

What Constitutes a General-purpose Horse.

For the past ten or twelve years I have noticed the general-purpose horse class of the Toronto Exhibition, and have studied over it. Is the horse of 1,350 pounds a proper general-purpose horse or not? As the time will soon be on when the directors of our exhibitions will be revising their prize-lists, I have thought the present an opportune time to raise this question. The matured general-purpose horse in showing order not exceeding 1,350 pounds, I claim is too light when put to all kinds of general-purpose work. I admit 1,350 pounds would not be too heavy for a saddle or buggy, but three farmers out of every four, even if they only keep three horses, will have a light horse to run in the buggy, but for ten months in the year horses from fourteen to fifteen cwt. suit him best, for if he goes to market with any kind of a load he wants a horse with some weight, and I take notice that nine out of every ten teams weigh fourteen cwt. and up to fifteen cwt., and these are amongst the very best general-purpose horses. The average farmer will say that weight suits him best, and from my years of experience I have found that to cultivate the land properly fourteen or fifteen cwt. horses are the best. If we do not attend to the cultivating of our land and other farm work, which needs some strength and weight, and let the saddle and buggy take a second place, we will not thrive long in farming. I have noticed some years of late at Toronto, first-class, sound teams of geldings and mares, clean-legged, plump, round, even teams, sent to the stable because they were too heavy, weighing 1,410 pounds to 1,430 pounds, and a team getting first prize that never saw a plow or farming implement, and the team that was rejected worth three times as much money, and I am sure that if any farmer was asked which team was of the most use to him he would take the one rejected for being a little over 1,400 pounds. Then in my view of the matter we don't need judges so much to judge the qualities of the class as we need a good honest weigh master. But I think that the most of our Canadian farmers will agree with me, that a general-purpose horse between 14 and 15 cwt. is the right style for the class, and with this limit I am sure the exhibition would see far more teams in that class, and surely it is wiser to encourage farmers and the stockmen by giving them a chance to show their general-purpose teams with some hope of winning, instead of giving the prize money in that class to horses sired by Thoroughbred and trotting stallions, and which would be more in place in the carriage or road class, but which are entered in the general-purpose class because they are not good enough to win in their proper place.

York Co., Ont. FARMER EXHIBITOR.

The Benefits of Inspection of Horses.

The results of a system of veterinary inspection which has been carried out for a number of years by the Shire Horse Society of Great Britain will be of interest to all horsemen. The Shire horse, as shown at Islington annually, is to-day, undoubtedly, one of the freest from hereditary unsoundness of any breed of horses.

At the recent London Show of the Shire Horse Society, no fewer than 347 animals out of the total of 366 examined succeeded in passing the veterinary inspection, only 19 horses having to be rejected. The "faults" of these rejected ones were: Sidebone, 6; roarer, 1; whistler, 2; cataract, 2; stringhalt, 2; shiverer, 3; scirrhus cord, 1; bursal enlargement of hock, 1; lame, 1. Of the nineteen rejected, six were stallions, seven mares, and six geldings. Of the six stallions, two were whistlers, one a roarer, and one a shiverer, while one had cataract and one stringhalt. Sir Albert Muntz, in presenting the report to the members of the society, referred to the fact that not one stallion had been cast for sidebone, and it showed an immense progress and improvement achieved during the period of the society's shows.

The New Man Coming with More Sunlight.

F. R. Breckon, Halton Co., Ont.: Enclosed find new subscription and postal note for \$1.50 to cover same, which I am pleased to send you on behalf of your esteemed paper, and the good it cannot fail to do the new man coming into more sunlight.

Has the address label on your Farmer's Advocate been changed to 1904? If not, your subscription remains unpaid. Kindly remit at once.

STOCK.

Dual-purpose Cows.

A writer in the London Live-stock Journal, discussing the dual-purpose cow, says:

Most people are aware that the reason of the disappearance of the milking tendency in so many fashionable Shorthorns must be looked for in the pursuit of the square, solid shape and thick flesh which took its rise with the development of the show system, and the demand for that type which sprang up from abroad. Beef generally sold well and milk was comparatively at a discount, consequently it became necessary to breed cows which, seen in profile, should present an outline as near as possible to a parallelogram, with the fore quarters as heavily formed as the hind. In this endeavor our breeders succeeded, but in so doing some sacrificed more than they bargained for. They got the beef, but they lost the milk, and in building up a handsome butcher's beast they made her almost useless for the dairy.

