

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:

W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

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is published every Thursday. (52 issues per year.)

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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LONDON, CANADA.

Our Western Letter.

What is the West doing in the early spring days
of 1906? Growing. That is the answer to the
question. Growing as never before, and prepar-
ing for a season's immigration that will throw
all previous records in the shade. As an illustra-
tion of the progress of a Western city, let me tell
you the story of a lot.

It was only a small lot, with a frontage of 50
feet, and extending back 130 feet. In 1881 it
was sold for \$50, in 1882 for \$100, in 1884 prices
soared and the lot changed hands at the magni-
ficent price of \$500. Six years later \$2,500 was
paid for the property, and in 1903 it was sold
for \$7,500. You might think now that the price
was fairly high, but someone thought otherwise,
and the same year it again changed hands, this
time at \$12,000. For two years the last pur-
chaser held the property, and then, in 1905, he
sold it for \$16,000, and the new man resold the
same year for \$24,000. Is the story done? No.
A few days ago it was sold for \$30,000. That
is the story of a city lot in Western Canada.
What town was it in? I won't tell you, but it
was in the new Provinces, and it is only typical
of what has occurred in other towns in the West.
It is not a boom; it is due to legitimate de-
mand for a good business location; it is the re-
sult of the advancement of Canada and of the
Canadian West. Here is the sequel to the story:

Twenty-five years ago the cattle trade of the
West totalled twenty-five head. Now there are
over nine hundred thousand animals pastured in
Western Canada. One-half of these are cattle,
and the rest are sheep and horses. Over twenty-
five thousand brands appear on the Northwest
Government records. That is only one side to
the question.

Five years ago there was in wheat a total
area of 412,864 acres; in 1905 the area was
1,149,558 acres. Meanwhile, the increased area
devoted to other crops has kept pace. These
figures apply to the two new Provinces alone, but

they are eloquent with the story of the progress
of the Last West. All wealth comes from land;
commerce and industry have followed the exten-
sion of the agricultural area, and that is how a
lot worth \$50 twenty-five years ago is worth
\$30,000 to-day. The Dominion Commission of
Immigration is responsible for estimating our
wheat crop in 1921 at 700,000,000 bushels. This
may seem optimistic, but who can tell? Five
million acres of virgin soil will be taken up by
the incoming tide this year. The West is alive
to its unfolding possibilities, and certainly things
do move.

A few weeks ago I travelled over the wheat
plains of Western Saskatchewan. They seem limit-
less. North, south, east and west to where the
sky line blends with the whiteness of the prairie's
winter coat lies a vast area of rich and level
land. Here and there a settler's home upon the
broad openness of the far-flung plains. A few
months more, the golden grain fields, an open sea
of wheat—a mine of untold wealth, for at times
it almost seems that even the recklessness of the
wheat-growing land-robber is powerless to exhaust
the soil of its fertility, and that present condi-
tions may continue for many, many years to
come. But even in the very center of the wheat
country they are building more solidly than upon
wheat alone, and in this they are adding to the
stability of their agriculture.

R. J. DEACHMAN.

HORSES.

Stay with the Right Kind of Sires.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am much interested in reading the different
articles in your paper on horse-breeding and selec-
tion of sires. At the outset, may I ask the ques-
tion, in the selection of sires, who are we to be-
lieve, the importer with his champions, the sales-
man, general gossip, or the market, or where are
we to learn these very important lessons? In
writing of this, I refer to draft horses. In the
first place, two-thirds of the horses imported
should have been castrated, then the market would
have very few more good geldings on it. The
trouble is, in Scotland anything of a horse colt
that they can scrape up a pedigree for is kept for
a sire, and goes into the hands of the dealer, and
with every good horse you select they put two
poor ones on you, or, you can't have the good
one unless you pay an outrageous price. In the
second place, things will need to take a change
or we will lose our draft horses, for if we are
foolish enough to be led by the lessons of the re-
cent shows, and take their champions as an ex-
ample, to breed good geldings and mares, I am
afraid the market will turn a deaf ear.

We want a horse with lots of size, quality and
thickness, with good large, sound feet and lots of
bone, not horses with their breeching and stifles
all screwed up and their front legs both driven
in the same hole, with no padding of flesh on
their back and coarse coats. I will say here,
again, let us stay with the good thick-stamp
horses, with well-developed quarters, that, when
we harness and hitch them, pick up our lines and
mount our wagons, we have something to look at.
Then, in the third place, we can't believe the
salesman, or general gossip, for we get too many
opinions. And, in the fourth place, if we want
to make our breeding operations profitable, we
must stay with what the market demands. It
does not matter when we go to market with a
good thick, quality gelding, weighing around
1,800 pounds and up, whether he is of any popu-
lar strain. There are lots of good strains which,
if they had money influence at the back of them,
would do our Canadian breeding operations heaps
of good and create a demand they are not enjoy-
ing. Don't let us lose our draft horse for any
popular craze. We hear this voiced on every
hand. Some one may say the breeding of good geld-
ings is not the whole tip; we want some good
mares. Well, if we get them, so much the better,
as long as they are of the type described. We will
have more mares to do our work, and raise the
kind we want, both of geldings and mares.

