

summer, should be acclimated to the change before being served. This is well understood by horsemen who generally follow the above suggestion, which provides for the mares getting accustomed to the changes in food, temperature and surroundings. It is well known by all practical horsemen that digestive troubles are quite serious in their effects on the pregnant female.

2. When any signs of being in season are detected in the mare, she should be removed from mares believed to be already in foal.

3. Mares, more especially excitable ones, should be served in the evening and kept shut up apart from other mares or geldings over night, and should, until all signs of heat have disappeared, be kept from any chance of teasing by other horses. In the case of a valuable mare, it would pay the breeder to retain a competent veterinarian to tide over the excitant periods, when a calmative, both constitutional (such as chloral or opium) and uterine (as black haw), might with benefit be prescribed.

4. Each mare, when bred, should be carefully watched from week to week, and every ninth or tenth day be tried until the critical period (end of the 7th week) be passed.

5. Mares in poor condition should not be bred, but be gotten into condition by the addition of grain to the daily ration.

6. For at least two months after service, the mares should be neither excited, overheated, overexerted, or chilled, neither overfed or stinted from their usual allowance, and any drugging, except under professional advice, should be at all times sternly deprecated.

If stallioners can only impress upon the owners of mares the importance of an observance of these precautions, they will undoubtedly reap their reward. Science shows plainly that the main responsibility for the production of a healthy living foal rests with the mare and her owner, and not, as is so often asserted by careless mare owners, altogether with the stallion, which wrong assertion has been partially assented to by many stallioners who guarantee a colt to stand and suck before requiring the stud fee, a concession to the mare owner which is unbusinesslike and vicious in its effects on the whole science of horse-breeding.

Docking Horses Condemned.

The fashion, or fad, of docking horses' tails has survived the protest of the growing spirit of kindness and humanity, and the adverse legislation that expresses the best thought of the age. But it has probably received its quietus in the mandate that has gone forth almost simultaneously from King Edward VII. and President Roosevelt. King Edward, whose influence in matters of custom and usage is paramount in Britain, has made it known that he will neither purchase nor own nor even use a horse that has been mutilated by docking, while President Roosevelt has set the fashion in the United States by issuing specific instructions to the effect that horses purchased for his use at Washington must not be docked.

Postal Reform.

At a recent meeting of the Orillia (Ont.) Board of Trade, a resolution was adopted in favor of reducing the postage on newspapers and parcels between Canada and the Old Country, and also a preferential British tariff on food products and merchandise from the Colonies.

Last week, at the annual meeting of the British Empire League in Ottawa, on motion of Hon. Geo. E. Foster, seconded by Hon. Senator Ferguson, a resolution was passed whereby newspapers and periodicals could pass from one part of the Empire to the other at the lowest possible rates, in order that the people in all parts could the better keep in touch with each other. This is in line with the contention of the "Farmer's Advocate" in an article in our issue for Feb. 1st.

We have just received the following letter on the subject from Lord Strathcona, Canadian High Commissioner, London, Eng.:

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Dear Sirs,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 30th ult. and the copies of the "Farmer's Advocate" for February 1st, to which you refer. It will give me much pleasure to comply with your request, and I hope that in the near future it may be found to be possible to do something to remove the anomaly that at present exists in regard to the interchange of newspapers and book matter between the United Kingdom and Canada, as compared with the arrangements between Canada and the United States. The matter is an exceedingly important one, and I am sure it will receive the consideration it deserves at the hands of the Governments of the two countries. Believe me, Yours very truly,

STRATHCONA.
17 Victoria street, London, S. W., 14th February, 1902.

The King's Sale of Shire Horses at Sandringham.

(Special correspondence.)

One of the most notable sales of this season in the Shire horse breed is the one named above. It is four years since, in 1898, His Majesty the King, then, of course, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, held his previous sale of Shire horses. At that sale his 54 head made the then record average of £224 7s. 9d., and although this high average was not equalled upon the present occasion, the realized £192 12s. 2d. was of sufficient magnitude to disclose the high merit and quality of the animals sold, which numbered 45 head, 20 being under two years of age.

It is needless to enter into details as to who were present, for practically all the principal breeders or their agents were there, as well as many hundreds of other interested spectators. To the disappointment of all, His Majesty the King could not be present, but it was a great satisfaction and pleasure to the large company present that Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by some other members of the Royal Family, witnessed the grand parade of the animals included in the sale previous to its commencement.

It would be tedious to go into many details or to give all the various prices, as these could hardly interest your readers sufficiently to war-

