

## HORSE

### Clydesdale Registration and the Customs.

The questions raised by our correspondent, "Scotland Yet," in his letter appearing in last week's issue of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, regarding the regulations of the Clydesdale Association of Canada, and the relation of that association to the National Record Office at Ottawa, and to the Customs regulations of the country, are, to our mind, not difficult to answer, and it seems strange that so general a lack of information on these points exists among breeders and importers, and that our correspondent confesses his inability to get much light on the subject from official quarters.

The Record Office at Ottawa simply does the recording for the Clydesdale Horse Association, and for other breed societies having representatives on the National Record Board. Each association is entirely independent of the Record Board, the Record Committee, or the Record Office, so far as the pedigree rules of entry are concerned. The record Committee acts as an executive to see that regulations of each Association are carried out in recording the pedigrees, and issuing certificates of registration on account of the Clydesdale Association, as well as other associations represented on the Record Board.

There is no connection between the Customs regulations and any of the breed Record Associations, or the Record Office. The Customs regulations do not specify any foreign records as being officially recognized. Indeed, so wide open are the doors thrown that almost any certificate purporting to show the purity of breeding is accepted as evidence of the right to duty-free entrance for breeding purposes and the improvement of stock. So wide open is the door that some of the Canadian breed societies have memorialized the Dominion Government by resolution, requesting that the Customs regulations be so changed as to provide that stock must first be recorded in Canadian records for the breeds to which the animals belong before being entitled to entry free of duty, but so far no action in this direction has been taken by the Government. The executive of one of the most important breed societies has, indeed, gone so far as to recommend that the society petition the Government to make it necessary that all animals imported must not only be registered in Canadian records, but must be owned by British subjects resident in Canada before being entitled to entry free of duty; but if such petition were presented, no action has been taken by the Government. From this statement, it will be seen that the relation of the pedigree Record Associations to the Customs is the same as that of any other society or individual subject of the realm—simply the right of petition.

The action recently taken by the Clydesdale Horse Association, in amending its rules governing the registration in the Canadian Studbook of imported Clydesdales, therefore has no necessary connection with the Customs regulations, and, for the present at least, the export certificates of acceptance for registration in the Studbook of the Clydesdale Horse Association of Great Britain and Ireland, commonly called the Scottish Studbook, will, as formerly, be sufficient to pass the Canadian Customs duty-free. And as these export certificates, signed by the secretary (who is also registrar), entitle to registry in the Scottish Studbook, they will also entitle horses and mares imported before July 1st, 1907, to registry in the Canadian Clydesdale Studbook. In the case of animals imported after July 1st, the amended pedigree rules, requiring that an increased number of ancestors must bear registration numbers in the Scottish book, will apply. The amended rule reads:

"That imported Clydesdale males or females bearing registration numbers in the Clydesdale Studbook of Great Britain and Ireland, whose sires and dams, together with their sires and dams, are also recorded and bearing registration numbers in such Studbook, shall be accepted for registration in the Clydesdale Studbook of Canada, and this amendment shall come into force on the first day of July, 1907."

By comparing this rule with the rules printed on the back of the forms of application for registry, supplied by the Record Office at Ottawa, and with the pedigree rules of the Scottish Stud-

book, as published on page 1003, in our issue of July 3rd, the situation should be made tolerably clear to all interested.

### The Horse Trade.

The rapid growth of Canadian cities and towns, the unprecedented expansion of business enterprise, and the rush for settlement of our new farm lands, are all factors in the continued demand for work horses in greater numbers than at any other period in the history of the country. Those who are fortunate enough to have horses to sell are reaping a rich harvest; those who have to buy are paying very high prices for the horse power they need, and there is every prospect that an active demand and stiff prices will continue for years to come, as in the present state of affairs there is nothing in the nature of a boom, but the demand and the prices are the legitimate result of the conditions of trade and the movements of immigration and business projects. There are only two sources from which the stock with which to supply this demand may be derived; namely, breeding and raising the colts on our farms or importing from other countries. The latter course is clearly impractical of accomplishment with profit, since prices rule quite as high and the demand is quite as great in the neighboring country, and also in Europe. The only recourse, therefore, open to us, appears to be the raising of the stock to meet the requirements. And, with present prospects, there is reasonable encouragement to Canadian farmers to breed and raise colts of the classes best suited to the market and likely to bring the best prices. We have a healthy climate, and can grow in abundance the necessary feed for this class of stock at a minimum of cost of production.

While the demand and the market prices at present are good for both heavy-draft and light horses, and men who are competent judges of the latter, and whose fancy runs in that direction have a large and profitable field for their effort in producing them, the average farmer is certainly safe in breeding and raising the heavy class, which come into use and profit at an earlier age, and are less liable to be discounted in value by slight blemishes or accidental injury, since they may, despite these handicaps, make satisfactory workers.

The great lack in this country, however, is the scarcity of suitable mares from which to breed the class of heavy horses that command the best price. Enterprising importers are bringing from Great Britain and other countries, in considerable numbers, young mares of the needed class, which are being sold at auction at the buyers' prices, and are being secured at figures not much higher than good geldings bring in the market. These should help to supply the lack of good brood mares, while heavy-draft stallions of good breeding and quality, in much larger numbers than in former years, are standing for service, and the good, young, homebred mares coming of breeding age, if judiciously mated, will help, in the near future, to supply in large numbers the class of work horses called for, so that the prospect is by no means discouraging, but rather the opposite.

