

National Exhibition, Ottawa Exhibition, Winnipeg Exhibition, and Victoria Horse Show.

This Society is working in harmony with the Canadian Hackney Horse Society for the furtherance of the interests of the breed.

The Canadian Society are using every effort to get suitable mares inspected for registration in their studbook, which is to be published the latter end of this year, in time for distribution at the next general meeting.

The Secretary would be pleased to hear from any who are desirous of having their mares inspected. The attention of Hackney stallion-owners is especially drawn to this. It would be a good thing if a number of mares could be got together at some central point, say Brampton, Guelph or Simcoe, where an inspector could be sent on a given day. The expense in this way would be reduced to a very nominal figure, as it has already been decided not to charge any fee for inspection.

Judging from the latest advices from New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, the Hackney commands a higher price than any other breed for carriage purposes. We are also informed that a number of gentlemen are crossing the Hackney horse on Thoroughbred mares, and the cross produces an excellent park hack or a combination horse.

H. M. ROBINSON.

Toronto, Ont.

Sec.-Treas.

Breeding Aged Mares.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have a pair of mares, 12 years of age, that have never raised foals, but I want to breed them this spring. What treatment should I give them to aid in getting them in foal? They are in very good condition, and are built close and solid.

This inquiry, propounded by an Alberta subscriber, is thus answered by "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg:

The fact of these mares being as described is no reason why there should be any trouble getting them in foal. It is popularly supposed that close-knit, solid mares are not as ready breeders as the more loose and open type, but it does not follow that the former are generally non-breeders. In fact, it is often the case that a close, solid mare makes a phenomenal breeder.

The age at which mares are first bred sometimes has to do with getting them in foal, and also with the ease of delivery. It is generally accepted that, to get the best of a brood mare of which she is capable, she should be bred before

she is six or eight years old, but we have seen mares worked hard until they became crippled and too old to work, go on and raise several foals.

Of course, it is quite frequently the case that mares become sterile, and we suggest that our inquirer read "Whip's" article (in "The Farmer's Advocate" of March 11th) on the subject.

But there are precautions which everyone should take with breeding mares. Avoid sudden changes of feed, sudden changes from idleness to work. Protect from exposure. Keep the digestive system in natural condition, and return regularly to the horse.

Very often a mare will not take a horse at any time, and in such a case she may sometimes be brought around by hopping her and breeding against her will, after which she may come regularly in season, and accept service.

The National Bureau of Breeding.

On page 442 of "The Farmer's Advocate" of March 18th was an article describing a philanthropic organization called the Canadian National Bureau of Breeding, Limited, organized in the spring of 1908 by John F. Ryan, of Montreal, for the purpose of improving the breed of horses in Canada, by placing Thoroughbred stallions of class and pedigree within easy reach of farmers with good cold-blooded mares. Last fall it was incorporated under Dominion charter, and offices opened in 14 Windsor St., Montreal. The Bureau is not a commercial concern, and is not intended to be put upon a commercial basis, unless all other means fail. It contends that the reason farmers have not benefited by the use of Thoroughbred blood is because such blood has not been easily available. The fees for Thoroughbred stallions have been high, and the cost of purchasing a horse outright has been so great as to put him beyond the reach of the average farmer; and so the Bureau is undertaking to secure the stallions, and to deliver them free of all cost to responsible men, who, in turn, will give their neighbors the services of the horse at a nominal fee, which will go to pay for the maintenance of the stallion. The right is reserved to take back any horse which, in the opinion of the Bureau Inspector, is not being well treated. Property rights are retained on every stallion, and every man with whom one is placed must agree to keep a careful record of all foals, and of all mares served. Except where otherwise instructed, the service fee is \$10 to insure, the fees going to the man who keeps the stallion. Except in case of

