

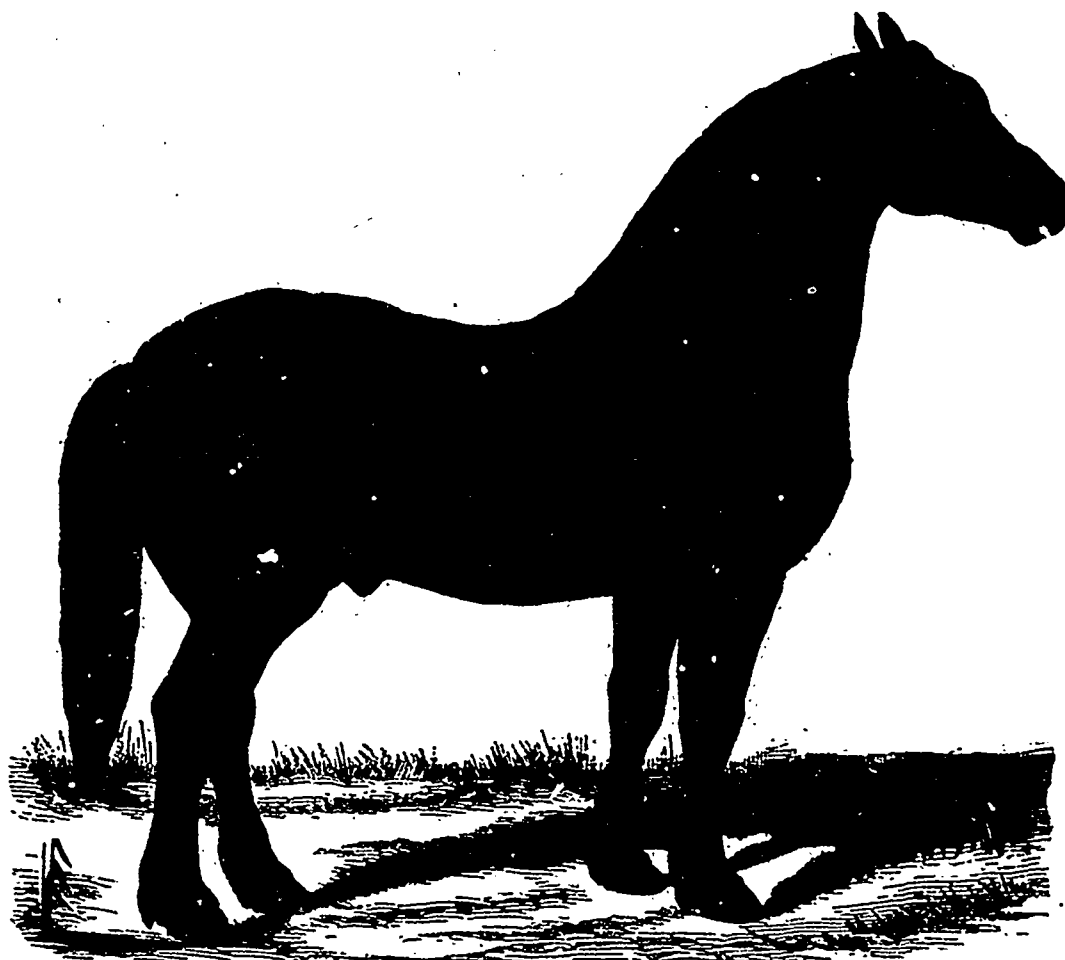
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Percheron Stallion "BRILLIANT." Imported and owned by Mr. E. D. Morse, Morse Stock Farm, Kewanna, Fulton County, Indiana.

DENUATION OF FOREST LANDS.

National Live Stock Journal.

The rapid denudation of forest lands all over the Union justly excites more or less comment on the part of thoughtful people, who look beyond their own selfish interests. The public domain has long been a common for lumbermen and settlers until nothing but the bare, dry acres are left to mark the spoliation. From the report of the chief of the forestry bureau for 1884, the startling extent of forest denudation is made more apparent. In Pennsylvania fully 70 per cent. of the original forest area has been cleared. Iowa has lost 40 per cent. of her forest area, Minnesota 17 per cent., Indiana 55 per cent., Illinois 60 per cent., and Wisconsin 60 per cent. It is estimated that in 1882, 2,585,000,000 feet of lumber of various kinds were consumed and handled in California. In

1870, the census reported the lumber product to be 12,755,543,000 feet, and 3,265,516,000 shingles. In 1880, the census gives the lumber product at 18,091,356,000 feet and 5,555,046,000 shingles. For six years, ending January 1, 1885, the lumber receipts at Chicago alone amounted to 10,728,941,322 feet. This draught upon our forest lands is not like the drawing of water from an inexhaustible spring. There will soon be a time when our States will either be without timber, or some measure, both preventive and propagative, must be adopted in the interest of forestry. Few people realize the full value of forests from a meteorological standpoint.

It is only in late years that it has become known that forests preserve the flow of the brooks with evenness throughout the year, and stimulate more or less rainfall, and thus vegetable growth. They also prevent the destruc-

tive effects of floods, and materially change the character of a country. Considering these advantages, which are common to all timbered countries, forests are, in one sense, common property, like air and water, but unlike them not being the subject of general appropriation. Arbor days are doing something to redeem the lost areas of forest lands, but they must do a great deal more, and the general government must be alive to the forestry needs in order to keep pace with the enormous deficit that accrues each year. Foreign governments have been for centuries trying to repair and cover up the despoilers' tracks, but in this country a spirit of recklessness upon such matters waives all respect and duty for future generations and any wants but personal greed. It will be easier, at any rate, to save the forests than to rear new ones to take their places.