

dustrial Exhibition, an in-bred Sharplow, her dam and sire being by Sharplow, her grandam on the sire's side by Old Fireworks, her grandam on the dam's side by Geneva 2.14 standard, and I believe one of the best yearling colts ever seen in the Hackney breed, but she had one out-cross of Standard-bred blood, which is ninety per cent. Hackney. Still, to get this mare registered, I should have to have the grandams and sires and dams registered. I do not blame the farmer for not trying to register his stock in a great many cases, as it means a great deal of expense and time, and very little satisfaction.

Now, I think a committee could be appointed for each breed of horses, composed of men competent to judge each breed. Say we let the bars down for three years, making every filly on the first cross eligible for registration, this would give the farmer some encouragement, and I believe would increase the revenue of the Record Office one hundred fold. We are a young country and should be breeding horses for export instead of importing, and I think there are many horses to-day working as slaves, if they could have been registered would have proven themselves better producers than many horses we import.

York Co., Ont. J. GORDON McPHERSON.

### People Do the Inspecting.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A short time ago you extended to stallion owners and breeders an invitation to give their views on the Stallion Enrolment Act, so I send you mine. Regarding the enrolment of stallions, I cannot say that it did either good or harm in this section, unless it is the loss of the two dollars to the owner, as there is practically no scrub heavy-draft stallion in this part.

As far as I can see, the inspection of stallions has been of just as little value. A horse is not long in any locality before any unsoundness he may possess is known to the public. Many of the stallion owners in this part of the country had their horses inspected, while we did not. To show you how little attention the public paid to inspection, I will say that we keep three imported stallions for service, and during the season of 1913 we bred, with the three, about four hundred and fifty mares, and only once or twice were we asked anything about our horses not being inspected. I am satisfied we never lost a mare on that account. The people did their own inspecting. While I do not think it would amount to much in any case, I believe it would be better made compulsory than the way it is now, as the man with the blemished horse will simply not have his horse inspected, as well as the man who does not care to pay the five dollars. But if the Government wants to make it compulsory, let them pay the fee.

As to the grading of stallions, I think it ridiculous in the extreme. I do not believe for a moment that the Government could get men capable of doing that satisfactorily. Good horsemen often differ in their opinions, and it would be much more serious in the case of grading than in the show-ring. A first-class horse might be a little out of condition at the time of inspection, and would not show himself as such, while a poorer horse in extra bloom might get more than he deserved.

Again, we say that too often positions of this kind are given to men who have been faithful to the party in power, rather than to men whose fitness for this kind of thing has been proven. Better let the breeders do their own grading. It is to their own interest to use the best horse, and we believe that, taking one time with another, they are quite as capable of doing so as any man hired by the Government.

Lambton Co., Ont. JAMES BRANDON.

### Enrolment Deceived Some.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been reading with much interest the discussion in "The Farmer's Advocate" re stallion enrolment, and would offer my experience. I have kept stallions continually for the last twenty-six years, and at the present time I have three, all registered. The enrolment, as now constituted, is a curse to the owner of registered stallions, as an enrolled scrub is placed on the same footing as the registered stallion. I know of four cases where men bred their mares to scrub stallions, thinking they were registered because they were enrolled. If the government would stop the scrub stallion from travelling the roads, or the offering for service anything but a registered stallion, and in place of asking the owner for high fees to give a good grant to each registered stallion, I venture to say in two years the scrub stallion would be a thing of the past. Enrolment has certainly been a boon to owners of scrub stallions in Eastern Ontario at least, and until we farmers join hands and elect farm-

ers to represent us in parliament we will never be any better off. Just grin and pay the piper. Prescott Co., Ont. G. A. RYAN.

### Give Us Compulsory Inspection.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As you have opened your columns for criticisms on the Stallion Inspection Act, I beg leave to present my views.

After one year's trial, I consider the Act has been more injurious than beneficial to the interests of horse breeding. Those whose horses were not sound rarely had them inspected, but would wave their enrolment certificates in the eyes of an innocent public, who had not yet become conversant with the Act, and could easily be led to believe that these horses were licensed by the Government and must therefore be all right and just as good as the sound horses, which had cost many times more to purchase, and for which the inspection fee had been paid. Hence, I say, give us compulsory inspection. But what is the use of inspecting the stallions and licensing only the sound ones, when farmers are allowed to breed blemished mares, which invariably produce their hereditary unsoundness in their offspring? Why not impose a fine on every man who breeds a hereditary unsound mare, and also fine the stallioner who accepts her?

What was the use of placing a law on the Statute Books of this Province and provide no means for enforcing the same? I am informed that many stallion owners broke the law in one respect or another, and with impunity. If the law is to be enforced, duly appointed inspectors must be located in every county for that purpose.

As to grading stallions into classes—one, two and three—I think it would be very unwise. I see no argument in favor of that scheme, but many against it. It would, to a great extent, impair the usefulness of our Spring Stallion Shows. Inasmuch as the owner of a horse graded two would not exhibit him, although he might be equally as good in the eyes of some judges as the one graded one.

Would all the inspectors out be competent judges? Even the best judges differ in the placing of the same horses. Would the judgment of the inspectors not be accepted in many cases by farmers whose own judgment would be better? Very often a horse graded two might be far superior to one graded one for crossing with certain mares. It is very important to choose the horse best suited to your mare, even though he may be a little deficient in some point in which the mare excelled. Then why prejudice the breeder against certain horses which might be better suited to his purpose than one graded higher? After a horse has been in a community a couple of years, his stock will show for themselves and a breeder has a much better chance of determining which is the most suitable horse for him to use than has the inspector.