wilful neglect or carelessness, a man keeping a Bureau stallion will not be held responsible for the injury or loss of the horse. The Bureau arranges all insurance on the horses, pays transportation to the farms where kept, and delivers them in healthy condition, and free from hereditary taint. It supplies pedigrees free of charge, and undertakes to change the stallions around every four or five years. For the present, at least, not more than one stallion will be placed in any one county, and no Bureau stallion is to be put out for service in a county where a privately-owned Thoroughbred stallion is already kept. The Bureau will try to place 100 stallions before the end of 1909, and, if possible, will put out an equal number in each of the following four years. If this plan be carried out, Mr. Ryan estimates that Canada will have the greatest breeding bureau in the world, and that, in round numbers, about \$5,000,000 per year will come to Canadian farmers through the improvement of the light-legged stock for saddle, cavalry and general breeding purposes.

The Bureau is not controlled by or affiliated with any jockey club or racing association, though it aims to be on friendly terms with all such organizations. The Bureau's field is the whole of Canada, and it is organized in each Province. It already has this year's work about completed in Quebec, and has made a fair start in Ontario. By June 1st, it expects to be able, at least partially, to supply the demand in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, besides giving some attention to the Maritime Provinces. It has a plan which it hopes will be successful, of supplying British Columbia with horses secured from California.

Early in March, a deputation in the interest of the Bureau, waited upon the Minister of Agriculture, at Ottawa, and asked for a grant of \$25,000 to pay, in part, the running expenses of the Bureau, such as transportation, insurance, cost of inspection, etc., consequent upon its putting into service this year 50 Thoroughbred stallions in different parts of Canada. Under existing conditions in the United States, owing to the closing of many studs, consequent upon the anti-race-track-gambling legislation of so many States, it is possible for the Bureau to obtain a large number of high-class Thoroughbred stallions, some free, and others for a nominal charge. Mr. Ryan said then that some sixteen horses had already been donated to him entirely free of charge, worth from \$2,000 upwards.

As intimated above, the aim is declared to be in no sense commercial, but simply a public-spirited desire to improve the light-legged horse stock of Canada by means of the Thoroughbred cross, and especially to develop a type of utility animal which will do a large part of the peaceful work of Canada, and at the same time be suited for cavalry purposes in event of national emergency. This part of the plan is said to have the hearty support of the British war office.

The plan seems to find much favor in localities where proposed, and insistent requests for Thoroughbred horses are coming from all over the Dominion.