Coming back to the importing and selecting of
stallions, we must not blame the importer too
much for bringing out too many second- and
third-class horses, for I believe it is out of this
class of horses they make most profits, for too
many men, when they go to buy a stallion, get
a horse to suit their pile, and, as long as he is
imported and registered, he is all right to run at
\$10 to \$12, but they can't afford to buy a horse
at \$1,800 to \$2,000, and run him at the usual
fee. Now, here is where breeders are to blame.
When a man buys a really high-class horse, and
asks \$15 or more for his use, how many men will
pay it? Instead, they will go and use the \$10-
horse, and seem to be prejudiced against the good

horse. I don't know why, but it is the case the
world over, that a great many men will never use
a neighbor's horse, even if he was the best in the
world. There are not many who make money
out of the horse business. You show me one
man who has made money, and I will show you
ten who lost about all they had; that is, if they
depend on service fees, but if a man has a few
good mares of his own he may pull out. In con-
clusion, I would say, if we are going to breed
draft horses, don't use a horse unless he weighs
1,900 pounds and up, of the right kind, with
some stamp about him. Too many of our stall-
ions only weigh 1,500 to 1,600 pounds; we
want geldings to weigh that, and more. Give the
man with the good thick, quality horse (don't for-
get that) a chance, encourage him, give him a
deposit at time of service enough to defray ex-
penses, and enough at collecting time to pay for
his horse; and if he proves successful, and makes
a little money, don't ask the horseman to always
play marbles for fun and pay all expenses. I
hope those who are interested in the business will
try and help it out.
Wellington Co., Ont.

R. B. YOUNG.

The Farmer's Horse.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In briefly outlining our opinion on the above
subject, it becomes necessary to take a backward
look, and see whether, with the stallions in use
during the past twenty years, we have made any
progress, or are just simply marking time. Twenty
or twenty-five years ago every farmer
raised his own horse, and besides, generally had
a horse to sell every year. Previous to that date
there was a very good, serviceable class of Cly-
desdale stallions doing service in the Eastern part
of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. At
the present time those stallions would be consid-
ered too light to meet the requirements of the
trade. They would weigh from 1,400 to 1,600
pounds, and were active, trappy-gaited fellows,
and, bred to the common mares of the country,
got colts that were eagerly picked up at remunera-
tive prices by American buyers, and also made a
splendid farm horse, were just what was wanted
for the plow, harrow or mowing machine, and
would carry a large load to market, take the
farmer and his family to church or to a picnic
at a fair rate of speed.

Every summer American buyers came here and
took away every sound horse that could be spared
off the farm, and right here was where the mis-
take was made—selling our best mares that should
be kept for breeding purposes. Instead of doing
so, if those mares were kept and bred to the Cly-
desdale stallions that have come into the country
since, and their progeny again bred to the stall-
ions of the same breed, that are being imported
at the present time, then we should have a class
of horses second to none on earth. Colts that
could be hitched alongside their dams at 2½ years
of age, and made to own their own living by do-
ing the ordinary work on the farm until ready
for market.

Now, instead of having this style of horse,
what do we find? A mixture of everything—
Standard-bred, Thoroughbred, Hackney, English,
French and German Coach, Clydesdale, Shire and
Percheron, and a buyer would have to travel the
length and breadth of the county, we might al-
most say Province, before he could get a carload
of any.

Let it not be understood that we have any
fault to find with any of the above breeds. There
are good horses among them all, and men have
made money out of all the different breeds, but
the average farmer wants to avoid horses that
need a professional trainer to fit them for mar-
ket. He wants, also, to avoid fads. At the
present time the craze is for big, overgrown
horses; everything is sacrificed for size. A horse
that weighs a ton, or thereabouts, is now con-
sidered the right thing to breed to, just because
there is a limited demand in the big cities for
such a horse, and ignoring an unlimited market
right at our door for a quick-moving, active
draft or express horse that will weigh from 1,200
to 1,400 pounds—heavy enough for all kinds of
farm work, and active enough to pull a load of
produce to market at an eight-mile-an-hour gait,
and would bring, when sold, from \$150 to \$175.
To breed such a horse, it is not enough that the
stallion we use should be a Clydesdale, although
we are firmly convinced that the Clydesdale is
pre-eminently the farmer's horse; still, not every
stallion of that breed will fill the bill. We want
to select him for his action, quality of bone and
conformation, rather than for his size; and, by
refusing to sell our best mare colts, we could in
a very few years have a class of horses, farm
horses in particular, that would make Canada
famous, and be a source of pleasure and profit
to the individual breeder.

Baton Co., N. S. ANDREW McPHERSON.

Read not to contradict and confute, nor to be-
lieve and take for granted, but to weigh and
consider.—[Bacon.]