



Lord Aberdeen, 2nd in aged class for Canadian bred stallions, Spring Stallion Show, 1903. Owned and exhibited by F. Russell, Cedarville, Ont. By some error Mr. Russell's name appeared under cut on page 51 of last issue; the horse shown there was Cecil (imp.), owned by R. Ness, Howick, Que., and winner of 2nd place in two-year old Clydesdale class.

Fitting Horses for Market

Many farmers, though fully appreciating what "fitting" means when applied to cattle, sheep or swine, fail to realize its importance in the marketing of horses. No animal sold off the farm will pay better in fitting and feeding for market than the horse. The case is reported at Chicago recently of a team of horses that under average conditions would have realized for their owner probably from \$300 to \$400, being knocked down to a merchant to be used on a delivery wagon for \$800. They were well matched, of good color, and had fair action. But these qualities alone would not have sold them at this figure had their owner not had them in show-ring bloom.

While the above may be an extreme case, it serves as an object lesson to everyone who has a horse to sell. Large horse dealers lay special stress on how a horse is fitted. If a horse is thin when offered, they become suspicious and are inclined to believe that the animal is naturally unthrifty. Because of this the farmer who markets a thin horse, even though the horse is healthy, usually has to sacrifice much more than it would cost to properly fit the animal.

In fitting a horse for market several things must be kept in mind. If he is to be marketed during the winter it is an excellent plan to handle him in such a way as to prevent his hair from growing shaggy. This may be done by keeping him in moderately comfortable stables or by the use of a blanket early in the winter. A fair amount of exercise is always necessary to keep an animal in good form, more especially to keep his legs right under high feeding. It is never advisable to feed a ration consisting of corn alone to a horse that is being fitted for

the market, it being much better to feed a mixture of such foods as corn, oats and bran, and so much the better if to these is added a little oil cake. Not but what a horse may be made fat by the use of corn, but rather that he is much more liable to take on good form if he is fed a variety of foods.

As to the amount of grain that should be fed per day to a horse that is being fitted for the market much depends upon conditions. Some animals will stand much heavier feeding than others, and the man in charge must use good common sense. The heavy horse will invariably eat fifteen or eighteen pounds a day of a mixture composed of corn, oats and bran. Unless the animal is obliged to perform heavy labor it is seldom advisable to feed more than this during the winter. Lighter horses, if just given enough work to properly exercise them, will usually make good gains on twelve or fifteen pounds of grain per day. After one has gone to the trouble to feed a horse properly for a time it is never advisable to market too soon, it being more profitable to bring the animal into high flesh before placing him on the market. While it is possible to overload the draft horse, yet this is seldom done and mistakes are more frequently made by marketing such animals too soon rather than feeding them too long. A sound draft horse, weighing 1,600 pounds, while in moderate flesh might be worth from \$125 to \$150, but if the same animal is made to weigh 1,800 pounds the chances are he may realize \$175 to \$225 for his owner.

Many dealers make big money by buying horses and afterwards fitting and re-selling at profitable prices. They thus make money which the farmer ought to have if he properly fitted his horses for market in the first place. There

may be a place for the middleman in fitting carriage, saddle and roadster horses for market, but we do not think he should be given the same privilege with heavy horses. The farmer can and should do this himself and get all the money there is in the business.

Canadian Breds at the Stallion Show.

The statements in your report of the Spring Stallion Show in your issue of Feb. 16th, regarding Canadian bred Clydesdales, and referring to them as recorded grades, tracing to scrub mares and certain to throw back in some instances to undesirable types are certainly remarkable.

Have you examined the pedigrees of most imported horses and compared them with those bred and recorded in Canada? I think I am safe in saying that at least two thirds, and I believe three-fourths, of the horses imported have not as many crosses of noted or any, sires as those recorded as bred in Canada. Take the last volumes of the Scotch, American and Canadian stud books and you will find that in many instances the grand dam or great grand dam was a "mare bought at Stirling or Glasgow," or some other market, breeding unknown. Horses with two crosses are recorded in the Scotch Book. It takes five to record them in Canada.

Why have we, for many years, been importing the best stallions to be bought in Scotland, if not to improve our stocks, and farmers should be encouraged to feel that by breeding to such horses they may eventually be able to record their produce in a book which has a higher standard than the one in which their sires were first registered.

We need the new blood of the imported horses; the more good ones that are brought out the better, but belittling those bred in Canada is unjust and unpatriotic.

H. Wade.

Registrar.

Note.—Our report of the stallion show was prepared for us by a well-known breeder and judge of horseflesh. His criticisms of Canadian breds did not strike us as being unjust and unpatriotic. Had we thought so we would certainly not have allowed them to go in print. There is a difference of opinion among horsebreeders as to the advisability or not of encouraging a class for Canadian breds at stallion shows, and a little discussion on the matter may not come amiss. The Canadian bred, though there are several crosses, traces back, so to speak, to the "woods," as any trace of imported blood on the dam's side shuts it out. We have no desire to discourage good breeding in Canada, but if Canadian breds compare so favorably in breeding with imported stock, why separate them at all. Scottish farmers have a better class of mares to begin on than the Canadian farmer has.—Editor.