

Marsh, of Richmond Hill, Ont., taking all the premiums offered for Southdowns in the face of a strong American competition; while in Leicesters Jno. Kelly, of Shakespeare, carried off all the premiums excepting two or three for which he did not compete. Besides these, Hugh Crawford, of Canboro, was awarded several prizes for his Cotswolds, and R. Gibson, of Delaware, several H. C.'s and V. H. C.'s for Shropshires.

Swine.—Although there was a large exhibit of swine, there was not a single exhibit from Canada, this being doubtless due to the fact that the quarantine regulations are very strict with regard to hogs passing from the United States to Canada.

“VERITAS.”

For the CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

What Sires Shall We Use to Improve Our Harness Horses?

It can hardly be controverted that the importations of stallions of different breeds have not proved as great a benefit to this country as they might have been had a more judicious system of breeding been pursued. The practice that has been followed in many and indeed in a very considerable portion of the country might be defined as experimental mating, and the result, if we are to judge by the animals one meets on the roads, is certainly not encouraging; and yet what can be expected from an admixture of perhaps Clyde, Percheron, Trotting, etc., topped off with a cross of the thoroughbred? It was not by such a system that the breeds, for which England is now so celebrated, were formed, but by breeding with a fixed and definite object kept well in view. Some years ago Dr. Monagle, in his evidence before the Agricultural Commission, deprecated the practice of making violent crosses which is so common in this country, and the advice with which he concludes his testimony is worthy of note, for he urges all to breed with a specific purpose, and if one is the owner of a heavy horse not to seek to convert him into a race horse, and *vice versa*. Among the different breeds of horses whose claims have been advocated as being the best cross for improving the ordinary stock of the country, perhaps none have of late years been more pressed than the thoroughbred, the latest incentive being the breeding of remounts for the English army. It is needless to point out that this last consideration is of very little moment when it is remembered that these remounts must be *unquestionably sound*, and that defects which are not considered detrimental in this country are in England regarded as coming within the definition of unsoundness; besides the prize is too low, horses which would pass such an inspection being worth more in this country; again it is very doubtful whether that market will be permanent, as the horses purchased in Canada cost when delivered more than what is paid for such horses in England. It is difficult to see in what way the thoroughbred will improve the ordinary stock of horses in Canada, for looking at the average class as one drives through the country one is struck by their weedy appearance, usually too much daylight under them and no middle pieces to speak of. It must not be understood that I am entirely opposed to the use of the thoroughbred, as, on the contrary, I am greatly in favor of him as a sire when one has mares of the right kind, but these, more the pity, are not numerous but are rather to be found few and far between. Mr. Burdett Coutts is of opinion that even in England the uninterrupted breeding and in breeding from thoroughbreds, has gradually produced a class of horses which is of very little use for any purpose what

ever; the exceptions being horses with bone and sizes to make hunters; and the exceptions to these again are the horses that turn out good jumpers, with good manners, and sound enough to stand breaking in to hunting; but that a great number of horses are left all over the country high on the leg, light of bone, with no shapes for harness, with no action for harness, and consequently almost worthless. Now, if by the injudicious use of thoroughbreds, that is the case in England where abundance of mares with plenty of substance are to be found, what may be expected where the mares partake too much already of the character above mentioned? The question then arises how shall we improve our light horses? It is possible that we may gain a hint from some of the records of the English shows. Let us take the Islington show, one of the best in England, and we find that for years past in the 15.2 harness class—a class which represents the best specimens of an enormous class of horses used for all sorts of purposes in England—the winners (and it is a very important fact that there is absolutely no restriction as to the way in which a horse is bred in this class) have been bred from Hackney sires, and probably on both sides.

From all horse-buyers of carriage-horses we hear a cry for action rather than speed, and a well-bred Hackney whose pedigree can be traced for years is certain to transmit not only action but more substance also to his offspring. Although the Hackney stud-book is but of recent formation, the Hackney has long been an established English breed of determined character, and many records of old tests are extant, such as 3 miles trotted in 9 minutes, to stand at the stone and start; 17 miles in 56 minutes, carrying 13 stone (this was Marohland Shales, who was master of 20 stone); 16 miles in one hour, carrying 16 stone (this was Wroot's Pretender, the sire of Ramsdale's Performer, the origin of the Yorkshire Hackney); while the following description of a stallion given by Richard Laurence in 1816 is well illustrated by Reality, the modern champion at three London shows:—"The proper stallion for breeding road horses should have a small head, and well-turned neck, issuing high out of his breast, shoulders deep, and not too narrow at the upper part of withers, rather a broad chest, especially behind the elbows, long muscular arm, and short shank. He should go light in hand with great liberty in his shoulders, the knee should be elevated and advanced during the trot so as to be seen by the rider projecting beyond the breast. His back should be short and ribbed home, his girth large, his belly round, his hindquarters should be bold and muscular, and not too long in the thigh or leg."

