

thrown back, and the fish swallowed with a succession of jerks.

It is a pity that this bird is so frequently the target of a thoughtless gunner, as while it is of no economic value, it certainly adds a graceful touch to our water-ways.

HORSES.

Did any immediate good ever come from raising a row with the judges over a decision?

It has been said that a good horse is never a bad color, but very often the color of a horse detracts very much from his appearance.

The draft-horse judge usually looks for plenty of size and substance, and these not at the expense of quality.

The mare owner may well bear in mind that the fall colt is better than no colt, and is preferred by some successful horse breeders to the colt foaled in the spring. If the mare has not conceived, there is still time. Give her every opportunity to become a producer.

White Knight, a Thoroughbred stallion, has recently changed hands at what is said to be a record price for a horse, viz., \$200,000. His former owner was W. R. Wynham, and the purchaser, a French race-horse man, Edmund Blanc, the same man who paid over \$196,000 for Flying Fox. White Knight was sired by Desmond.

If there is any one place where horse manners count more than another, it is in the show ring. A drafter that does not lead up well, a roadster or a harness horse that does not drive right up to the bit, a saddler that does not walk, trot and canter readily or a hunter that bolts at the fence, has little chance of winning the coveted rosettes, silverware and accompanying money prizes. Get ready for the fall exhibitions.

How Many Horses for the Farm?

Too many work horses on a farm are a bill of expense; too few is mistaken economy. The number of work horses kept on any given acreage, depends wholly upon the class of farming carried on. A rough, hilly farm, largely used for grazing purposes, does not require so many work horses as does the same-sized farm with its acres all under cultivation. No set rule is possible upon which we may base the number of horses kept upon the number of acres in the farm.

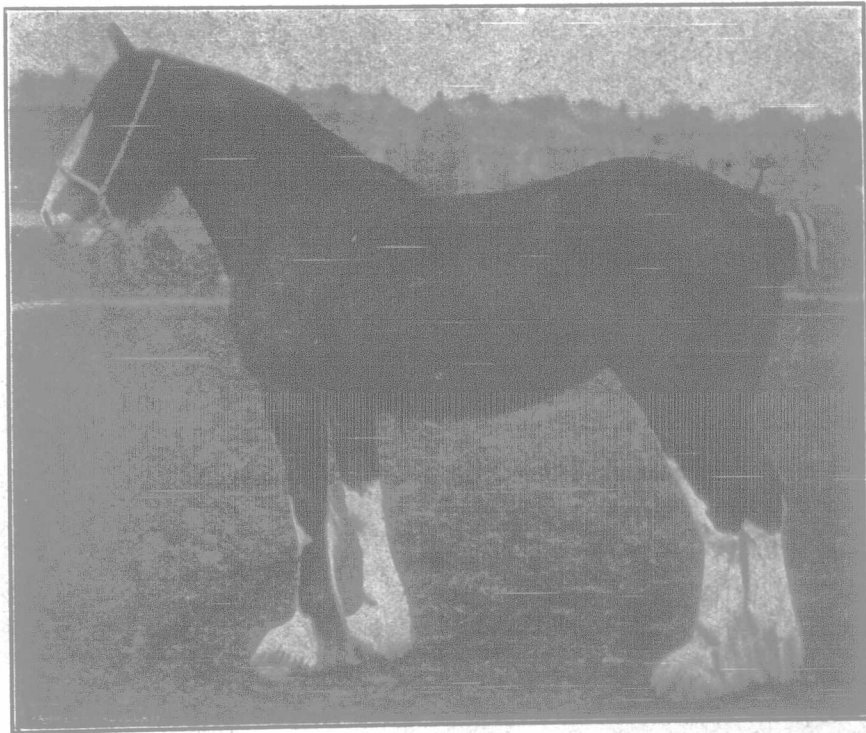
Farmers are sometimes horse-poor in the same sense that a man who owns several thousands of acres of arid or blow-sand land, is considered to be land-poor. The writer remembers a man who considered himself considerable of a horse fancier, and who kept around him, on a farm of less than one hundred acres and operated as a mixed farm, from ten to twelve horses of all ages, most of which were of a very indifferent class and not marketable at the best prices, nor were they very efficient as farm work horses. This man was always horse-poor. He seemed to imagine that it required nearly all these horses to do his farm work, and was always ready to buy another scrub, for such he usually purchased, because it sold at a low price which he called cheap, but which in the end proved to be very dear, for once in his stable the animal generally remained until death removed it, or it was disposed of at a loss. These horses ate up practically all the feed the farm produced, which might have been used to good purpose in feeding a few real good breeding mares and their progeny, the mares being the farm work horses.

If a man is in the horse-breeding business and is producing the good things, which are in most demand, he may profitably keep a larger number of horses than the average farmer can, but this article refers to the average farmer who plans to keep just enough horses to work his land and sells the surplus from his brood mares. Of course, where three or four good brood mares are kept and they breed fairly regularly, there may seem to be a rather large stock of horses on the farm sometimes. For instance, there may be the four mares and the four foals, and it is possible that there may be four yearlings and four two-year-olds although the latter is not probable, for it is seldom indeed that four mares are found in one stable and all four are so regular breeders as to produce a foal each in each of three consecutive years. The point is this, the owner of these mares (good brood mares mark you) and all the colts could not be considered horse-poor, as was the man heretofore mentioned, for his mares are choice, and he

simply keeps their progeny to be sold at three or four years of age because it pays him to do so.

