

are not in the Stud-book, but that does not prevent their getting valuable half-bred stock. What has been done for the cart-horse may be done for the 'light-legged' horse. The improvement in the various breeds of cart-horses is only and solely due to 'selection' and to the application of common sense. Hunter sires—some good, many (very many) bad—are ubiquitous, and during the season are busy enough. How is it, then, this bitter cry of 'no horses suitable for cavalry work' goes up, alas! as yet unheeded by the authorities? Is it not the absence of mares suitable for breeding which causes the deficiency? Hence I say, establish depots for mares, and let them be retained till our stock of good horses exceeds the demand; and when we have too many for our own wants, then, but not till then, we may be generous, and let the foreigners into the markets. The horses purchased for the army in the year 1884 numbered 1,274; of these 556 were four-year-olds and 452 three-year-olds. Ireland supplied 841, and England only 433! Are not these statistics sufficient to show that our prosperity is seriously endangered, and that it is high time steps were taken to replenish our horse stock?"

INSECT PESTS IN MANITOBA.

Under this heading the (Chicago) *National Live Stock Journal* says:—

"Some weeks ago, taking up an article on comfort in pasture, which appeared in the weekly edition of *The Journal*, THE CANADIAN BREEDER suggested, as an addition, the burning of smudges, or smoke fires, at night, to keep off troublesome insects—a suggestion that struck us as rather a novel idea. However, a correspondent writing to the *Toronto Globe* from Manitoba confirms the former paper's reference to their use in the North-West, and at the same time gives an account of insect pests in that region, which suggests that Riel and his followers must be regarded by the inhabitants as comparatively harmless sort of creatures. The serious question, however, the correspondent referred to does not lose sight of, and it is, how in the world are animals so pestered to lay on flesh?"

Here follows a letter from some tenderfoot who would have done much better to stay at home with his "Ma" than to have come out to a new country to make a living. The mosquitoes in any country where they have not much in the shape of live stock to feed upon will attack men, horses, or cattle with considerable ferocity. The insects are troublesome in Manitoba, but not more so than they are in many other parts of Canada and the United States. But it is not with the tenderfoot correspondent of the *Toronto Globe* that we have occasion to deal just now, as people of his sort are unhappily too easy to find in this country. But what is our contemporary thinking of to regard the building of smudges for cattle as a novel idea? If he had an intimate knowledge of many of the states and territories where his own really excellent paper must circulate ex-

tensively he would surely know that the idea is not a novel one. In many parts of Minnesota the insect pests are quite as troublesome as they are in Manitoba, and if they are not protected by smudges it is because the farmers there now do not understand their business as well as did their predecessors ten or a dozen years ago. Or has the writer of the above paragraph never heard of the practice which prevails in Arkansas of tying a piece of lighted touchwood to the collar of a plough horse in order to protect him from insect pests?

As for cattle laying on flesh in spite of these pests in Manitoba and the North-West, the best answer to the above conjectures is to be found in what has already been accomplished on the ranges of Alberta. It is all nonsense to suppose that the insects are any worse in our North-West territories than they are in any other newly settled region on this continent. Tenderfeet are the same the world over. They are always finding out wonders of some kind wherever they are. This fresh correspondent of *The Globe* will doubtless find many other very commonplace things in Manitoba and the North-West which he will retail as wonders to those who have the patience to read his letters.

ANOTHER CANADIAN RACE HORSE GOING TO THE STUD.

One of the most popular as well as one of the fastest horses ever foaled in Canada has gone hopelessly amiss at Saratoga, and will be immediately sold or placed in the stud. In any event his racing days are now over, and Disturbance will without doubt end his days in the stud.

Disturbance is not a tall horse, but he covers a good deal of ground, and is in all respects a horse of great substance, but remarkably compact withal. He is a good hard brown, is a very stylish and imposing animal to look at, and can show a wealth of muscle that a cart horse might envy. His record proves beyond question that he was a good horse, even in first-class company, up to seven furlongs, while there have been few, if any, Canadian-bred horses that were his equal at any distance up to a mile and a half. As a weight carrier he has had few equals in any country, and his iron constitution made him a capital campaigner. Though it might be urged that he is not strictly thoroughbred, the stain that he receives through Wagner Joe is no closer than the Brimmer cross in Longfellow, himself one of the greatest of racehorses, and the sire of such good ones as Leonatus, Thora, and Free-land. His performances have placed him in the very front rank of the sprinters and weight carriers, as a few extracts from his long and brilliant record will show.

Aug. 7th, 1882, at Saratoga, he ran $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile with 111 lbs. up, in 1.15.

Aug. 18th, over the same course, same year, he ran a mile in 1.47 with 148 lbs. up.

May 13th, same year, over Woodbine (a slow track) he ran $\frac{3}{4}$ weights for age in 1.17 $\frac{1}{2}$.

In 1883, at Woodbine, he ran $\frac{3}{4}$ in 1.16 $\frac{1}{2}$, with

128 lbs. up, and on the same day he won the first heat of a mile heats race in 1.43 $\frac{1}{2}$, with 115 lbs. up.

This year he ran seven furlongs in 1.30.

While yet a mere colt Disturbance was bred to Nettie (by Luther), his own half-sister, and the result was the phenomenally speedy though somewhat erratic Direction; but if this his first essay should prove an average sample of what he can produce, the speedy son of Terror will soon win a reputation in the stud that will far outshine his brilliant career upon the turf.

Disturbance would be a wonderfully good horse for some North-West ranchman. He would impart style, size, substance, and speed to the Cayuse ponies without being a too violent cross upon them. On the other hand, it would seem a pity to have such a stallion go out of Ontario at a time like this, when our equine stock is so much in need of improvement and refinement. Coupled with big mares, he should get crack hunters and fancy saddle horses, while with small ones he should get cobs of the very best type. It is to be hoped at all events that Disturbance will remain in this country, where he is not only well known himself, but where both his sire and dam were well known to a majority of the horsemen now upon the turf, and by whom they are remembered as thoroughly good ones.

EXPORTATION OF CATTLE TO ENGLAND.

It would seem the stockmen of England are very far from being a unit on the subject of receiving into that country lean cattle from this side of the Atlantic. After alluding somewhat parenthetically to the very great trouble likely to be brought about by the introduction, into every homestead and tract of pasturage, of animals reared without any habit of being restrained within bounds, and reeking from the consequences of a prolonged imprisonment upon truck and under deck, a writer in the *London Live Stock Journal* says:—"There will be curious problems to solve in the way of ascertaining as to what extent the national belief is sound that a feeder's success is promoted by reliance upon young digestions and upon hereditary tendency to put on flesh. It is proved here in England that the older a lot of animals are, the less number of pounds per day is added to each 1,000 lbs. of live-weight. Let 10,000 lbs. of live-weight be contained within the hides of 10 animals under 18 months; it may fairly be expected to increase at the rate of 20 lbs. a day, if the cattle be well fed. Should, however, the 10,000 lbs. of live-weight be disposed of upon the frames of six animals of from 40 to 48 months, these—although they would consume as much food in the day—would not swell at the rate above 10 lbs. in the day. The employing the older lot to make beef is therefore the more costly process. And, if breeding means anything, it means that a beast which for generations has been carefully bred from ancestors on both sides inclined to fatten has acquired an hereditary tendency to lay on flesh