

lingers on the stage two fine mares which are by no means easy to beat. Generally I am inclined to think the quality of the show Clydesdales this year is better than it has been in some recent years, and the breeders keep up their spirits wonderfully well in spite of prolonged depression. There is also some demand from abroad, several horses having recently been exported to Canada, and a shipment of four leaves to-day for Alberta. Possibly, however, we are a little more interested in the Hackneys, which have gradually been coming to the front in Scotland. Two auction sales have lately been held. At Mr. Scott's, near Carlisle, 14 were disposed of at an average price of £62 2s., some of the harness horses going over £100; but at Mr. Morton's sale at Gowanbank this week 54, of all kinds, drew an average of £75 19s. One pony, (not a Hackney, however, but got by a Thoroughbred, out of a Welsh mare) was sold at the extraordinary figure of £120 to Sir Gilbert Greenall, Bart., and a Hackney harness horse made £241 10s. (230 gs.). These were fine prices. The average price of 12 ponies was £70 5s. 3d.; of 30 pure-bred Hackney harness horses, £82 11s. 3d.; and of 4 brood mares, £118 2s. 6d. These figures show that Hackneys can be made into first-class harness horses, and draw very big prices.

"SCOTLAND YET."

Finishing Cattle on Grass.

Cattle that have been on a full grain ration during the winter should invariably be finished in the stable without any let-up in the quality of the food. To put them on grass is not only to delay the finishing, but frequently to cause them to lose weight. Cattle to be put on grass should have been well wintered, and receiving for the last few months about a half feed of grain daily. Cattle taken off of good ensilage and straw or hay with very little chop will lose no time after going on good pasture. They should, however, be kept in the yards or stables until a full bite of grass can be obtained. Young and tender grass is too laxative, and requires too much time and exercise to satisfy the animals' wants. It is a good rule to make the change from winter feed to grass gradually, that no derangement of the animals will follow. Before being allowed out they should receive their regular breakfast and water and then turned out after the dew has all passed away. When returned to the yard in the evening they should receive their satisfaction of fodder along with their regular allowance of grain. By continuing this method for a week or ten days the cattle will go forward rapidly. A little care at this time may make a difference of weight per animal of from 50 to 100 lbs. per month, half of which may easily be lost through an unwise, sudden change, or a like amount may be gained in the same time.

The most approved Western method is to feed whole soaked corn to cattle on grass, feeding it once a day, preferably in the evening, so that more time will be taken to consume it and most of it will be returned to the mouth along with the cud and thoroughly masticated. It will be seen that digestion and assimilation will get in their fine work converting the maximum proportion of grain into beef.

FARM.

Seasonable Work--Roots and Corn.

The farm crops which will demand the most attention during the last weeks in May and the first in June are those of roots and corn, crops on which excellent articles have recently appeared in this paper, and we purpose briefly summarizing here. Carrots and mangels, in order to secure the best catch and the best crop, should, as a rule, be sown as early in May as the land can be got into suitable condition. For these it is almost essential that manure should be applied the previous fall, so that it will have rotted and will become well distributed in the soil by the necessary cultivation in the spring, but if this has not been done, and good short manure is available, it may be applied to good advantage in the spring before plowing or cultivating, and well worked into the land. If the land is liable to turn up damp and soggy, it is better not to plow in the spring, but to work it up well with harrows and cultivator and roller, going over it several times until a fine seed-bed is prepared. Mangels may be successfully raised by flat culture, and the grain drill may be used for sowing the seed by closing a sufficient number of the spouts so that the seed may be sown in rows from 21 to 26 or 30 inches apart, and gauged to sow the seed, if possible, at the rate of about six to eight pounds per acre. Most people object to flat sowing on account of the difficulty in after cultivation and clearing of the crop, and to meet this objection the double moldboard plow, or even an ordinary plow, may be used to ridge the land slightly, in which case a root drill will be required for sowing

