

The above opinions, Mr. Editor, have not been formed since Feb. 15th, but are the result of the observations and experience of several years, and, I hope, will benefit some of your readers.
Halton Co., Ont. PERCY E. REED.

Shire versus Clyde.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":
In "The Farmer's Advocate" of June 13th, 1905, page 1022, will be found a short note from the writer, re the improvement of the Clydesdales. The Editor, in a note thereto, confesses blissful ignorance on the point raised by your humble servant in a former communication, viz., as to whether, in the so-called Clydesdale improvement, alien blood was introduced, and a doubt is thrown out as to my being able to support my assertion that alien blood was used. I still claim that my statement is true, and will add that it was used lavishly, and also am bold enough to state that that alien blood was Shire.

To substantiate what I have now and previously written, I enclose a letter which appeared in the Mail newspaper, of Toronto, some few years since, from the friend of a gentleman who officiated as a judge in heavy-draft horses at Chicago Show more than once, and therefore one on whom reliance may be placed; in fact, a man of truth and honor. I refer to Mr. Charles I. Douglas, whom every horseman in Ontario has no doubt heard of, and who was looked up to as a man fearless of offending others when the truth was in question. I hope you will find space to publish this letter in a prominent place, as many Canadians are bull-dozed with the idea that, in order to get perfection in heavy-draft horses, they must have the Clyde. If this letter of Mr. Douglas' is not evidence enough, I have more of the same kind in store, and from quite a different source, but this must suffice for the time being.

Am pleased to say one of our leading importers of Clydesdales is now importing Shires, and have been told that the best horse in his stable to-day is a Shire.
Wellington Co., Ont. DAVID MESSENGER.

[Ed. Note.—We give below the part of Mr. Douglas' letter referring to the question at issue.]

"During the past five years I have had but little opportunity of coming into contact with the breeders of draft horses in Canada, having spent the greater part of the time in England. I find that in almost every instance the ignorance displayed by Canadian breeders in connection with the English draft horses is simply extraordinary. The prevailing idea seems to be that the much-sought-after qualities, viz., bone and hair, are only to be got from the Clydesdale, and someone has evidently taken the trouble to impress on breeders that the English Shire horse is devoid of both these qualities.

"Without asking any simple statement of mine to be believed, I prefer to state a few facts which can be easily verified by persons choosing to take the trouble. Let anyone visit the principal shows in England and Scotland, and compare the leading Clydesdales of to-day with such horses as Mr. Gilby's Spark, Lord Ellesmere's Exchange, Lincolnshire Lad II., Carnock Enterprise, Somersham Sampson, Bar None, Beauchief, and many others. I think, after such an inspection, the visitor would come to the conclusion that for size, bone, hair and substance, the Clydesdales would be distanced.

"But let us take a glance at the so-called leading Clydesdales, and see if they do not inherit English blood to a great extent. Take, for instance, 'Prince of Wales'—and who among Clydesdale men has not heard of him as a representative Clydesdale horse—if they will take the trouble to look up his pedigree, they will find at least four Shire crosses in him. Then take St. Lawrence, Mr. Riddell's first-prize horse at the Glasgow show, who had, I believe, five English crosses. Then again, Mr. Drew's Prince of Avondale, first-prize three-year-old at Glasgow, with an equal number of registered English crosses. Lord Lyon, who probably got as many prizewinners as any stallion in Scotland, is full of English blood. After saying so much for stallions, let us turn to Mr. Drew's old roan mare, Queen, who for years has shown up and down all over Scotland, and this season, though well up in years, is still to the front, also beating Clydesdale mare of every age and class. Queen was bred by Mr. Chappell, in Derbyshire, and is Shire bred to the backbone.

