

ling may be swung back to get the horse out. Nail cleats on three sides of the other stall post and put a bolt into the post at back of the scantling so it will pull out. This, he states, stopped the kicking with both feet and the horse started to kick with one foot which was finally prevented by placing a light chain across the stall about two feet from the floor so that if he happens to get over it he will not be held there. We are not recommending this method, but simply passing it on for what it is worth. It cured one horse at least.

Another correspondent claims to have cured a horse of kicking the stall partitions by placing the manger so far back in the stall (or shortening the stall), that the horse had no partition to kick. Obviously this could not be used where horses are tied in the stalls next to the kicker.

Try the rope across the back of the stall, first; be quiet with the horses always; avoid whipping if possible. Any readers having ideas on this subject are invited to write for our columns letting others know of their treatment of this prevalent trouble.

Consistency in Purchasing Stallions.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Improvement in the common stock of horses must come largely through a gradual grading up from ordinary farm horses. The process of grading must be effected most largely through the use of pure-bred stallions of distinct individual merit. That is the practice as worked out and followed by men who established the different breeds and also by the greatest improvers and breeders of the present day.

One of the most famous breeders of horses owes his success largely to the use of one exceptionally good stallion, yet he is not content to allow his breeding operations to rest entirely upon the results from that one horse. He has been searching for years for another stallion that will prove equally satisfactory as a sire. Stallion after stallion that has appeared to be the right kind has been purchased and tried out only to be discarded after his colts have appeared. It is a well-defined conviction of the owner that he must secure a sire whose offspring will be as meritorious as those of the one so long in use or else his business cannot be kept upon its present high standard. This breeder of successful experience and fame has more of a problem than merely to replace the stallion that has done so well as a sire. He must find a stallion whose characteristics and traits will blend with the progeny of the first great horse. This makes the situation more vexing but the owner is seeking diligently, studying good horses in barns, at shows or at sales and occasionally buying a likely one and trying him out for a year or two. No doubt before the old horse shall have outlived his usefulness a satisfactory successor will have been found.

The plan followed by that successful breeder is commended to all breeders of horses whether they keep few or many and whether they raise grades or pure-breds. It is worthy of adoption by localities where the horsemen can band themselves together to raise better horses. A locality which I visited the past season had a number of exceptionally good colts sired by a pure-bred horse. The major portion of the colts, however, were very commonplace stock. It developed that the inferior youngsters had been raised by men who kept stallions on their farms. It was the custom to retain occasionally a colt from those produced on the farm and use him as a stallion. No more convincing example of the value of a pure-bred stallion as a sire of good colts and as an improver of common stock could be found than was shown in that instance. Consistency in breeding horses means keeping everlastingly working for improvement. It means the purchase and use of sires that will sire the best colts.

In another locality a company of farmers purchased a stallion that proved himself to be one of the best ever sold in that state. The locality became famous for the production of good horses. The time came when a second stallion was needed. Instead of getting a horse of the same breed and character as the first, a stallion of another breed was purchased. Although he is an exceptionally good individual his cross on the grade mares is not bringing further improvement. His colts are of badly mixed breeding instead of carrying three-fourths of the blood of the breed first used. The situation is further complicated by the fact that another stallion of a third breed in private ownership is available for service. The individual merit of that horse is such that many men are tempted to take their mares to him. The horse has been a first-prize winner at many fairs and is indeed a good one, yet his value to the community would be many times greater were he of the same breed of which the mares in the locality are grades. Consistency in adherence to one breed would doubtless have meant thousands of dollars to that horse-raising district. There was an opportunity for the community to become the leading horse-producing section in that part of the country. That opportunity has been thrown away

by the purchase and use of stallions of a second and third breed.

It would seem that the purchase of a stallion should be preceded by a well-formed opinion as to what is needed by the mares with which he is to be mated. That is really the course followed by all real improvers of horses. The proper ideal having been formed it should be followed by securing an animal that meets those requirements as nearly as can be determined. Men must go further than the mere selection of a stallion of one of the desirable breeds. There are features of type and conformation that make individuals widely different even within any one breed. I have seen men making their final selection between an extremely rangy horse and one very low down and blocky. Even at that point it depended more upon the salesman than upon the discriminating power of the buyer as to which horse was taken. Consistency and the proper ideal in mind would mean that the buyer would know what he wants or needs and no talk or other influence could induce him to take any other kind. Whatever breed may be kept on the farms we shall make the most progress as horse breeders and the most money as stockmen when we adhere consistently to one breed and to an ideal for the best horse that can be bred.

Johnson Co., Ill.

W. H. UNDERWOOD.

Khaki Horses Turn Green.

It is said that the British army has been experimenting in dyeing the coats of white horses a khaki color, and that so far the experiment has been unsuccessful. Twenty-four white horses were changed by dyes to a yellowish tinge and were sent to the firing line for ten days. When they returned they were a beautiful bottle green.