The good colts grow in value from year to year to such an extent as to far more than pay for the feed consumed. It is a business proposition. But with the four mares one can scarcely estimate more than fifty per cent increase one year with another, so the stock would not be so large as reckoned. Suppose these mares raised two colts each year, and the colts were kept until rising three years of age, the farm would be stocked with four mares, two foals, two yearlings, and two two-year-olds, or ten all told. Each and everyone is a good individual, marketable at a good price any time, but the colts are held until ready to go to work, on account of their increased value then. Compare these conditions with those of the first man alluded to who kept from ten to twelve scrubby individuals, mostly mature or nearly so, and the greater part of them geldings, useful only as serviceable workers and scarcely "serviceable," and never marketable at a profit. One has too many horses, the other, because his horses are the right kind and are managed on a paying basis, is not overstocked.

There is something in the kind of horse kept as a factor in determining the number which the farm can profitably support. We gather from the operations of the horse-poor farmer that a poor horse is a money loser, and the more of them a person has the greater his losses per head. On the other hand the man who keeps good, sound, useful brood mares to do his work gets his farm work done in good time, has a few colts which may be used to help out during the rush seasons, has a product in his colts which is readily marketable at a profit, and his work horses are money makers.



Phyllis.

A three-year-old Clydesdale filly, female champion at the recent Glasgow Show.

How many work horses should the man on the hundred-acre farm keep? Of the poor class, none; of the good kind, what his line of work demands together with the progeny from them to be sold off when most profitable. Four good work horses should be sufficient for most farms of 100 acres where mixed farming is carried on. Specialized conditions may require more or less than this number. This makes it possible to work a four-horse team or two two-horse teams, each of which may, at times, be found advantageous. Some get along with three good horses on this size of farm, and others keep five. It does not pay to limit the number to such an extent that seeding and like work, which must be done in the shortest possible time, is too long drawn out. Every day's delay after the land is ready to work means a shorter crop. The breeding of the mares used to do the farm work makes it possible to clear a profit on a mare which is not needed all the time, but which can be well utilized during seeding, harvest and fall work. She is thus given plenty of time with her foal. Besides, where the mares are used to do the work, a large enough number should be provided that it is not necessary to overwork any of them. With the best of care they will not all breed every year. Those not raising foals should be made to do the heavy end of the work.

The problem of how many horses to keep on the farm is one which must be settled by each individual farmer himself. He should know best what he requires. Avoid too many work horses, and plan not to keep too few. Never keep inferior animals, and let the workers be breeders as well.

The Roadster.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate."

A certain type of automobile is called a "roadster" but it is not this that prompts me to write, but rather a breed of horses intended like the car mentioned to make good time on the road. It would be folly to say that one breed of horses was worthy of more praise than another, for all our recognized breeds in this country have their place; but the Standard-bred horse is one of the best light horses for driving purposes. One cannot but admire a nicely-turned trim, clean-limbed trotter with his free, easy gait as he glides over the ground. The ease with which the best individuals show bursts of speed is marvellous. As a good light horse for all kinds of road purposes, it would be difficult to find a better horse than the Standard-bred. He makes good time, does it easily, and possesses sufficient stamina to be a first-class all-day horse. As a general thing his manners are good, and, properly trained, he is quiet and safe. There can be no doubt but that the Standard-bred horse is one of the most useful of our lighter breeds of horses. His bulwark is his utility, and his glory is sure to endure.

HORSY.

The Horse - Market Outlook.

A reader of the Farmer's Advocate, in conversation on Agricultural topics recently, remarked that the horse trade seemed rather dull at present, and he didn't think sales were being made quite as readily as they were a year or so ago. Perhaps not. There may be a tendency towards easiness in the trade, but nevertheless the

fact remains that if a good horse is required, considerable searching is necessary before one for sale is found, and when it is located the price asked does not show much decline from those asked for such animals one or two years ago. The same gentleman who made the remark, and who is a very successful Perth county farmer, and a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, shortly afterwards asked "Do you know where I could get a real good, young driving horse? I have looked all over our section of country and cannot find one which would suit at a reasonable price." This just about fits the situation. People generally believe that horses are lower in price and yet they are scarce, and prices asked are high, and owners refuse to sell unless a good price is obtained. This same gentleman stated that good draft

geldings, three years of age, can now be purchased for \$200. This price is not too small to pay a man for producing the colt, provided the mare is kept as a farm-work horse as well as a brood mare. A farm requires a certain number of work horses, and why not have the majority of these brood mares? Let the geldings go to the city to do the heavy dray work, and retain the mares on the farm. A good deal of the difficulty experienced in raising colts is caused by the mare not receiving a necessary amount of exercise, she being kept solely for breeding. Let her do the work on the farm, and keep her at it regularly. If she does this and raises a colt each year, which at three years of age is worth \$200, raising the colt pays. Now we would not like to say that horses would or would not be cheaper in the near future. The horse market, like all other markets, has its ups and downs and foretelling what its condition a year ahead will be is almost as difficult as weather prognosticating so far into the future. But whether prices fall or soar we do believe that they will not, in several years to come, go so low that it will not pay the farmer with a few good heavy draft brood mares and who uses them to do his work as well as to raise colts, to breed his mares regularly year after year.

Special mention is made of the heavy draft horse, but there is right now a scarcity of the right kind of driving horses. Really good, sound roadsters, with size and substance and a reasonable amount of speed, are scarce, as shown by the remark of our friend previously quoted. This, from observations, seems to be the case