

to have had great success in obtaining very superior draft horses by using Arab sires and Suffolk Punch mares, and says: "The cross with the Suffolk has been found particularly successful, giving not only wonderfully good harness horses, but also hunters of quite superior kind, some of them 16 hands in height, and nearly all 15.2. It is, however, for draft purposes that the Arabian Suffolk cross is most to be relied on."

The wonderfully kind disposition of the Arab is what most endears him to those who know him. Blunt says: "In disposition, the Arabians are gentle and affectionate; familiar, indeed, almost to the extent of being troublesome. I have never seen an Arabian vicious, shy, or showing signs of fear." Of how great practical value, and what a source of comfort, safety and pleasure, in these days of automobiles and traction engines, are such qualities of gentleness, courage and horse sense.

In an article by a prominent English veterinary surgeon on the castration of horses, the writer says: "The unsexed animal is more tractable and reliable than either the stallion or mare, and geldings continue, as formerly, to command the best prices for all ordinary purposes. If exception could be made to any particular breed, I should say the Arab is the one with the fewest objections as an entire."

The prevailing idea is that Arab horses are spotted in color, and there has been in Ontario a strain of tough, hardy, spotted and usually rat-tailed horses, of, I believe, of unknown origin, commonly called Arabs. The truth is, however, that spotted, piebald and roan horses are unknown among pure-bred Arabians. Bays and grays, in about equal numbers, are the commoner colors, with a good many chestnuts and a few browns and blacks.

The extraordinary endurance of the Arab is too well known and too generally admitted to require argument or proof. Volomel, the famous pure-bred Arab charger of Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, upon which he rode at the head of the procession at the late Queen Victoria's Jubilee Celebration, was 29 years old when he died, and had been ridden by the General for 25 years in his campaigns half over the world, often with a soldier's hard usage and scanty rations. Lord Roberts says that, in modern warfare, the cavalry horse with Arab blood in his veins could outlast every other kind.

Alex. W. Smith, M. P., now representing North Middlesex in the Canadian House of Commons, told me recently of a gray Arab gelding, about 14.2 hands high, that his father bought many years ago from a Methodist minister, who had obtained him in the United States. He says they kept the little horse on the farm until he was forty years old, and that when he was thirty he would drive to a buggy forty miles in a day, with all the speed and energy of a good five-year-old.

The Reverend F. F. Vidal, of Surrey, England, is very well and widely known as having been a very enthusiastic, intelligent and successful breeder of Arabs, and has sent to America some very fine breeding animals. In a letter written to me in July, 1907, Mr. Vidal said: "The breeders of pure Arabs in England are now considerably reduced by the withdrawal of the Honorable Miss Dillon and myself, who have both, from age and infirmity, been obliged to relinquish breeding; but there are still a few breeders left who have the true blood. The Arab horse in England is chiefly used for producing polo ponies and crossing with Hunter mares, the produce of the latter cross making the best of hunters. I, and others, have always used them pure, and prefer them to all other horses for general purposes. They are delightful hacks, good hunters, and make nice, showy and fast light-harness horses."

I have not had an extensive personal experience or knowledge of the Arab horse, and have, therefore, quoted from others of very much greater knowledge, to prove the good qualities of the pure Arab, and his great value to produce as a sire, from other than Arab mares, according to the character, class and breeding of the dams, good work horses, driving, saddle and cavalry horses and general hacks, the Arab blood giving to all of them wonderful endurance and strength, soundness of constitution, beauty of form and action, and particularly a gentleness of disposition and courage combined, not to be found elsewhere among horse-kind.

