

Should Stallions be Licensed.

The breeding season has come and gone again, and as usual, the country has been flooded with a miscellaneous assortment of stallions, pure-bred, half-bred and no breed at all in many cases, and ranging in price of service fee from the highly bred road stallion, with a record of 2.28, at \$40, down to the general purpose mongrel that covers at \$5 to insure; and, again, I am sorry to say, in too many localities we find that the horses of the latter class, if they have not done the biggest seasons, have at any rate done enough to cut down very materially the earnings of really useful horses, the result being that many a man who has invested a goodly sum in the purchase of a well-bred stallion has gone home with the firm intention of going out of the business, and as a natural consequence some neighborhood is deprived of the services of a horse who would in a very few years have added hundreds of dollars to the wealth of the neighborhood in the value of its horses alone.

Now, surely, something should be done to put a stop to such a state of things, and yet when the advisability of licensing stallions is brought up a howl is at once raised that the poor man's liberty is being infringed on, that every man has a right to breed to any horse he likes, and that in this free country it would be an outrage to try to prevent any man who chose to do so from travelling a stallion of any breed or kind he chooses. Let me ask what reason there is in this. It might just as well be claimed that any man who chose should be allowed to sell whiskey, or that a man should be allowed to leave his plum trees full of black knot, or let the thistles on his farm all go to seed; or in fact it might as well be claimed at once that the government has no right to bring in any measure for the good of the country at large that will in any way interfere with the actions of any individual.

Now, let us look into this question for a moment or two. Under the present state of things any man who wishes has a right to keep for service a stallion of any description he may choose. What is the result? We find the country flooded with entire horses that would not, were they gelded, fetch over \$150 to \$200 each, and in many cases less. These horses are travelled on the principal of putting a good stiff figure on the stallion bill and then taking what they can get. I know of one horse in an adjoining county who was bred to three mares at \$4 each to insure, and, of course, numbers of men are found willing to breed to them because they are cheap. This is bad enough, but the mischief does not end here, as the man who has invested his money in a well-bred stallion finds that owing to the number of scrub horses that are doing business at from \$3 to \$6 he has got to either come down in his price to something near their rates or else stay at home. He knows he cannot afford to run a horse that has cost him perhaps \$1,000 or \$1,200 at such a price, run all risks on the horse, take the chances of the mare proving in foal, and last, but far from least, take chances of getting his money, and so he takes the first opportunity of selling his horse and goes out of the business; and I do not blame him, for after some years practical experience I am satisfied that there is very little in keeping stallions for service except worry and bother.

Now, suppose a license fee of say \$100 was levied on every stallion that is kept for service, what would the result be? Simply this, that

the castrating knife would be used very freely next spring, and hundreds of useless, and worse than useless stallions would be set to earn their living by collar work, while the man who is thinking of purchasing a well-bred horse will be encouraged to do so, as he will not be obliged to compete with all the scrub horses he has had to meet hitherto, and my reader adds, he will put the price away up so that no ordinary farmer can touch it. I do not think so; I think the law of supply and demand would regulate that. There are plenty of really good, sound, well-bred horses to be had, and just as soon as any man is found to be getting an extra high rate there would be lots of men ready to put another horse in the field. As the market stands now from \$800 to \$1,200 will buy a good fair stallion of almost any breed, and were stallion owners protected from the competition of \$200 scrubs by a license fee such as I speak of, they could afford to run a horse costing this amount at from \$10 to \$12 to insure, and if a colt is not worth paying that for he is not worth raising.

It would, of course, be necessary that all stallions licensed should be registered with the proper authorities, and I would suggest that it would be well to insist on every owner producing a certificate from a qualified veterinarian that his horse is free from any hereditary disease, and also that he should file a copy of the pedigree, duly sworn to.

Were such a plan as this carried out and the money collected, after the necessary expenses have been paid, handed over to the county agricultural society, I think we would all be surprised in a few years at the change in the quality of our horses that would result; and I would now suggest to the horse owners and breeders of the province that some steps be taken to petition parliament to grant to the different county councils the right to place such a license on all entire horses standing for service within the boundaries of their respective counties.

