

### Need for Backbone in our Politicians.

So keen is the strife for political supremacy all the time that despite the protestations of these men that they are working in the interests of the country as a whole, their actions belie their words. Nowhere is this so evident as in management of the school system of the country, nowhere is the effect so likely to have a malign effect as in the tampering of the politicians with Canada's public schools.

For political effect our representatives prate about loyalty to the British flag, constitution and principles; yet for a temporary advantage trade, traffic and barter those sacred rights and emblems in order to placate alien peoples, who in their demands for bi-lingual schools are merely the puppets of a powerful, unrelenting clerical force.

Canada is a British country first, and while other nationalities are welcomed and given good lands and permitted equal rights in the exercise of the privileges of citizenship similar to those accorded the native born, we firmly believe that Canada's politicians are short-sighted, lacking in patriotism and statesmanship, and are not working to the best interests of the Canadian tongue, when they permit and establish bi-lingual schools. If considered solely from the low ground of materialism and commercial convenience, the proper thing is to insist upon the teaching of one language only, and that the English tongue and grammar. Our cousins to the south have set a glorious example in this matter, and are profiting by it. No church or race is allowed to interfere with the pursuance of the one idea; namely, to cement by means of a national school using one language, the many dissimilar races found under their flag. They have more foreigners than we, and they also, it would appear, have more commonsense, more statesmanship and more patriotism than is evidenced by our public men. If the alien were left to himself to choose, he would plump for the language of the country, which is the common tongue of commerce and the nations of the world. This cancer of our schools and system of politics must be cut out, and that soon if we are to grow up with a healthy national body.

## HORSE

The prospects for a good show at Regina this month are bright. Doune Lodge, Craigie Mains, and Hillcrest can make a noble showing of Clydesdales.

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In his annual report Mr. Arch. McNeillage, secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society, gave as the number of export certificates issued in 1906, 1317, of which 1949 were for Canada.

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A draft sale of Shires was recently held from the King's stud at which prices were realized which were considered very satisfactory. The highest figure touched was 825 guineas, for Ravenspur, a mature stallion. The highest priced female was the yearling filly Lady Forester, which brought 260 guineas. The averages were as follows:—Brood mares, £92 15s.; four-year-old mares, £98 11s. 6d.; three-year-old fillies, £76 15s.; yearling fillies, £91; two-year-old fillies, £92 12s. 6d.; stallions, £370 5s.; yearling colts, £137 7s. 6d.

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We are glad to note that the prize list of the Saskatchewan Spring Horse Show makes provision for a class of Canadian bred Clydesdale mares. This is as it should be, and we should also like to see at the larger exhibitions separate sections with good big prizes for Canadian bred females. The horse breeders are justly entitled to liberal treatment, and judges can be had who have nerve enough to withhold a prize where competition is not keen nor the entries up to the quality.

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The American Association of Trotting Horse Breeders is now ready to mail printed matter to all who are interested in the breeding and improvement of harness race horses. Those who desire to keep in touch with the progress of this association should write to Secretary H. K. Devereux, Cleveland, O.

### French Coachers for Rancher.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

With regard to your correspondent who asks for suggestions on breeding light mares, I would say that in any case he can only hope to breed up slowly. The better his mares the more satisfaction and profit he will get. I consider that the French coach, one of the heavy boned ones, weighing not less than 1400 pounds, would give him the best results—if he feeds and handles the foals the first year. I have found the French Coach the most prepotent sire I have used, and owing to his strong lines of Thoroughbred blood he gets colts from cold blooded mares with more quality than the other Coach breeds. But he wants to get a good one with action and substance and low set for the first cross. I have bred a good many hundred mares in the last eighteen years to Hackneys, Thoroughbreds and Standard-breds and found none of them give the satisfaction with their produce that the French Coach has done or prove so prepotent in transmitting traits of conformation. From a marketable point of view the stock is the most saleable I have ever owned.

G. E. GODDARD.

Bow River Horse Ranch, Alta.

### The Stallion in the Case.

Within the course of the next few weeks stock-breeders will have to decide definitely, if they have not already done so, as to the sires they will use during the forthcoming breeding season. Doubtless in the case of many such matters have been pretty well determined upon, but there are always some who prefer to put off arriving at a decision until the last day, and then, as often as not, they will find out subsequently they have committed a mistake. Nor does it infrequently happen that the breeder who has made all his arrangements a long time ahead has reason to regret his haste, and in the majority of instances both sufferers will owe their misfortunes to a similar cause; namely to their neglect to study the pages of their studbooks.

These volumes supply a mine of wealth in the way of information to the student of their pages; such as breeders of the past possessed no opportunity of acquiring, and the man who neglects their teaching has only himself to blame when disappointment overtakes him. In days gone by, when it was a difficult, tedious and expensive matter to obtain the services of a sire standing at a distance, and when a good deal of vagueness existed upon the subject of pedigrees, owing to the disinclination that prevailed among breeders to disclose the secrets of their studs, there were excuses to be made for owners who were influenced by appearances. Now, thanks to the work of the breed societies, full disclosure of pedigrees has to be made before a stallion or mare can be registered in a studbook, and so the breeder at a distance is able to ascertain pretty well as much about a horse as its owner knows; consequently, it is impossible to approve of the action of anyone who prefers to select a stallion for using to his mares by the looks of the horse without also considering his blood, for appearances are often deceptive, and never more so than where breeding stock are concerned.

