

HORSES.

Don't Want a Stallion Inspector.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I will give you my views on this important question. I think the Government is taking hold of the wrong end of the rope in this stallion-inspection business because they don't start inspection with the stallions that are being imported at the present time. I may safely say that one-half of the stallions that come to our section are of a very inferior type of a Clyde horse, and it would be an injustice to bar a good Canadian-bred horse because he had no registered pedigree, and compel us to use the imported scrub. Now, whose interest is this act in favor of—the importer or the farmer breeder? Certainly the importer, as it gives him a clear road. I may safely say that I voice the feelings of nine-tenths of my fellow farmers in this section, that the act would be doing a great injustice to them. I think that the farmer of the present day is well able to choose the sire that he wants for himself. Now, brother farmers, this is the time to let us hear from you, for if the act is once passed it is hard to repeal it. If you think that you are able to judge for yourself, speak up now and speak plainly. As for myself, I think I can look after my own interests without the help of any inspector. Oxford Co., Ont.

WM. McINTOSH.

Spurious Pedigrees and Unsound Horses.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been reading a number of articles in your paper relating to stallion inspection and lien act. I approve of the stallion-inspection act. I think it is a step in the right direction. I am opposed to the lien act. I think the stallion man should look out for himself. We are in need of a few good Clydesdale stallions in this country. Too many unsound horses, or horses of unsound ancestry, are allowed to be used as stallions. If "Haldimand Farmer" will tell us how to get at the ancestry of those stallions without some way of inspection, we would like him to do so; other stallions have stolen pedigrees. Farmers will not take the trouble to find out about ancestry or pedigrees of stallions. They look at the general appearance and style of the stallion, and often raise a colt up to three years that will not sell for the cost of raising because the services can be obtained for a very small fee. I have often noticed at our fairs a class of horses called "agricultural" or "general-purpose," which are nothing but mongrels, and which, I think, are the worst class of horses we have. If the farmers would breed their best heavy mares to some pure-bred Clydesdale stallion when the colts reach three or four years old, they can be sold readily at from \$150 to \$200. I am not the owner of a stallion, but I am anxious to see farmers raise horses that will sell. W. J. MALLORY.

Leeds Co., Ont.

A Georgian Horseman's View.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

You are desirous of getting the views of horsemen regarding the Government inspection and licensing of horses. The move is a very good one in some respects. I think, however, that the farmers of Eastern Ontario have studied the breeding of horses to such an extent that they should be able by this time to judge very nearly what kind of a horse is most useful to them in their occupation in life. I would like to ask the farmers of Eastern Ontario what kind of horses did the British Government require during the South African war, and even this fall what kind were the representatives of the Home Government looking for? How many did they get when buying in Montreal? Was it not the strong, blocky-built horse they required? For myself, I have gone as far as thirty miles to breed to a good horse, and have been very much disappointed in what I have received for my trouble. Now, I think that horsemen would take advantage of the service if licensing horses would come into effect. For carriage use, I have always liked the Standard-bred horse or the Hackney. I have used several, some standing 16 to 16.1, and have bred to others 15.2, receiving very good results. I see in a letter that a gentleman wishes to cut out three different breeds. I think this would be a big mistake to the farming public. As it is, there are very few horsemen who keep up-to-date sires, and as we are not all millionaires and cannot afford to pay the high fee that the Government might think we should, this should be left to the farmers' own judgment. I have been buying and breeding for 32 years, and have always been looking for the good ones.

Glengarry Co., Ont.

NORMAN OXLEY.

The world needs men who see clearly with unbiased vision, men who fear nothing and hesitate not to pierce the mail of self-complacency with which mankind is prone to surround itself; men whose unflinching purpose is to know the absolute truth, and, knowing, proclaim it to the world.

A Senate for Discredited Stallions.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Why are we at present hearing some talk concerning the inspection of stallions for breeding purposes? The owner of the unsound old mare, with bad conformation, a big bone spavin, and cataract into the bargain, answers, "The Government is going to pass an act providing for the compulsory inspection of all stallions used for breeding purposes, so that there will be a big improvement of the horses produced in the country." Such an answer from the owner of the sightless old slave is enough to stagger any man who had not tasted either Irish or Scotch for a twelvemonth. Is the horse market not in a flourishing condition? Are prices not good enough, even for a scrub worker or driver? Are the pure-bred stallions of all breeds getting scarcer, and the scrubs getting plentiful and crowding the superior animals to the wall? I think the demand and prices are good, and that the pure-bred horses are rapidly increasing everywhere, and thus improving the quality of the younger generation of colts. If such an act had been placed in force about twenty years ago, when the country was infested with scrubs, we would not have to look back and recall the days to memory when every barnyard was full of the produce of the scrubs, that could not be sold at any price. But to-day, when there is a registered horse in nearly every nook and corner of the country where there is any enterprise at all, I say no such act is required.

