

of our industrial, mining and agricultural products in the world's fairs.

It is an item worthy of more circulation than I think it received that a gentleman sent out by the French Government to make a report on American horses, returned by way of Canada, and before embarking was interviewed by a Montreal reporter, to whom he said that the finest team he had seen on the continent was owned by Mr. John Coote, near London, Ont.

Of late years the raisers of horses have aimed at producing a much heavier class of stock than was common in this part of Ontario fifteen or twenty years ago. This change has been brought about by a number of causes, the two most important of which are that shippers have given much better prices for heavy than for light horses, and that the increased use of machinery has made strong and heavy horses almost indispensable on the farm. Hence the ideal general purpose horse for the Ontario farmer is one combining strength, action and endurance. The practical question arises, what breeds we should import that will best develop those desirable qualities. The English dray and Clydesdales are the best heavy draught horses in the world, but they are not hardy or active enough to suit our purposes. In my opinion no other horse is quite so suitable in every respect for the Ontario farmer and breeder as the Percheron. This breed, which gets its name from the old district of La Perche in France, is descended from the Arabian, and is a very old breed in France, although twenty years ago it was almost unknown in this country. Its rapid importation began about ten years ago, and now there are over a thousand Percheron horses imported annually into Canada and the United States.

This breed presents considerable variety and dealers would do well to bear this fact in mind. The light Percheron is a serviceable roadster, but the intermediate and draught classes are the most useful as breeders to cross with average mares in order to produce stock of sufficient weight to command the best prices. All the classes are strong for their weight, of stylish bearing, free of action, easily broken and handled, kind, gentle and hardy. To say that they are strong for their weight does not imply that the Percheron is a small horse. Mr. Dunham, of Wayne, shows a stallion, a handsome coal black, which weighs 2,000. From all I know or have heard of this breed of horses, I think it just the thing for the Ontario farmer.

The question is often asked by the stock-breeders, Does it pay to raise horses? I say, yes. Like everything else, it requires care and skill. Let a mare run round the stack in winter and in the field or common in summer, and nine times out of ten she will raise the colt. But stable and over-feed or injudiciously feed her, work her and allow the foal to draw the milk at any or all times, and ten to one, if the colt lives at all, it will be a poor one. I would feed a brood mare moderately in winter with cut straw sprinkled with chop stuff and occasionally a few carrots, and if she is worked, never allow the foal to be with her when she is warm or tired. The mare must run on good grass, and her milk will be much improved if she is given a feed of oats daily. When the foal is weaned at five to eight months, a little extra feeding with oats and bran will pay. The colt should be well cared for the first winter. The second winter, if it has a comfortable shelter for the night, it will thrive very well running about the stack in the day time. The young horse should be gently handled and broken at three years, but not put to very heavy work before five. An inherited tendency to bone diseases will, from heavy work or improper treatment at too tender an age, develop to the great injury of the horse, whereas with proper handling until his bones are matured and his strength comes, might altogether prevent the development of such diseases.

Prices are again looking up, and for sound general purpose horses they are likely to remain considerably improved upon what they averaged last year. The reaction in the North west markets caused a temporary fall in the prices. The keen demand for horses needed by settlers, and in the construction of the C. P. R., turned the attention of dealers in that direction.

The market was glutted reaction came and dealers found themselves with stock on hand, which they could not sell in Manitoba for as much as they had paid in Ontario. This state of affairs hurt our horse market here. But it is now much firmer and shows increased activity. American buyers are now readily offering \$200 a-piece for sound heavy horses of the best marketable ages. A New York dealer said last week that heavy draft horses pay better, and sell more quickly than any other class of horses shipped to that city, and that this spring the demand for such stock will be greater than ever; also that high class, good looking, smooth carriage horses, with high knee action, are in great demand. "At our last sale," said he, "we sold four pairs of such horses consecutively, for \$2,600, \$1,550, \$1,500, and \$1,150, respectively. New York City affords the best market in the world for a first-class horse. At our last two sales we disposed of 515 of them, good, bad and indifferent, at the average of \$289 per head." Of course, it would not be safe to swear to everything a New York auctioneer says, but it is undoubtedly true that a handsome carriage team or a heavy draft horse will bring a big price in any of the large cities.

A MEMBER—I understand, Mr. Kennedy, you have officiated as judge of horses at some of our leading shows. Do you think your straw-stack mare would stand any chance of getting a prize?