We repeatedly see articles on horse breeding advising that stallions be worked in the team after the breeding season is over. Those who have tried this know how beneficial it is to the horse, and also to his offspring. It is, however, impossible to work a stallion as you would other horses, as is necessary to do considering the scarcity of farm help, and still have him in the same bloom for the show-ring or for the inspectors to classify, as though he was not worked. A horse which would be classed as No. 1 before he was put to work might easily be classed No. 2 after he had worked for six months, and still he would be a better horse to breed from after he had worked than before. Let the inspectors judge the horses as to soundness, but let the breeder choose the horse which he thinks best suited to his mare.

As to prohibiting from doing business all stallions not pure-bred, I might say that many grade sires leave some good stock, but their colts are not as uniform as those from a pure-bred. Many useful horses have been bred from grade sires, and I believe there are communities where a grade sire might still have a place, although I own a pure-bred horse myself. There is a tendency among the owners of grade horses, which cost little more than geldings (many of which would not make good geldings), to cut prices for service, to insure living colts, or to use some other inducement to get patronage. Many inferior mares are bred to grade horses simply on account of the price. In reality this is a good thing for the owners of good horses, yet the colts from such mares seldom pay for raising.

Let the stallioner determine what price he is going to charge for insurance, and put it on his route bills. Then he should be compelled to stand by those terms. If this were done it would soon eradicate the inferior stallions, and the men who had paid high prices for good horses would be encouraged to continue in the business.

Oxford Co., Ont.

S. W. JACKSON.

### A Discussion Worth Considering.

From the discussion which has been going on during the past few weeks through these columns regarding stallion enrolment and inspection it will be plain to those in authority that this Act as it is at present constituted is not looked upon by horsemen as being of very much value. We have stated on previous occasions that we believed it advisable that something should be done to eliminate the scrub stallion in this country. On the advice of horsemen the Ontario Government saw fit to pass the Stallion Enrolment Act. It is quite evident that this Act is not well understood by the majority of the stallion owners and much less so by the average mare owner, who does not take the trouble to go into such documents very fully. A correspondent in this week's issue points out that many mare owners in his district were fooled the past season, believing that the enrolment of certain stallions passed them by the Government as being pure-breds. There was very little excuse for this, had the owner taken the trouble to look into the Act and to read the published advertisements or bills of the stallion in question.

The main weakness in the Act, as we take it from the letters from our correspondents which have been published recently, is that it does not go far enough. Some complaint has also been made that the system of enrolment giving out certain certificate forms was rather misleading. Most horsemen did not understand fully the meaning of Form 1, Form 2, Form 3, etc. It might be possible, if the Government sees fit to make inspection compulsory, to improve upon this wording and use the word "grade," if grading according to inspection meets the approval of the horsemen. There are those, however, who still believe that it is not the best policy to attempt to legislate good horses into the country, and these, of course, do not favor enrolment, inspection, or grading. We hope that the Government may get some light upon the views of the stallion owners from this series of letters which we have published and that these may in some measure guide them in strengthening the Act at the coming session of the Legislature. It will require some care in amending and no hasty judgment one way or the other until the matter has been carefully threshed out. All cannot be pleased, seeing that there is such a wide diversity of opinion, but one thing seems certain, that none are pleased as matters stand and a change is necessary. A little stronger legislation seems in order and the suggestion of licensing under the local control of the agricultural societies seems worth considering. All breeders are down on the grade stallion and it looks as though he must go for good. No good horseman would be very sorry and he might well take with him many of the scrub class of pure-bred sires. A horse that would not make a good gelding himself cannot be expected to produce many.

### Compulsory Inspection Advised.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been reading with interest the different views of the stallion owners, and as I am in the business I thought I would give my views on the matter. It seems to be the general feeling that there should be something done to protect and improve the horse industry of this country. Just how to get at it seems to be the problem. I for one paid \$50.00 for horse inspection and enrolment for 1913, and so far I do not consider it has been of any benefit to me whatever, as grade stallions (and I consider inferior ones) have been enrolled and inspected as grades, and travelled in our district at fees from \$5.00 to \$8.00. The owners could show their certificate with the government seal, keep back the grade part of it, and in this way deceive the ordinary farmer and make him believe he had his horse inspected and approved just the same as the fellow with the pure-bred and registered, because there was no difference whatever in the certificates only one read, "Inspected and approved as a grade stallion," the other one, "Inspected and approved as a pure-bred and registered." I for one am in favor of compulsory inspection and grading 1, 2 and 3, providing the unregistered and scrub stallions are not allowed to travel at all. The owners of those stallions may feel that this is an injustice to them, but I think not. It would allow them to keep their horses on the farm and work them, and if they want to raise inferior horses, breed their own mares, and also make them charge a fee of \$10.00 to insure, then if the breeders in that section think their horse good enough to breed to they will have the privilege of doing so. Have the fee not less than \$15.00 or more than \$20.00 for the pure-bred and registered horses that are allowed to travel for public service, in this way the odd ones that would be graded No. 1 might be able to travel at a fee, say \$20.00, those graded No. 2 and 3 would have to be satisfied with about the \$15.00 fee. If the inspection was compulsory and the service fees fixed at a certain