

## HORSES.

Be kind to the stallion, but never play with him.

Feed the stallion a few roots, but not too many.

Stallion owners and mare owners should now concern themselves about the coming breeding season. "Condition" means a good deal to both horse and mare.

An insufficient supply of food may cause abortion, so also may overfeeding. The brood mare requires a little more attention at the feed-box than the working gelding. Avoid all musty feed, and above all things feed regularly as to time, kind, and quantity.

Begin early to condition the work horses for the spring rush. It generally requires more time to put flesh on the horses than it does to work it off them. Seeding must be done quickly. Good horses, fit and ready to do the best work they are capable of, mean extra bushels in the crop.

The average price of the different classes of horses on the Chicago market in 1912 was as follows: Draft horses, \$210; Carriage pairs, \$473; Drivers, \$177; General-purpose, \$160; Bussers and Trammers, \$175; Saddlers, \$195; Southern chunks, \$97. In all but two classes—viz., Carriage pairs and Drivers—these averages are the highest on record. Even carriage horses and drivers sold high. The horse is still to the fore, despite other means of transit.

Activity is now general in horse circles. Many stallions are changing hands. Importers and breeders are distributing an excellent lot of sires through the country. Many stallions will yet be bought for various localities before the season opens. Prospective buyers should consider carefully before buying a stallion the class of mares in their localities. Mixing of breeds is being carried too far in many districts. If a good horse is available of the same breed as the largest percentage of the mares to be bred, he should be a safer proposition and is surely of more value to the mare owners and to the man whose money he represents than a stallion of another breed. If more unity of purpose were shown by districts, Canada's horse breeding would reach a higher plane.

Scratches, also called cracked heels or mud-fever, can be prevented by careful stable management, according to Dr. H. Preston, of St. Paul, Minn. Cases are rarely met with in well kept barns, but are often seen in dirty, poorly drained stables. Dryness and cleanliness of the floor of the stall are the two most important factors in the prevention of scratches.

Horses should not be allowed to stand in piles of manure and decomposing urine. These irritate and inflame the thin skin in the fold of the ankle, just below the fetlock. The skin then becomes thickened, due to the inflammation, and breaks or cracks in it appear, and if allowed to go untreated, the condition grows gradually worse. The affected area grows larger, the cracks become deeper, and the animal is in an unsightly and painful condition.

Owners of horses can prevent the trouble, in the majority of cases, by doing two things. Do not allow manure to accumulate behind your horses, and see that your stalls are so constructed that the urine will drain away promptly. If your horses show any tendency toward the condition, apply a small amount of carbolic vaseline, benzoinated lard, or zinc oxide ointment, well rubbed into the affected parts. These remedies will soften the skin and protect it from external moisture and irritating substances. During wet weather, or when the roads and streets are muddy or slushy, extra precautions should be taken to prevent the condition. Do not wash cracked heels, as water and rubbing only aggravate the condition.

## More Exercise.

Galvayne, in his Book on the Horse, says, "I am strongly of opinion that the failures of many stud-farms are attributable to the owners' misconceptions with regard to the real nature and physical requirements of the animal they are breeding. They confine brood mares separately in loose-boxes, overlooking the fact that the animal is extremely gregarious by nature; and—a more serious mistake still—they do not allow them half the amount of exercise which is abso-

lutely indispensable. The horse's stomach capacity is relatively very small, and it must be almost continually feeding to obtain the necessary sustenance to keep it in perfect condition; and thus continuous feeding is effected (under natural conditions) while the animal is moving about, which it will do for at least twenty hours out of the twenty-four. It follows, therefore, that abundant exercise is one of the horse's most essential requirements. If a stallion is not in the habit of travelling for stud purposes, he should be led for the sake of the exercise for a distance of at least six miles twice every day."

## Wants Ontario Stallion Enrolment Universal in the Province.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As you always take a great interest in anything pertaining to agriculture, I would draw your attention to the Stallions Act, chapter 67 (1912). While I very highly appreciate the Act, in a general way, and if such an Act had been passed years ago, we would have had a better class of horses to-day, there is one clause or section in the Act which should not have been there at all. I have reference to sec. 16 of said Act. Please read it. Why should not these districts enjoy the same privileges as the other parts of Ontario in place of being excepted, and consequently all the culls from this inspection will flock to these parts of Ontario, which are cut out by said section? No doubt, these culls will travel the country and work at a lower price than a first-class horse, and will be patronized by a great many owners of mares on that account, which should not be allowed. What is good for one part of Ontario is good for the whole, and on this account I would say cut sec. 16 out of the Act altogether. A petition to this

No doubt, the Government thought they were acting wisely in exempting these districts from the workings of the Act. The principal cause for this exception was likely that the Government did not consider that enough horses were being bred in these districts to warrant their being put under the rules of stallion enrolment. It is more than likely that the legislature did not believe that there were many good breeding horses in these districts, and as horses of some kind were needed to do work in developing the country decided not to apply the Act to these newer sections. Again, where the stallions are so scattered and the districts so large, much difficulty would be experienced in inspection, and as the Act was simply a beginning organized effort on the part of horsemen in these districts, to have the Act apply to them will likely accomplish the object.

There may have been good reasons for leaving these districts as they were at the time the Act was passed, but it does seem as though our correspondent is taking a reasonable stand in the matter, and as inspection is not compulsory as yet, and provided the stallions can be gone over without too much inconvenience, these districts should be included as soon as possible—that is, if, as our correspondent says, the horsemen in these districts desire the legislation to apply to them. The Government should, at any rate, interest themselves in the matter. What do horse breeders think?—Editor.)

