

Selecting Horse Judges.

In the proper management of horse shows there is no feature demanding greater care on the part of directors than the selection of conscientious men, who are competent to act as judges. Any one who has closely followed live stock shows of any kind, and those of horses in particular, knows that even for our most important exhibitions men are sometimes chosen through the influence of exhibitors who hope to have their animals adorned with colors to which they may possibly not be entitled. It also happens occasionally that men known for their honesty and fairness, rather than ability to perform the important office of a judge, find a place within the ring. The latter type is, of course, preferable, but in either case dissatisfaction is the result, and the highest function of the show as an educator is lost, besides the discouragement which it brings to the owner of choice stock that has been turned down.

Just how to remedy this state of affairs is a question in the mind of those who would have the highest mission of our horse shows promoted. For the large shows the present practice of having judges chosen or recommended by the associations representing different breeds may seem on the face of it to be a very desirable one, but when it is remembered that much of the dissatisfaction which has existed in the past can be traced to the appointment of judges in this way, there is evidently a weak link in the chain. It is well known that in the membership of all these associations there are men more active and aggressive in attending meetings and furthering the interests of their breed than others. In this respect the enervating ones are to be commended, but when amongst that number we find those who are in the front ranks to further their own interest rather than that of the breed, their presence there is to be regretted. When judges are being chosen or selected for recommendation to fair boards, we believe there is an unwritten law that when one member suggests the name of a competent person any other member may dispose of his name by merely filing an objection without giving any reason for so doing; when, therefore, a conscientious man and a competent judge is under consideration the professional juggler in show-ring tactics can readily make way for one more to his choice. Now we do not wish to be understood that this always happens, but it is true that such cases have occurred in the not distant past. It has been suggested that the appointment of the judges for important shows be placed in the hands of disinterested parties, such as the Superintendent of Agricultural Societies. While by this system some of the difficulties might be eliminated, there are still others equally objectionable sure to arise, and it would appear that if any improvement may be looked for it must be found at the hands of the directors of breeders' associations themselves.

There is a common idea abroad that unless small breeders have stock of very exceptional quality, their chances for winning are small. Only a short time ago a "Farmer's Advocate" representative was asked by one of these men if he knew who was going to judge a certain class at an approaching show? He said that if a party whom he knew was a special friend to one of the larger concerns was to be the man he would not risk having one or two favorite animals turned down. Such impressions as this should not be allowed to exist. It is finally in the interest of every breeder, whether carrying on business on a large or a small scale, that the best of the breed should win. Inasmuch as favoritism may be shown, to the same extent are the best interests of that breed being prejudiced. We believe that where disinterested persons who are competent can be obtained even from a great distance, the importance of having good placing done at our larger exhibitions merits their presence, even at considerable expense. At the leading American shows such horse judges as Profs. Cur-tiss, Carlyle and others are constantly in demand. They are men whose decisions are accepted as coming from judges whose reputation as such has been built upon a foundation of fairness and competency. Having such in Canada, they should be allowed to develop. Directors of associations and exhibition boards should awaken to the necessity for exercising greater care in their selection. No petty objection should be taken to the appointment of men having a good reputation in the horse ring; substantial and satisfactory reasons for such should be forthcoming, and the real function of our shows as educators allowed to be performed.