I have owned but one pure-bred Arab. I bought him from J. A. P. Ramsdell, a well-known Arab breeder, of New York State, in 1906, when he was a colt 15 months old. He was out of Nedjme, and sired by Garaveen. Nedjme was sent from Arabia to the World's Fair, in Chicago, and was described in Country Life in America, in the August, 1906, number, as "probably the best Arab mare ever brought to America." Garaveen was bred by the Reverend Mr. Vidal, of England, out of Kushdil Bey, an imported Arab mare, and sired by Kismet, one of the most celebrated and valuable Arabs that ever left Arabia, and pronounced by Fred Archer, the renowned English jockey, to be the gamest horse he ever rode. I kept this colt, registered as "Joklan," until I sold him last month, at 37 months old, to the Honorable

able Clifford Sifton, who will use him for some experimental cross-breeding. When I sold him, he was broken to ride and drive. While full of life, gritty, strong and courageous, he was gentle and kind as a kitten. My experience with him makes it very easy for me to believe every kind and praiseworthy thing that is said of the Arab. I have now no interest in any Arab horse, but hope to soon possess one or more of them.

Grey Co., Ont.

H. H. MILLER.

According to the report of the Director-General of the Veterinary Service of the British Army, one out of every 200 horses in the home army died, in the hospital, last year, from disorders of the digestive system.

LIVE STOCK.

Popular Rations for Dairy Cows.

Dairy farmers near the cities, where land is high in price, make extensive use of various kinds of by-products in feeding. In addition to brewer's grains, gluten meal from cornstarch factories and dried by-products from distilleries are popular. Some, also, have tried oil cake, and certain prepared foods. Besides, different proportions of the common grains, roots of all kinds, and silage, have their place, and are made use of in season, in order to provide an economical ration for milk production. At present prices, very little bran is used.

"Silage is our mainstay," remarked J. G. Cornell, of Scarborough district, east of Toronto, to a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate," recently, in discussing feeding methods. "There are many silos going up in this section. I always try to have enough silage put away to give two feeds a day all winter, and three after the roots are done. The Leaming variety of corn matures early, and gives a good fodder. It is the most popular sort around here. For roots, I cannot recommend turnips, because of the danger of tainted milk. Sugar beets are much more desirable. Anyhow, the prevalence of the turnip aphid has made it very difficult to get a good crop of turnips of late years.

"Grains, of course, have their place. I prefer a mixture of oats, peas and barley, grown together, and ground.

"In addition, numerous by-products are made use of extensively. Gluten meal from the cornstarch factories, and a dried by-product from the distillers are very desirable. The latter is very rich in protein, and, therefore, suits our purpose admirably. The quantity fed ranges from 6 to 8 pounds, depending on the cow. I always soak it in water for 24 hours before feeding. The cost is \$20 to \$25 per ton, in sacks. Even at the higher price, it is cheaper than bran at present figures. A little pinch of salt is sprinkled on top of the feed at each meal."

"The problem of producing summer feed is a serious one," said John Baird, another successful producer of the district. "I always sow peas and oats for summer cutting. One seeding is put in as early as possible, and another later. It has to be cut, and brought in each day as fed. Thick sowing is advisable. About 2½ bushels of oats and 1½ bushels of peas to the acre, suits. For late summer, fall and winter, nothing is better than corn.

"I always try to grow my own winter feed, also. Peas, oats and barley mixture form the chief part of my grain ration. Of course, peas must be given in limited quantities. I mix about half a bushel of peas with a bag of oats and barley. Timothy and clover hay, also, are made use of. I have not had any experience with alfalfa, but seeded a small area last season. All that I buy is a little dry by-product from the distillery. It does not pay to feed bran if this can be secured at \$20 to \$25 per ton. I tried bran one winter on a few cows, and saw no advantage.

"I always feed plenty of roots. Turnips give milk of better quality than mangels. I feed them all the time, and find no complaint as to tainted milk. They are fed just before or immediately after milking.

"For two winters I have fed my cows only twice a day, and I get just as much milk and have them looking as well as when I fed three times. I may not save any feed, but I save some labor, and, besides, am not obliged to be here in the middle of the day. I give them feed in the morning before milking, and then after breakfast throw in more. This is all they get until 5 o'clock in the evening. Water is in front of them all the time. Occasionally the cows are let out for exercise, but not often."

The cows belonging both to Mr. Cornell and Mr. Baird were in a good thrifty condition a couple of weeks ago. They also gave a good flow of milk.

