

## Correspondence.

## THE MEAT TRADE.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

DEAR SIR, I should like to make a few remarks re the meat trade. The American dead meat trade is a monopoly in Liverpool and London. The salesmen handle it wrongly. Much more meat could be sold if the exporters of it could send agents to sell it, and besides they would save the commission and the driving of their carriages at the expense of the exporter.

The exporters of the New Zealand mutton and other exporters of meat are getting tired of the system of meat salesmen.

Double the meat could be sold and a better price obtained if exporters would come and do their own business.

It is a very easy business to conduct, the terms being "cash with order." Everyone who buys foreign meat pays cash, the salesmen get a pull here and a pull there.

Americans, look to your interests before it is too late, and don't let the middlemen cripple your success.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE F. BOWDEN.

Uttoxeter, Derby, Mar. 21, 1885.

[Mr. Bowden is agent for the importers of the Australian, New Zealand, and River Plate Mutton and Beef, and "knows whereof he affirms." EDITOR BREEDER.]

## A DEALER'S COMPLAINT.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

SIR,—How is it that so many gentlemen find it hard to get the kind of horses they want? Where is the man to be found who enjoys the possession of a quiet, stylish, useful pair of carriage horses or of a well-broken, well-mannered hack or hunter without having had to go through the discouraging experience of trying some good-looking scrubs, patched and fixed purposely to give the "buyer a blister." Who could say, My first purchase in horseflesh was the best? Not one out of hundreds of experiences. I know personally of exceedingly few experienced dealers or gentlemen, really good judges, who never make a mistake. What can be expected then from a conceited, pretentious swell without any experience, who comes into the dealer's yard, giving himself grand airs, looks at the mouth while he does not even know the difference between horse-teeth and milk-teeth, and smiles at the dealer's word. Now, the latter most probably would have tried to be as honest as their own interests allow dealers to be, had the gentleman in question come to him squarely, and politely said what he wanted and made the candid but often well-paying confession that he knew nothing or little about a horse, and had to trust to somebody who knew more. No respectable, or, to speak in accordance with some people's ideas, no fairly decent horse-dealer would be foolish enough not to try to do his best to suit such a customer as well as the margin left to him by the purchaser's price will allow him to. But in the case of the conceited buyer, who aggravates and almost insults them, most dealers will begin to feel wicked; they hide as well as they can the imperfections of their horses, and no

one can blame them for that. How many grocers will tell the faults of their teas or sugars, and how many dry goods men will confess that such a piece of cloth is not likely to last? In every trade, wholesale or retail, the representations of the seller are very seldom perfectly reliable; not that his honor is always to be doubted, but his judgment may be at fault, or he is himself the victim of somebody else's misrepresentations. Such is the case with many horse-dealers, who do not lie deliberately but repeat what they have been told, sometimes knowing they were deceived and sometimes not knowing it.

In this country so many men will have to do with horse-dealing, whether competent or not, that the business has become very uncertain and disreputable. Every storekeeper who has to run a delivery waggon and to keep a couple of nags fancies himself a hunting man, a sportsman, and a clever horse-dealer—he sells and buys, buys and sells, indiscriminately—without any real benefit to himself, but to the great injury of the regular and professional dealer. Our wealthiest or only well-to-do men should keep away from such a class of irresponsible, unreliable jobbers, and patronise those who make horse-dealing a speciality, and really understand their business. How is it that Toronto, for instance, shows off to so little advantage as far as turnouts are concerned, while we are the centre of one of the best breeding districts in America? Our gentlemen would buy superior horses with lots of quality and action for about two-thirds of the money they cost in Montreal, and one-half of what they sell for in New York during good times. But their buying is not done in the right way. To begin with, they think they know, and they don't; and in the second place they don't employ the right class of men to buy for them. In Montreal the buying is better done, and in New York better still. The result is that good turnouts are more common. In London and Paris, where horse-dealing is in the hands of what I would call great artists, we see an extraordinary number of magnificent horses. Of course we know that these are great centres of wealth and luxury, but it is often seen that in a town of half the size of our city many more stylish pairs or single carriage or dog cart horses are to be seen than here, and one of the reasons is that the buying is better done.

