

Observations on Horse Problems.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In connection with the article on wintering horses so fully and ably discussed by your contributor "Whip," I may say that I do not think one quart of ground oats with cut straw and hay sufficient and consider double the quantity none too much. And be very liberal with bran. There is nothing to equal it for idle horses especially where straw is fed.

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I think the enforced enrollment of stallions justified, but as I anticipated largely ignored, and it is difficult to convince the unenlightened farmer that it is not done in the interests of the breeder and importer of registered stock. I would not give any special privilege and there is a clause in the Lien Act which gives the right of lien to one owner and not to the other. The public now have the means of knowing what is properly registered (if the Act is followed), but it is a mistake to certify animals as sound with no more examination than there is at present; it will bring the Act into disrepute. Some people are easily imposed upon and I have seen the Government certificate of an unregistered horse pointed to as proof that the animal must be sound and all right. Speaking of the Lien Act, I was amused at the ingenuity of an owner of an unregistered horse explaining to a probable customer, that if he (the customer) had bad luck and could not pay up when due that So-and-So (naming the owner of a registered rival) could seize his colt, whereas he himself had not the right to do so. I fancy his argument was worth more to him than the Lien Act to So-and-So. The fact is the lien on the foal, in most cases, is too troublesome to enforce, and owners (all owners) should have a lien on the mare to be of any practical use. My idea is that if the registered animal cannot win on its merits and show in fact, by the market value of its stock, that it is the most profitable one to use, it is useless to advance arguments or anything savoring of compulsion to protect it. The company ownership of stallions seems the only way at present of obtaining good registered ones, but the trouble is that it is the exception to find companies buying in a sensible and economical way and acting in an harmonious and business like manner after buying. Instead of making up their company and buying for cash, they put the seller to all sorts of expense in doing that himself. They ask for two or three years' credit and all sorts of guarantees, (which in practice are generally worthless) but double the price of these horses, and so cannot profitably travel them at a price the general public will give. I find a growing number of farmers keeping one for working and their own use which in too many cases is an inferior one.

Nearly all the stallions bought by syndicate are heavy draft, and a great many farmers do not want heavy draft workers. I used to think that as the country got settled and markets were brought closer to the farmer that most people would want heavy draft horses, but I find, here at least, that is not the case. The heaviest of the work is in breaking, especially scrub land, for which a heavy and a quiet natured horse is the best, but with that done, many people get dissatisfied with them and as far as I see one-half the farmers want an agricultural type, a thick-set, smooth horse about 1500 pounds; one quarter of them want a general purpose, clean legged, light moving horse about 1300 pounds, and one quarter heavy draft and practically all want one team of the general purpose. Frequently I have seen farmers breed from draft stock for some years up to and beyond the size they like and then cross back with a light breed because their horses "are getting too clumsy for them." It is no use pointing out that the draft ones are worth more in the city market. They say they can only breed enough for themselves and locally the agricultural type is worth as much or more. I think it would be of benefit to try and evolve a type of what so many want. It would help if the exhibitions encouraged and gave prizes for pure-bred stallions of an agricultural and general purpose type (defining the type). They give prizes for mares and geldings and so try to keep the type in a haphazard way but the failures of the draft and carriage classes are not the best way of getting them.

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As to the cause of the great mortality among horses, I can only suppose that additional germ diseases have been introduced with the settle-

ment of the country and in this climate horses are confined so much of the time in bad stables and fed so much dry and concentrated food that digestive troubles are more frequent than they should be. My losses in the first ten years I was breeding were not more than one per cent. (barring accidents and age) but in the last ten years have been nearer thirty per cent. I do not believe that swamp fever is caused by the use of swamp grass. All the first years that I mention, I and neighbors fed swamp hay and had no cases, except one neighbor who lost a lot from this cause; he fed high land hay but his water supply was bad. There is very little fever in this district but most of the swamp lands are caused from the over-flow of streams; perhaps this fresh water each year may cause a difference.

Lorne Mun., Man.

A. J. MOORE.

High Priced Shires for Manitoba.

The sale of Shire mares at the Pioneer Stud Farm, Bushnell, Ill., on December 11, attracted buyers from all over America. Thirty-three head were sold for \$23,525. The top price of the sale, \$1,500.00, was paid by Mr. P. W. Perry, Deloraine, Man., for the two-year-old mare, Normandy Ruby. This offering of mares has been described as the strongest ever put up for auction in America. Mr. Perry's purchase was away and the best female in the bunch, other notable members of which were Wrydland's Pink and Lady Ancastry.

Drafters at the International.

