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CORRECTION.

In our report of the Cowan-Patteson sale we
credited Mr. W. W. Goodall, of "Brampton," with
having bought a lot of imported Shropshire ewes
and a ram of Mr. Patteson. This was a typograph-
ical error for "Branchton," a village near Galt, in
which neighborhood Mr. Goodall is well known as
an intelligent and progressive breeder of fine stock.

WARNING.

Breeders of thoroughbred stock should be cau-
tious about placing faith in supposed buyers from
the other side, and however plausible and agreeable
such individuals may make themselves, to remem-
ber it is wiser to have no business transactions with
strangers except on the safe basis of cash payment
before delivery. A buyer of this description has
been victimizing a few breeders not far from
Toronto.

HORSE RANCHING IN CANADA.

We have more than once pointed out that as far
as it has been tried cattle ranching in the Cana-
dian North West has been eminently successful.
A kindred industry that has thus far had nothing
like a fair trial should be vastly safer and, in the
long run, much more profitable. Cattle can take
care of themselves the year around provided they
are kept on those ranges which are so subject to
the influence of the chinook winds as to be free
from snow all winter except for periods of three or
four days at a time. On the other hand, horses
ask no aid from the friendly chinooks, welcome

enough though they may be. All they want is a
fair supply of grass on the range, and though it
may be buried under from ten to twenty inches of
snow, they will make their way to it and thrive
on it. Of course it is better that they should
not have to paw away the snow in order to get at
the grass, but when necessary they can make their
way to the feed whether the snow be blown or
thawed away from it or not. Care should be taken
not to have the colts come too early and that the
mares are served at the proper time, and this,
with the breaking and gelding and branding of the
young stock, is about all the "looking after" a
herd of horses requires.

How quickly could a man with a moderate
capital pick up two or three hundred mares that
would form the foundation of a grand herd in the
North-West in a few years—mares that have been
slightly blemished by accident, that are of uncer-
tain temper and nearly useless on the farm, mares
from ten to fourteen years old and consequently
unsaleable for any ordinary purpose. In fact, the
country is overstocked with mares that would cross
grandly with big-boned thoroughbred horses for
the production of thoroughly marketable range
horses. Thoroughbred stallions of style, size and
substance that have not been successful on the
turf can be had almost for the asking, and yet what
a lot of capital hunters, saddle hacks, Brougham
horses, dog-cart horses and cobs they would pro-
duce when coupled with mares past their prime
for the farm, the saddle, the carriage, the livery
stable, the street-car service, or the omnibus. It
pays to breed horses judiciously on the farm in
Ontario or Quebec where the youngsters have to
be fed liberally from five to seven months out of
the twelve; what, then, are the prospects in the
North-West where the colt would pick his own
living (and keep fat and growing on it) the year
around until he was ready for the breaking harness
or the market?

Ranges that would be quite unsuitable for cattle
would answer admirably for horse-breeding, and
yet there is not a ranch in the Canadian North-
West producing horses except in a very small way.
With the grandest of pasture land at one cent per
acre per annum and a twenty-one years' lease
obtainable, capitalists are not to be found who
will risk the money necessary to place five hun-
dred mares on the range and try their luck.

TROTTERS THAT PRODUCE PACERS.

The so-called history of pacing families is purely
mythical. We are told about the Narragansett
pacer and the Canuck pacer in language that is
positively oracular, and yet if there were pacing
families in those days to which the lore of the
pacing crank goes back, what has become of them?
Where are they now? There never was a pacing
family in Canada, or if there was it was long before
the day when Wolfe and Montcalm wrestled for
supremacy on the plains of Abraham. There have
been pacing stallions and pacing mares in Canada
at all times, but they have never shown any peculiar
tendency to produce pacers. Let a breeder now
go to the Province of Quebec (the supposed home
of the mythical "Canuck pacer"), and select a

pacing mare and a pacing stallion, and couple them.
The product will be quite as apt to be a trotter as
a pacer. On the other hand, let him take from the
same place a typical French pony, up-headed,
droop-rumped, cat-hammed, cow-hocked, round in
the barrel, with clean limbs, and small tough feet,
that has trotted squarely from colt-hood, and bends
his knees in the most pronounced and approved
style. Let him be bred to a thoroughbred mare
that was never known to trot faster than six or
seven miles an hour, and who always went stiff-
kneed at that. The result will be quite as apt to
be a pacer as if both sire and dam had been pacers.
The fact is pacing seems to be anything but an
inherited gift, and still there are people silly enough
to be continually writing about "pacing families,"
as though such things had ever had an existence out-
side the fertile imagination of theorists who, despite
the facts that are staring them in the face every day,
will consent to anything rather than the value of
warm blood in the trotter.

The editor of the *Chicago Breeders' Gazette* is
no admirer of warm blood in the trotter, but he
deals the "pacing family" lunatics a terrible blow
in the following paragraph:—

"The subject of trotting stallions siring so many
of our fastest and most successful pacers is one that
has been frequently alluded to in these columns,
and that is all the time attracting more attention.
Last year Artemus and Ajax, a couple of stallions
that are full brothers, being by Rysdyk's Hamble-
tonian, dam by American Star, were taken to Indi-
ana. It is now found that quite a percentage of
their get are natural pacers, and when the fact was
first noticed it was explained on the ground that
nearly all the mares served by them in Indiana had
pacing blood in their veins. Enquiry in the East,
however, where Artemus and Ajax stood for many
years, and where pacing dams were almost unknown,
develops the fact that pacers were often foaled to
the cover of these horses. The theory advanced
by Superintendent Brodhead, of the Alexander
Farm, that to get the best pacers it was necessary
to breed to the Hambletonian family, is almost
daily being strengthened by facts."

THE POTATO ROT.

One of the evils of farming for crops alone is in
a fair way of being illustrated this year in the very
general destruction of the potato crop by rot.
Though very few farmers in Canada depend mainly
upon the potato crop, there are few who will not be
more or less seriously inconvenienced by such a
general destruction of the crop as is threatened this
year. In some of the townships contiguous to the
scenes of lumbering operations, some of the settlers
grow large crops of potatoes on the newly broken
soil and usually realize handsomely on them, as the
transporting of potatoes to the lumber camps along
with other supplies, is both costly and troublesome.
Farmers and settlers thus operating in some of the
frontier townships, will doubtless feel the injury
caused by the blight much more seriously than
those located nearer the regular markets, and who
often grow only as many potatoes as they can use
at home in the house and in the stable.