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HORSES.

THE PROBLEM OF THE HORSE INDUSTRY.

II.

SOME TRICKS OF THE BUSINESS.

Clearly, the initial improvement of conditions, pointed out last week, must come by the use of good, pure-bred sires, and then by carefully culling out the poor fillies and keeping only the best ones to breed from, and by each man sticking to one breed. Where this has been done for a dozen or fifteen years, the improvement has been beyond the hopes of the breeders themselves. Unfortunately, few kept on using pure-bred sires. Many started well, but after two or three strains of pure blood had been infused into their stock, they kept one of the colts for a stallion because he looked so much like a pure-bred. Up to this time the process of grading up had been going on; now retrogression invariably set in. The grade, having but a short line of breeding, and not particularly strong blood lines, failed to get animals as good as himself. Not only was the owner's stock deteriorated, but many neighbors, because of the low service fee and good appearance of the animal, went by good pure-breds and bred to him. Thus, many horsemen were forced to buy cheap pure-breds to compete with the low service fee of the grade. In some sections the word "young" or "second" is prefixed or affixed to the sire's name. At the same time, the sire's cut is often used on the route bills, and his pedigree given. The average man, knowing but little of pedigrees, is often led to believe that this grade is pure-bred, or just as good. Few stallions furnish cuts of their own horses; in fact, only the owners of good, pure-bred horses. The majority ask the printer to use the best cut he has of a certain breed and color, with certain markings, or near to these markings. On the road, more than one glib-tongued groom has satisfactorily accounted for the better appearance of the cut than of the horse, and left the inquirer with the impression that the animal looked thus when properly fitted. Some horses are passed as pure-breds, the certificates being kept at home for safety. Other cases are known where a copy of a certificate was carried, but it did not belong to that horse, but passed muster as all right, because nobody who knew bothered to examine it. Transfers have been shown as certificates, and passed off as such for years, while certificates signed by Dodd or Thompson look good to the majority, particularly when the fee asked is small. In Iowa and Wisconsin, where all stallions must be enrolled, many certificates have been sent in that investigation proved to have been tampered with. A common trick was raising the age; another was adding to the description to make the certificate suit another horse. Some of these last certificates have come to Canada, while horses with the unmistakable characteristics and markings of one breed have been sold under certificates of registration of another breed.

Another practice which works incalculable evil to the industry is the system of syndicating, as usually carried on. First get lots of corn into the horse, then go to the right man in each place, give him his price to help you, then you can syndicate any horse. This is one horseman's motto, and, judging from the number of horses stocked at anywhere from twice to ten times their value, it is quite correct. Horses that had small, mismated feet, upon which they did not even stand level; stubby, upright pasterns; untrue action, due largely to malconformations; turned-out hocks that would never become boggy, as they already were so; and these undesirable characteristics go with upright shoulders, and quite often long backs, poorly-muscled loins and short quarters. Nevertheless, if you inquire, you will be told promptly that these are first-class horses—must be, because they cost anywhere from \$2,500 to \$4,000. Judging from what breeders do—not what they say, for most men want to be thought horsey—not over ten per cent. of them know a good horse when they see him, or what points of excellence a horse should possess, and why. Another trick practiced by some dealers is to have a horse or two for syndicating purposes—good horses in every way but one, viz., they are not breeders. These horses are syndicated over and over again in different places, and as often taken back, a cheap, inferior horse being given in exchange, according to the agreement that the first horse would get colts or be replaced. This trick was carried on to such an extent in some of the States that a law had to be passed compelling the vendor to give a sixty-per-cent. breeding guarantee, and if the horse did not prove up to the standard, to take him back and refund all money paid. Many of these high-priced horses are unsound. Sometimes they have a genital disease, which they transmit to the mares they serve. In one case a horse was bred to over 100 mares, with a few colts as one result, the other being that the local veterinarian made some money treating thirty or more of the mares for a genital disease.

Tersely, the situation may be put in a few phrases: Poor foundation stock, poor care and management, too many grade and scrub sires; no proper protection for the breeder, the stallioner with a good horse, or the honest dealer; a general lack of interest, and a great lack of true horse lore through many sections of the country, which accounts for many of the practices, such as the syndicating of a scrub for ten times his value, and then passing him as superior to good horses because of his price; few local associations to take up the industry and put it on a proper basis; little correct knowledge of the existing conditions, either along lines of breeding or marketing.

"NEMO."

COMMON SENSE VS. WHIPS.

A travelling representative for a harness-goods house recently said of the whip situation: "In proportion to the number of people who drive horses, not half as many whips are used nowadays as there were a quarter of a century ago. Many owners of horses now never carry a whip. I have known men who always have horses, and yet have never struck one of their animals with the whip. Many people hold that if a horse is properly reared from colthood, it will never need a whip. What are termed the bad traits of a horse are usually caused by the people who have handled them. Some bad traits of horses are hereditary, but they can usually be traced back to bad management of ancestry. The more good sense a driver has, the less punishment his team will need. It is all practically a matter of good common-sense."—[Live-stock Journal.]