BLUE BLOOD.

Breeding for Beef.

A more systematic management of the cattle breeding in Canada would result in a much larger sum being realized for this fast increasing export. Although last year's figures footed up over 123,000 head (one-third more than the year previous, and more than double that of two years before, then the largest in the history of the export trade), still a number of these were not a large source of revenue to either breeder or shipper. This was for two reasons. One, because they were shipped unfinished, and the other, on account of the lack of quality required for the British market.

In the manner that breeding is now conducted throughout the country many of the best cows are lost as far as their reproducing powers are concerned. The vast body of farmers who send their milk to cheese factories aim to have their cows come in so that they will be fresh at the beginning of May, therefore the chances of successfully raising calves without the proper quota of milk makes it extremely dubious if it will pay to bring up the calf at all.

After repeated trials, with a want of success that is too plainly displayed in the poor little puny yearlings that are to be seen in the majority of dairy districts, farmers become more careless as to what bulls they breed their cows to, and by this management it is not likely that the quality of the country's yearly output will be improved. The only way to rectify the difficulty is by having the necessary number to keep up the herd calve early in the year. By this means a quantity of butter can be made and sold when it is selling at paying prices, and at the time of year it is in the best condition to ship. The skim-milk, which is sweet and in good order for feeding, remains on the farm to bring up the

calves, which should be ready to be weaned by the time the factory season begins. By good feeding during these months the cows would milk better than they do now, especially where cows are brought through in just merely living condition, and the additional value of a well grown calf would materially help to swell the credit account of each cow in the herd. A revolutionizing of the general management of the feeding methods is necessary before there is much encouragement for better breeding. It is all well enough to speak of the necessity of good blood being infused in our herds that the proper stamp of cattle may be produced to sell at good profit. Breed, without the proper care and attention, avails nothing. If farmers are so niggardly that they fancy each bushel of grain saved for sale is just so much money made, they may just as well keep on with scrub or native cattle, as these will stand starvation rations quite as well or better. On the other hand, if they grow and set apart certain crops to be fed on the farm, they must seek to feed it to such animals as will give the best returns. It has been over and over again manifested that the young steer will give a much larger return for a given number of bushels of ground grain than a steer nearly matured. This difference amounts to from one-third to one-half, and is hardly credible, but a proper test, in which feed and animals are duly weighed, will convince the most sceptical. Just here comes in profit or loss in the feeding operations. In small establishments how much better to so order the feeding and breeding that a certain number of yearlings or calves could be turned off each year than to have a number of all ages on half rations eating up the profits.

Already the demand for good, thrifty-growing young stock is greater than the supply. Far more money can be made by feeding these young things than can be made in finishing the ordinary steer after he has passed his second year. The money is all in getting steers to market at from twenty-four to thirty months. After this age they will not pay for their feed unless they have been purchased at extremely low figures.

In the Scottish dairy districts where large herds of Ayrshire cattle are principally kept, after choosing out the best cows to keep up the supply of heifers to the number required for the dairy herd, the balance are bred to the best type of beef bulls. The calves are sold off early to farmers making a specialty of feeding these. They are sold again when they get to suitable age, to others for stall feeding or grazing, as the case may be. By this system steers of the quality that Scotland is so noted for are produced. Canadian methods have of necessity been indefinite during the opening up of trade and improving the farms, but the time for better ordered system is now necessary to realize profits and make each department of the farm tell. The writer has repeatedly sold steers from twelve to eighteen months at from \$30 to \$50 per head. These, of course, were well cared for, but no easier way of making money can be found, and no better return for feed obtained. Let those who have doubts choose a few of their best framed cows, breed them early to a good-fleshed, pure-bred bull of one of the beef breeds, take care of the calves when they arrive; don't let them go backward; very little feed, if continued, together with good care, will develop steers that will not only be a large source of profit, but will awaken an interest in careful breeding.