

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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before judging commences. The objection is, we know, raised by fair boards and exhibitors alike, in some cases, that those exhibitors who contemplate attending a circuit of fairs cannot decide which they will take in until they have met their competitors at the first show of the season and found their relative position, and, consequently, cannot make entries for following fairs with any certainty that they will materialize where catalogued. This difficulty, however, must be faced as it is in England, where catalogues are prepared for a large number of shows, and exhibitors have learned to accommodate themselves to the circumstances. Where there's a will there's generally a way.

AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having received letters asking about agricultural conditions in Nova Scotia, and more particularly Cape Breton, and believing many others desire the information, I decided to write to "The Farmer's Advocate," as it is extensively read by those engaged or interested in agriculture.

Climate varies; the spring is generally a week or two later than in parts of Ontario, and some seasons there is considerable fog and wet weather about haying time; in other years, and some localities, fog is unknown.

Parts of the country are hilly, and the numerous and extensive valleys are very fertile, producing large crops of hay year after year, without being plowed or reseeded, and many of the hillsides and tops produce good crops when properly cultivated. In some parts the hillsides and tops are stony and uncultivated, but timber grows abundantly in these parts, as well as on all hills, and fields neglected grow up to forests very quickly. Turnips grow abundantly when given proper cultivation, and have good keeping qualities, as well as a pleasant flavor. Potatoes yield large crops of superior quality. Oats produce well. All garden vegetables yield well, and apples grow when the necessary attention is given the proper kinds. In some sections they are producing fairly good quality without any attention. Small fruits do well when properly cared for, and the prices received for food stuffs are very high, milk in Sydney selling for nine cents per quart, and other

things in proportion. Dairying is followed successfully by some, but not nearly enough to supply the demand. Some splendid cows are to be found, but many are not good.

There is always a demand for hog products at high prices, and not nearly enough produced. Some good beef animals are produced, but not sufficient for home requirements, consequently the prices are high. The country is suitable for growing sheep, but not enough are raised, so that large quantities of meat are imported from other Provinces.

Good horses are bred, but not nearly enough, horses for heavy work being imported from Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Scotland, and an effort is being made to improve the work horses, by increasing the size and quality. Light horses are also in strong demand, and some splendid animals are to be found, still there is room for many more.

The social conditions are good, as are also the educational opportunities. Annoying insects are not numerous. During a week's driving in Cape Breton in June I was not once bothered by mosquitoes. Along with these conditions land is cheap, the reason being that there are so many ways of making a living that many of the young people have left the farm and gone to the cities, the mines, lumber camps, or to the sea, in some of its various requirements, leaving the land idle for want of workers, which makes wages high and farm products scarce and dear, so that to the laborer or capable farmer with small means, who can control labor, Nova Scotia offers opportunities for making a comfortable home with a reasonable amount of intelligent work, and as a district for a summer's outing, Cape Breton is ideal—splendid boating, good fishing, beautiful scenery, and agreeable people. However, to realize the good that is there, it is necessary to drive through the country, for the railroads pass through the most uninviting parts. The farmers are prosperous. Thousands were at the Agricultural College in Truro in June, and a better-dressed or more prosperous-looking crowd of excursionists I have never seen, and the townspeople appreciate the farmers. Truro cleaned up extra fine, and did all possible to make things pleasant, as does every town I have visited, either at farmers' picnics, conventions, or agricultural exhibitions.

Now, to sum up: Nova Scotia possesses productive land that can be purchased cheap; market prices for all good farm produce are very high; there is an abundance of good water, and the social and educational conditions are good.

Bruce Co., Ont. J. STANDISH, V.S.

HORSES.

GOOD HORSES WANTED.

While common horses and misfits are selling at lower prices than a year or two ago, first-class ones of either the lighter or the heavy class are scarce, and steadily in demand at high figures. Noticing the horses from the farms coming into the city on a market day, one cannot but be impressed with the fact that the overwhelming majority are of common and inferior character, and that desirable or salable specimens are few and far between. This condition is doubtless largely due to the tempting prices for the best prevailing in the last few years, farmers having been induced to part with horses for which high figures were offered, and content to plod along with a poorer class. While in many cases this course may be considered good policy, the margin of difference ought to be very considerable, as a rule, before the farmer consents to sell the sort that suits his purpose, and at the same time excites his pride, and that of his sons or his servants, and affords pleasure in their feeding and care. Buying horses one does not know is a risky undertaking even for experienced dealers, who are often deceived, or at least disappointed, with their purchases when put to every-day work. There may in many cases be justification for parting with geldings for which high prices are available, but if our general horse stock is to be improved the best mares should be retained on the farms and mated with the best sires of the class to which they belong, in order that the young stock may be sound and typical of the best of their class, whether of the heavy or the lighter breeds. It is practically certain that as more and more of the unsettled and unimproved lands in this country are taken up and brought into cultivation horses will be increasingly in demand, while as our towns and cities grow more heavy teams to move merchandise, and lighter ones for driving and delivery purposes, will be wanted in large numbers; and the large proportion of mares mated which every year fail to conceive, together with the usual death rate, reduces the probabilities of over-production to a reasonably safe basis. While, as a rule, the heavy breeds are the safest for the farmer to breed for sale, owing to higher prices available for high-class or even for average horses of that class, and to the fact that blemished or partially-unsound animals of this class may be used to advantage on the farm, yet on light lands and near to cities, where roads are good, horses of the carriage class, especially farmers partial to that class, and having mares likely to breed salable speci-

