

great Almont, with all the advantage of crossing upon the high-bred mares of Kentucky, had only one colt that had beaten 2.30.

Almont, Jr., is a very handsome, showy, powerfully-built horse, and the generations between him and the Hambletonian have intensified the trotting propensities in him. According to the laws of breeding, intelligently followed, the colts of Mambrino King and Almont, Jr., should be as much superior to them as they are to their respective sires.

The claim of "Village Farm" is that the two stallions at its head possess more merit, and are more valuable as individuals and in the stud, than any other two stallions in the country, for the reason that they transmit as much, or more, speed, and, further, they stamp upon each and every one of their sons and daughters, with uniformity, their great beauty and finish, thereby commanding for them a ready sale at remunerative prices, as they are, and will be, in great demand for the turf, gentlemen's roadsters, driving and carriage purposes.

The get of a very large percentage of the plain trotting stallions now in use have no speed, and, being without beauty or other attractive qualities, can only be marketed for street railroad and other ordinary purposes at prices that do not pay to raise them.

The brood mares now in use at Village Farm are superior, or will at least compare favorably, as to pedigree or as individuals, with those on any other stock farm in this country.

Mr. Hamlin invites inspection; visitors are welcome at all times.

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## THE SUPPLY OF HORSES FOR THE BRITISH ARMY.

Mr. Albert Clayton writes the London *Live Stock Journal* regarding the supply of horses for the British Army. Like all others who are well informed on the subject, he is fully aware of the great difficulty with which suitable cavalry horses are to be procured. In this connection he remarks:—"It may be said that the weight-carrying blood hunter is a luxury, and not a necessity, but the scarcity extends further. Every year the difficulty of procuring general utility horses of size and power increases, and you look now in vain for the short-legged, sturdy, quick, true-actioned horses which were to be seen two or three decades ago in the hunting field, in harness, or as hacks. Horse shows are ubiquitous, and of almost daily occurrence, yet how few animals (and those the pick of the district) come up to the standard of excellence of a few years ago, or deserve the prizes awarded them. This is most noticeable in the heavy-weight hunter classes, and in the large harness horse classes. The cause of this scarcity is the absence of brood mares—for years past, taking advantage of our apathy and want of foresight, the foreigners have abstracted all our best mares for breeding purposes, and many of our best stallions. The result is horses are now bred in a hap-hazard way from old, undersized, ill-shaped mares, the progeny take after the dams, and the result is a financial loss, disappointment, and the abandonment of any further attempt to increase the equine population. So much for private breeding. Farmers have for many years been alive to the fact that breeding 'light-legged' horses is unprofitable, and the way they conduct it, it is hardly likely to be otherwise. In most cases their mares are not calculated to breed 'light-legged' horses of value—i.e., combining blood, bone, and size. They are mated with the only horse within reach, probably a brute, and last, but not least, they have no suitable places or attendants for the successful rearing of valuable young horses, and they grudge—and may be wisely—the expense which, after all, may be thrown away by an unpreventable accident."

Referring to private enterprise in horse-breeding, the writer hints that very few have the requisite capital and patience to bring such an undertaking to a successful issue. "Government studs" should, in his estimation, take the lead in the matter of breeding cavalry remounts, and form the nucleus of a home supply that should in time become amply commensurate with the demand. After pointing out many of the errors into which private breeders are apt to fall, he says:—"A great point is made, when horse-breeding is contemplated, in the selection of the sire, and very little is said about the mare. Now I am convinced from personal experience and observation that the mare is the most important animal, and the disappointments so common in breeding half-bred horses arise from the defects of the dam more than from the sire. It is a common error and popular fallacy that a good-shouldered sire will impart to his stock a simi-

lar conformity if the dam be wanting in that respect. Over and over again I have noticed and proved how erroneous this theory is. The same reasoning applies to legs, feet, and other parts of the equine frame. Till the stock of brood mares has been replenished the breeding of half-bred horses must remain in its present unsatisfactory state, and can only be carried on by private enterprise in a 'happy-go-lucky' sort of way. Stallions are costly animals to buy and keep (especially the latter), therefore their owners will not refuse any mare if accompanied by the service fee. The result of this indiscriminate breeding is that the markets are overstocked with under-sized, ill-shaped weeds, and that a strong, short-legged, clean-limbed, true-actioned blood horse above 15 hands high is the exception and not the rule in horse marts, fairs, dealers' yards, and other places wherein horses do congregate and dwell together."

His suggestions as to the improvement of the saddle and cavalry horse supply are chiefly contained in the following paragraph:—

"Our horse supply must be taken *ab initio*, and with that object I advocate the establishment of Government breeding studs for half-bred horses. These establishments would require a stallion and a certain number of mares, and I would suggest their being commenced simultaneously in convenient centres in England, Wales, and Ireland, not at first on too large or costly a scale. The fillies should be sold at cost price, to remain in the United Kingdom for breeding purposes, and the services of the stallions, at very nominal fees, should be at the disposal of all private horse-breeders possessing suitable mares; all others should be rigorously excluded. Half-bred mares suitable for breeding, or calculated to produce horses of value, are now so few and far between I would suggest trying the cross of a pedigree Shire horse or Norfolk trotter with thoroughbred mares. Stud-book mares, unfashionably bred, too slow for racing, or otherwise unsuitable for training, might be bought at reasonable prices. The first cross might not, and probably would not, come up to expectations; but a few powerful, roomy fillies might be obtained, and these in their turns, if properly mated, might throw good stock, and in this way a nucleus for a breeding stud on a large scale, i.e., more or less all over the United Kingdom, be found."

These suggestions have a very practical ring about them, though why a coarse-bred mare and a thoroughbred sire would not constitute a better stud foundation than a thoroughbred mare and a large coarse horse is a little difficult to understand. It is true that a Norfolk stallion might cross well upon a stout and roomy thoroughbred mare, but the merest tyro in breeding would hardly expect a satisfactory result from the union of a big, coarse Shire horse and a small-sized thoroughbred mare. The objections to such a cross are too well understood to demand repetition here. For ourselves we are distinctly opposed to violent crosses such as the union of ordinary Shires and thorough-