JOHN KENNEDY—No, no matter what merits she may possess; but any mare kept in her condition should be eligible for a prize.

HENRY ANDERSON—There is an impression around here that the Percheron does not produce as good stock as other heavy drafts when crossed with our mares.

MAYOR HODGENS, in answer to several enquiries, said—The Percheron colt is as fine looking as the colt from the stallion of any other draft breed. The Percheron stallions, as usually found in this Province, weigh 1,700 to 1,800 pounds. Price is governed a good deal by color. Rusty greys are not wanted; good bay, brown or black, are colors which are always fashionable. For brewers' wagons and other purposes well-mated spans of some standard color are always in demand; but for street cars, color is not so much of an object. So far as action is concerned, the Shire or the Clyde cannot be excelled, and I can see little difference between these breeds as to endurance. I regard the Clydesdale as the heaviest, weighing from 1,800 to 2,200 pounds, the average weight being about 2,000 pounds.

ROBERT McEWEN—The Clydesdale does not average over 1,900 pounds or 1,950 at the most, and I deny that it is heavier than the Shire.

MAYOR HODGENS—While attending an Exhibition at Glasgow, I saw seven Clyde stallions weighed, and their average weight was 2,160 pounds. My estimate of the average weight of the Shire is 1,800 pounds.

FRANK SHORE—The heaviest Shires are not imported to this Province, while our importers bring out the heaviest Clydes they can get. In England the Shires average heavier than the Clydes. Mayor Hodgens is right if he confines his remarks to this Province.

ROBERT McEWEN—The Clyde is noted for its action. The Percheron is lacking in bone. What is wanted is the heaviest horse which combines the greatest action. A horse of 1,800 pounds may have more action than a 1,600 pound horse. These heavy drafts should not be put to mares weighing less than 1,100 pounds. Our common mares average about 1,200 pounds.

COST OF RAISING COLTS.

RICHARD WHETTER—My experience is that I can raise a colt as cheaply as a steer. A colt will feed on the waste material from fattening steers, and this feed may be said to cost little or nothing.

MAYOR HODGENS—I can keep a colt cheaper than a steer, both being the same age. I work my colts moderately at three years old. When the mare is worked, it costs very little to raise the colt. My mares do best when worked up to within a week of foaling.

HENRY ANDERSON—I can also raise a colt cheaper than a steer; but I find there is greater risk in raising colts, and mares don't breed so regularly as cows.

MAYOR HODGENS—I have more misfortunes with my calves than with my colts. Calves are subject to scours.

FALL COLTS.

FRANK SHORE—I believe in keeping brood mares at constant but moderate work, and, in order to get the most work out of them, they should drop their foals in the fall.

MAYOR HODGENS—I have no difficulty in breeding fall colts, dropped about the latter end of September. There is a prejudice against fall colts because they look so shaggy. My fall colts are the best I have, and I get more work out of the mares.

COACH HORSES.

MAYOR HODGENS—A lighter class of coach horses is now in demand in England than formerly, the light American carriages now getting fashionable there. I can't get carriage horses with quality enough. What is mainly wanted is good action. This I get to the greatest perfection by using the Thoroughbred stallion upon our roomy mares; the coach stallion does not give quality enough. The Thoroughbred has also great endurance, and I have never seen a bad-tempered colt from a Thoroughbred stallion. Coach horses are valuable for farm work.

RICHARD WHETTER—I fear they have too much quality for farm work, and are too valuable to be kept on the farm. They go too fast in the plow.

GENERAL REMARKS.

ROBERT McEWEN—We farmers are injured by those high pedigree men. There ought to be some arrangement by which the pedigrees are based on individual merit. There is a movement amongst Clydesdale men in the States by which it is proposed to charge \$50 registration fee, basing the entries upon merit as well as upon pedigree.

MAYOR HODGENS said, in answer to enquiries, that the Government should not interfere between stallion owners and the owners of mares. Let both parties be their own judges as to what animals should be used for breeding purposes. Both required to be educated, and the agricultural press and agricultural exhibitions were the proper sources of education. With reference to the stallion season, Mr. Hodgens said that no stallion from four years old should serve more than four mares per day. More than this was downright cruelty. Stallions were surer at the end of the season, and the offspring was better, because they had less mares to serve. During the service season the mares were often kept on grass at bursting pressure, which caused the colts to come wrong, and the offspring was inferior. This