Size is certainly somewhat wanting in the Hackney, and pure-bred Hackneys that can raise the standard above 15.2 are not numerous; many people, indeed, held the opinion that no Hackney should be over 15.2, and the Royal Agricultural Society of England also limited the Hackneys in their prize list to that height until their show held at Norwich in 1885, when, at the request of the Hackney Stud-book Society, a class of 15.2 and over was allowed, which was well-filled. The thoroughbred has increased in average height about 3 inches in 150 years, and in the same way the Hackney, which was no doubt formerly about 14 hands and even less, has by judicious selection of animals, by care and proper feeding, likewise increased in size. An important item in favor of the Hackney is the report of Mr. Hallon, general superintendent of the horse-breeding department of the Indian Government, in which he states most strongly that the Hackney horse is doing immense good on the small country mares, and getting the best horses for cavalry and all army purposes in India. A few Hackneys

have been imported to Canada, and annually the number imported is increasing, as their merits are quickly becoming known not only in this country but also in the States, and there can be little doubt that from the use of these horses we shall in time obtain mares of some substance from which good results may be obtained from a cross of the thoroughbred.

AGRICOLA.

For the CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Our Manitoba Budget.

(From our own Correspondent).

THE FALL FAIRS.

The fall fairs of the North-West have made, the last fortnight especially, a very busy season. Beginning with Stonewall, 25 miles north-west of Winnipeg, where the Governor-General went out to see his first pioneer exhibition, and "open" the show; and running on to Neepawa, on the Manitoba & North-Western Railroad, I am glad to be able to record the best lot of local shows I have ever seen in the country. It began to rain just as Lord Stanley got this side of Port Arthur, and was a miserably damp drizzly night when he came into Winnipeg, but ever since the Indian summer has been with us in perfection, and the fine weather combined with the early close of the working season, has drawn out the biggest crowds of farmers with their families ever seen here. There was rain enough three weeks ago to stop threshing for over a week, and in some few places to check ploughing, but now it looks almost as dry as ever, the subsoil rapidly absorbing all that fell, as it could have done three times the quantity.

What had we to show? Those of your readers who have taken note of the awful drought to which we have been subjected, would have been astonished. I have been myself, at half a score of these shows, and seen some droll exhibits. Peacocks on canvas, sewed in gilt beads, trees in glass cases with foliage of goose down, and other equally rare works of art, and from that down to the biggest and ugliest potatoes and turnips. At Gladstone, one man had 90 different exhibits of garden and field produce; at Neepawa, another farmer showed 50 varieties of fine potatoes; at Manitou 1500 entries, at Pilot Mound 95 entries of grain and 103 of butter, and so on all round. It is easy to explain this great improvement of our shows in a bad year. In 1887 we had such a big crop to handle that the most enthusiastic supporters of the shows could only give them a few hours attention, and then hurried back to their farm work, bringing in only one or two colts and next to no cattle. Time was too precious to be wasted on shows, and they shrunk into a poor thing. This year the season was early and the crop in too many instances a poor one, and every one brought all he could show. Farm work was not pressing, and everybody that could be spared from home went to the fair, though it might be 20 miles off. Prairie life is monotonous and we need far more of such gatherings.

Cheese and butter factories have not this year made up to last year's production, and in cheese at present prices, about 9½ or 10 cents, I don't see much chance of any expansion of the business. But our farmers' wives, especially those within 30 miles of the Winnipeg family trade, can, and do make choice home dairy butter, for which the year round a good maker may reckon on 25 cents a pound. In the country it will not go much over half that figure, and some of it is dear even at less than that figure. Even at a fair I have seen a greasy over-worked and over-salted tub put into competition, but most of that sort goes in