

Horse Breeding in Canada.

Before deciding in which line, whether heavy or light, it must be remembered that more judgment is required in the lighter lines of breeding, for without quality in carriage, saddle and light harness horses the prices will not be remunerative. A breeder may succeed, and will, where the useful sorts are bred, but with high class horses for amusement and pleasure the case is far different, every point for display as well as utility must be kept in view, and a more practiced eye and better judgment in deciding, the sort of crosses to be made use of, is where the whole secret of breeding is brought out. The most careful watchfulness over all will be required, and a thorough determination to excel in this work must over balance any scruples on the score of economy in feed, care, or breeding. The different breeds are all alike in many respects, and the same laws govern each line of breeding. For instance, the foot is the first important point, without which, it has been truly said, there is no horse; then the set of the pasterns, here again the same rule is carried along. In fact, whatever sphere of life the horse has to fill, the useful must always be kept in full view. A certain amount of the right quality of bone below the knee, with strong, clean joints, thighs and forearms muscled as if they meant business, must be looked to in each class alike, and the breeders of any class that ignore these points are certain, sooner or later, to find their mistake.

Vital force, by having plenty of heart and lung power, is just as necessary as any of the foregoing, after which due regard must be paid to strength of loin with proper coupling, properly sloped shoulders, well sprung rib and rounded barrel, after which it is an undoubted necessity to have neck and head properly formed and placed, with head and eye expressing good temper is strongly manifested. All must have quality sufficient for each particular line of breeding, and in every case action, without which no breed or sort are really valuable either for breeding, pleasure or work, and when we find this quality properly developed the whole construction is sure to be properly balanced, and if we add ambition enough, inbred in horse life as it is in the nobler animal man, we come pretty close to having a perfect horse.

Each and every breed has its different characteristics, but the same law of construction must be carried out in different degrees. Whatever line of breeding is to be engaged in, as in every other pursuit, it is only in the front ranks that there will be large profits obtained, therefore, at the outset, it is necessary to first study up the requirements of the market we are seeking to supply. Should we decide on breeding saddle horses, the demand will be found in our Canadian cities, for the United States trade and for exportation to England. For this line thoroughbred sires must be used to cross on what mares we can find that will be suitable for this cross, and a great number can be found that are just what are required. The great difficulty will be in finding the sort of stallion that is fitted for this purpose, for the breeder must now bear in mind in which direction his next crosses are likely to be made. The fillies and mares should be held for breeding, selling the geldings for saddle horses, for a brood mare, sired by a thoroughbred, can be

advantageously bred to the Coach stallion for large carriage horses, to a Roadster stallion for the best of drivers, and to the thoroughbred to continue in the saddle line of breeding; therefore, the proper thoroughbred stallion should be of large size, good color, good disposition, with plenty of bone below the knee, not necessarily fast, but of all things sound, which is too often not the case with the turf winners. Horses of this sound, useful class are to be found wherever the breeding of thoroughbred horses is made a business of, and it is strange they are not more sought after for breeding purposes, but in this class, as well as trotters, speed is the goal aimed at, and often spoils more desirable points.

Dominion Breeders' Associations.**THE CLYDESDALE STUD BOOK.**

In a letter under date Feb. 1st, 1890, from Mr. Arch. McNeilage, 46 Gordon street, Glasgow, the secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland, he wishes to inform the breeders and importers of Clydesdale horses, through the columns of the ADVOCATE, that they have issued a new form of certificate for horses exported from that country, which is of interest to breeders in Canada. The change dates from 17th January of this year. The blank copy form, for entry, is as simple as it is possible to have it drawn, and also has the vendor's certificate of sale for exportation, as well as the Society's certificate of registration, attached to the pedigree form, with the required conditions printed on the back; making in all a form that is a model of conciseness and simplicity, showing at a glance whether all the rules have been complied with.

Mr. McNeilage is well known by reputation among our Canadian Clydesdale breeders, as a most painstaking and obliging secretary, and has done much through his energy and writings to popularize on this continent this widespread and well-known breed of draught horses.

CANADIAN COACHEES.