## No Pony-boned Drafters Wanted.

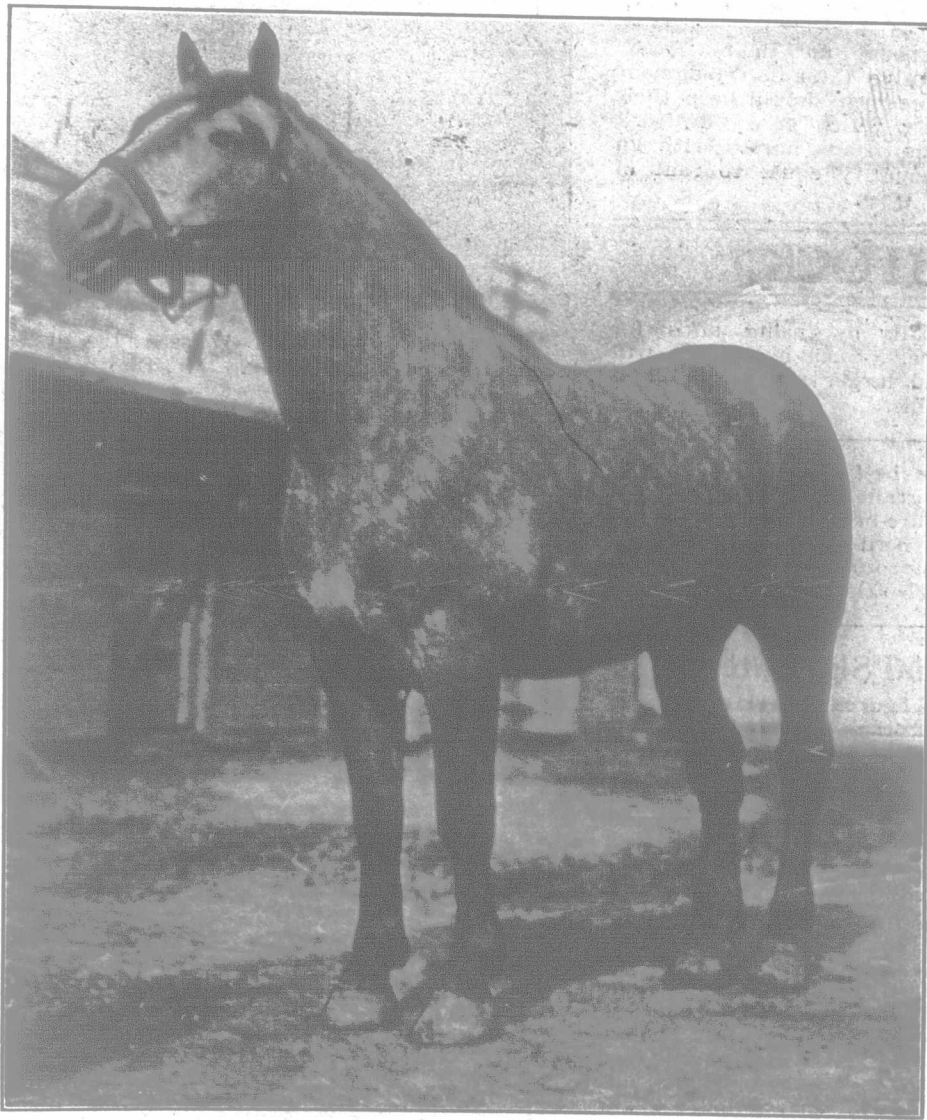
Discussion has been going on for some time in "The Scottish Farmer" regarding bone in Clydesdales. One writer says: "There is no doubt breeding has become too fine. It won't do. Its day is nearly past, because the

world's call is for stronger bones, and everything else in proportion." Another writer pays a compliment to Canadian breeders' judgment thus: "What I advocate is (what the Canadians advocate)—the breeding of horses with more bone, not round bones, but flat, flinty bones, deep chest, and good feet and pasterns. Every breeder of Clydesdales knows that inbreeding produces smaller-boned horses—what is termed quality bones—and every Canadian purchaser I have spoken to will have nothing to do with small pony-boned Clydesdales."

The Canadian market seems to be held in high esteem in the home of the Clydesdale, for the writer referred to concludes with: "We have to breed for our best market."

Bone is one of the most important considerations in draft horses, no matter what the breed. A massive horse never looks just right if set upon limbs which would be more fitting to a

Thoroughbred, Standard-bred or General-purpose horse. Bone is the framework of the animal, and to withstand the great strains to which it is subjected in the draft horse it is necessary that it be clean and flinty, for this denotes quality and strength. But clean bone does not necessarily mean light bone. Besides being hard and of finest quality, there should be comparatively large bone in the horse intended for moving great weights. The legs must carry the heavy animal as he "pounds" over the road or land, and must withstand, at the same time, the great strain of pulling a heavy load. It looks reasonable that the horse with most bone, provided it is of equally high quality as that of his lighter-boned mate, should be able to do the heavy work required of him with less danger of injury to his



Jokai.

Three-year-old Percheron stallion, imported by T. D. Elliot, Bolton, Ont.

effect has been circulated in some parts of these districts, and very unanimously signed, asking the legislature to cut out said section. In the township in which I reside we have three pure-bred Clydesdales, and good ones, too. For all that, there are several culls which travel through the country and are largely patronized on that account. I say, stop them. One of them will take any fee he can get; have known him to work for as low a fee as \$4; now, I would say, stop him.

A 35-YEAR RESIDENT OF THESE DISTRICTS.

Parry Sound District, Ont.

(Note.—Section 16 of the Act here referred to reads: "This Act shall not apply to the Provisional Judicial Districts nor to the Provisional County of Haliburton.")