

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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### The Peril of Paternalism.

At the last annual convention of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association, Hon. Nelson Monteith, the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, took occasion to observe that he had noticed a growing tendency to lean upon the Government. A contributor of repute, in "The Farmer's Advocate" for Feb. 15th, also referred to what he described as "the degrading system of paying people to do in the public interest what they might do of themselves." That the Minister should thus early in his official career begin to manifest symptoms of concern that there is a possibility of paternalism going beyond a limit, is perhaps not altogether to be wondered at.

If we except the application of the protective tariff system, and the tardiness of our Governments in dealing with the transportation corporations, "promoting the interests of the farmer" is a conspicuous feature of public effort in Canada. Of course there is room for considerable fostering of industry in a young country like ours, and the value of aid to agricultural and live-stock exhibitions, to the investigation of agricultural problems and legitimate educational work, is cheerfully conceded. Tribute can honestly be paid also to the band of efficient and faithful men engaged in the public service of agriculture in this country, the vast majority of whom, disinterestedly and sagaciously, are devoting themselves to proper and faithful effort. We know of no land where, on the whole, their equal is to be found.

But the tendency to lean becomes chronic and weakening, and is liable to be taken advantage of betimes by a particularly office-hungry element whose appetites are only equalled by their fertility in exploiting fresh projects dangerously near the borderland of "graft," into which others are innocently led.

It is wholesome now and then to look about and see what people have done and can do for themselves by self-reliant, individual enterprise. Of this we have an outstanding illustration in

the pure-bred live-stock industry of Great Britain, where the world still turns for its best foundation stock in nearly all the great classes of farm animals. The marvellous success and permanence of the results achieved by men who stood squarely on their own feet, which have not been duplicated anywhere else, or at any time, challenge our admiration as an example and an incentive.

When the course of paternalism is pursued as a policy, it is not long before public funds, generously granted by Governments for legitimate effort, may be diverted into dubious and uncalled-for channels, or in aid of schemes that should stand on their own bottom or fall; a disinclination to publicity, and a nervous apprehension of criticism manifests itself with an unflinching yearning for the "Good Lord, good devil" tune of the hand-organ.

The peril of organized agricultural work is the temptation to graft, against which Cabinet Ministers and leading departmental officers, Federal and Provincial, ceaselessly set their faces, in order to stay the development of sinister and destructive influences which dig graves for Governments, and which, in the very nature of things, can work no real or permanent good to the farmer who, in the final analysis, chiefly foots the bill, while personally-interested individuals reap the substantial benefits.

### HORSES.

Hard lumps on shoulders should be dissected out now, so that the wound will be healed before seeding.

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If you are one of a syndicate who has a breeding stallion, see that he is getting plenty of exercise and outdoor life. It means health and vigor.

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There is no reason why there should not be mutual advantage in stallion syndicates throughout the country to exchange horses. A notice of a desire to make a shift, inserted in our advertising columns, would facilitate a deal.

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Dry hair, harsh skin and lack of spirit are common complaints at this time of year. Look after the teeth, give some boiled feed, flax or oil cake, and a carrot or two, increase the grain allowance, and, if necessary, feed a tonic. Half the trouble in keeping horses in condition during summer may be avoided now by fitting them up.

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Trade in Clydesdales in the States has been more than ordinarily brisk. After the last International, Secretary Ogilvie sent out six hundred circular letters to Clydesdale breeders, asking if they would contribute to a combination sale in Chicago, but only two replied that they had horses to sell, and these had but three and four.

### The Farmer's Horse-breeding Policy.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The questions upon which you have invited discussion (issue Feb. 15th) are just now particularly timely. The encouragement given to the business of horse-breeding by the high prices and active demand for horses at present, is inducing many farmers to breed their mares more freely, and to consider the advantage of raising and selling marketable horses. The lack of a little forethought now, the pursuing of a haphazard, hit-or-miss method of breeding, even the unintentional disregard of the necessity of maintaining uniformity in the types of horses we produce, cannot but serve to lessen profits and retard progress. On the other hand, the adoption of a consistent and uniform policy and the following of a definite, systematic line of work will insure breeders against the risk of disappointment, and cannot but win for Canadian horses a reputation that should be an enviable one. I will try to outline my thought on the solution of the problem now confronting horse-breeders.

