

A Criticism of "Invicta's" Plan of Fixed Salaries for Teachers.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

SIR,—Allow me space to reply to the first paragraph of "Invicta's" letter which appeared in issue of March 6th. I am surprised that a man who has been entrusted with the office of school trustee should be so low in his degree of education as to use such disrespectful language in referring to his fellow-beings. If there is such a class as the "ignorant," I would class "Invicta" with them, if he does not know any better than to use in the public press language in reference to human beings he would in talking of the brute beast. No, Mr. Editor, the man who understands his work on the farm is not "ignorant," but has a far more perfect, more honorable, more independent, and one of Nature's grandest professions. He is the man who deserves his remuneration to be fixed who toils his ten to fifteen hours a day, from Monday morning till Saturday night, rather than to be insulted by being called a "Scrub." Now, to fix a standard salary for teachers would only be adding to evil, as competition is the only thing to keep young people from getting lazy and crowding into the profession to escape the more arduous labor of farm life. The "Grade" gets well paid for the short hours he works in comparison with what the other gets. Why not have the legislator fix the price of machinery, of grain, of the farmer's household necessaries, so that he can live, and then he will not grumble at paying young teachers all they can earn? I am one of the so-called "Scrubs," hence my reason for writing you; and in the future let "Invicta" not show his "ignorance" to the public, and may he never forget that some of the "Scrubs" are neither so "ignorant" nor uneducated that they cannot take an insult.

"SCRUB."

Reply to "Invicta" on "Bachelors."

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

DEAR SIR,—I notice in "Invicta's" "Timely Notes" for March 20th, a paragraph referring to "Bachelors," in which he states that they are cowards, and don't marry because they don't wish to work during the winter, which is necessary if mixed farming is adopted in place of wheat and wheat only; and that they don't wish to give up loafing round bar-rooms, etc., etc. Now, I think many "Bachelors" are martyrs rather than cowards, because we would not ask any woman to share the hardships which have to be gone through to start farming in this country. And as to loafing round bar-rooms, I am sorry to say that pastime is not confined to "Bachelors." We are willing to turn over a new leaf before marrying, and in order to give my intended wife a clear conception of what kind of life she may expect to live, I want to get into comfortable circumstances, and then I can marry with a fair prospect of living happily and contentedly.

"A MANITOBA BACHELOR."

Horse Breeding as Applied to the Average Manitoban Farmer.

BY T. HARKNESS.

The question that should naturally arise in any man's mind when he decides on starting out to breed a horse is, What kind of animal will be most suitable for his requirements? or, if he intends to breed for the market, What kind of horses are likely to bring top prices when his now embryo horse is ready for sale? These questions settled, he should consider his mare. If she is of the draught breed, a good Clydesdale, Shire or Percheron sort, then my advice is to breed her to a good specimen—the best you can obtain—of her predominating strain. If she happens to be a Clyde, the owner should call on me and see Sir Arthur. If she is a Shire, he can call on my friend Mr. McGregor, who will no doubt be able to suit him. By all means try to have a good, sound mare, free from blemishes, one of the fashionable colors,—brown, bay or black. Now as to weight. She should weigh not less than 1,350 and upwards, and stand not less than 15½ and up to 16 or 16½ hands high; but care should be taken that with increased height she also increases in weight, so as not to have too much daylight under her. Good, deep ribs, full across the loins, long quarters, and if she is a shade wide from point of hip bone to first rib it is not any very serious fault. It gives her more room for the development of the foal. Rather have her wide and roomy behind than narrow. Now I have come to the point that should have been first considered, viz., the feet and legs. The feet should be hard and flinty, nice and round. The bone of the legs should be flat and free from puffs or carbuncles of any kind, the hocks hard and smooth to the touch. Beware of what is called in horse parlance "meaty legged;" a nice feather of soft silky hair on the side of the legs adds greatly to her appearance, and ranks her amongst the sort that brings the copper now-a-days.

Regarding the neck and head, I think if she has all good qualities described above, she can hardly carry a poor head and neck. However, see that the neck is not quite upside down, that the head is not too big, and that the ear is of medium size. Both long and short ears are admitted; but just now I see the short ear is popular among the Clydesdale men abroad. I suppose this is because Prince Alexander, this year's champion, has short ones. See that she has a pair of good eyes, large and prominent.

