

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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The Big Cheese Analyzed.

A representative sample of the Canadian mammoth cheese taken from the block of 70 pounds, as returned from England, was found on careful analysis to have the following composition:—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Percentage. Water 32.06, Butterfat 31.43, Curd (casein and albumen) 28.09, Ash, salt, milk, sugar, etc. 5.51, Total 100.00.

Prof. Shutt, of Ottawa, who made this analysis, reports that the cheese was perfectly sound, and that the relative proportions of fat and curd, upon which palatability and digestibility depend, was eminently satisfactory.

If your pigs have not a pasture to run over, give them a daily supply of green feed. They will eat many kinds of weeds, and it is a good way to get rid of them.

Horse-Breeding Viewed from a Farmer's Standpoint.

BY "CLAUGHBANE."

In Manitoba, horses are at present a drug in the market, and there is consequently a very strong tendency on the part of farmers to stop breeding their mares, and this being the case, no doubt some of the knowing ones will endeavor to raise as many colts as possible, for if we look back we find that most of the different farm products have at some time had a boom followed by a reaction which again reacted, causing a brisk demand with good prices, and there were then but few farmers in a position to take advantage of them. For some three or four years back farmers in Manitoba have had horses of their own raising to sell, but it is a well-known fact that their neighbors in need of horses bought from the dealers instead of from their brother farmers. If this had not been the case there would probably now be a healthy demand for good horses. The horses that have been raised in Manitoba have been, on the whole, a pretty scrubby lot; some very good farm horses have been raised, but, generally speaking, the Manitoba-bred colts have been of a very nondescript character, and as for an A 1 horse, fit for export, they are just about as few and far between as hen's teeth. It may be urged that no one was trying to raise horses fit for export. All I can say to this is, they should have been doing so, as the present overstocking of farm horses proves. In breeding now, farmers should do so with a view to raising horses fit for export, and, as there will be a great many failures in raising these classes of horses, there will be quite a number of colts that will be fit for farm work. I now prepare to give my views on how these horses fit for export should be bred.

The first thing to be considered is the mares that the farmer owns; what class of horses are each of them suitable for raising, and are there not one or more of them that are not likely to raise a profitable colt of any kind, for the too common custom of breeding all the mares to one horse so as to get a reduction in the service fees must be given up if success is to be attained.

The next consideration is what breed should be used as a sire to mate with each of these mares, for, of course, nothing but a pure-bred sire should be used, and is there a suitable specimen of the breed whose services can be obtained?

In breeding with a view to export, horses may be divided into two classes—light horses, comprising hunters, hacks, etc., and draught horse, which are suitable for heavy city draying. In the former class there are stallions of several breeds that are suitable for mating with the different styles of mares owned in the Province. These are the thoroughbred or blood horse, the Hackney and the Coach horse (Cleveland Bay and Yorkshire Coach stud books). It will be observed that I do not include the standard-bred trotter among these sires, and before I go further it will be well if I explain what the blood horse is, for it is common to hear farmers speak of the standard-bred trotter as a blood horse. The blood horse, or thoroughbred, is the English race horse; he is descended from the Arabian, and is the oldest established breed of horses that we have. They have been bred for generation after generation for that great speed which tries to the uttermost the bone, muscle and constitution of a horse. This has had the effect of making the thoroughbred an animal which may be said to be composed of the best possible material, and this almost invariably put up in exceedingly handsome form. The standard-bred trotter, which so many farmers confound with the blood horse, is quite a different animal, although a great many of them have a good deal of the blood of the thoroughbred in them. These horses may be standard-bred by breeding, which means that they are out of a standard-bred mare by a standard-bred horse, although the animals themselves may not be fast, or they may be standard-bred by performance, which means that they can trot a mile within a prescribed time, regardless of their breeding.

Now, there are a very large number of trotting horses in Manitoba—some standard-bred, but the most of them may be termed mongrel trotters, they having trotting blood in them, but at the same time they are not eligible for registration. These stallions are travelled, and farmers breed their mares to them, and if asked what they have bred a certain mare to, will tell you to a blood horse, although the horse, whether standard-bred or not, has no right to the name. How can farmers be expected to breed horses successfully when they do not know one breed from another? There are but a few thoroughbred stallions in Manitoba, while trotting stallions are plentiful enough, and I am convinced that farmers are making a great mistake in breeding their mares to them, for, not only will their get be unprofitable to them, but it will hurt the reputation of the Province's horseflesh. This will no doubt appear to some a strong statement, and so I will endeavor to give the reason why I arrive at this conclusion. The standard-bred trotter, of which the unregistered trotting horse may be said to be an inferior specimen, is bred for a special purpose, and that is to trot a mile in the least possible time. Now the gait of the American trotting horse is an artificial pace, for, in order to get the greatest speed out of them, their heads are drawn up with one bit and pulled down with another; they are toe-weighted, booted and strapped in various ways, and consequently have a very unnatural appearance.