LIVE STOCK.

Stock News From Britain.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The war at the moment has taken a new phase. The horse in present operations is of little use. Both sides, Germans and Allies, are not using him to any extent, merely because the conditions of existing operations are against his services; indeed are against anything like movement. His time, however, will come again. The type of horse of greatest service to the Allies is the hunter-bred type.



Lady of the Valley 7th.

Best fat animal at the Ottawa Winter Fair, 1915. Exhibited by Kyle Bros., Drumbo, Ont.

I have just helped in drawing out our list of British shows for the forthcoming outdoor exhibition season and, compared with other years, quite eighty per cent. of our agricultural exhibitions are going to be held—as usual. A few (and very few) Societies have taken fright and will lie quiet for this year, but for the most part, from the Royal to the humblest Fowl Show, they are determined to carry on. The Royal Counties, i.e., the counties near to the King's home at Windsor, have decided to give up their show, but on the other hand, have agreed, in order to avoid having an altogether blank year, and to retain, as far as possible, the interest of members, to offer prizes for Dairy Herd Competitions, which have been such a strong feature of the Society's work, and also to assist local agricultural associations in the areas usually visited by the Royal Counties Show, by granting premiums towards their prize lists in the case of those associations who are able to hold their 1915 show.

The Board of Agriculture have given notice to farmers and owners of horses that in order to encourage the breeding of horses the War Office have issued instructions to their purchasing officers to avoid, as far as possible, the purchase of mares, and on no account to purchase by impression any mares whose owner signs a declaration that he will use her for breeding next service season.

It has been levelled at the farmers of Britain that they and their sons have not sought the king's service eagerly enough for the war. Farmer Giles has risen in his anger and declares it is not fair to single out farmers and their sons as unpatriotic, and instances were quoted where both sons and farm hands had responded, in some cases farmers being left with only one man to till the farms of as many as five hundred acres. Some sons of toil have pointed to the number of shop assistants who are still weighing out pounds of sugar and measuring yards of cloth.

The Earl of Bradford, who died recently, had, at Weston Park, Shifnal, several rare breeds of foreign sheep, some of which are of Egyptian stock, and said to be descended from the species which the Israelites tended in the days of their captivity under the Pharaohs.

All over England, at Live Stock Fairs, some kindly disposed spirit puts up for bidding a cow or a pig, or a ram, and it is sold and re-sold until it fetches "record" prices. The money so realized goes to the local Belgian Relief Fund. A Sterling ram has realized £65; a Stranraer turkey £36; a fat sheep at Barnet Market even realized £133. "Items" such as these are sprung on "news editors" from all parts of Britain—showing the feeling of farmers towards the Belgians, and, incidentally the fascination of the word "record" for the scribe!

In 1914, Canada bought no cattle and no pigs from Great Britain. She however, bought 427 head of sheep at the declared value of £6-6-8 each as against 426 head in 1913, when they were stated to be worth £6-16-10 apiece. Canada sold to Britain, in 1914, 504 head of horses worth £20,510 in bulk. That was before the war broke out and figures concerning army purchases are, of course, not to be found in Government publications.

The 78 head of breeding stock sold at the dispersal of the late Sir Walter Gilbey's stud realized £5197-10. A Thoroughbred stallion, called Stortford, (late My Bird Sings) used for getting Thoroughbreds and hunters (from farmers' mares in the latter case) realized 610 guineas. The Welsh pony stallion, Shooting Star, realized 240 guineas, going to H. D. Greene, who has a big stud at Craven Arms, Shropshire. The highest price in Shire stallions was 260 guineas, paid by Mr. Cole Ambrose, for the low-to-ground, old-fashioned sort in Warton Draughtsman. Young Shire mares sold up to 140 guineas, and fillies to 74 guineas. Geldings averaged 45 guineas. A U. S. A. polo pony breeding expert paid 64 guineas for a brood mare of that type. A few head were bought by the family, but the whole old place is to be sold; the new Baronet races horses but is not keen on raising utility stock.

A Yorkshire "squire" who had 39,000 acres to his name, Lord Feversham, died in January. He bred Shorthorns at Duncombe Park, in the North Riding and his herd can be traced back to purchases made in 1815 and 1818, at Robert Colling's sale. Bulls were hired from Bates in 1840 and the Duchess and the Oxford strains prevailed. Lord Feversham did not hesitate to pay 2,000 guineas for a cow, to wit; the Third Duchess of Underley. She in reply gave him one bull he sold to the Argentine for 1,000 guineas.

William Whyte, of Spott, another old breeder of Aberdeen-Angus cattle, just died. He started his career in 1852 and a novice bull he once trotted out was sold for £400 for export.

London, Eng.

G. T. BURROWS

A young man in the acre-profit competition, carried on through the District Representatives of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, produced a yield of 501 bushels of potatoes on an acre, at a cost of \$32.62 and a profit of \$167.18. How many acres in Ontario gave such returns last year?