Nature seems to have ordained that a large, well-shaped udder shall not accompany heavy fore quarters and thick flesh with a tendency to put on fat, and in the writer's opinion the two things will never be combined. Times have changed, the cards have been shuffled, and now we find that milk is almost the farmer's only monopoly, and if the Shorthorn is to hold its place as the great national breed, it is time to reconsider the principles of its breeding. For those who prefer to do so, it is, of course, open to adhere to exclusive beef points. But not only does the population increase, but milk is becoming every year more and more a daily necessity for the people, who will doubtless become more particular, and insist on being supplied with a pure article, and that, too, in a perfectly fresh condition.

After all, the question of beauty in an animal is only a matter of taste, and we may learn to admire a Shorthorn cow with truly feminine character and possessing all the points which accompany a bountiful supply of milk. Take the Jersey cow, for example; in her we find beauty enough, though of a different type from that of the show-ring Shorthorn.

We may go further, and assert that there need be no sacrifice of beef, or at most very little, in

Is Threshing Oats Necessary?

A breeder of pure-bred cattle asks the question, "Would it be profitable to feed cut oat-sheaves to cattle in preference to having the grain threshed and fed separately?"

This is a question on which there is room for a difference of opinion. Perhaps, if everything could be estimated, threshing would be no more expensive than chaffing, and its great advantage is that in feeding afterwards one knows exactly how much he is feeding, and whether the stock are making good use of their feed. As a general rule, in feeding cut sheaves one feeds considerably more grain than he is aware of. We are not prepared to say which is the more economical; perhaps some of our readers can?

The "Embargo" Still.

From the Secretary of the Canadian Cattle Importers' Association, Mr. W. L. Pattullo, Dundee, Scotland, we have received a copy of the report of the meeting of a deputation with Lord Onslow, President of the British Board of Agriculture, asking for the removal of the restrictions on the importation of Canadian cattle into Great Britain. The movement is said to be gaining ground steadily, but Lord Onslow's reply shows that he was not seriously impressed by it. He pointed out that the falling off in Canadian "stores" had been more than made up by great increases in Irish store cattle, and this probably goes a long way in accounting for "the milk in the cocoanut." At a subsequent "indignation meeting," the deputation unanimously decided to carry the battle to the polls—the masters of Parliament.

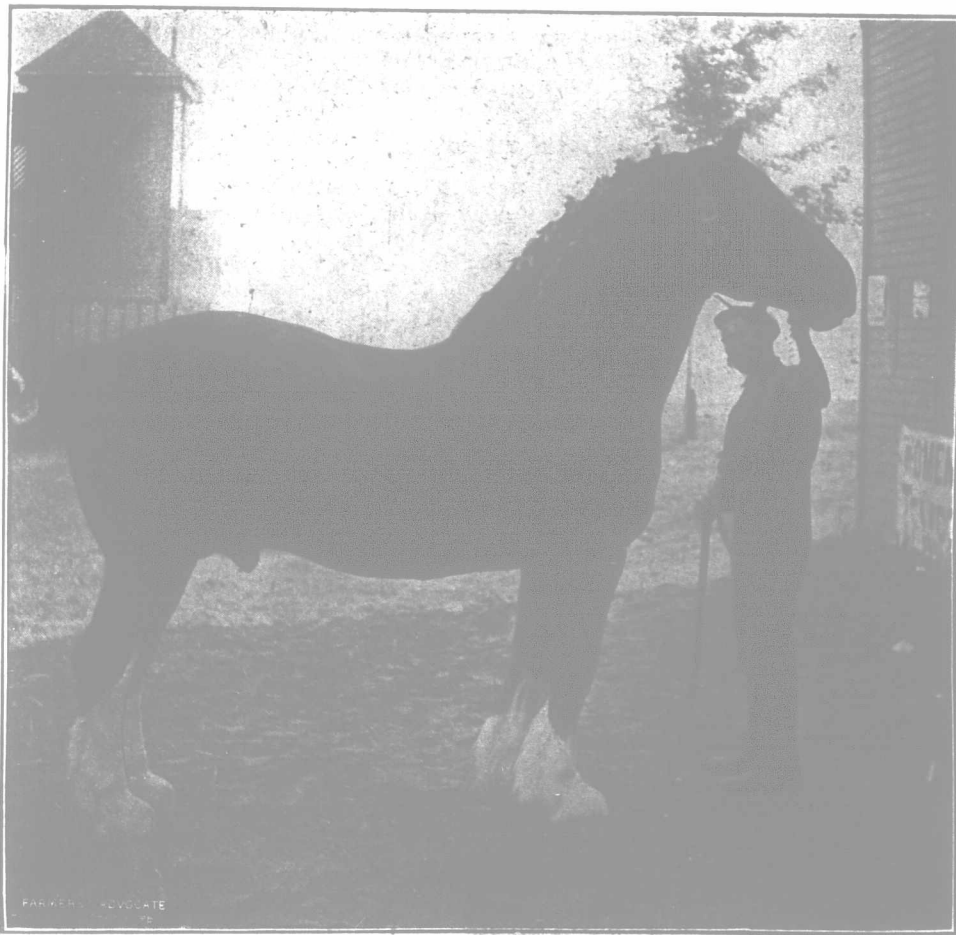
Care of Young Pigs.