The first annual meeting of the Canada Coach Horse Breeders' Society was held in London, Feb. 2nd, when the following board of directors were chosen:—President, Arch. Wilson, Paris, Ont.; Vice-President, John Gillson, London; Treasurer, D. Fisher, Goderich; Secretary, Jas. Mitchell, Goderich. Directors—George Charlton, Duncleuf; Thomas Taylor, Harwich; J. C. Smith, New Hamburg; John Aikinhead, V. S.; Goderich; J. W. Robinson, St. Marys; Andrew A. Young, Carlow; John Essery, Exeter; S. W. Teeple, Kingsmill; W. C. Brown, Meadowvale; A. Marsh, Richmond Hill. Executive Committee—Messrs. Fisher, Essery and Aikinhead. The following standard for registrations was adopted:—That such stallions as have two crosses of registered imported Cleveland Bay or English Coach, or one cross, registered imported Cleveland Bay or English Coach on one cross of thoroughbred blood. It was also resolved to accept as one cross horses of undoubted pedigree that were imported previous to 1880, and also to allow a dam of one cross a record number but no certificate, so that their breeding might be readily traced in the future volumes.

The object of the society is a good one, as it will encourage farmers who have mares of this breeding to keep up the right crosses, and to be careful that after this only imported registered stallions of the best quality be selected for this purpose. This class of Canadian horses more than any other have given good satisfaction when exported to England, the demand being far beyond the supply; and as they are in requisition by wealthy men the prices to be obtained will sure to be remunerative.

AYRSHIRE BREEDERS.

At the annual meeting of the Ayrshire breeders, held in Toronto, Feb. 4th, the following statements were made:—That a larger number

and better quality of Ayrshire cattle had been exhibited at the various exhibitions than usual; it was also stated there was recorded for the first volume of the new series, in class one, 772 bulls and 1,455 cows, or a total of 2,227; in the appendix 180 bulls and 313 cows, making in all a total of 2,720. This showed an increase of \$50 since last year, and there was a sufficient number for a good sized volume. The number of members of the Association was 40, or an increase of nine over last year. There was \$106.50 on hand to pay for a volume of pedigrees when completed.

A question as to the length of time cattle should be kept at exhibitions gave rise to a debate, and it was unanimously resolved, "That the Association objects to the principle of having live stock on exhibition for two weeks."

DRAUGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Draught Horse Association was held in Agricultural Hall. Mr. H. Wade, Secretary-Treasurer, read the annual report, which was adopted. The report stated that since the last annual meeting the first volume of the Canadian Draught Horse Stud Book had been published. It contains the pedigree of 243 horses and 310 mares, a free copy has been given to each of the 50 members of the association. The membership last year was but 26, and the report showed an increase of 24. Since the volume was closed last June the pedigrees of 34 horses and 40 mares have been recorded for a second volume. It was considered that four crosses were requisite for mares and five for horses to warrant their being placed on the rolls of registration. The statement of the finances showed a balance on hand to the credit of the association of \$870.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. F. E. Coleman, Arthur; Vice-President, Mr. J. Gardhouse, Highfield; Executive Committee—Messrs W. Kersey, Coleraine; D. S. McFarlane, Claremont; W. Owens, M.P.P., Lachute; Dugald McLean, York Mills; J. Vipond, Brooklyn; J. A. Boag, Ravenshoe.

SHORTHORN BREEDERS.

The fourth annual report of the Executive Committee was presented and adopted. On the subject of registrations the report states: In 1889 we were paid for 2,776 registrations, 2,595 certificates, and 378 changes of ownership; from these we have rejected 47 registrations, 43 certificates, and 11 changes of ownership, returning the fees, leaving 2,729 registrations, 2,552 certificates, and 367 transfers, against in 1888, 2,703 registrations, 2,688 certificates, and 381 transfers, and against in 1887, 2,621 registrations, 3,078 certificates, and 625 transfers, showing a very slight variation in the three years as to numbers, 79 more in 1888 than in 1887, and 26 more in 1889 than in 1888, thus showing that Shorthorns during these years have not increased in numbers in this country.

On motion of Mr. James Russell, of Richmond Hill, seconded by Mr. J. C. Snell, of Edmonton, it was unanimously carried that:—"This Shorthorn Breeders' Association protests against extending the time for having live stock at any exhibition in Ontario beyond the period of one week." Mr. H. J. Hill, secretary of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, in speaking on this motion, said that it was not his intention to do anything without the opinion of the breeders. Judging of their opinion as reported in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, he was sure that the management would not ask that stock should be kept on exhibition for over a week. He had authority in stating this. They would never make a new innovation without consulting the exhibitors, for without them they could not hold a show or have visitors.

In answer to Mr. Hill, Mr. F. W. Hodson, of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, replied that the breeders and stockmen as well as the agricultural papers had been given to understand that the Industrial management had fully determined to hold the stock over for two weeks at the show of 1890, which was the reason for the ADVOCATE taking up the case and having the expressions of all the stockmen on the question.

On the suggestion of the President a motion was put and carried to the effect that the judging of the stock at the Industrial should begin