

breed, and seek to win a reputation as breeders of that breed?

These words are written, Mr. Editor, out of personal interest in this subject of horse-breeding, and I trust that they may serve to at least assist in stimulating thought and in provoking discussion.

H. S. ARKELL.

The Selection of a Sire.

Owners of good mares should begin to make their selections of sires to patronize this season. It is not good policy, says the Horse World, to wait until late in the season and then send a mare to some horse because he happens to be nearer home than some other horse better adapted by breeding or individuality, or both, to cross successfully with her. The selection of a stallion to mate a certain mare with should be a matter of serious thought to an owner. Blood lines, of course, come first in the estimation of most men, but no matter how well a horse may be bred, it is not good policy to breed to him if he possesses some individual imperfection which it does not seem likely the mare may be able to overcome. And in breeding, too, there may be, in many instances, a weakness in inheritance common to both mare and stallion, in which case, another horse having strains of blood that are known to be strong where those of the mare are weak should be selected. Once a stallion is selected to breed to, the breeder will have to abide by the result, for the resultant foal will be either an object of pride or one of mortification for years to come. A little time spent in selecting a horse to breed a certain mare to, carefully analyzing the inheritance of the mare and stallion, and taking cognizance, as far as possible, of any physical defects which may be known to be possessed by the family of either, then making a choice in accordance with the facts deduced, will reduce the chances for disappointment greatly. To some who have not given the matter much thought, the selection of a sire to breed to seems to be a simple matter, but is, on the contrary, about as important as any work the breeder is called upon to perform.

A New Brunswick View on the Horse-breeding Question.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

While we may have a breed of horses which, crossed on our common mares, would give us generally a splendid work horse, quite suitable to our regular farm work, it would be one of the most difficult things in the world to make all breeders think so, for, while I might be certain of it in my own mind, my neighbor would just have an opposite opinion.

For instance, I know a man who owned a good, well-bred driving mare, a nice looker, and quite speedy. He raised two colts from trotting-bred sires. They were nice colts, very good size, and, as he had sense enough as a farmer to put them to work, instead of, as some thought should be done, training them for the track, they proved good horses, capable of making good trips any time, smart work horses for a level farm, but lacking weight. That same man wished to raise more colts, and bred that same mare to a Clydesdale stallion weighing 1,500 pounds. What encouragement do you suppose he got? One man says, "Oh, he wants to raise a pig"; another (his father this time), "The colt will be big-headed, deformed, or some such thing"; but in time it was proved the owner was right. To-day that colt stands for itself at work under three years, and will make easily a 1,200-pound horse, nicely built, well put up, and not a bad traveller, which, to my mind, goes to prove that if the farmers of our country were to generally breed their light mares—which very largely constitute the majority here in this part—to a good, well-bred Clydesdale, instead of the usual run of trotters and half-bred common stock, they would be better satisfied, better paid, and, in a large measure, benefit the country as well.

What large horses are raised always find ready sale at good prices, and even though blemished, will sell fairly well. As much cannot be said of the small horse. The Percherons we have had, but they seem to have passed on. A great many think they are not as hardy, and are more disposed to unsoundness than the Clyde. The Morgan stock has many friends, but what now remains can scarcely be recognized. Coach and Thoroughbred are being experimented with, but none in harness as yet. I think if farmers were to decide to raise a good-sized heavy horse in place of the trotter, Thoroughbred or coach horse, it would prove of vastly more benefit, both to themselves, their boys and their purses, and we would soon have a more suitable and salable class of horses than we have at present, besides a good-sized class of mares for further improvement.

N. B.

Fred Morris, Kent Co., Ont.: "I received the Lady's Hand Bag all right. Well pleased. Thanks. The Knife I got last year has proved a good one."

Experience in Horse Breeding.

