

Horse Breeding in Canada.

Good live stock or any article of commerce which requires the most skill to produce will command the highest price; this is particularly true in horse breeding. He who can produce first-class carriage horses has no difficulty in disposing of them at satisfactory prices. In this line the breeder who can fill the eye of a connoisseur can obtain nearly any money he chooses to ask. Longer prices will be paid for such horses than for any class excepting winners on the turf. To reach this desired end, the sire to breed to must not only have the requisite qualities highly developed in himself, but must have been bred for generations for this purpose, and in this case the English Thoroughbred, Coach Horse or Cleveland Bay are the most likely to give the best results. These horses have plenty of size and are the popular color, but many of them are not as heavily muscled in their thighs and forearms as we would wish, but they have undoubtedly a well-bred appearance, and plenty of style in the head and neck, which is difficult to obtain in certain breeds of this class. By coupling these horses with the best bred mares, the cross will be one that will be sure to count in the future, which should always be taken into consideration in all lines of breeding. These horses have plenty of ambition; their feet and legs are of the wearing type which must always make them popular. But we would like to impress upon the importers of this class that it is the best we want, horses of good commanding carriage with plenty of quality. Our farmers are every day becoming more alive to the requirements of breeding to the right sires. But good as these horses are in many particulars, the point in which many of our mares are badly wanting is just where too many of our imported coach stallions are also lacking, this is in carriage. The most essential point for park and street display is that of appropriate action. We feel that we cannot enough impress upon the minds of breeders of carriage and coach horses the necessity of developing this quality, which will often hide other defects, and without it the most symmetrical horse is but a poor seller. Harness action, safe and not too high, such as is esteemed in roadsters, and "high up to the throat latch," esteemed for the park and parade. In fact, action may be safe and slow, or safe and fast, without any brilliancy; or it may be brilliant and slow, or brilliant and fast. When a horse can do six miles or twelve an hour with equal grandeur, that is perfection; and a horse that can trot eight miles an hour in good form, bending his knees and hocks, and carrying himself right, will fetch more than a plain brute with no other merit than extraordinary speed.

As each year goes by, time is lost with many capital mares that would otherwise be of the greatest benefit to the country, through being mated to horses that have no point of excellence in themselves, the produce is not equal to the dam. The mare is often blamed when it is the fault of the breeder in not taking pains in the crosses he is dictating. Where mares have size and quality combined, keep building on these and you will at least have a useful horse. Again, if a mare be lacking in any essential point, take care to overbalance the defect in the horse she is bred to.

Just now it seems as though the market for cheap horses in the cities across the lines will in

future be practically closed to us if the tariff is to be changed as proposed to \$30 *per capita*, instead of an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent. This will not affect the horse at the value of \$150, and will be still easier on horses valued over this. It behooves horse breeders to be more careful and breed only the best. More care in the breeding will also have to be exercised, as mares and stallions under the new act will have to be recorded or they will not pass in the free list.

The "Haras National."

A company entitled the "Haras National," have established a stud, where French coach, Percheron and Arabian horses are kept. The office of the company is at 30 James street, Montreal; their stables at Outremont, three miles north of Montreal. One of our staff visited this establishment recently and found their stock first-class. Their stables are among the finest on the continent. This company intend to import and sell French horses; they will also hire them for the season to Agricultural Societies or individuals who desire them. They will import and breed heavy Percherons, roadsters, large Norman carriage horses, a few Arabs, and some Percheron mares. They are also making efforts to discover horses known as "French Canadians," in order by careful breeding to restore them to their ancient footing. A stud book will be opened for that highly prized race. The company request parties who know of any good horses or mares of this breed to communicate with them.

Through the relations which they have established with those localities in France, where the breeding of high-class horses has been made a specialty, as well as through the position and experience of its shareholders in that country, the company will be able to make purchases on most favorable condition.