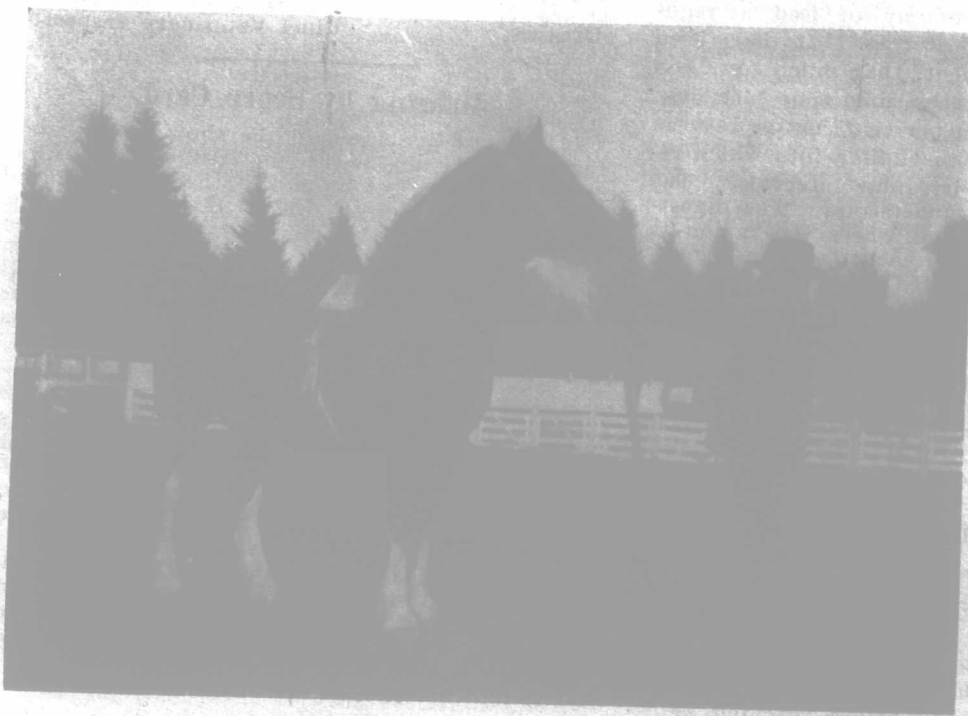
The Ottawa Ice Races.

The ice races at Ottawa this year promise to be the most successful ever held in Canada. All the classes are now filled, and some of them will have to be trotted in divisions. Horses from the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois are included in the entry list.

The meeting is to begin on the 10th of February, and will be patronized by the very best society at the Capital.

Horses Overfed.

There is doubtless no animal to be found on the farm that is so often overfed as the work-horse. Not that he generally receives more than is necessary while at work, but it is when a day of rest arrives that overfeeding is practiced. Many



CLYDESDALE STALLION, PREMIER PRINCE [2250].

First in his class and champion over all breeds at the B. C. Provincial and Industrial Exhibitions, 1902; also first at Toronto and Pan-American, 1901.

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have accustomed themselves to the idea that while in the stable the horse should always have something before him to eat; so, therefore, when an idle spell comes, hay or other roughage is supplied at will, until sickness is the result. It is safe to say that overfeeding is the chief cause of indigestion and colic, and there are no troubles so common as these among horses. If the desire should be to lay on flesh or otherwise improve the condition during the resting spell, sufficient exercise to stimulate circulation within the body should be given with due regularity; otherwise it is well for every horse-owner to reason this matter out: Should a horse require more feed when idle than when working?

Ever Faithful.

I shall always remain a faithful subscriber to the grand old "Farmer's Advocate." I have received some hints from it which I consider of very great value.

Saskatoon, Sask.

R. H. BINCH.

Food for Idle Horses.

In reference to the article on page 7 of 5th January issue, on "Wintering Idle Horses," I remember hearing of a man who, in the management of a popular summer resort, required to use quite a number of livery horses, for which he had no use during the winter months. After the season closed, he took

off their shoes and put them in a large covered yard, and fed all the clean wheat-straw they could eat, and several swede turnips for each horse daily, and towards spring began to give a little grain. Of course a few weeks before his season opened, he took all into the stable again and had them shod and driven a little every day, and thus got them ready for work. For my own part I am of the opinion that well-saved wheat straw is much healthier and safer food for idle horses than hay of any kind. The idle horse should get food that will keep his bowels rather loose than otherwise, and wheat-straw and two or three turnips, and perhaps two quarts of oat chop and one of bran will keep an idle horse in much better health than hay. Of course he must have exercise in some way.

D. LAWRENCE.

A Powerful Factor.

I prefer the "Farmer's Advocate" to any agricultural paper I have ever read, and believe it to be a powerful factor in the development and improvement of Canadian farming.

E. F. DWYER.

A great deal is being said about the need of more help on the farm, but what about the kitchen? Has the farmer's wife anything to do? If you don't believe she has, just try to follow in her footsteps some day next summer, and report your conclusions. The fact is, there is not enough effort being made to lighten the work which becomes the duty of the ordinary housewife.



CLYDESDALE STALLION, BONDEMAN [2543].

A son of the champion Young McQueen [2200].

OWNED BY JOHN HEWITSON, ALLENFORD, ONTARIO.