Inbreeding can easily be carried too far, though the difficulty that is often experienced in obtaining a desirable out-cross can scarcely be overestimated. An entirely new departure in the way of an out-cross is a leap in the dark, and a serious point in connection with such an experiment which generally has to be made sooner or later, is that its ill effects may not become apparent for a generation or two. The first cross, in fact, may have apparently turned out so successfully that it has been indulged in again before the mistake was ascertained.

These are, of course, exceptional sires, just as there are exceptional mares, which seem capable of producing good stock, no matter how they are mated. Moreover, if their breeding be carefully gone into, it is probable that their pedigrees will be found to contain the name of some animal of exceptional prepotency, the possession of which enables his or her stock to survive mistakes on the part of the breeder. This is by no means infrequently the case where mares are concerned as if these are inbred it will often be seen that they adapt themselves better to outcrossing than horses do, after the first generation has passed. The result of a first cross may mean anything or nothing so far as future breeding is concerned. The foal may be just exactly what was wanted and combine the good points of both its parents to the fullest extent, but when it comes to a

matter of breeding from it in turn, anything may occur. Possibly the main characteristics of both parents may be transmitted to its stock time after time, to the delight of the owner, or it may simply develop the points of one of the parents strains and not the other, in which case the cross will not have accomplished much. Still worse, it is quite within the limits of possibility, as many an owner will sorrowfully admit, that the bad points of one or both the paternal or maternal families, which had been bred out, or pretty nearly so, in the sire and dam, may reappear, and then a good deal of trouble may ensue.

All these possibilities, both of good and evil, suggest the wisdom of a steady perusal of the studbook, by which the results of the experiences of others may be ascertained. Some strains of blood stand crossing better than others, and some families seem to benefit by close breeding, which would result in failure if applied to different strains. Individual horses, too, possess powers of transmitting certain properties to their stock which their own brothers fail to accomplish, not merely in the matter of shape, make or action, but rather in the form of family characteristics, and such points should enter into the calculations of the breeder. Above all things, he should assure himself that the stallion he thinks of sending his mare to is free from hereditary unsoundness. In short, in the selection of a sire, the owner of a brood mare cannot possibly exercise too much vigilance if his object be to produce stock that will pay their way in the show-ring at the stud, or in the market.—*Live Stock Journal*

### The Second Manitoba Provincial Stallion Show

Perennial is the interest in draft horses, and the speedier ones at that city set on the hill known as Brandon, and no exception to the rule was shown on the occasion of the holding of the Second Provincial Stallion Show there. A bitter wind chivied the crowd to points of vantage for shelter and observation. It was one that chilled grooms, horses and spectators to the marrow; yet so keen was the interest that the crowd melted not away until the ribbons denoting the decisions were handed out. Prof. W. J. Rutherford, M.A.C., passed on the horses and made the awards, and his decisions were not seriously challenged so far as we could hear; hence such must have been fairly satisfactory, because Brandon is a stallion storm center, a place at which the rival clans foregather to air their horse lore and decry their opponents steeds. True, 'tis all done in good part, although so fervent are some enthusiasts that the uninitiated might think the seeds of deadly enmities were being sown; but the scribes know better, because such is human nature that to-day a champion, next year a victim, is the story, and no tears are shed over the occurrence. The surroundings were distinctly uncongenial and we understand are to be remedied next year by the erection of a large pavilion to house the winter fairs and in which to hold the stallion show. In such a place it will be possible for women as well as men to sit and gaze on the prancing equines, in the sheen of whose coats one's face may be seen, so attentive have been the grooms. There in comfort, and out of the wind, perhaps listening between classes to a Sousa march or De Koven waltz, will those interested be able to sit, without running chances of inducing an attack of pneumonia. "But let us to the horses" say you. Well it's not a long story. In the aged class hot competition had been expected. "Scotty" Bryce was to have shown Perpetual Motion and the Napinka men were to have had Show King on deck, but the best laid schemes of men and mice "gang aft agley" when rude Boreas fights with railroads, and those two noted stud veterans were absent from the fray. The others were no small fry, although it had been simmered down to a quartette of contestants, headed by Storm King, the massive black with the malevolent glint in the tail of his eye. This horse of John Graham's (Carberry) came forward in vastly better fettle than the year previous. He was fit, had bodied down and was going well handling his timber well for such a big draft fellow. Fairly well known to the showing, the improvement in him was as stated above. He is proving a great stock horse around his home stand. Little disappointment would have been caused had he got further up in the finals; he should have been reserve for championship. Macmillan, Colquhoun and Beattie's entries came to the front with a rush, the way being made in the aged class by that right good horse, Fiscal Policy, a lower set horse, strong and compact whose feet and ankles undoubtedly