

their stock off too close and denuded that province to some extent of horses.

So much for the prospects of 1910, as indicated by these two small incidents. They are signs as it were of growth. With them go some growing pains that at present are attracting more attention than anything else. Farmers up and down the country are clamoring for help, and no help is forthcoming. Several thousand American farmers are crossing the border, taking up land and adding their voice to the help-wanted clamor. Immigration officials figure that several thousand farm hands could find employment right now. This problem of getting farm help when we want it will be a serious one for years. It will be difficult to get help for the farm as long as the summer demand for labor in the cities is as large as it is now, and as long as our system of farming is such that men are driven from the farm to the city in the fall and must perforce live idle for the most part until spring. Employing men by the year instead of from seeding to freeze-up will help some in solving the difficulty. But like the growing pains of youth this pain of our agricultural expansion will have to be grown out of. Our conditions do not permit of its present solution. In the meantime the best advice that can be offered is to get as much help as is possible to procure, systematize operations and follow labor-saving methods where you can.

Encouraging Grass Growing

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In forwarding to you my renewal I beg to express my appreciation of your valuable journal. I have been a subscriber to THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE in Ontario for many years, but have lived in this Western province only a few months. I am glad to see that you are alive to the best interest of the West and that you realize that the most important factor in successful agriculture is to maintain interest as far as possible the natural fertility of the soil. One of the things that has surprised me most in this province is the large number who seem to think this country only fit to raise wheat, and that the soil is capable of doing it for an indefinite period. They seem

to think they are under no obligations to future generations and that the Creator has been storing for countless ages on their 160 or 320 acres of land a vast store of fertility for their special use, and they have a perfect right to squander, so long as they can raise a dollar from it.

Now, sir, every thoughtful farmer who has made his life worthy of study must know that no matter how fertile a piece of land is the plant food is not inexhaustible, and that we must find some means to maintain its fertility if we wish to get the best results from it. For this reason I am glad you are encouraging the discussion of such subjects as the rotation of crops, the best and most successful methods of growing the cultivated grasses and kindred subjects.

I was pleased in reading the opening address to the commission appointed by the Dominion

ALFALFA CAMPAIGN

I wish to express my appreciation of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and I am glad we have such a fearless, clean, "down-to-the-minute" farm paper in our "Great West."

I am especially interested in your alfalfa campaign. It will be a fine day for the country when farmers come to a full realization of what this queen of forage plants will do for them. Ten years ago my gross income on this place (140 acres) was about \$1,000.00. Alfalfa has raised it to \$4,000.00

B. C.

ALEX LOCHORE.

government to study methods for the preservation of the natural resources, where the chairman stated that the fertility of the agricultural lands of Canada were of greater importance than any of the other natural resources. It should be a source of gratification to the farmers of Canada to know that the chairman of so important a commission should realize the importance of agriculture, and I trust we may look with confidence for substantial aid from this commission in the near future.

I would like to make a few suggestions whereby I think this may in part be brought about. In the first place, to maintain or increase the fertility of our soil we must do it largely through the agency of humus, and our best method to obtain this humus is through the cultivation of the cultivated grasses, not only because of the

various elements which the roots and stems would add to the soil when plowed under, but also because it would lead to the keeping of a larger number of stock, a larger consumption upon the farm of the products of the farm and the production of a greater quantity of barnyard manure. This being the case anything that would stimulate the growing of grasses in the Western provinces would be a step in the right direction. The question naturally arises then, if that be the case: How can the government help to bring this about? At present I think one of the greatest hindrances to it is the excessive high price of seed. Could not the government, with the co-operation of the railway and steamship companies, help to lessen this? The government by establishing grass seed warehouses in the provinces where the farmer could procure seed at cost at least; the railroad and steamship companies by carrying the seeds free for the government from point of shipment to warehouse, and from warehouse to farmer. The railroad companies may ask: Why should we do this? Sufficient to say for this time, for their own personal benefit, the same as J. J. Hill, who has established demonstration farms in Dakota.

Seed merchants may object, saying this would interfere with legitimate trade. This is debatable, but suffice it to say that the benefits derived would be so great that they would outweigh all objections.