Red Sahib.

First-prize hunter sire, International Show, Olympia, 1907.

HACKNEYS AT THE ROYAL.

The Hackney classes at the Royal Show, says the Live-stock Journal, were replete with specimens of the highest quality, albeit one animal, the Olympia champion stallion, Sir Humphrey, was not entered, which was to be regretted. Championships fell to Copmanthorpe Performer and District Maid, respectively, but in the case of the latter Olympia form was upset, for Lively Beeswing, the heroine of a fortnight ago, had to give way to the senior mare. Those who watched the meeting of the pair will long recall it as one of the finest battles seen between mares in the Hackney ring. A referee alone settled the question in favor of District Maid, who perhaps was more happy on the heavy turf. There can be no denying the fact that Sir Walter Gilbey, Mr. R. P. Evans and the Messrs. Hall just now have between them a group of animals which will for a long time maintain the prestige of the British Hackney.

District Maid, shown by Mr. Evans, is a chestnut six-year-old daughter of Rosador, and Lively Beeswing is a chestnut two-year-old filly sired by Royal Danegelt, and shown by Sir Walter Gilbey. Copmanthorpe Performer, the champion stallion, is a three-year-old chestnut, by Garton Duke of Connaught, shown by Messrs. Hall; and the reserve number, Gartonius, a chestnut three-year-old son of Garton Duke of Connaught, was bred and shown by Mr. Evans.

J. E. Oxby, Wellington Co., Ont.—We acknowledge, with thanks, the premium hand-bag received. We were very much pleased with it, and will gladly get more subscribers, if possible. Wishing your valuable paper the success it deserves.

RECORDS OF GRADED STOCK.

A correspondent at Osler, Sask., writes as follows:

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Re the article, "Keep the Standard up for Clydesdale Registration," I have just worked out the following table, on which I should be glad to have your advice. Please correct same in case it is wrong:

Name of mare.	Bred in the year.	Offspring born.	Name of offspring.	No. of cross. veins.	% of pure blood in
X (scrub)	1901	1902	A	1st	50%
A (grade)	1905	1906	B	2nd	75%
B (")	1909	1910	C	3rd	87.5%
C (")	1913	1914	D	4th	93.75%
D (grade*)	1917	1918	E	5th	96.875%
E (" ?)	1921	1922	F	6th	98.437%
F (" ?)	1925	1926	G	7th	99.218%
G (" ?)	1929	1930	H	8th	99.609%
H (" ?)	1933	1934	I	9th	99.805%

*Grade or Pure-bred.

In the above table every first offspring is supposed to be a filly foal, and mares bred when three years old.

Clydesdale Breed.—Which is the first mare colt entitled to registration, and which is the first stud colt entitled to registration, according to above table, corrected if need be?

Percheron Breed.—Which is the first mare colt entitled to registration, and which is the first stud colt entitled to registration, according to above table, corrected if need be?

I own scrub mare X and grade colt A.

What course shall I follow in order to have A's great-grand offspring registered when they are born? Should I get a blank or form now (from whom?), on which A's pure-bred sire and scrub dam's names would be put down, in order that when A's entitled-to-registration offspring is born, the ancestry of said offspring may be traced down to its great-grandam?

I should be glad of getting an answer to above questions through your paper, as doubtless many farmers will read same with interest.

R. M. E. P.

Sask.

With Clydesdales, the rules for registering graded-up stock read: "Stallions having five top crosses with their dams on

record, and mares having four top crosses in each case by a sire recorded in the Clydesdale Studbook of Canada, shall be entitled to registration."

This means that, in the case of our correspondent, D would be eligible for registration, and a horse colt from D by a registered Clydesdale stallion would be eligible.

With Percherons, we have not been able to get information from all the record associations, and the fact that there are several of these associations makes it rather complicated to trace the breeding of graded stock. We believe, however, that the same rule will hold as with the Clydesdales, and where the stallions used are registered in different books, the finally produced pure-bred will be eligible in whatever studbook it is decided to record him or her.

In the matter of keeping records when grading up stock, so far there are no blanks supplied by the breed associations to parties who are endeavoring to breed from grade stock to be registered. Some breeders, however, use the blank forms of application for registration of pure-breds for this purpose, and fill them out from memory or from their diaries. This is an instance where the breed societies could do considerable good work, and we have suggested to the Clydesdale Association that they prepare blanks and circulate rules for the convenience and guidance of farmers who are breeding in line from pure-bred sires. These blanks might contain spaces for the names of the mare, the stallion used, the owners of each, the date of birth of the progeny, and any other data that might be required. These breeding certificates might also be supplied whenever a mare changed ownership, and should have a blank for transfer certificate. Such a system would