Breeding of horses, to be successful, requires much forethought and attention to minor details, writes a farmer in the National Stockman and Farmer. First must be determined the purpose for which the coming foal is intended. One's circumstances and surroundings largely determine this. If you intend growing market horses, then either select heavy draft or fancy drivers. The light-harness horse is much easier raised than the draft horse, but the latter finds a more ready sale. No matter which breed is selected, remember that the dam exerts as much influence on the offspring as the sire, and her selection should be made with care. This and the selection of the sire are the important factors of success. If the proper individual can be found, a few dollars of first cost should not stand in your way of having the best. The kind of care bestowed upon the dam while carrying the foal is important. Exercise of some kind must be given, and if light work cannot be given, then she should be turned into a field or paddock every day it is fit to be out. Good, nourishing feed must be given during this period. Do not expect a strong, healthy colt from a dam that has been improperly nourished. We always aim to be present when the foal is expected to arrive, so as to lend any assistance necessary. Oftentimes the dam will pass through this ordeal without any help, but at other times, being present means the life of the foal, and sometimes of the dam. The more quiet the dam can be kept for a few hours after foaling, the better. Her diet should be of a light, cooling nature for several days. The action of her bowels should be watched closely, and any extreme condition

out any check upon its growth, it is in a very good position to develop into a valuable, money-making animal.

LIVE STOCK.

The Dual-purpose Cow.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been very much interested in the discussion in your recent issues by A. W. Smith, Prof. Day and others, re milking Shorthorns. Every breeder of pure-bred cattle of any breed knows that they depend largely for a market for their stock on the men who raise grade cattle. Now, what does the average 100-acre farmer want in a dual-purpose animal? He wants a cow that will make \$50 to \$60 a year from butter or cream, and raise a calf on the skim milk, which will weigh at two years old when finished about 1,200 lbs., bringing between \$50 and \$60, or selling as a stocker at \$35 up. Now a great many of our breeders during the last few years have ruined the milking qualities of the noble Shorthorn, for two reasons: First, the heavy-milking cow could not be kept in such high condition, and, therefore, would not attract the buyer; and, second, the ranches, which proved a great market for a time, wanted a cow that would not give much milk, as they had not help enough to look after the individual needs of their cows, and the large milkers were almost sure to go wrong with udder ailments, therefore, when we go to buy a bull to-day we may get one whose calves will be first-class beef animals, but whose heifers will never pay as milkers. It is easy enough to select a bull for beef purposes alone, but it is certainly a difficult task to select one that will be able to transmit to his progeny the much-sought-after combination of beef and milk. We know that a bull that will do this has to be backed up by good milking records, on the dam's side at least. Now, when we go to a breeder and ask if the dam of the bull is a good milker, if he is an honest breeder he will tell the truth, but many of our honest breeders are ignorant of what a cow should do in dairy production. Let me give an instance. A neighbor who owns a first-class herd of dual-purpose grade Shorthorns, wished to purchase a bull last summer from a good milking strain. He went to a noted beef Shorthorn breeder and stated his case. He was shown a bull which he liked, but he could not see its mother to advantage, as she was dry; therefore, he had

to take the breeder's word. This bull's dam, he said, is a first-class milker, and in his mind she was, because he is noted for his honesty, and I know that she would not come up to this neighbor's expectations. But the seller said this because her calf lived without the assistance of a nurse cow—unlike most of the others in his herd—and this neighbor will not know of his mistake till about three years hence, when his heifers will be coming in. Now, if we had an "advanced registry," like what Prof. Day speaks of, we would have less risk in selecting a bull. I hope that the breeders of this country will think clearly and act quickly in regard to this matter, because there is always a great demand for this kind of cattle, and unless something is soon done, I, for one (and I believe I am voicing the sentiments of a great many farmers), will not run the game of chance much longer, but will go in for a distinct dairy breed. I hope I will never have to do it, for my ideal cow always was the large Shorthorn, that would produce her 50 or 60 lbs. of high-testing milk a day, and raise a good calf; and a man who has a herd of this kind will make as much money with less slavery than when engaged in breeding a distinct dairy breed.

Peel Co., Ont.