Our Scottish Letter.

HARVEST OF THE GRIM REAPER.

It is difficult, in these days, to keep up one's duty in respect of correspondence, and my letters have sometimes become few and far between. This letter is usually written by me on a Saturday afternoon, and during the month of April I was attending a funeral on almost every Saturday. Death has been very busy among leading farmers of late. We have lost two notable men in Andrew Hutcheson, Beechwood, Perth, and James Hamilton, Aldersyde, Uddingston. The former was the ablest platform speaker among farmers in Scotland. He was a breezy orator, with a voice that sounded like a circular saw, and an unfailing fund of dry, caustic humor. Not many like him could be found, and he never spoke better than when rising impromptu and unprepared. His studied addresses were good enough in their way, but he excelled in debate. To be so irresistible a guerilla warrior, he was a marvel when in the chair. No one could more successfully conduct a meeting, with a stern regard to the rules of debate, and he pushed through an immense deal of business in a very short time. Mr. Hutcheson farmed extensively in the Carse of Gowrie. He was an out-and-out commercial farmer, absolutely guiltless of any knowledge of pedigree stock of any kind.

James Hamilton was a man of totally different type. He was calm, reserved, and calculating. He was one of the shrewdest and most far-seeing men in Glasgow. He and his brother built up one of the finest wholesale provision-dealers' businesses in the city. He had a keen sense of what was right in dealing with dairy produce, and handled great quantities of both home and foreign butter, cheese and eggs. He was chairman of various public companies engaged in the production and sale of provisions. He travelled extensively, and had a keen business instinct, realizing where additional supplies might be obtained, and constantly urging by word, but more frequently by carefully-weighted and prepared lectures, read at what you would call Farmers' Institutes, that home farmers should produce the best, and that only. Mr. Hamilton's hobby was harness horses, and, when owning these, he was a hard man to beat in a showyard. He took an active interest in the affairs of the Glasgow Agricultural Society. He died at the comparatively early age of fifty-seven.

BUDGET REFLECTIONS.

The Budget is the all-prevailing theme these days. The funds set aside in it for agriculture and forestry amount to £200,000, which ought to do something to develop education, although probably your folks in Canada would not regard it as sufficient to do very much. Here we are thankful for small mercies, and, when we cannot get the silk gown, we are quite pleased to have the sleeve. What we want in this Old Country is a more equitable temperature, an increase of landlords having cash and willing to spend it; a race of farmers who would not despise education, but avail themselves of it at every turn, and an administration of the law, with respect to adulterated products from abroad, which would secure fair play to the home producer. All this looks well on paper, but very little that is practical can sometimes be got out of lairds and their factors. They are willing to sympathize, but if they can escape outlay, they will do so. It must be said for some of them that they have no funds to spend on improving their estates. They are pensioners on their own estates, at the mercy of those who have lent money upon such property. The Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to mulct property or real estate for increased taxation, and the argument, from his standpoint, has a good deal to recommend it. The abuse of property is a running sore in this country, and if the gentlemen who hold up land which ought to be sold as building-ground within the city, could be forced to let go, and sell for building sites, sufficient money would be obtained to reduce rates, and many an artisan would find residence near his place of labor, who is now compelled to travel by train, at an additional outlay, to places of abode at a distance. There is another abuse of land to which attention has been directed from time to time. That is the ransom at which land which is wanted for public purposes is held by its owner. In a recent case, £19,000 were paid for acres of swampy land, which competent men said were not worth more, under any circumstances, than £7,000. It is supposed that the taxation of land values, after the manner of Henry George, would rectify this abuse. How that would come about, we know not, but the Chancellor means to have a try this time.

SCOTCH AND CANADIAN IDEAS OF AYRSHIRES.

Ayrshire cattle have many good friends in Canada. At present, there are with us more than one of these, and their opinion of our Scots methods of judging dairy cows are not flattering. We are strong in the milk section for tightly-made and aung vessels, and well-planted teats.