Now for her action. She should move off freely, be a good walker, have the long swinging gait necessary for horses drawing heavy loads; and when she trots she should throw her feet directly in front, and have plenty of action at the knee. If her legs and feet are right, she will have plenty of spring in her pasterns, they should be sloping; she can pound the road as much as she likes, and in nine cases out of ten she will wear twice as long as one that has not the same confirmation as to feet and legs.

Now I think the breeder is fitted with a mare suitable for a good draught horse.

Now, for the sire. He should combine all her good qualities, and more. He should be rather closer knit, and possess plenty of masculine character. You will all admit, no doubt, that there are horse horses and mare horses—that is, that some horses are more like mares than horses. I mean, of course, in general appearance.

I believe in plenty of exercise, or the ordinary work of the farm for the mare during the time she is carrying her foal, and up to within six weeks or a month of foaling. Avoid, by all means, long hauls, sudden and heavy pulls, and do not attempt to make her go faster than she would naturally on her own accord. A few weeks before foaling time, put her in a good-sized loose box, and, if possible, have a good big yard where she can roam at will. Be careful to see that no blood or offal from slaughtered animals be allowed to remain in her vicinity. In many instances premature foaling may be traced to the fact that the mare has come in contact with something of this kind. When at last the foal has arrived, keep the mare idle for at least ten days or two weeks, and then work her only about five hours each day for another week or ten days, and if it is found that she is warm on unhitching, she had better be kept from her foal until pretty well cooled off. Many foals are checked in their growth and ruined for life by suddenly being allowed to draw milk from a mare that has been heated up. Wean your foal at five or six months. Feed a little whole oats mixed with bran twice a day, say one quart at a feed; and if roots can be obtained, give a few raw in the middle of the day. I prefer carrots. Of course the feed must be supplemented with nice, well-cured native or timothy hay. Allow the foal lots of daily exercise, and you will find in spring your prospective subject for foreign markets has done remarkably well, and is then ready for the grass. See that he has plenty of pure water. I am afraid this is one of the many reasons why our young horses do not mature as well as they should. I heard a man say, who is or was a breeder of horses, that his colts never got a drop of water all summer, and that they had done well. He may have thought so, but I can assure you I did not.

The same treatment, with additional feed according to age, should be continued during the following years until five years old, when, if all hopes and wishes have materialized, you have a horse fit to bring all the way from \$200 to \$300. Begin his tuition during the first winter by teaching him to lead and stand tied. Use nothing but nice, smooth leather halters; anything in the shape of a rope should be kept out of his sight. When rising three years old put the harness on occasionally, and if his dam is handy and not too heavy in foal, hitch him up with her, and drive over to the next neighbor and let him see your new horse. Let him have his head. By this I mean don't check him up with one of those new-fangled over-head checks; and if possible at all, break him with an open bridle. He will soon get over his first fright, and in nine cases out of ten, with this sort of handling, he is pretty well broken the second time he is hitched.

Some of you may be ready to say, "Oh, he is talking draught horse," one totally unfit for the Manitoban farmer. In answer to this I would say, that as the Manitoban farmer has decided on breeding and must necessarily work his mare during the time of her pregnancy and while suckling the foal, he must have one that can stand up to her work and finish up her foal as well, and that the draught mare will do this much easier and more successfully than those of lighter breeds must be admitted; besides, I contend that the best market or the easiest reached will be that in which the draught horse takes the lead, namely, for heavy street traffic in the large commercial centres; it may be sent and said with a good deal of wisdom that by raising a general purpose horse, the breeder can also secure a good market, as such horses would command good figures for coach or carriage purposes in the large cities of both the United States and Great Britain; but this class of horse is something very fancy, and unless our breeders happen to hit the happy medium he has a horse that is not "in it" as compared with the offspring of the draught mare, for should the latter turn out only a plug, he is still a marketable horse if sound, and will bring big money in any country as a dray or lorry horse.

By way of comparison I give you the prices quoted only last week on the Chicago horse market:—J. S. Cooper, Union Stock Yards, Chicago—Southern Chunks, 1,050 to 1,100 lbs., \$40 to \$70; Streeters, \$90 to \$100; 1,250 lb. Chunks, \$110 to \$120; 1,350 lb. Chunks, \$125 to \$140; 1,440 lb. Chunks, \$140 to \$170; 1,600 lb. Draught Horses, \$190 to \$225. F. J. Beovy & Co., Union Stock Yards, Chicago—Heavy Draughts, 1,500 to 1,700 lbs., are in fair demand at \$125 to \$210; Expressers, 1,450 to 1,550 lbs., at \$145 to \$200; Chunks, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs., \$95 to \$130; Streeters at \$85 to \$110. These quotations are sound horses, five to eight years old, well broken.