the seed, unless it is done by hand, which is a comparatively slow process, but answers the purpose all right if the seed is properly covered with a rake or other implement. The long red variety will probably give the largest yield, but many prefer the Yellow Globe, Yellow Half-long, and Golden Tankard varieties on account of being less liable to break in handling. The same preparation answers for carrots, which should be sown at the rate of about two pounds to the acre. In light soil the roller should in all cases follow the seeding, but in clay soils it is not always wise to roll, as a dash of rain is liable to run the land together so that it will crust and prevent the plants from coming up. The short white horse carrot, the Danvers Half-long, and the Mammoth White Intermediate are varieties that are much in favor. Turnips are usually not sown till about the middle of June, and for these fresh manure from the barnyard may be plowed under and worked into the land, but in some sections it is the custom to sow them in May, and some successful growers prefer this month. The preparation is similar to that for mangels and carrots, a very fine tilth being essential, care being taken to conserve the moisture by harrowing and rolling after each shower before sowing, and the land is generally ridged, the seed being sown with a root drill at the rate of one and a half to two pounds to the acre. Among the best varieties for yield and quality are Skirving's Elephant, Champion, Mammoth Purple-top, Rennie's Prize, and Great Mogul. Care should be exercised that the seed is not sown too deep, one and a half inches being sufficient, as a rule. As soon as the plants can be seen in the row, and this can be best done in the early morning, start the fine harrow-tooth cultivator and run it as close to the row as possible and not to cover the plants. This will promote rapid growth of the plants and

well as reducing the weight of yield. Certainly not more than half a bushel an acre should, in any case, be sown, and then if the plants are less than one foot apart, should be thinned out to that distance. Many successful growers prefer to plant in hills three feet apart each way, cultivate both ways, and claim to get a heavier crop of better matured corn, which makes the best ensilage, keeping sweeter, besides having a large quantity of matured grain, which is good for fattening cattle and helping the milk flow in cows. It is scarcely possible to name a variety of ensilage corn that will give satisfactory results in every section of our wide constituency. Some are better suited to southern districts, and others to central and northern portions. If a variety has been tried and proved to be suitable to your district, growing strong, and maturing so that the corn in the ears is well into the glazed or dough state, or even ripe enough for husking, before heavy frost comes, or say from the 20th of September to 1st of October, it is well to stand by that sort until you have tested other varieties on a small scale to prove their adaptation to your locality. It is not wise to go in for the variety that gives the heaviest return of stalks, unless it also matures early; better have a medium crop of stalks, well eared and well matured. The after-cultivation belongs to another chapter, and we shall not continue further in this than to say that as soon as the corn is well above the ground it is good practice to harrow it to kill any weeds that have started, and to loosen the soil around the corn plants, which will promote their growth. The harrowing may be repeated two or three times at intervals of a few days with good effect, after which deep cultivation may be practiced at first, and shallower cultivation later, as the rootlets grow and spread rapidly as the crop approaches maturity, and should not be broken or cut by the horse hoe or cultivator. The retention of moisture in the soil by frequent shallow cultivation, which also keeps down weeds which would otherwise draw on the moisture and fertility of the land, is important.

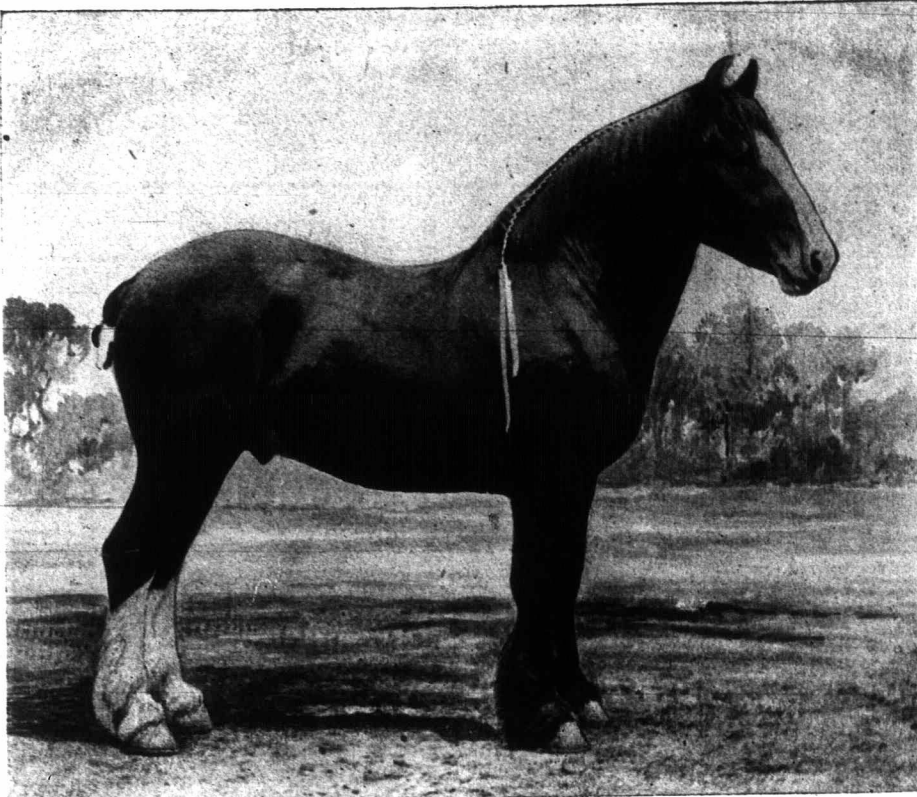
Illustration Farms.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In your last number I read with interest Prof. Robertson's plan of establishing *Illustration Stations* or *Illustration Fields*. Five years ago I submitted to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture a plan of establishing *Illustration Farms* throughout the Province of Ontario. In brief it was as follows: That the Ontario Legislature select a certain number of farms (differently situated) throughout the Province; the owners thereof agreeing to cultivate and manage their farms for say four years according to the direction of a supervisor appointed by the Government; the idea being to carry on several systems of farming, according to location and other circumstances, on the most economical and scientific principles, to demonstrate that farming under various systems will give adequate returns when cultivated and cropped according to up-to-date methods and at the same time increase in fertility. The farm also to be made attractive by planting a few evergreen and deciduous trees (artistically arranged). The only cost to the Government would be the salary and traveling expenses of a supervisor. A lady assistant might be included who is competent to give instruction in *dairying*, *domestic economy*, etc., in accordance with science. Guelph, Ont. WM. RENNIE.

