

Horse

A movement is being started by the horse breeders to have the stallion laws amended so as to provide that no fees for grade stallions can be legally collected.

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Scottish Clydesdale exportations up to date have been in the neighborhood of 1500 head. The bulk of them came to the Dominion.

Enact Effective Stallion Laws and Enforce Them

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Regulating the offering for service of stallions is a matter of some difficulty. Stallion laws do not prevent all unsound sires from being enrolled and licensed, or prohibit entirely the travelling of unregistered stallions, whether sound or not, but they go a long way towards doing this, providing they are good laws. The Horse Breeders' Act of Manitoba and the Horse Breeders' Ordinances of Saskatchewan and Alberta do not go far enough, and to that end they are ineffective in preventing what they aim to prevent and in encouraging what they were enacted to encourage, viz., the elimination of unregistered stallions and of unsound stallions, whether purebred or not, and the promotion of sound practices in horse breeding.

The first requisite in a stallion law is that it shall make a definite distinction between stallions that are sound and unsound, and between stallions that are purebred and those that are of no particular breeding. The laws of the three provinces named aim to do this, but because of certain conditions that are a part of them what they accomplish falls short of what is required. Mare owners have no guarantee other than the word of the owner that the stallion used by them is free from the diseases and hereditary unsoundness named as disqualifying by the acts. The acts have not materially reduced the number of grade stallions. Altogether too large a proportion of the stallions travelling in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are of impure breeding. Manitoba in respect to the proportion of grades to purebreds, seems to have fared rather better than the other two, but none of them have a very enviable record. No stallion law offers efficient protection to horse breeders that does not guarantee, in so far as inspection by competent men can guarantee, the soundness of the stallions licensed under it as sound, and that does not effectively check and ultimately put an end to the travelling of grade stallions. The greatest check to progress in horse breeding is the too general use of stallions of no particular breeding. A grade stallion bred to a grade mare can produce nothing but a mongrel foal. The foal stands to be a worse specimen than either of his parents. Such breeding is exactly the reverse of grading, and in the general interests of horse breeding needs most to be suppressed. Stallion laws should prevent unsound stallions from being enrolled as sound, and should so definitely designate impurely-bred stallions that mare owners would have no excuse for using such sires, save the excuse of their own careless methods and unwise determination to do so.

Veterinary inspection is the first step towards ensuring that stallions registered as sound by our provincial departments of agriculture are actually free from the diseases and unsoundness

that disqualify them from license under the terms of the acts. Few stallion owners are competent to judge whether or not their stallions are effected by one or more of the disqualifying unsoundnesses named by our Horse Breeders' Acts and Ordinances; and, not knowing, they err on the safe side by making the usual declaration that to the best of their knowledge the animal in question is sound. In fact, they would not be considering their interests if they didn't. Not only should stallions be examined by competent men, but they should be examined each year before license is granted them. A stallion may be sound this year and be effected with the most serious unsoundness next, and the only way in which the certificate of the provincial department of agriculture can be made to correctly describe the condition of the animal it is licensed for is to make it issuable annually as at present, but only under the condition that the animal's soundness is attested for by a qualified veterinarian, who in no way, shape or form is interested in the stallion examined, or under any obligations to its owner. No veterinary surgeon should be required to pass judgment upon the stallions in his own locality, on the owners of which he is depending in some measure for his living. Veterinary inspectors should be appointed by the province and employed outside their own districts.



Grays are Found in Every Locality

There are practical difficulties, of course, in the way of carrying out a stallion licensing law along the line above suggested. Veterinary surgeons in this country are none too plentiful, and the work of inspection would require to be done at a season that is not exactly the slackest in the veterinarian's year; but the system has been adopted in states to the south, where conditions as regards the area to be covered and the number of veterinarians available is very similar to our own, and it seems to be working out satisfactorily. By requiring the stallions in each district to be assembled at a central point each spring before the breeding season opens, where the horses of an entire district could be looked over in one day, the work of inspection could be greatly facilitated and one of the most serious objections to the proposal overcome.

Inspection and certification of this kind would cost more than no inspection and haphazard licensing does under the present. But it would be worth it. Owners of sound, purebred sires would not object seriously to paying a higher registration fee than they do under the prevailing acts, providing the certificate issued under the proposed system meant something to them, and gave them the advantage it should give in competing for business. It would not be the owners of the kind of stallions that we need more of, who would kick against a reasonable charge for expert inspection. Owners of the other kind might raise some objection, but that wouldn't make much difference. By all means let us have a clearer notion of what an efficient stallion licensing law should be, enact one and enforce it. Not because it would give a few veterinarians

government jobs, but because such legislation is in the interests of the horse-breeding industry. Man. D. V. M.

How to Take a Horse's Pulse

The pulse is due to an automatic expansion and relaxation in the wall of an elastic artery, caused by the jets of blood pumped into those vessels by means of a force pump, the heart. Each stroke of the heart is equal to one pulsation, viz., a rising and falling of the arterial wall. In health, the average number of pulse beats per minute is about 36 to 40. The larger the horse the slower or fewer the number of beats per minute.

A very good place to take the pulse is at the underside of the jaw. By rolling the tips of the fingers about a little, they can be brought on to the blood vessel. Don't press too firmly, nor yet too lightly. The animal must be kept still and quiet. In point of importance the "character" of the pulse must be the best guide. That is to say, the blood vessel may impress us as feeling hard, sot, full, quick, small, wiry, regular or irregular.

These are niceties which require practice before they can be fully appreciated. In pleurisy, the pulse will be found beating about 80 times per minute (depending upon the stage of the disease), hard, wiry and irregular. In pulmonary apoplexy, it may be beating 120 times per minute. When properly taken, it forms a valuable means of assistance in ascertaining the nature and progress of disease.

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The report of the Department of Agriculture of Manitoba for 1909 contains the following information regarding the stallions in use in the province: Total number, 724, made up of 324 Clydesdales, 194 Grades, 71 Percherons, 49 Standardbreds, 34 Shire, 23 Hackneys, 8 Suffolk, 7 Coach, 7 Thoroughbreds and 6 "drafts." Of the 530 purebred stallions enrolled 521, or 98.3 per cent., are certified as free from the diseases and unsoundnesses named as disqualifying under the terms of Manitoba Horse Breeders' Ordinance.

Stock

The Boar

The prizes in the contributors' competition this week are given in the order in which the letters appear. One of the serious difficulties in keeping a boar for public service is to collect the service fees. A farmer, who kept a boar to oblige his neighbors, once showed us his service book with entries to the number of several hundred, running back for ten years. He claimed that only about one in ten who used the boar made a practice of paying for the service. Boar money seems to be about the last thing the average man thinks of paying.

Thirty-Five Years' Experience With Boars

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The plan laid down here is the one I have followed for thirty-five years, both in Ontario and Manitoba, and found it to work satisfactorily. First procure from a reliable dealer the best hog money will buy, and raise him yourself. Put him in a roomy enclosure, with pasture and shade in summer, and feed him all he will eat of shorts, milk and house scraps. It depends all on the first six or eight months how he will behave in after years. In this time he gets his growth and training. Have the enclosure made in such a way that it is impossible for him to get out. Then, in feeding, train him so that he never comes to the trough until he is told to. For training I used a piece of board made in the shape of a paddle, about two feet long, and never strike at him unless his head is towards you, and only then when you are sure of hitting him on the nose.