Sales—Just a few for the sake of comparison:—Coach Horse, fine action, 15.3 hands high, 1,050 lbs., \$180; Express Horse, 15.3 hands high, 1,450 lbs., \$170; Draught Horse, bay, 16.1 hands high, 1,700 lbs., \$205.

From this you will see that heavy draughts command the top prices, and are in active demand. The contention of some that with the advent of electricity as a motive power the use of horses will very materially decrease is a myth. It is admitted that the very fact of electricity being made to do the work of horses has created other and very necessary demand for his use.

Manitoba's Exhibit at Chicago.

Your readers will no doubt be glad to read a few words from Chicago regarding the Manitoba exhibit now fast being placed in position. The building which contains this display has been built outside Jackson Park, between 57th and 59th streets, on Stoney Island Avenue, and almost immediately in front of the main entrance nearest the city. This site was chosen on account of the desirability of inducing as many as possible to visit the building, and to impress all with the varied resources, rapid development and wonderful possibilities of this new province.

By arranging the exhibit in one building a much better effect will be produced than could be hoped for by having the same scattered throughout the different exhibition buildings in the park. The Illinois Central, the elevated road, and the cable cars all drop their passengers within a few steps of this building, and the prospects are it will be crowded throughout the summer, as there is no charge for admission, and every effort will be made by those in charge to make a call pleasant to visitors.

The size of the building is 90x240 feet, four stories; from the roof a good view can be had. The upper stories of the building are used for an hotel, where there will be accommodation for nearly 500 guests, and where all Canadians will be made welcome and given every assistance to see the Fair. The hotel will be leased by Mr. Samuel Grigg, of London (late of the Grigg House). The portion of the building to be occupied by the exhibit is surrounded by a gallery, adding much to the advantages of seeing the exhibit. In the centre of the ground floor will be a magnificent agricultural trophy, showing grains, roots and vegetables, while large exhibits will be made in all grains and vegetables besides. There will be over 500 entries in wheat alone. To show how well Western Canada's soil and climate are adapted to the growth of corn, the government have secured a number of specimens, which will prove of interest to Canadians, and more especially to Americans from the corn states.

Much care has been taken in procuring specimens of native small fruits, both wild and cultured. These will be shown in neat glass jars, and in abundance, as the varieties are numerous.

In large plate glass cases in different parts of the building will be natural history exhibits, prepared with much skill and taste. In these will be seen over 500 specimens of birds of the north country, and in the same display will be fifty varieties of animals, such as elk, moose, bear, etc. The Historical Society of Winnipeg has rendered much service to the government by allowing the use of a selection of their most valuable collection of relics, and in them will be seen many things relating to the discovery and early settlement of the province.

To illustrate the mode of travel in the early days, complete dog trains, Indian carry-alls and Red River carts will be shown; also figures in wax, representing the different tribes of Indians. Models of Fort Garry, Indian schools, government buildings, pioneer homes and later farm buildings will give a good idea of the rapid development of Canada's western plains. That all may get a correct idea of the physical features of the country, a topographical outline has been prepared, showing hills and valleys, rivers, lakes, etc., which will convey at a glance the beauties of the landscape. That there is much wealth in the rivers and lakes will be shown by carefully prepared specimens of the finny tribe, shown in ice where they have been frozen, pure water being used.

The Educational Department will make plain the educational advantages enjoyed in this new country under the school system. Samples of work from schools in all parts of the province will be on exhibition.

In no part of the World's Fair will be found a better display of woman's handiwork. The Manitoba coat of arms will occupy a prominent place on the central trophy.

The manufacturers of the province will make a most creditable exhibit, and prove to all that even if Manitoba is noted for hard wheat, still this is not the only resource of the country. The arrangement of the exhibits will be made with much care, so as to produce the best effects, banners and bannerets being placed throughout the building. To miss seeing this exhibit will be to miss seeing evidences of the most rapid development of any country. The Hon. Thomas Greenway and the Hon. D. McMillan, treasurer, are now here inspecting the work, and are highly pleased with what has been accomplished by the commissioner, the Hon. James A. Smart, whose indefatigable efforts has brought the work forward so that everything will be ready for the grand opening on May first.