### Will Form a Percheron Record Society.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

At the request of a large number of breeders and others interested in Percheron horses, I am calling a meeting for the purpose of organizing a record society for this breed under the Dominion Act respecting the incorporation of live stock associations, to be held at the time of the Regina Fair, in the offices of the Department of Agriculture, Regina, on Thursday, August 1st at 9 a.m.

I have received a large number of responses to the circular letter issued a short time ago, from those interested in Percheron horses, enthusiastically supporting the idea of a Canadian National Record for this breed, which is becoming so popular throughout the Western Provinces.

GEORGE H. GREIG.

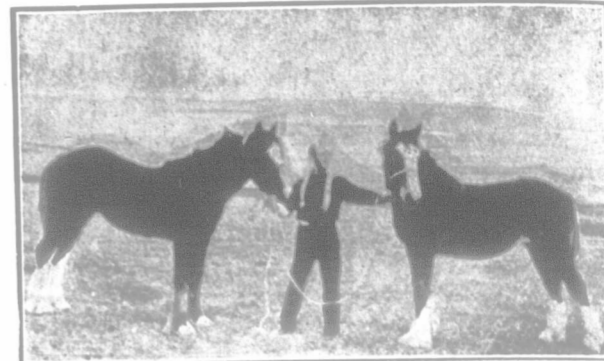
Deputy Live Stock Commissioner.

### Alberta Yearlings.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

According to my promise to your readers I am sending you a photo of the two colts which were used to illustrate an article of mine last fall. I said then I would let you know how colts look after spending the winter upon an Alberta range. These colts were wintered as I described our methods last fall.

The photo was taken early this spring just after the Calgary show and the colts are as near the position they were in in the previous photo



KING

BARHARROW GEM

Yearlings, after a winter on an Alberta Range.

as we could get them. They have made very satisfactory progress during the winter months. They have maintained a high degree of quality about the legs and feet, clean strong joints and a large and well proportioned frame. Barharrow's Gem won first prize in the grade yearling heavy draft class at Calgary spring horse show.

Key Ranch, Alta.

E. C. HALLMAN.

### Shows and Horsebreeding.

In the course of an article on "Our National Shows and Societies in Relation to Horse-breeding" in the *Journal of the Bath and West Society*, Mr. J. L. Nickission defends the English show system from some of the criticisms which have been levelled against it. In the course of his article, he writes:

The improvement in all classes of live stock, but especially horses, during even the last ten or twelve years, has been one of the most striking features of the times; and there is no doubt that much of this is due to the encouragement afforded by the show system. This has helped to fix a high standard and ideal; has stimulated public interest, and educated public opinion; has drawn attention to and popularised the breeds; has attracted foreign and colonial buyers; has engendered keen competition; and has caused large sums of money to be expended for the encouragement and improvement of the animal.

It is true enough that the present system of horse shows has its detractors. A very common criticism is that show horses are of little use in after life, or when their show-yard career ends and that their value and influence to often cease with the show. But surely this is a crude and narrow view of the case. Our shows are, after all, schools wherein to educate public opinion; they fix a type, and their supporters rightly maintain that, given certain points and perfections, a certain stamp of horse should be capable of performing certain functions, and no doubt in most cases this belief is justified.

Another objection one frequently meets with is the unhealthy and unnatural forcing which slow animals so often receive, to their ultimate detriment. But this again is surely more a matter for the owner who, as a rule, may be trusted to treat his live stock in the wisest way. Perhaps a still more frequent objection heard is that the prizes of the show-ring go with far too great a regularity to a small and select band of exhibitors, who are somewhat unjustly termed "professional showmen." These and such-like objections are, however, very small matters in comparison with the undoubted good these national shows and societies have accomplished throughout the length and breadth of the land.

If in the past our national shows and societies have done much to encourage and promote horsebreeding what shall be said of the future? Their success brings with it a threefold responsibility; viz.—(1) to the nation, (2) to the breed itself, and (3) to their patrons.

Let us consider the subject under these heads:

1. Their responsibility to the nation. The blood stock of this country is universally acknowledged to be the finest in the world, and Great Britain is especially the home of those breeds more intimately connected with this article, such as hunters, Hackneys, Shires, and ponies. To set an ideal standard of excellence, to keep such breeds up to their present high perfection, and to safeguard the purity and soundness of our breeding stock, is surely a duty of national importance, and one which our great shows and breed societies are successfully carrying out.

2. Their responsibility to the breed itself. To keep these breeds pure, to stimulate healthy rivalry, and to encourage, and, if possible, further improve the type, is surely a great national trust, which is being wisely recognised by our principal shows and societies.

3. And lastly, their responsibility to their patrons. This is being provided for by the aid of Studbooks, general legislation, and monetary grants. Shows, by affording our friends and neighbors from across the seas opportunity to see and study the best specimens of our various breeds, at the same time provide a lucrative market for the benefit of the breeders.

The good work already done should lead to a wider and more general support on the part of the public

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