The outcome of the competition among the heavy drafters at the International this year was practically the same as in 1906. The superb six-horse team that won last year and toured Great Britain the past season in the interests of Armour and Co., were again first in their section; and the winners of the four-horse teams was the entry of Nelson Morris Co. The former are greys, nominally representing Percheron breeding and the latter, bays of Clydesdale blood. The awards indicate that the six-horse section was decided by the relative merits of one pair and the greys were the choice of the judge, Prof. W. L. Carlyle, of Colorado. Two of the Morris string were new, having been secured in Toronto last fall, one of them being King Harry, the champion of Scotland, a few years ago but now named Drew. The competition all the way through was very close, as much depending upon show-ring manners as upon conformation and the more useful qualities. A grey won the singles two bays the pairs, three greys the treys, the bays in fours and the greys in the sixes. On the whole it was considered a very satisfactory showing by both Clydesdale and Percheron factions. The horses were mostly those shown the past two years and the regret is general that new and younger animals cannot be found to take their places.

STOCK

Correcting Scours in Calves.

Should a calf become affected with scours, a raw egg mixed in the milk will usually bring relief, or, if a severe case, a tablespoonful of castor oil followed by a raw egg every two hours until four to six eggs are taken. What the calf requires is albumen in some form or another, and an egg is the handiest form in which albumen can be had on the farm. A teaspoonful of soluble

blood meal, another form of albumen—sold from packing houses—stirred in the milk will act in a way similar to the egg and is much less expensive. Excellent results are also reported from the use of dried blood, and mild cases of scours can be cured in from one to two days by adding a teaspoonful to the milk, reducing the quantity as relief is affected.

ASTRA CASTRA NUMEN.

English Shorthorns in 1907.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In reviewing the past season's doings in Shorthorn circles, there is one point that strikes home very clearly, and that is that the breed is permanently established in a more flourishing and prosperous condition than its most ardent partisans ever anticipated. The "Red, White and Roan" has basked in the sunshine of success for several years now, thanks to the Argentine trade; but many considered this state of affairs would not be permanent. When the reports of some of the early sales in Buenos Ayres came to hand, coupled with the fact that some of the leading exporters in England were not making as many purchases as usual, some began to think that clouds were looming on the horizon. Then came the news of the test scandal in Buenos Ayres; as the outcome of this, a severe check to the export trade was expected. However, when one comes to look very carefully into the situation, there are many points that give the Shorthorn breeder hope and encouragement. The drop in some of the Argentine sale averages is explained away by the fact that a number of the animals submitted were of inferior quality, and in no case have high-class specimens failed to fetch a remunerative figure. The exposure of fraudulent practice as regards pedigrees and the test, has also not been without its benefits. It has denounced those who have resorted to dishonest methods, and caused renewed confidences to be placed in the exporter who have always dealt with their clients in a fair and honorable manner. The only regrettable feature is that the delinquents were not more severely dealt with.

THE SALES RING.

The sales in Great Britain throughout the whole season have had a most healthy tone. At Perth, in the spring, the trade was very good, high prices being frequent, Mr. Duthie paying the top figure, namely, 1,000 gs., for the red Hetherwick bull, Achilles. At Birmingham, there was a large entry, and, though the average showed a decline, and many good bulls changed hands at lower prices than usual, the prizewinners and outstanding animals met with a ready demand, 1,000 gs. being again paid for a bull, in this instance Mr. MacLennan being the purchaser, for South America, the animal being the red Shenley Victor, bred by a new breeder, Mr. Rapheal, in Hertfordshire. The sale at the Royal is now becoming an important one, and here the trade continued good. Mr. Royer took out Mr. Rothwell's Lord Brilliant II., second in the junior yearling class, at 1,000 gs., and many other animals sold well.

Mr. Harris, a Cumberland tenant farmer, held a sale in the autumn, at which the bidding was brisk. The animals were mainly pure Bates, and four females realized 200 gs., or over, the average for the whole herd being £90 18s. 1d. A very important series of sales are conducted annually in Scotland in October, the Collynie-Uppermill joint offering of bull calves being the leading event. At this gathering, some sensational Shorthorn history has generally been made; Mr. Duthie's having gone on breaking his own records year after year, but his latest success crowns them all. Higher individual prices have been paid; but the astounding average of £407 for 17 calves, gives Shorthorn breeders something to ponder over.

THE SHOW RING.

We now come to the events in the show-ring, and a look through the exhibitions of the past year tells us that we have still some splendid specimens of the Shorthorn left in our land, though the export drain



THE RESULT OF AN IMPRESSIVE SIRE.

Five bulls, by the Irish Shorthorn, Bright Meteor. All purchased for export to the Argentine, 1907.