

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

One farmer, of Provincial reputation as a practical man, remarked the other day: "The Institute meetings must be addressed by practical men, and three out of four speakers do not make good on their own premises." By a thoroughly practical man he meant one who had faced actual conditions, and who himself, and through help under his own direction, had confronted these conditions successfully.

Clearly, then, Institute speakers must be men who have usable knowledge applicable to the local conditions where the meeting is held. In order that this may be brought about, three things are necessary: (1) The speaker should familiarize himself with local conditions by first-hand observation. The judge on the field competition on root-growing, for instance, would be a good man to discuss that topic at the Institute following the crop. (2) The local Institute should decide early what topics are to be discussed, and ask the Department to furnish a man who knows how to meet the needs suggested by those topics. (3) Sufficient remuneration must be given to induce practical farmers who know their work to leave their farms to give addresses. The Institute is a farmer's school, and, when the speakers make good, they pay their way many times over. When they fail to make good, the day is largely lost.

Be it clearly understood that the farmer must not be patronized in this or in any other matter, nor must he think that the Institute speaker can do all that is to be done, if the meeting is to be a success. The farmer must plan to be at the meeting himself, and bring his help and his boys with him. He must not begrudge a little time in preparing for the meeting, or a good deal of hard thinking on the problems to be discussed. When opportunity is given him, he must not hesitate to set forth his own experience, telling the conditions of his efforts, and stating as best he can the causes of his success or failure, and making known his difficulties.

That there is urgent need for the introduction into all our public schools, both rural and urban, of nature study, school gardening, manual training and domestic science, cannot be doubted by anyone who approaches the subject with an open mind. Moreover, these branches should not be engrafted as separate, new scions, but should be closely knit with the rest of the school work, intimately related on the one hand to reading, arithmetic and drawing, and on the other hand to the home life and environment of the pupil.

HORSES

Clydesdales in Canada.—II.

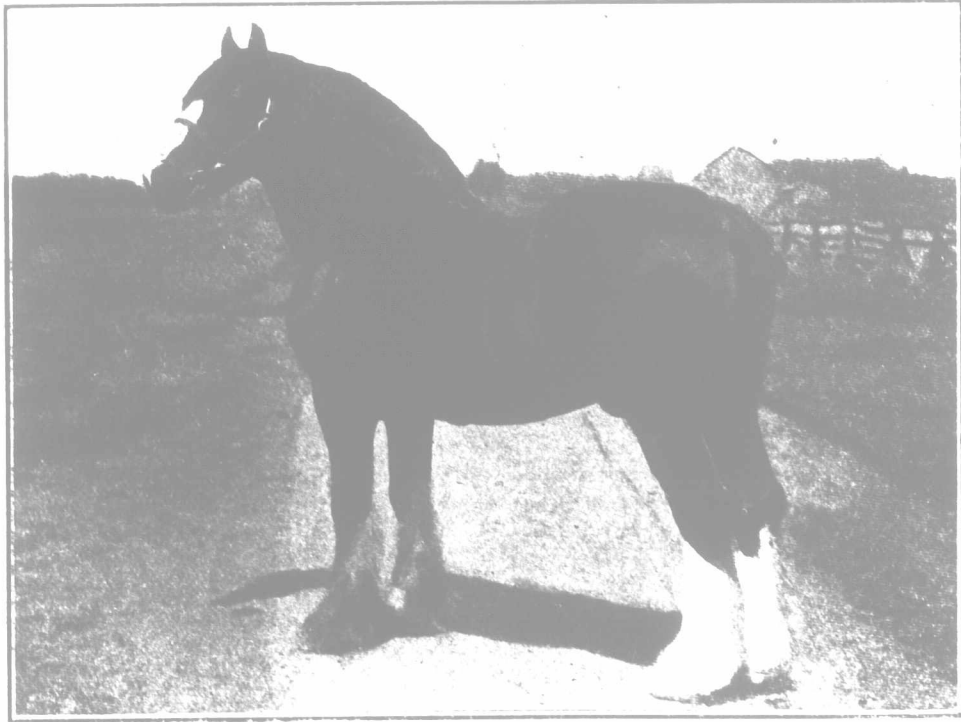
Among the earlier importers of Clydesdales to Canada were a considerable number resident in the Townships of Markham, Pickering and Whitby, Ontario, a district still noted for superior stock in several lines, and figuring prominently in the honor roll at leading exhibitions. Among the earliest imported stallions were the following: Bay Wallace [164], imported in 1854 by Wm. Cochrane, Markham; Jock o' the Side [167], im-



Thomas A. Graham.