Secondly, by assisting in some way one or more energetic farmers in every settlement or district to grow for demonstration purposes all the different varieties of grasses that are suitable to this climate; also to make exhaustive experiments in the growing, threshing and marketing of all the different grass seeds in the Western provinces. And there are many other methods that may be discussed to advantage.

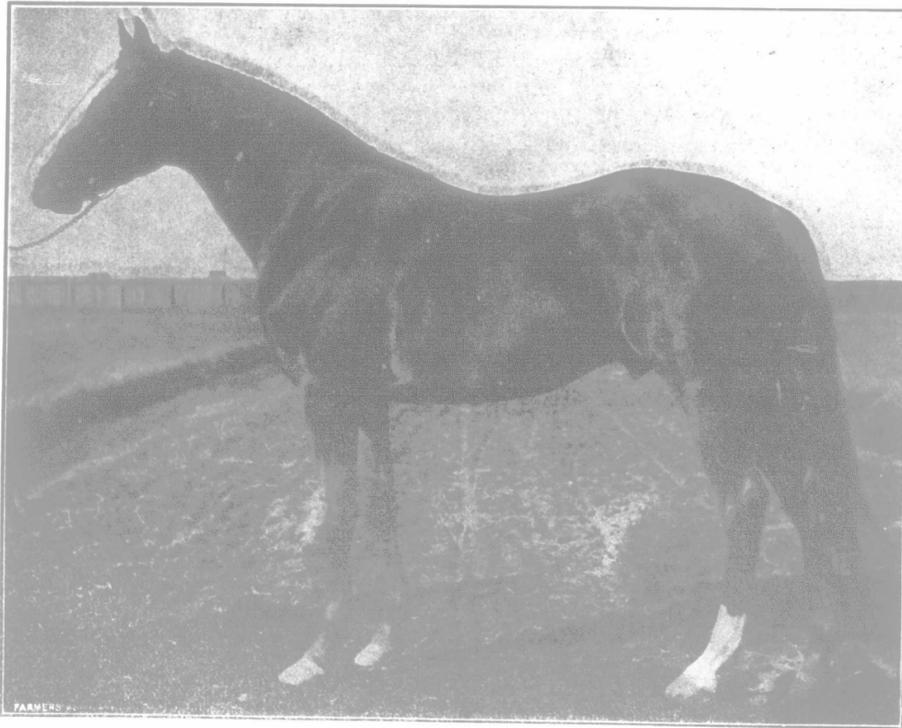
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W. H. SILVESTER.

HORSE

Observations on Horse Subjects

Last week the House of Commons practically "killed" H. H. Miller's anti-gambling bill, and horse racing, betting on horse races, sporting events and other things of chance will be carried on this season as hitherto. The Miller bill was extreme in some features. If it had been "toned down" on some points and made less sweeping, it might have carried in the Commons, as it carried in the special committee that considered it and heard expert testimony both from those who had at heart the interests of light horse breeding and racing and those who, for moral reasons, believed that the present system of betting and making bets at the race track, together with the tipster who sold "tips" on the races, and the pool-rooms and gaming places where gambling on horse races is carried on in a more or less wholesale way, should be restricted or suppressed, because their existence imperilled the moral character of the people. The bill struck straight at these evils, but it struck too at the horse breeding industry—light horse breeding at any rate, since the breeding of the running and trotting horse is directly affected by anything that tends to decrease interest in racing. It was held that restricting betting would decrease interest in horse racing, and without racing breeding would languish and the running horse lose something of the courage, stamina and ambition that have been characteristic of him for generations. Moralists, on the other hand, argued that it would be better to sacrifice the horse than the moral character of the people, but the Commons evidently have decided for the horse. At any rate we are unlikely to hear anything further of anti-gambling laws during the present session, and it is probable that the next measure of this kind proposed in parliament will be less extreme, will aim to suppress the most serious evils that have grown up in connection with betting on horse races and yet leave latitude for the race horse lover who wants to wager a few "simoleons" on the



BROTHER BILL (IMP.) THOROUGHBRED STALLION, 9 YEARS OLD, FIRST IN CLASS AT SASKATCHEWAN SPRING HORSE SHOW, 1910, OWNED BY M. F. McCLELLAND, GRENELLE, SASK.