

PROFESSOR J. W. Robertson is again placed in charge of the dairy department of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. We have not the shadow of a doubt but that this appointment will be hailed with much satisfaction by the entire farming community. The force of the leverage which a man so competent can bring to bear at such a place upon the elevation of the dairy industry it is difficult to estimate. The acceptance of the appointment may not be for the pecuniary benefit of the professor, but it is to the material advantage of Canada. Surely the natural gifts of Professor Robertson as a dairyman were never bestowed for the sole purposes of buying and selling cheese, something which hundreds of other men may do very well. The new professor will spend the winter in attending the institutes, lecturing upon the themes he loves so well. Our readers may expect a contribution from his pen during every month of the present year.

WHILE farming in Canada is not so prosperous as in other years, we have much to be thankful for, notwithstanding. In other countries the agricultural wall is far louder than in this. The condition of the agriculturist in Britain is becoming a desperate one, judging by the statements of the agricultural papers. The state of matters in France and Spain is not much better. Italy is seeking the causes of her agricultural depression, and the state of this interest in Turkey is lamentable in the extreme. If our farmers are not making money they are as a rule making a livelihood, and that is what many of those in the countries referred to are not doing. The resource to most as a means of relief is stock-keeping, in one or other of its varied forms, and the wisdom of this is apparent. The world produces more wheat just now than is wanted, but it has at no time in its history produced an over supply of dairy products. We could conceive such a state of matters possible, but not very probable for many years ahead. Let our farmers use reasonable economy (not parsimony) in every line, pay close attention to their business, adopt all modern improvements with a judicious haste, give increased attention to the breeding of live-stock and live-stock products, and the good ship will in time get off the strand.

MEN who breed good pure bred stock, do it honestly and sell it fairly, are without a doubt benefactors of their country. We know that many look upon their difficult task as one of supererogation, and even editors sometimes call them "manipulators," but the fact remains, recognized or unrecognized, that they are the benefactors of their country. Long ago the breeders of Shorthorns in Canada imported largely and bred from these importations. They were called by numbers in the meantime "speculators" in the stigmatizing sense of the term, but the work went on in the various lines of stock-keeping with the result (1) that the average value of the heavy draught horse is nearly doubled; (2) that about 60,000 head of fine cattle are now sent yearly across the sea; (3) that the character of the highway sheep even has vastly improved, and (4) the standard of the dairy cow is continually tending upward. These and other benefits have all been brought about directly or indirectly through the agency of the breeders of good stock. The marvel is that in the face of these facts so large a number of our farmers do not avail themselves of the advantages thus brought within their reach. We read that the Indians of the Bermudas vastly preferred the trinkets given them by Columbus to things that were of more value, because they knew no better. Can we plead this excuse for the farmers of the Province who do not try to improve their studs, flocks or herds, for surely they

must know better? Let those engaged in the good work take courage and persevere, for their efforts are more and more appreciated from day to day. Though the majority may yet be on the other side, their cause is sure to win in the end.

### The Points of a Model Clydesdale.

A correspondent has asked us to give a description of a model Clydesdale horse, which is a somewhat delicate task where there is so much difference of opinion upon the subject.

The first impression made upon the mind of the on-looker when a properly built draught horse passes under review is that he possesses power, to give which he must have good muscular development. This development must be rightly placed, otherwise he will appear ungainly. If his bone is more than medium, and his muscular development meagre, he appears coarse. This muscular development must be well-proportioned and rightly adjusted, or it will spoil his shapes. It should be strong in the shoulder, the arm and the quarter, and the coupling should be medium and well rounded. A flat-ribbed Clyde, like any other animal so constituted, will prove a hard keeper.

Still, viewing him at some distance off, you will observe that he stands on legs somewhat short but strong, and that when he lifts them he does so easily and without effort, and that when they are brought to the ground it is with a firmness that indicates a consciousness of strength. There is not that agility of motion that is seen in the carriage horse, whose limbs scarcely seem to touch the ground, nor yet that dragging motion that denotes a laggard. A free, firm, easy use of the feet is of much value in a Clyde horse.