Of the firm of Graham Bros., Clarendon, Ont.

ported in 1855 by Simon Connor, Markham; Byron [232], imported in 1856 by James Dalziel, Chesterfield, in Oxford County; Clydesdale Jock, imported in 1855 by John R. Torrance, Markham; Rob Roy [31], imported by Wm. Miller, Pickering, in 1856; and Loudoun Tam [127], imported by Joseph Thompson, in 1860. Not many gray Clydesdales have been imported, but one, named Young Comet, imported in 1863 by J. Copeland, of Cobourg, and later owned by John Miller, of



MacQueen [462].

Clydesdale stallion, photographed at the age of 23 years.

Brougham, was contemporary with Joe Thompson's Netherby, but of a totally different type. He was of medium size, smooth, blocky, low set, and refined in form, but a sire of a very desirable class of thirty, easily kept stock that were popular with farmers generally because of their fine temper and docility. Along in the seventies and eighties importations were made by men whose names will be familiar to many readers at this date, among whom were Robert Ferris, Rich and Hill, Jonathan Porter, Oshawa; Wm. Gick-

ardson, Columbus; Thos. Hodgson, Raglan; John Sanderson, Markham, and Brooks & Colquhoun, Mitchell, Ont. About this time came into the field of importers Richard Graham, of Clarendon, father of the Graham Bros., who have figured so conspicuously in the honor roll of champion winners in America in the last decade or two. Richard was an expert judge of a draft horse, one of the best of fitters for the show-ring, and knew how to show a horse for all he was worth. He would have none but the best, and had no use for a rough horse, but looked for quality always, combined with sufficient size. His sons were left when quite young to carry on the business, with a mother of superior judgment and a natural love for Clydesdales, and a courageous disposition rarely equalled. Reference to individual horses imported by the sons is out of the question in the space available for these chronicles, as they would number high in the hundreds, if not in four figures, while their success in prizewinning in recent years at principal shows has been phenomenal. Other importers, breeders and exhibitors contemporaneous with these have been Senator Robert Beith, of Bowmanville; William Smith, of the firm of Smith & Richardson, of Columbus; O. Sorby, Guelph; Hodgkinson & Tisdale, Beaverton, and many others less extensively engaged in the good work of bringing out a desirable class of stallions and mares for the improvement of the horse stock of the Dominion.

While prizes for heavy-draft horses were awarded at the annual Provincial exhibitions under the auspices of the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario regularly from the date of its inception, 1846 until 1889, when the last of its series of exhibitions ended with its forty-fourth show, held at London in that year, no records of prize-winnings of named individual animals appear to be available previous to 1888. For the first time in this country, at the first of a series of Spring Horse Shows, held in the drill-shed at Toronto, under the auspices of the Clydesdale Horse Association, a catalogue of the animals shown was issued. To publish a full list of the prize animals in all the intervening years would require more space than can be reasonably asked for or afforded, in which case it has been decided to give, with a few exceptions, only the male championship winnings at the Toronto Spring Shows and the Toronto Industrial, later named the Canadian National Exhibition.

We find that the first prize in the aged class, and the stallion championship, at the Spring Show, 1888, was awarded to the four-year-old horse, The Granite City [709], imported in July, 1887, and shown by Robert Beith & Co., of Bowmanville. He was a horse of much substance and fine type and quality, a son of Lord Erskine, his dam being by Old Times, and his grandam by the famous Prince of Wales (673).

In 1889, at the Spring Show in Toronto, Graham Bros., Clarendon, had the champion in MacBean [807], the sturdy bay three-year-old son of MacGregor, by Darnley (222), imported by the exhibitors in 1888. The first prize aged horse at the Toronto Industrial that year, and at the Provincial Exhibition, at London, was Robert Beith's imported Sir Maurice [1126], a bay five-year-old son of Lord Erskine, his dam being a daughter of Topsman, with D. & O. Sorby's Bold Boy a strong second, and popular with many for first place.

The late eighties and early nineties was the era of MacGregor, the Macs winning a large proportion of the best prizes of the period.

In 1890, at the Spring Stallion Show, the champion was Graham Bros.' MacClasie [810], a bay three-year-old son of MacGregor.

A striking feature of this show was the winning by Graham Bros. of first prize in the three first sections in the prize list, with MacNeillage, MacLaskie and Ravenwood. MacNeillage was champion also at the Toronto Industrial in that year. An interesting feature of this show was the special prize offered for the best imported or Canadian-bred Clydesdale stallion and two of his sons, which was won by Simon McKenzie, of Long and Hinton county, with the good sire Kennel [1112], imported in 1882 by Wm. Colquhoun, of Mitchell.