If the mares were equal to the stallions in general, although there are some inferior ones, we would not

He commences his career as a breeder of colts, which become unsound from very trivial causes. He is sound, and yet year after year he breeds colts which develop unsoundness of one kind or another. What will the Government do with him? Will he be allowed to breed on and produce his undesirable kind? If he is stopped, what will the owner of this sound horse say, with \$1,500 or \$2,000 in him? Seeing that the proposed act is for the benefit of the farmer-breeder and not for the stallion man, it would be nothing less than right that the Government would pay for such a horse if its acts reach far enough to condemn him as a breeder. If he is allowed to breed he will do more damage than many an unsound horse. The second is a horse which has already developed some unsoundness, but he is a good breeder of sound stock. Has such a horse to be condemned as unfit for breeding purposes? The majority of breeders will answer "No." The inspectors will need to be far-seeing and discerning men to say whether a horse is to be condemned or allowed to breed. If an act is passed, is it going to have a sliding scale, by which the inspectors can effectively deal with the two foregoing kinds of horses? If the unsound stallion, although he breeds good, sound stock, is allowed to continue breeding in some instances, what are all the other owners of similar stallions going to do or say if their horses are not allowed to breed also? What will the owners of the sound horses say about the unsound ones being allowed to continue? We hear about a tax of \$10 to \$50 on each stallion. Are stallion men growing rich, so that they can afford to pay this tax, and what will most of them think of this proposed act after looking into it? The most of them will say that the proposed act is a genuine humbug. The Government ought to pay for a stallion as soon as it condemns him out of those taxes, as the owner cannot afford to lose the price put in him. The Government ought also build extensive sanatoria in various parts of the country, to receive stallions which they condemn. The taxes might go to establish a n Upper House or stallion Senate for discredited stallions, on the same principle as the Senate is now a haven of rest for discredited politicians. The stallions could talk over old times, and their usefulness not being appreciated, but could rest content with plenty of oats and hay. Such a n institution would be useful to the embryo horsemen of the country; they could there see the blind, lame, halt, vicious and sweet-tempered stallion. The country needs no such act. The best breeds of horses are coming in in great numbers; the inferior horses are fast disappearing, not receiving public patronage; this will continue. Breeders have found it profitable to patronize the best, and are capable of selecting their own sires.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

HORSE-BREEDER.

Formalin for Thrush.

A substance that has come into wide use in recent years is formalin, which is nothing more nor less than a forty-per-cent. solution of the gas formaldehyde in water. Formalin is the best preventive for smut in seed grain, the best and safest treatment for scab in potatoes, and vaporized formaldehyde is the best disinfectant for sick rooms. The multiplicity of uses to which it may be put suggested to an enterprising veterinary practitioner in Ontario, that it might be good for thrush in horses' feet. He tried it with marked success. Last spring he told "The Farmer's Advocate" about this new treatment for thrush, and we printed an item which was widely copied (without credit) in our American exchanges. Lately we had opportunity again to ask our veterinary friend if he still found his remedy a success. His reply was a decided "Yes; you can make no mistake in recommending it through your columns." The treatment is simple and cheap. Clean out the cleft of the frog and syringe or douse daily with a solution of one part formalin in five or six parts water. In obstinate cases a slightly stronger solution may be used. This recipe is worth a year's subscription to every man having a bad case of thrush to treat.



Emblematic

Shire stallion. Winner of numerous prizes in England.

be continually hearing of the low class of horses in almost every neighborhood. That is the place for the Government to step in and, by some means, put an end to the breeding of the unsound and ill-shaped mares. What horse could get a good foal from the majority of them? Darnley 222 or Prince of Wales 673 would be powerless to get a first-class horse from most of them. We hear about the importers favoring an act to shut out all unsound stallions from breeding operations. The importers generally import for sale, and it is presumed their horses are sound, but I would ask the army of stallion men who buy from the importers and wear the stallions out, how they will like the act when their sound horses at purchasing time deteriorate into the unsound ones, with their hard-earned money in them! The perspiration will stand out on your brow some morning, when the temperature is below zero, for you have discovered that a spavin is gradually developing, or that he is lifting and falling unnaturally at the flank. Take off your hat and allow your heated brain to cool, then proceed to the house and inform your wife, for she is the only one to whom you can confide your misery (the neighbors could not keep a secret like that). You will both be compelled, by the Act of Parliament, to acknowledge that he is useless, although you have paid \$2,000 for him. The importers will supply you with another, if you have the price—not otherwise. Can you afford to favor an Act of Parliament of the kind proposed, where so many chances of loss to yourself may be hidden in the background?

There are two kinds of stallions, and I would like to know what is to become of them under the proposed act? The first is the sound stallion, that remains sound after he has left the importer's hands.