The horse has always borne a different relation to man than our other farm animals, but probably that very relation, pleasurable as it has been, may have served somewhat to check rather than increase the profits in the business of horse-breeding. The farmer has frequently neglected to consider the raising of horses as a permanent source of profit on the farm, and has been inclined to think only of his own work and his own needs. Particularly was this the case during the years of small demand and low prices. But with the greater possibility of profit in horse-breeding, since prices for horses have increased, this work is now becoming a business proposition, and the principles of competition must obtain here as in any other commercial enterprise. He who pro-

duces the article demanded can set his price and secure the trade. As a matter of fact, the requirements of the farm do not determine the prices paid for horses on the larger markets of Great Britain and America. Horses are classified there largely as they relate themselves to the demands of the city trade. Unless we cater to this trade and aim to produce a marketable horse, one that will bring the highest price in his class, we cannot expect to realize anything encouraging or satisfactory in the way of returns. Moreover, the inspiration of competition and the stimulus of business activity will be two very strong incentives to give greater attention to the improvement of the horses we produce. In the pursuit of this policy we need not lose our ancient love for the horse, and, moreover, we need not be forgetting our own interests. We shall always find that we have animals on our hands which are hardly up to the market requirements, but which will be eminently fitted for our work on the farm. We shall be much farther ahead, I think, if we adopt this method than if we simply consider our own needs and our own work.

For the sake of brevity, my views in reference to the other questions I shall try to group together. Indiscriminate breeding and lack of judgment in mating mares has, of late years, been working havoc with our horse interests in the country. For this the multiplication of breeds has been partly responsible. The crossing of breeds and mixing of types can never result in anything else than in the production of mongrels. Had we not better confine ourselves, therefore, to the development of, at most, two or three types, and to the development of a certain type within one, or at most two distinct breeds? Such is the way that the reputation of any breed or type of animals has developed in any land. Such, I think, is the only way that the deserved reputation for Canadian horses can be maintained or improved.

As is well known, there are at least four types that should receive notice—the saddle type, the road type, the carriage type, and the draft type. Of all these, probably the most profitable horse for the farmer to raise is the horse that would classify under the last group. Of course, this selection of a breed or type must always be a case of individual taste and preference, but the average farmer has neither the time nor ability, nor opportunity to train and manner a light horse to render him a salable animal in his own class. The draft colt, moreover, develops into an animal more serviceable in farm work, is salable and workable at an earlier age than one of the lighter breeds, and altogether is, I think, a safer proposition to the man who is not a master in the art of breeding, feeding and fitting horses for sale and market. And we are not all masters. In my judgment, in the lighter classes there is the greatest prospect of success in raising carriage and saddle horses, for the simple reason that we can select sires to produce these horses, from the use of which we may reasonably expect a fairly uniform and standard product. The road horse is a good horse, and, if of the right kind, a salable horse, but it is a question whether we can find any but an occasional sire that will uniformly reproduce his kind. At least, one may well hesitate in the free use of such a horse before he has learned of the character of his progeny.

In selecting sires to produce these types, we come to a consideration of breeds. The selection of a breed must also be a question of individual preference, but the venture of an opinion by different men may serve a useful purpose. I suppose that it will be admitted that we may most safely depend upon the Thoroughbred in selecting a horse to sire saddlers, but there is a difference in Thoroughbreds. A prepotent sire must himself show the conformation, temper, constitution, character and action that we are hoping to see reproduced in his progeny. In the selection of a carriage sire we have a greater latitude of choice. Without disparaging other breeds, may we not, as others have done, freely champion the Hackney. He is the best known carriage sire in Canada to-day; there is probably more of his blood in carriage-bred mares in this country than the blood of any other horse. Moreover, he possesses the typical conformation, style, symmetry, grace of form and action, and the prepotency, as well, to render him a serviceable and profitable animal in the stud. We shall be working in the line of progress, I think, if we retain him as our carriage sire.

In selecting a draft sire, we must always bear in mind the breeding of our mares. If our mares are three-parts Percheron-bred, or three-parts Belgian-bred, it will be folly to use a Clydesdale or a Shire. If, on the other hand, our mares carry in their veins a greater percentage of Clydesdale blood, will it not be the part of wisdom to select a Clydesdale to sire our colts? Racially, probably the majority of our people favor the Clydesdale. He is a popular horse on the city market at the present time, and he adapts himself well, also, to the requirements of farm work. As a country, shall we not do better to confine ourselves largely to the development of our draft