A horse that moves nicely at a natural pace is, as a rule, a good-looking horse, but this unnatural movement seems to call for a horse of a peculiar conformation, and, if we may judge by the illustrations of the fastest trotters, this conformation is anything but handsome. Comparing the trotting horse with a specimen of equine beauty—though no doubt to trotting men trotting horses are things of beauty—they have generally some, if not all, of the following faults: Fiddle heads, ewe necks, and almost invariably thick necks, upright shoulders, long backs, sloping rumps and cut hams. If a horse has all these faults, it takes a man who is educated to it to see any beauty in him, and while I should be sorry to say that there are no handsome trotting horses, for there are, I think I am safe in saying that they are rather the exception than the rule. [TO BE CONTINUED.]

Bath and West of England Show.

The Annual Show of this excellent Society, which was held in Guildford from May 30 to June 4, was a decided success. All branches of live stock, except hogs, were out in good form and numbers.

In the Agricultural horse classes Shires made the greatest showing, although the few Clydesdales were of superb quality. In Hunters and Hacks there was a fair representation. Hackneys and ponies also filled a conspicuous place in the stables.

CATTLE.

The Bath and West of England Show is always looked forward to with an anticipation of seeing a splendid show of the rosy reds in the form of Devons, and this year was no exception, as these juicy red plums were out in strong numbers and excellent quality; the best that has been seen for many years.

Shorthorns.—These were well represented in nearly every direction. Herefords were also out in good force. Many deserving animals were compelled to go away with barren honors, so keen was the competition. The Sussex classes were well filled, being near their native home. Aberdeen-Angus heretofore have not been given a place at the Bath show, but this year the Society allotted them a place, which brought a fairly good showing of the bonnie blacks out for competition. Kerries and Dexters were not very numerous, the latter exceeding their black sisters in point of numbers. There was a very large turnout of Jerseys at Guildford, and on the whole the quality was good. The Guernseys, too, were a good lot, much improved from what they were a few years ago, both in form and shape of udder.

SHEEP.

The Leicester and Cotswolds were very meagre in point of numbers, but of admirable quality. Southdowns and Shropshires made a magnificent display, the latter excelling the former both in numbers and preparation. The Oxford-Downs prizes were all captured by one breeder, which shows that they are not so general as some others. Summerset and Dorset-Horned sheep were well shown. Hampshire-Downs were not very numerous, but superior specimens could be seen among them. A few pretty little Exmores and other mountain sheep were also exhibited.

PIGS.

Unfortunately, the prevalence of swine fever necessitated the council—upon the advice of the Society's veterinary inspector—to cancel all the entries that had been made in the pig classes.

It was with sore regret that it had to be done, owing to the fact that it was the largest entry of pigs that the Society had ever had; but it was felt that no other course could be safely pursued.

POULTRY.

Poultry, as usual, formed an attractive feature of the show. Although the entries fell a little below those of last year, the quality was good, and some of the classes were particularly strong.

IMPLEMENTS.

The implement department was of a very representative character, and formed both to the general and practical visitor a most attractive feature of the show. Every class of agricultural machinery was well represented.

WORKING DAIRY AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The dairy always appears to have formed an especial feature in the labors of the Bath and West of England Society. We may safely say that no other English exhibition at the present day can at all compare with it in the excellent uniform display of cheese, butter, or cream. A vast improvement has taken place within the last nine or ten years, which, there can be no doubt, is owing to lessons that have been learned in the working dairy, many dairies of cheese that in former years were only saleable at a very low price being now nearly double in value, owing to the greater skill used in manipulation. Many dairies in butter are also very much increased in value. In going through the various classes of dairy produce, it can be noticed how, from year to year, in many instances the same names and farms continue to hold their position, showing their method of manufacture has become a certainty, and that guess or chance work is a thing of the past. The working dairy was a scene of great activity within and of interest without, churning the whole of its working hours. The chief business, however, going on were the lectures and illustrations in the improved methods of butter-making.