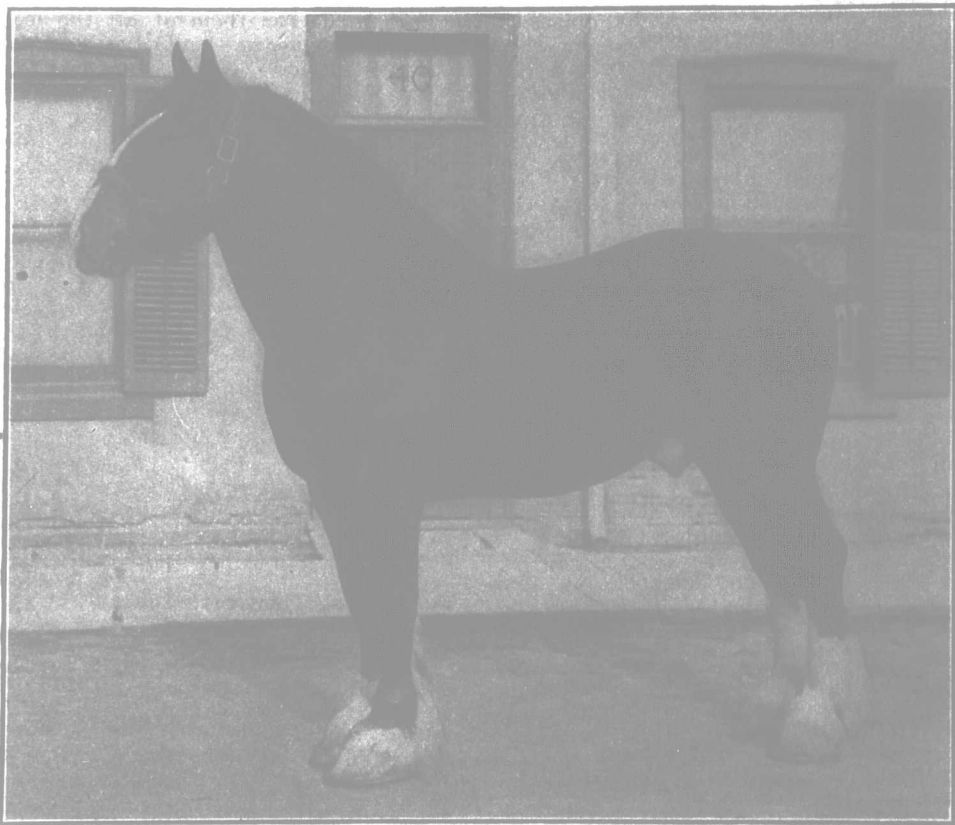
JAS. B. ROSS.

Good Value at Twice the Cost.

I have been taking your valuable paper since last July, and must say I would not be without it for twice the cost. Every progressive farmer should subscribe for "The Farmer's Advocate." Wishing your paper a double share of success, I remain,

JAMES BURDON.

Middlesex Co., Ont.



Knight of Glamis, Imp. [4533] (12628).

Three-year-old Clydesdale stallion. Owned by Thos. Mercer, Markdale, Ontario. Sire Mercutio, by Hiawatha.

carefully corrected. All radical changes in feed should be avoided at this time.

The ninth day, all things considered, is the proper time to be taken to the horse, in case it is desired to breed her again. Not until this time should she be allowed to do any labor, and much better rest two weeks. When first commencing to work the dam, care should be exercised not to keep her too long away from the foal. At least once each half-day she should be taken to the barn and the foal allowed to nurse. Never let foal follow dam all day in field. The ideal condition is to confine it in light, airy box stall during day, and at night turn both to pasture.

In two or three weeks the colt will take kindly to bran and oats, and should be allowed to eat with dam or be fed in a box by itself. At five or six months it should be weaned, earlier if dam is in foal, not so important if not. Now is, in our judgment, the most critical point in the colt's lifetime, for if it is allowed to become poor, stunted and scrawny it will never make the horse that it otherwise would had it been given proper feed and care. No better feed can be provided than good oats and bran, liberal allowance of bright clover or mixed hay, and plenty of exercise. In case of tendency to constipation, add oil meal to ration, in small quantity at first, gradually increasing until bowels are in proper condition. Especially is the oil meal recommended when going upon dry feed and during winter. Very few breeders or feeders realize the value of this excellent feed and its effect upon the system. If the colt passes through the first winter with-