

old-fashioned sport of riding and driving good horses never die out.

If farmers will breed their mares on the lines indicated, they need not fear for the result; they do not need to experiment and find out after waiting five years that they must commence again where they started. In this rapid age we have no time for experiments. Choose methods which others have proven to be correct by experience; look around you and see where and why others fail; profit by their mistakes and impractical theories, for, as a renowned writer has said, "No man was ever endowed with a judgment so correct and judicious, but that circumstances, time and experience would teach him something new, and apprise him that of those things with which he thought himself the best acquainted he knew nothing, and that those ideas which in theory appeared the most advantageous were found, when brought into practice, to be altogether inapplicable."

R. P. STERICKER.

Orange Co., New Jersey.

Breeding Draft Horses.

Leaving out the details as to necessary soil and climate, the first step in the production of a champion stallion, be it Shire or Clydesdale, is a good brood mare. In regard to the vexed subject of hair, at the outset it may be well to state that in the opinion of Professor Cossar Ewart, hair is one of those things that cannot be especially bred for. By hair I, of course, mean "feather." This "feather" is entirely derived from the Dutch importations into this country. The relationship of "feather" to the legs is one entirely associated with the hoof. It is most desirable, if, indeed, not an essential feature, in showyard stock. In the Fen country and many parts of the Shires it is impossible to get horses with very thick bone, notwithstanding what the original relationship might be, without heavy feather on the legs. It is in the dressing of this hair back into a flat fringe that much of the fine art of the modern draft-horse showman really exists.

In the old days before studbooks, numerous dams of champions were bought out of dealers' strings at the ordinary fairs. It is questionable if anyone who ever made a purchase of such had much more in his mind than getting hold of a good type of animal which could work his ground, and if there chanced to be a good, suitable horse in his vicinity, breed a good foal or two. With the establishment of numerous fashionable studs, this has, to a considerable extent, been departed from. It is, however, by far the most profitable line for the rent-paying farmer to take. In choosing a mare to breed a good stallion, one must look beyond the gaudily-decorated horse, with crested mane, all ribbons, roller, and rosette, to the humble gelding which walks in shafts or chains. The main purpose of the champion stallion is to beget such, or sons and daughters which will beget such. Though in Scotland a little less power is desired for the single-yoke lorry, and an inch of height is dispensed with to suit the low-set wheels and flat frame, which allows the man in charge to be both driver and porter, south of the Tweed a powerful, shapely-shouldered sort is wanted, with full, round body, broad, deep quarters, and long, deep, well-bent, muscular hind legs. Hoofs and pasterns they must have to match, of course. Besides power, soundness, good hoofs, and close, extensive walking action, and the latter is not so much studied as it ought to be; yet the breeder must give attention to the sorts which carry quality in legs and joints to the last. It has sometimes been the case that these sorts, through the accident of mating, missed in one generation, only to come in the next. Of this, the famous Clydesdale sire, Baron's Pride, is a notable example, as his grandsire on the dam's side was a rather indifferent horse, though his dam topped the brood-mare class at Glasgow Agricultural Society's Show when 14 years old. All her daughters, a numerous progeny, turned out grand wearers. Of this sort, amongst famous sires, Bar Nene stood out conspicuously, and the old horse's stock carried their freshness of leg out to a long period. Several typical ideal Shire mares which carried freshness to the last might be adduced. Lord Cawdor's famous mare, Lady Laurence, the celebrated Clydesdale champion, I take to be just what the average London Cart Horse Parade driver would like to handle, and would pass muster in either breed. The powerful frame in front of her well-set muscular thighs would make her just one suited for London or Liverpool traffic.

Beyond this wearing freshness comes hardiness and healthiness of constitution. A favorite theory regarding this is that, whilst the horse imparts general contour and conformation to his progeny, the dam supplies stamina and constitution. The late Mr. James Howard, M. P., of Bedford, who was one of the founders of the Shire Horse Society was great on this. Though every textbook on horse-breeding contains the repetition of such a theory, I have never yet been able to track it home, as regards practice.

"Get your fish and fry it" may be the motto of most people when they do succeed in catching

hold of a first-class brood mare. It is not so easy to work out the matching system as to bend of hocks and stifles as it seems on paper. Yet, if two horses have to do "pull-along" work in London or Liverpool, it is absolutely essential that they must pull together gunlock fashion, step and step, click and click, every link of the chains carried on equal and parallel levels, and the pace extensive and regular.—[Argus, in Live-stock Journal.]