The French shareholders, of whom the Baron E. de Mendat-Grancey is President, comprise some of the most eminent members of the Great French Society of Agriculturists known as "La Société des Agriculteurs de France. Their knowledge of the region of La Perche and of the other districts where horse-breeding is carried on is of the most thorough character.

It is the company's intention to import only such animals as are of definitely ascertained pedigree, and, in every instance, a careful examination by veterinary surgeons will be conducted at the date of purchase.

The President stated to our representative that the conditions accorded to buyers are and will be extremely liberal, giving them every opportunity and ample time to procure the money for their payments. In fact, by reason of their large consignments and of the considerations here mentioned, they are in a position to sell cheaply. They guarantee their stallions to be sure foal-getters, and free from hereditary defects.

In writing of their business the officers of the company say:—"In France, in the very heart of La Perche, we have a breeding farm, the well-known establishment of Medavy, famous for the excellence of its colts, the very pick of the Percheron races. Five years ago we started, near Buffalo Gap, Dakota Territory, U. S., the ranch of Fleur de Lys, where more than 900 horses are reared at liberty in the open air. The only horses admitted are of Percheron, Norman and Arab race. Two years ago we established at Fremont, Nebraska, a "haras" for the exclusive sale of Percherons, Norman and Arab stallions,

and the product of Fleur de Lys. In that establishment we have sold above one hundred stallions of the above breeds." From these western establishments they hope to supply Manitoba and the N. W. T. with many good stock horses.

During the past month they received from France at their stables at Outremont, Quebec, thirty-six horses. The President, Mr. Beaubier, and Mr. Auzias-Turenne, Managing Director, cordially welcome the public, and particularly all those interested in horse-breeding, to visit their stables and examine their stock. At Montreal a carriage will always be at the disposal of visitors. We wish these gentlemen every success in the undertaking in which they are so enthusiastically engaged, and bespeak for them that patronage and encouragement they so richly deserve. They have recently issued a catalogue of eighty pages, containing full particulars of their business and a great deal of information concerning the breeds of horses they handle; also the pedigree of twenty-two animals. This pamphlet will be sent to any address on application.

The Canadian Ayrshire Herd Record.

The twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Canada Ayrshire Herd Record at Montreal and the annual meeting of the Ayrshire Importers and Breeders' Association of Canada, were held in Montreal on the 14th of April, 1890. There was a large attendance of Ayrshire breeders from the Province of Quebec and Eastern Ontario. Several important proceedings took place, particulars of which will appear in the next number.

Mr. Wm. Rodden, of Plantagenet, Ont., presided, and was unanimously re-elected president, although he desired to retire, the meeting was not prepared to elect a successor. Mr. S. C. Stevenson, of Montreal, acted as secretary. He and the Executive Committee were re-elected.

The Secretary-Treasurer's and Executive Committee's reports showed a cash balance in the bank to the credit of the Association. The printing of the second volume is nearly completed and will be distributed as the first volume was as soon as ready. The third volume was opened a year ago at Mr. Stevenson's office, Montreal. Entries were being received, and new forms of certificates were being issued, having thereon the seal of the association. Each pedigree traces directly to pure bred Ayrshires from Scotland.

Several imported Ayrshires were reported having arrived for the district of Montreal. Among the number, Mr. Thos. Brown, of Petite Cote, Montreal, imported and is now the owner of the famous first-prize Ayrshire heifer, winner of the Royal Jubilee Queen's medal. She is known to be the best Ayrshire in Great Britain or America.

Mr. Rodden, the president, submitted a lengthy and valuable report and address on the value and importance of Ayrshires and their various products and tests in Europe, America and Canada, all being far ahead and in some cases nearly doubling products of Mr. Guy's Ayrshires recently obtained at London, Ont. These and other very important, practical and scientific tests and trials will be given to the public in the June number.

If your neighbor has had the enterprise to pay a big price for an imported Draft or Coach stallion encourage him every way you can, as every imported horse is worth thousands of dollars to the community.