mens, may profitably indulge their fancy and preferences by raising that type. But a class of horse stock which farmers will do well to leave alone, and which is already too plentiful, is the roadster or trotting variety, which has commonly been bred for speed without regard to constitution or conformation, a large percentage of which prove misfits for their special purpose, and have not strength or endurance enough for even livery or delivery purposes, and, given to all manner of unsoundness, go early to the boneyard. There is room for much improvement in the carriage and general driving class of horses in Canada, and the leaders in the breeding and handling of this class will find ample scope for their energies in stimulating the enterprise of the admirers of that variety to raising the standard of its character.

THE ART OF DRIVING.

Those who have been brought up to the management of horses have naturally acquired that delicate touch and that firm and confident demeanor which so impress the horse that he forthwith subordinates his own will and wishes to that which he wisely and diplomatically considers as the overpowering will of the rider or driver. The touch on the driving reins or bridle is one of the most important acquisitions of the expert, and it is called good hands; but the terms are misleading, as the hands are ever rigid, and success lies in the well-regulated flexibility of the elbow, shoulder and wrist-joints. Beginners who note this fact will forthwith turn their attention to the cultivation of these joints, or, rather, to the nerves which control the muscles which work these joints, and when once so thoroughly acquired as to become a habit, that admits of no variation, no departure, no error; then, and only then, has a promising lad solved the first problem of driving a well-mannered and generous horse.

In harness, the driver has greater control over the quiet horse than can ever be attained in riding, as the shafts help to keep him straight, and the terrets on the collar cause the reins ever to pull in one and the same direction, subject only to the changed position of the horse's head. Many harness horses habitually toss their heads about, and this up-and-down motion of the head is annoying to drivers of small experience, and they then unwisely snatch the horse. When a harness horse annoyingly and excessively tosses his head up, the fit of the collar should be suspected, and another collar may be substituted. But if, in riding, the horse tosses his head similarly, it is, of course, useless to change the collar. It is a remarkable fact that a horse which tosses his head is usually an untiring animal, and if he be not hurried and flurried at starting, and time allowed him to adapt his entire system to the long journey before him, he will go fifty miles or more without flagging.

Many good long-journey horses are bad starters, they being called cold-shouldered; and some men of experience take the trouble to warm the collar at the saddle-room fire ere they put it on. The best way, however, is to start on an incline—down hill, of course—and as the horse warms to his work, he may go up-hill with the courage of a lion. Idleness is not the usual cause of balking, as may be seen in double harness; the horse that is difficult to start in single harness, now in double doing far above his equal share of the work.

If anyone can drive one horse well, the extra knowledge to drive a pair is easily acquired, and even a team or tandem can soon be handled. In putting strange horses on the pole, take the quieter horse first and attach him by the pole straps, then turn him to the pole, as one has seen bus horses changed in the streets. Then bring up the other horse, and, if wild, excitable or nervous, let him first speak to his already attached stable companion, and he will be less nervous. They know each other by the smell, but there is a decided objection to such indulgence to inquisitive, strange horses.

A gardener can almost drive an ordinary pair, as the horses do, not usually act in concert against him. If one horse shies or bolts, the other holds him; in fact, the wildest colt is fixed in strong, double harness. There have been cases where a pair have agreed to bolt, and if not stopped by ordinary means, the driver should imitate the pulley principle by throwing one leg over the reins, the while he remembers the steerage. Mischievous of this sort is traceable to bad stable management.—[W. R. Gilbert, in Rider and Driver.

PREMIUM PICTURE OF BARON'S PRIDE.

A splendid photo-engraving of the celebrated Clydesdale stallion, Baron's Pride, may be obtained by any present subscriber of "The Farmer's Advocate" who will send us the name of one new yearly subscriber, accompanied by \$1.50. The engraving is 7 1/4 x 11 inches in size, and is printed with a soft tone, combined with much clearness of detail, on a card of finest coated stock. It is a beautiful picture to frame and hang in the library or sitting-room of any horseman's home. Copies may be purchased from "The Farmer's Advocate" at 25 cents each.