Saved the Life of Two Colts.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Enclosed please find P. O. order for one dollar and fifty cents, for subscription for "The Farmer's Advocate" for the year 1906. We saved the life of two colts (one last year, and one this) by what we read in "The Farmer's Advocate." They leaked at the navel, one so badly that when he made water it would pass through the navel; the other not so bad. However, we did not use the clams, as the veterinary thought we had better use twine, as the cord was about one-half inch long. We think these little flies are the cause, to a great extent (the Texas horn fly is the kind I would mean). We kept the mare in at day time, and turned out at night, if warm.

York Co., Ont.

T. W. HUNTLEY.

[You treated the cases properly, and the results were satisfactory, but you are mistaken as to the cause. The flies mentioned are not responsible for the non-closure of the duct by which the urine gains the navel opening. You were fortunate in both cases in having sufficient length of umbilical cord to ligature, as they are often broken off close to, or even above, the abdominal walls.—"Whip."]



Olympus, imp. (11840).

Four-year-old Clydesdale stallion, winner of first prize in Class I., Canadian Clydesdale and Shire Show, Toronto, 1906. Imported and owned by Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont.

LIVE STOCK.

The Hog Question.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have read with interest the many views given on the hog question (on both sides), and have come to the conclusion that some rather extreme views have been given both against and in favor of the packers. I never was as positive as some that the packers combined for the purpose of ruling the prices, as there no doubt is a healthy rivalry between them, the same as we find in almost every line where there are so many firms in direct competition with each other, that would tend to keep the prices firm. I have good reason to believe, however, that in the matter of dividing territory (which is, perhaps, more in the hands of the buyers than the packers), the feeders are often handicapped, in that only one buyer comes to see their hogs, and, of course, they have to accept his offer; however, this does not apply to every locality. That the packers are responsible for the shortage in hogs, I have no doubt. I further think the packers will find no difficulty in getting the necessary quantity within our borders, without the necessity of asking the Government to allow U. S. hogs to come in, which is a very risky thing to do, not only from the disease standpoint, but from the danger of in-

curring the reputation of Canadian bacon. Every time the packers drop the price for hogs below a profit-producing point (which is, or seems to be, almost every fall), what do we find? We find the farmers marketing their breeding stock by the wholesale. While I think this should not be so, yet we see many farmers continually jumping from one line of business to another, which means that they go out of one line when it is at low ebb, and replace the same when prices are high. This seems to be characteristic of us as farmers. Is the ideal bacon hog, from the packer's standpoint, an ideal from the feeder's standpoint? I do not think so, and I venture to say the packer's ideal has something to do with the shortage in hogs. A few years ago the packers told us they wanted us to grow longer hogs, so as they could produce the best Wiltshire sides, and they wanted light shoulders and jowls, as that was a cheap part of the hog. The consequence was that the farmer, who is always anxious to improve, writes the breeder, describing the kind of a hog he wants. The breeder, who is always awake to the wants of his customers, selects, breeds, or imports, as far as possible, to suit his customers. And what do we find has been the consequence in many cases. The type of a hog that measured up to the packer's ideal lacked the necessary constitutional vigor and strength to be a profitable feeder. The consequence is that many farmers that kept two or more brood sows a few years ago, got disgusted feeding that type of hog, and have gone out or nearly out of the business. If the packers wish us to grow that extreme type, it is necessary for them to pay a higher price for it. But I do not think the farmer should attempt to produce that type. I do not wish to be understood to be crying down the long hog, nor do I think that a lengthy hog cannot be produced at a reasonable cost, providing that length has not been produced at the expense of breadth, which is necessary to be had, sufficient to give the pig's heart and lungs and other organs sufficient room to develop constitutional vigor and strength. As to being able to produce the ideal carcass as cheaply as any other, I have my doubts; at all events, that will need to be preached for some time yet before the average feeder will believe it. However that may be, yet I think it is our duty, for the welfare of our country, to produce good stuff, and it is the packers' duty to pay for it accordingly. In my opinion, the breeders and feeders are exercising better judgment now than

formerly, as to the class of hogs they are producing; also, in the matter of feeding, they are gradually adopting the grazing system for summer feeding, and roots for winter feeding, which is no doubt the way to produce pork most cheaply. I hope and trust that this great controversy that has been indulged in for the past few months will be a good thing for the industry; on the other hand, it would be regrettable if anything has been said or done (towards either extreme) that would tend to shorten the supply, as this is a very important industry, and one in which every farmer should be interested. In conclusion, I think if the packers will regulate prices so they will not go below 5½c. at local points for the best quality, they will not be likely to pay as high as 7c. very often, because then the farmer would have confidence in the business, and would keep up a more gradual supply, which the packers would find quite sufficient to keep them running. Middlesex Co., Ont.

R. H. HARDING.

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