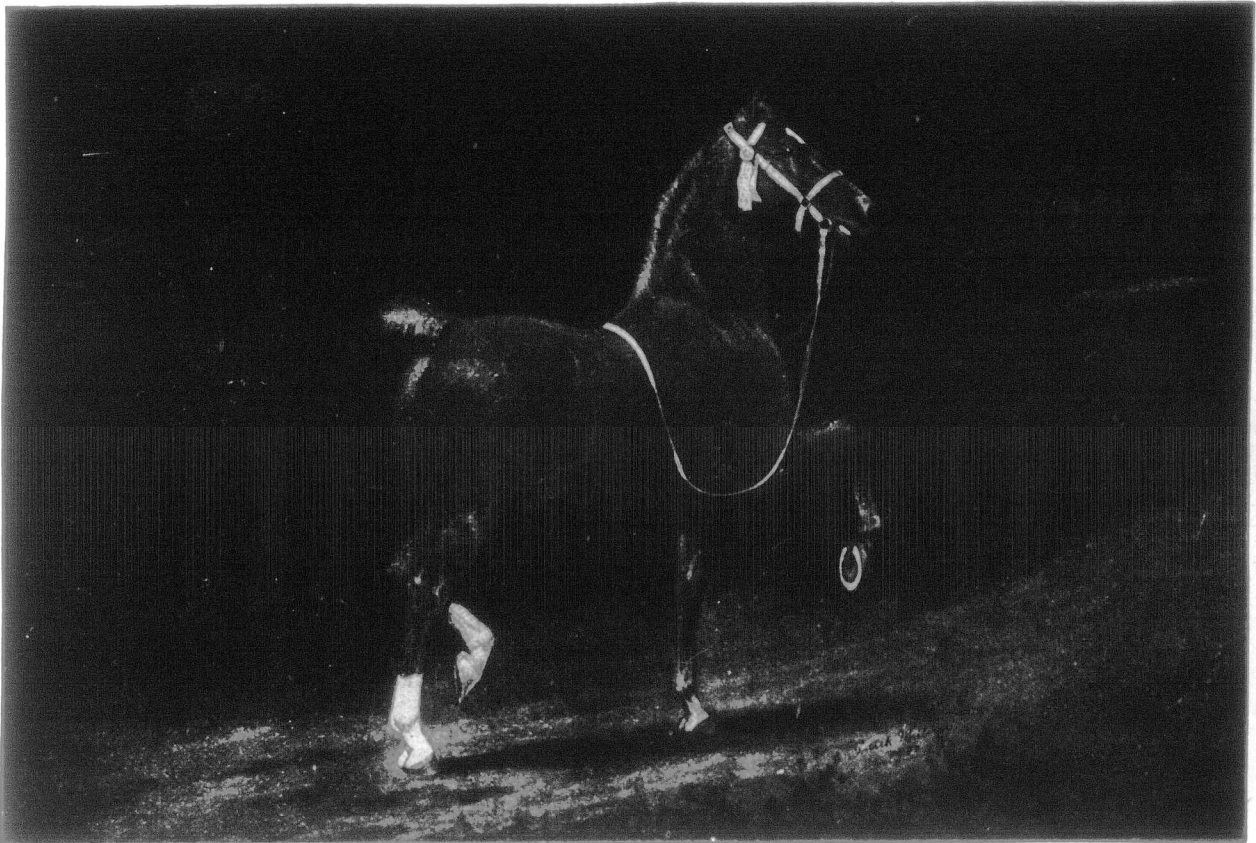
and Westonia to Mr. Parnell at \$525. The two-year-old mares were an almost equally fine lot. The top price here was \$2,250, to Mr. L. Salamons, Mr. P. L. Mills' representative again being the last bidder but one, Autumn Blossom making, to Mr. C. Keevil, the next best price, \$650. The three-year-olds made a grand average and sale, two making \$1,500, Queen's Birthday, to Mr. L. Salamons, and Lady Darling to the Marquis of Winchester, two others making \$1,350 and \$1,150, respectively.

The following summary gives full range of prices and average for each age and the entire sale:

Description.	No. Sold.	High-est.	Low-est.	Aggre-gate.	Aver-age.
Brood mares.....	10	\$2,875	\$375	\$11,125	\$1,112.50
Four-year-old mares..	4	1,150	325	2,425	606.25
Three-year-old mares..	9	1,500	350	8,550	950.00
Two-year-old mares...	10	2,250	275	6,625	662.50
Yearling fillies.....	7	1,750	275	6,450	921.43
Stallions.....	2	2,500	700	3,200	1,600.00
Two-year-old stallion..	1	850	...	850	850.00
Yearling stallions....	2	1,150	900	2,050	1,025.00
	45			\$41,275	\$917.2

The Horse Show Date Fixed.

As the result of the vigorous demand of the Horse Breeders' Association for an earlier date for the Canadian Horse Show for the accommodation of stallion owners, the date for the show at Toronto has been fixed for April 10th, 11th and 12th, and it is understood that the Breeders will join with the Hunt Club in holding a combined show as usual.



FANDANGO (4256) 143.

Imported Hackney stallion, owned by Mr. F. C. Stevens, Maplewood Hackney Stud and Stock Farm, Attica, N. Y. (See Gossip, page 192.)

STOCK.

A Practical Advantage of Good Blood.

The late Kirk B. Armour, of the Armour Packing Co., Chicago, was not only a practical packing-house man, but also a lover of improved live stock. Such a man was above mere fads in breeding, because his business forced him to consider the utility of live stock, and his efforts were constantly directed towards the blending of good breeding with usefulness, without which combination the breeder of pure-breds might as well go out of business. The following remarks of the deceased packer should be taken to heart by all stockmen, whether breeders of grades or pure-breds:

"The sale of a product increases directly in proportion to the possibility of offering a good article at a fair price. The more general the improvement in cattle, the greater the increase of beef consumption. From an animal of poor quality only the loins and ribs find a ready market. In a good animal the butcher is not only able to dispose of the whole carcass more readily, but the consumer is able to get a choice piece without being forced to take the more expensive cuts.

"The man who sticks year in and year out to the use of a good pure-bred bull will make a better showing than a man who economizes on a bull for fear that cattle will not always bring their present values."