Japanese beetle warfare at Riverton, N. J., recently, the pests, in addition to denuding orchards of fruit and leaves alike, were feeding busily on the silk of young sweet corn.

This type of injury, scientists fear, may indicate serious damage to the country's corn crop if the pest can not be headed off from the corn belt of the middle west.

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To keep healthy fish require vitamins in their food.