Silos for 1898.

Even amongst the most conservative stockmen the silo is becoming introduced. It has taken some of them a long time to decide that the silo question had much more in it than talk. For the last few years the increase of silos built has quite resembled a snowball rolling down a hill—the more silos that go up in a neighborhood the more continue to be built. This, we have no doubt, will continue until nearly every farm will have a silo of some description upon it. During the past winter we have met men who, having had one season's experience feeding ensilage, will build another silo during the coming summer. Presenting the other side of the picture, however, we have met men who, after one winter's experience feeding silage, declare that the silo is entirely useless—no more silage for them; the cows have grown thinner and thinner, they have bawled all winter, and what little milk they have given was quite strongly flavored. We looked into one of these cases, however, and found that deplorable ignorance on the part of the farmer was entirely to blame for the unsatisfactory results. The corn had been thickly sown, so that it never approached anything like maturity, and the cows were fed exclusively upon it, without even straw to satisfy their unnatural craving. No more silo for that man; the whole thing is a hoax and a failure (?). Is it not remarkable that a man will not take the trouble to visit a neighboring farmer to learn by what means his silo has given such entire satisfaction? And



FIRST PRIZE TWO-YEAR-OLD CLYDESDALE STALLION, TOM MACGREGOR [2313]; OWNED BY ROBT. DAVIES, TORONTO.

kill weed growth, and should be repeated after each shower.

CORN CULTURE.

Fodder corn for green feed for cows and other stock during the dry months of summer when pastures fall, as well as for ensilage or for curing for winter feeding, has become a standard crop in nearly all the provinces, and furnishes a larger quantity of palatable succulent feed from a given acreage than any other crop that can be grown, and at a less cost per ton. The farmer who provides a crop of corn and a well constructed, though cheap, silo in which to store it is fortified against unfavorable seasons and the possible failure of other feed crops, and enjoys a feeling of security that is well worth what it costs. The season for corn planting runs from the 10th to the 20th of May, and if weather or other circumstances are not favorable to sowing within this time a good crop may be obtained if seeding is delayed till first week in June. It is better to wait a few days than to work the land when too wet. In the preparation for this crop fall plowing and manuring is generally preferable, but the manure may be applied daily as made during winter, and spread on the surface and worked into the land with the cultivator without plowing, providing that the manure is free from long straw, a plan which is much in favor, as it retains the moisture in the soil; or if this has not been done, may be drawn from the barnyard before the spring plowing and worked into the land, which should be made fine by repeated harrowing and rolling. The seed should be sown thinly, one peck to the acre being considered sufficient if sown with the grain drill in rows three and a half feet apart. Most new beginners make the mistake of sowing it too thickly, and spoil the crop for good ensilage, as