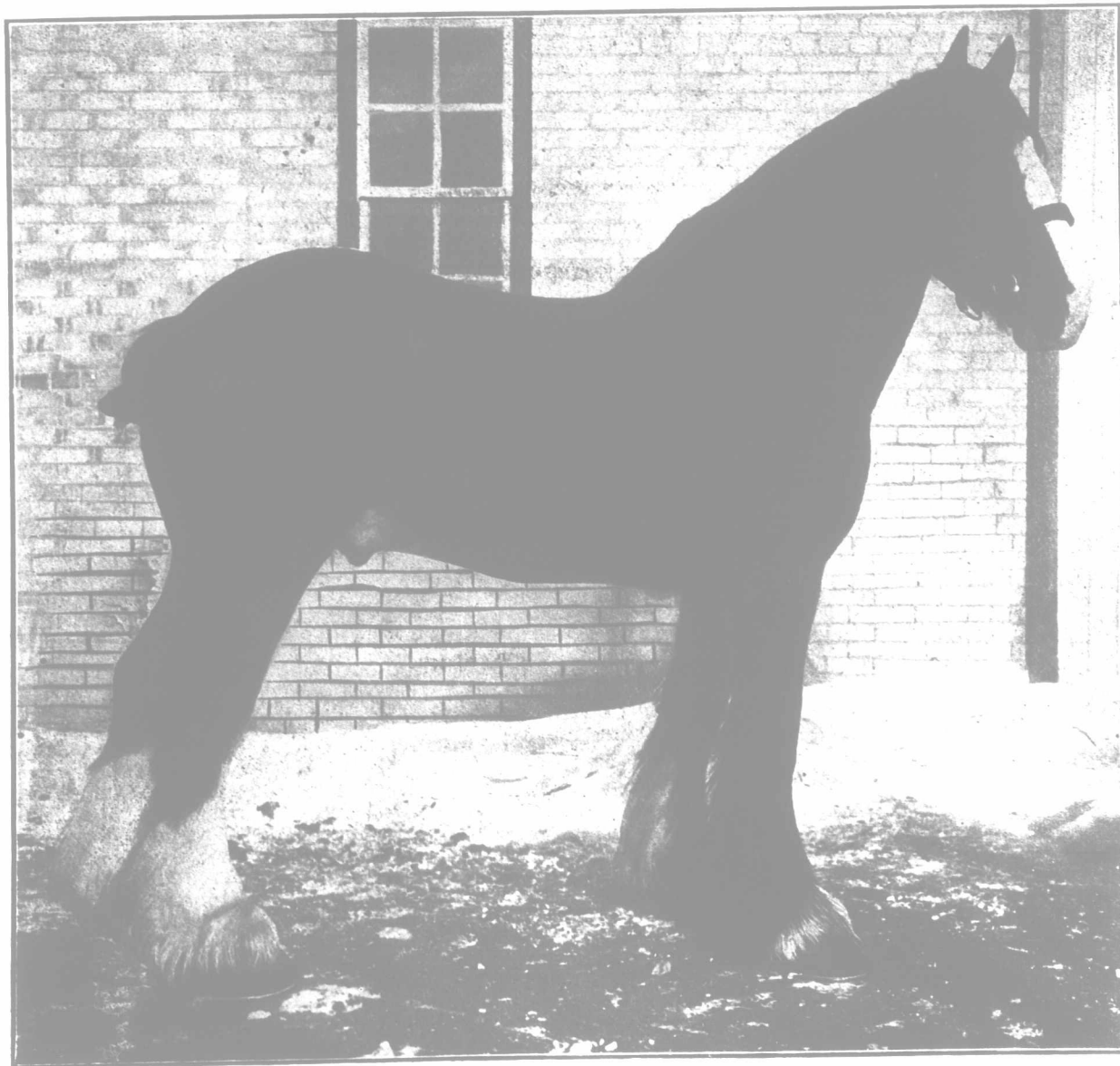
Thoroughbred blood is, in an important sense, the basis of light-horse breeding, and, without a certain infusion of it among the ordinary mares of the country, except those of draft blood, the breeding value of stallions of the other light breeds is not utilized to the best advantage. It is, therefore, urged by expert horsemen that it would be a short-sighted policy on the part of owners of Standard-bred, Hackney or Coaching stallions to offer objection to the introduction of Thoroughbred blood among the common light-legged mares, as the ultimate results of such an infusion would be of great value to their own respective breeds when the mares with a dash of hot blood came to be mated with stallions of the other light breeds.

King Edward's Gift.

A London (Eng.) despatch says that King Edward has presented the Sultan of Turkey with a first-prize horse from the stud of Lord Ribblesdale, Dublin, Ireland, named Rex Imperator (King Emperor). The Turkish potentate wanted one bay in color, with three white feet, a white star in face, and his tail to the ground, on which to ride once a week to the mosque, so that his subjects might see him better than in a carriage. The King, hearing of his desire, had inquiries made for a suitable nag, and sends it as a national compliment.

Anti-horse-thief Organization.

Horse-stealing is yet common enough to make necessary associations for dealing with this form of thieving, says the Horse World, of Buffalo, N. Y. At the recent meeting of the Ohio State Protective Association, a union of all the anti-horse-thief associations in the United States, with but one password, was urged in resolutions adopted. The secretary of the Ohio Association is reported to be Geo. M. Dietrick, Bellefontaine.



Balladoyle (13967).

Clydesdale stallion; brown; foaled June, 1905. Imported and owned by T. J. Berry, Hensall, Ont. (See page 504.)