The object should be to grow young pigs, not to fatten them. Time was when it was thought desirable to make and keep them fat from infancy to maturity, but fat meat is not wanted now, and the purpose is to produce lean meat, and lots of it. If a pig is made fat when it is young, it will grow into a short, thick, fat hog. If given plenty of exercise when young, and fed with foods not calculated to produce fat, but muscle or lean meat, it will grow lengthy and not wide-backed,

and will conform to the bacon type, making the best selling hog, and producing the most desirable class of meat. Therefore, give the little pigs a chance to get out on the ground on fine days as soon as practicable after they are born, and give them the run of a piece of grass land during the first four or five months, feeding them fairly well, but not fattening them till the last month, or six weeks before marketing. With such treatment they will grow and weigh well and keep healthy. Many young pigs are killed by mistaken kindness in the first four weeks of their life. The feeder likes to see them thrive and get fat, they look so pretty, but some fine morning he finds the finest of the lot having a tired feeling, its sides going like a pair of bellows; it has the "thumps," fatty degeneration of the heart, or some such ailment. One after another dumps, and a pig is an awkward subject to doctor,

and in nine cases out of ten retires to an early grave, and leaves a sad and disappointed feeder, and oftentimes not a wiser, he failing to recognize the true cause of the trouble, but repeats the treatment the next year. Feed the sow well while nursing her litter, but let her and the piglets out for a run on the ground every day when the weather is suitable, and if they cannot go out, make them stir around in the pen, if it has to be done with a broom or a switch.

As soon as navigation opens, all the pits in Glace Bay collieries, B.C., will be double-shifted, as an output of 15,000 tons per day will then be required to fill the Dominion Coal Company's contracts. A most prosperous season is expected.



Prince Romeo (8144).

Imported Clydesdale stallion. Sire Prince of Wales (673); dam Best o' Times (5582), by Old Times (579), sire of Lady Diana (winner of first at Highland Society Show) and Stately City (first and sweepstakes, Toronto), grandsire of Baron Romeo and Royal Edward. Owned by James Henderson, Belton, Ont.

restoring the pedigree Shorthorn to its old status as a dairy animal. By all means, let us retain size and weight, though the distribution of flesh may be altered in the process. The steers would still be good beef producers, and the cows, when dry, would feed to a great weight. It is not to be expected, nor, perhaps, desired, that all Shorthorn breeders should revolutionize their ideas, and try and turn their splendid beef cattle into great milk producers, but there is little doubt that it would be a great national gain if some of the younger men would form a new school, shake off the shackles of the show-ring, and go in boldly for the cultivation of dairy points. There is still plenty of material for them to work upon, and a few are already moving in this direction.