

breeder who produces a phenomenally fast horse is congratulated and commended, though that particular animal might not be worth what it cost to produce him were he put to work on a farm or in a livery stable. He is one of the highest types of his race, and in breeding through similar lines and combinations many hundreds of good useful horses of practical value will be brought into the world. Every such animal is of great value to the breeding world as an educator rather than for what he himself accomplishes on the trotting or running turf. Had George Wilkes and Dexter never shown themselves on the trotting turf, Rysdyk's Hambletonian's usefulness to the horse-breeding interest might have been very limited as compared with what it has been. Had it not been for the speedy gelding Dexter is it probable than his brother Dictator would ever have been permitted to cover Midnight and get Jay-Eye-See? In the same way the great butter tests of Mary Anne of St. Lambert will teach breeders of Jerseys a valuable lesson. They will study her pedigree, and in trying to produce one such phenomenon breed hundreds and thousands of cows of rare excellence, though perhaps not one in many thousands may rival the now peerless queen of the Jerseys.

#### BOW PARK SOLD.

The sale of Bow Park, which took place last week, does little more than mark an era in the history of the great breeding farm. It passes from the hands of the company into those of Messrs. T. Nelson & Sons, of Edinburgh. As the purchaser owned a controlling interest in the establishment prior to the sale, it is not to be presumed that there will be any very important changes as to the administration of the farm, the sale simply meaning a dissolution of the company and the passing of the whole property into the hands of the brothers-in-law of the late Hon. George Brown, the original owner of the farm and founder of the herd. During his long, earnest, and active career in Canada the late Senator Brown did many things for the country of his adoption that will be much more highly appreciated fifty years hence than they are now; but among the many works the deceased Senator accomplished, not the least was the establishing of Bow Park and the founding of the Bow Park herd. In the days when Senator Brown began to breed thoroughbred Shorthorns at Bow Park there were comparatively few breeders of thoroughbred stock in the country. Bow Park at the outset gave the live stock interest a great impetus, and since then it has done much, not only in the way of producing stock that would cross well with our native cattle, but in maintaining the credit of Ontario at shows and sales of live stock throughout the United States. It is matter for congratulation that this valuable herd will not be dispersed, and that Bow Park and the Bow Park herd will remain for many a year substantial and enduring evidences of the intelligence, courage, and liberality of their great founder, who did nothing by halves, but put

his whole energy into everything he undertook, determined to carry it through on broad gauge principles.

The land, 895 acres, was purchased by Mr. Joseph T. Gray, representing Messrs. T. Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh, for \$71,000. The Bow Park herd of one hundred and forty-one Shorthorns, twenty-five males and one hundred and sixteen females, were sold at \$95,500; the implements on the farm at \$41,000, horses at \$31,000, grade cattle and steers \$1,100, and the fall wheat and other produce at \$6,380. The sheep and pigs were sold to Alfred Sagee, of Brantford, for \$409, the sale aggregating a total of over \$181,000.

#### HINTS ON BREEDING HORSES.

Mr. Robert Pratt, who bred the famous "Queen of Trumps" has written a little book on horse-breeding, from which the following hints on breeding hunters are selected as likely to be of particular interest to Canadian farmers in view of the constant and increasing demand for that class of horses:—

##### SELECTION OF THE STALLION.

The stallion's head should be clean, sharply chiselled, and square; his eye full of bright, soft fire; and his head gracefully set on. I consider it to be of the very first importance that the stallion's head should show quality and character in the very highest degree.

The compactness of his frame and body is of great importance; his legs and feet should be of great quality; for his foals will inherit much of the qualities of the extremities from him.

I regard quality and compactness as being of much more importance in the stallion than size.

All I have to say in regard to the size of the stallion is, that I would not select one that was too much under-sized or too much overgrown.

##### SELECTION OF A BROOD MARE.

Blood or breeding is of great importance in the brood mare. Half-bred mares (so called) may be very well bred, or may, without the knowledge of the breeder, be pure-bred; for a thoroughbred without a pedigree is called a half-bred.

It is out of the question to think of breeding hunters from thoroughbred mares; for if they are of the right sort their price would be too high, and if not of the right sort they are hardly fit to be crossed with an ass to produce mules.

Select a mare with a clean good head, clean good legs without hair on them; these points prove her to be fairly well-bred. Her color ought to be bay, brown, or chestnut.

I would not like to breed from either black or grey mares if I could avoid doing so, although there are plenty of good horses that are black and grey. I would avoid those colors in breeding.

If the mare has not been breeding, she ought not to be more than six or less than four years old when put to the stallion; but, of course, there is nothing like a tried brood mare, that has bred well and is of the right sort; but it is not easy to get them without paying a long price.

The mare should be perfectly sound and healthy, and have good temper. As we stand at her side she should have a straight short back but a lengthy side, good shoulders, and strong loins, rump, and thighs; a deep long rib, a great girth, a muscular neck, clean and well set on head, plenty of muscle all over, and have clean straight legs firmly set under her.

As we stand behind her the breadth of hips, rump, and middle piece should first attract our notice.

The legs should appear to drop perpendicularly; the hocks and elbows should neither turn in nor out; her action should be free, good, and graceful.

If mares bred from good mares were used for breeding from, and their fillies carefully selected again to breed, in a very few generations a really valuable strain of mares would be produced to get blood hunters of superior character.

I myself have now two fillies bred from first-prize mares, both their mother and grandmother being prize mares of the very best sort I could select, and, as far as I can form an opinion, the two fillies will be valuable brood mares. However, time will solve the problem favorably for me, I hope.

When selecting a well-bred mare, observe that the hair of the mane and tail is fine and perfectly straight. Waving or coarse hair denotes bad blood.

When the mare walks, her tail should stand out in a line with the back bone for a few inches, and then drop down perpendicularly. At the dock or root it should be firm and muscular, and as it descends towards the extremity it should become fine in bone and be firm in texture.

The action of the tail should be straight, long, and sharp from side to side. If the mare whisks it around and sticks it into her rump it will denote a bad, peevish temper, whereas the action above alluded to denotes breeding and mettle without vice.

##### EFFECTS OF FOOD.

In the horse the production of muscles and tissues (as compared with the dog and most other animals) is comparatively slow, hence they require to be regularly fed and exercised for a very long time before they thoroughly develop their muscle, and are got into what is called condition. If at any age a great superabundance of fat is produced, this will be accomplished at the sacrifice of muscular and fibrous texture.

Under such circumstances it is obvious that the food given to colts should be of such a quality and should be given in such quantities as will insure full development without producing too much fat.

In summer, grass that is not too luxuriant, with a few pounds of oats, and pure water is all they will require. In winter, a little more oats, a few pounds of sweet hay, and a few uncooked roots, with shelter from rain and wind, will keep them in healthy growing condition.

These observations also apply to the feeding of broodmares, except that while nursing they may have a little more luxuriant grass, and that while carrying their foals they should neither be starved nor over-fed.

Both brood mares and young stock require abundance of good air and water, and gentle exercise, consequently they will do better in the field, where a shed is erected for them in some sheltered situation, than when they are cooped up in houses where they cannot take exercise, where they too often contract disease, vicious habits, and more or less inhale impure atmosphere, which may poison their blood.

##### RULES FOR BREEDING.

###### Negative.

1. Unhealthy or unsound animals should never be used.
2. Ill-tempered animals should never be used.
3. Parents that are greatly dissimilar in their breed and shape should not be mated to breed.