We have in this city a few first-class judges, and not one really prosperous dealer, but scores of young and old who dabble in horses, never sell twice to the same customer, and finally disappear in the obscurity of the shyster trade, and that is why so many gentlemen find it hard to get the right kind of horses.

A DEALER.

Toronto, April 1st, 1885.

## CART HORSES: THEIR BREEDING AND REARING.

(Continued.)

DISADVANTAGE OF SHOWING MARES AT THE LONDON SHOW.

In Mr. Sanders Spencer's excellent report of last year's London Show, he observes:

"In Class 7, the entries in this and the following class were nearly twenty-five per cent. fewer than last year. Does this portend a change in the feelings of the owners of really good brood mares, as to the wisdom of running the great risk of sending such valuable animals by rail, and exposing them to the great excitement naturally attending their exhibition at the London Show? I am inclined to think that this is the sole cause of the decrease in the number of mares exhibited. It cannot be

to the advantage of the mare or her offspring that she should be subjected to the training necessary to be sent in show form, at a time when nature requires entire freedom from excitement, and a good, but not a forcing diet."

I fully endorse the above remarks. Captain Heaton informs me he lost seven of the foals from the mares exhibited at the 1883 Show.

I believe I am correct in stating that our noble President was still more unfortunate last year in not only losing the foal, but the dam also, the celebrated "Lady Whitelock." I trust next year no prize will be offered at this Show to mares over three years old. Two of the mares that won the Champion Cup at this Show are dead, and I am not aware if either of the Cup winners have since produced a living foal.

Believing, as a rule, that no one can both show a mare successfully and breed successfully from her at the same time, it is a question worth pondering well over if this restriction might not be enforced beyond the Spring Shows.

On the other hand I would foster and encourage the exhibition of younger mares, say one, two, and three-year-old, by giving larger prizes, feeling assured that at no other period of life is so little mischief likely to occur, nor will they so well repay the outlay, providing they are fed judiciously.

My further remarks on feeding young animals will be made under the head of Rearing. If proof were needed that it is not detrimental to exhibit yearlings at this Show, I will instance three fillies which made their *debut* here, and have since held their own against all competitors, viz., "Chance," in 1881; "Cosy," in 1883; and "Glow," in 1884. I could also instance "Eclipse," first as a yearling, and first as a two-year-old, but sold to go abroad directly afterwards.

Again, "Spark" commenced his wonderful Show-yard career by winning as a foal, and as a yearling at the Aylesbury Show, and yet performed the unprecedented feat of twice winning the Champion Prize at the London Show.

## HEREDITARY AND OTHER DISEASES.

The hereditary diseases most common are sidebones, ringbones, spavins, roaring, and ophthalmia. Remember that like produces like, and in nowise use a stallion suffering from hereditary disease. Fever in the feet is most frequently produced by that baneful practice overfeeding, but the disease is not hereditary.

Seeing so many learned veterinary professors present this evening, it would be quite out of place in me to enter further into this question.

Breeders are much indebted to veterinary science, and I cannot but think that it is a penny wise and pound foolish plan to abstain from sending for a veterinary in every case of supposed danger, but the breeder should always have curative medicine at hand. Take a case of colic or gripes: if a pint of linseed oil be given, followed by one of Day, Son, and Hewitt's colic drinks, it will often prevent inflammation. It not unfrequently happens that the duly qualified man lives miles from the farm.

## JUDGES AND JUDGING.

Most judges have or ought to have an ideal animal in their mind's eye.

The success of any show depends much on its judges, but, I maintain that the responsibility rests entirely with the Council or Committee who have the appointment of judges.

Supposing one member of the council to be in favor of a light-limbed horse with no hair on its legs, he nominates a person with kindred tastes.

Another will nominate a person in favor of more weight. It is in vain the round bone,