He should possess plenty of life, but it should not be the life of the kitten, that is always indulging in foolish actions. We do not expect of a heavy man that rapidity of movement that characterizes a small, spare man; the combination would appear unseemly, yet he should have sufficient life to give him ease and naturalness of movement, and an appearance of readiness of action for anything required.

When the legs of a draught horse are short, his body heavy, and the ribs well rounded and the flank deep, you may be sure his digestive powers are good, but when you find them the converse of this in each of the particulars named, you may be sure he is a hard-keeper.

It is supposed in every case that the horse is perfectly sound, and free from every form of hereditary taint. One way of testing this is by the locomotion of the horse; another is by careful handling.

In a sense, the feet and legs of every horse are of primary importance, for if these are not right, it matters not what the body may be, the horse will never be so useful. The hoof should not be too flat nor too high, but deep and sound. The pasterns should be set at an angle of about 40°. The bone in the leg should be clean, and broad and flat, from the pastern joint to the knee; the bones in the foreleg should taper slightly from the pastern upward, and in the hind leg from the hock down; the hock joint should be broad and thin at the back, and the points well defined. The hind legs should not be too straight, for this militates against the ability to endure when travelling. The shoulders should be deep, and sloping well back, and the chest broad and prominent. The neck in the stallion should be strong, not thick and chubby, and well arched, supporting a head not too fine, straight in the face, broad between the eyes, the eyes prominent and sparkling with intelligent life, wide apart jowls, broad expansive nostrils, and medium ears, well set up on the head, and pointed. The packing should be well

put in behind the shoulder, the back fairly short and straight, the loin broad and coming well forward, the quarter long, the croup with some slope, and the tail set well up. When the hocks incline towards each other, the horse being at rest, and toes slightly outward, it gives better and freer action in the stifle.

The color of the Clydesdale horse, like that of the Shorthorn, is a matter about which there is not a consensus of opinion. Bay is the favorite color, with a rai in the face, and the white markings in the legs, below the knee.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

### Is the Decision a Just One?

Mr. Giffard's letter is of importance as it shows the necessity of care in the making of rules and prize lists of shows, the neglect of which is liable to create dissatisfaction, which a little thought would have obviated. At the meeting of Directors the whole attention is usually expended in apportioning the prizes, and the conditions and rules are too often hurriedly passed over. At the North Riding of Oxford Show, the judges of light horses, in the harness classes, threw out all colts, and I was informed by them that they had done the same at other shows. It seemed hard on the exhibitors, the more so as in the case of the Howard Branch Agricultural Society, there was no regulation prohibiting it, but such being the case, it is a matter entirely for the judges to decide. The argument in favor of throwing out colts from the harness classes is that there are special classes for colts, up to and inclusive of three-year-olds, and that by exhibiting them in the harness classes, they are reducing the chances of aged horses, which are supposed to have been at steady work all the year, and which only have the harness classes open to them; also that colts are not able to stand the amount of work which should be performed by harness horses. Another rather interesting point arose in the brood mare class at the same show; prior to exhibiting, an exhibitor very honestly informed the Directors that his mare's colt had died, but that she had suckled another colt, which he intended exhibiting with his mare; in the prize list there is a note to the effect that "Brood mares must have a colt at foot, or will not be allowed to compete." How would the judges be justified in awarding a prize in such a case, granting, of course, that the mare and colt were otherwise worthy of it? The note was, I believe, intended to prevent any dry mares being exhibited, the presumption being that the colts would be their own, such a contingency as a mare raising a foster colt not having been thought of. At first sight it appears reasonable enough that a mare with her foster colt should be allowed to compete, but it is also open to some objections; a mare might have never been able to raise her own colt, although she might have suckled a foster colt, but such a mare would certainly not be a valuable brood mare; or a mare, although a grand animal herself, might have a very poor colt, which offers the inducement to put a good colt on her, and thus materially increase her chance of winning.

Referring to the Provincial Prize List, I find no regulation beyond that the prize is offered for "brood mare with foal by her side," so that the same question might also arise there.

W.

### Farmers' Sons.

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