"Mr. Drew, than whom no more intelligent and unprejudiced breeder lives, is rapidly gathering around him a large following, and propositions have been made to amalgamate the Clydesdale and English studbooks; and I believe advantages in the breeding of good horses would be the result. The studbook in Scotland is damaging Clydesdales greatly, as far as size and substance are concerned, and to-day it is an impossibility to find a Clydesdale of the same class as used to be imported to Canada and the States. Everybody is agreed that draft horses in Canada are not increasing in size, and 1,400 pounds is about the weight of the ordinary run; but to attain the English standard, an active, useful gelding, weighing at least 1,800 pounds, seems hopeless.
C. I. DOUGLAS."

A Veteran Horse-breeder's View.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am very much pleased to see the interest you are taking in the horse-breeders' welfare. Regarding lighter breeds for the farm, and how to get them, I think the most likely way would be to select nice, tidy, active mares of from 1,000 to 1,400 pounds, and mate them with Clyde or Shire stallions of small size, as they are generally more active and handsome than the large-sized ones. The progeny ought to answer very well, be good workers, and fairly profitable. But if you are far from market, and the soil of your locality is light, you may get fair results by mating with a large Hackney, or you might secure good results by using a large, short-legged Thoroughbred. Owing to his intelligence, the progeny would naturally require careful training; they like kindness, but will fight ill-usage to the last. But the most popular and most profitable horse for the farmer to raise for sale is the heavy-draft class, for general use on our soils, and with heavy implements and dry cultivation in early fall. By careful mating, we can raise colts up to 1,600 pounds that will pay for their keep in work after they are 2½ years old until market maturity. But confine them strictly to the Clydesdale or Shire, or, better still, a combination of the two. As early horse history proves, they originated from the same fountain-head, although of different type, but are now coming nearer the same standard as to quality. From my experience and observation, I would advise by no means to use any of the other breeds with your draft horses. No doubt some of the other breeds are grand animals when kept pure in their own country, but their crosses are no success here. As to the question

where would our fancy drivers come from? I claim a Coach horse bred to a road mare will leave a horse weighing 1,200; that is as heavy as will be got from the Clyde, and the Coach will sell a good deal quicker, for he will have the necessary style and action. I believe a light horse that does not weigh 1,100 lbs. is no good to a farmer, but a good Coach horse should weigh 1,300 lbs.
Wentworth Co., Ont. ONTARIO FARMER.

A Day with a Veterinary Dentist.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In keeping with your oft-repeated advice to the farmer to look well after his horses' teeth, permit a few observations on the work of a veterinary dentist in the winter of 1905, in a small village in the County of Middlesex, Ont. The lapse of time since the work was done only serves to prove the effectiveness of the work referred to, and emphasizes your advice.

The operator announced, his coming to our village a few days prior thereto, and the offer of free examination assured a goodly number of cases. For two and a half days he was kept busy, and left to fill his next appointment with work on hand.

A large number of cases dealt with were four-year-old colts whose temporary molars had not been shed, or who had grown those abnormal prongs known as "wolf teeth." These cases, as well as those of older animals with unevenly-ground teeth, were easily treated, by extracting in the former cases, and filing and dressing in the latter.

We noticed a few cases which claimed special treatment, and to these we refer specifically:

1. A horse four years old, and in unthrifty condition. The examination showed the first upper molars growing from the outside inward, and hindering the remainder of the molars from grinding the food. The outside of each was about three-eighths of an inch longer than the other teeth behind these. The treatment was simple, being to cut off the projecting portion of these teeth and file to a good grinding surface.

2. A horse about 12 years of age, very unthrifty. Examination showed a molar tooth on lower jaw split and decayed. The tooth had evidently caused the horse much pain, and was no doubt the cause of its unthriftiness. The tooth was removed. In both cases the horses began to gain in condition a short time after, and thus gave evidence of the propriety of the treatment.

3. A mare 14 years of age, also, with a running sore on the right lower jaw, and pronounced by a V.S. as due to an injury externally. This mare was in very bad condition; in fact, starving to death. After an examination, the dentist pronounced the trouble as due to an ulcerated tooth, and, after throwing the mare, extracted the tooth. To show that the abscess was due to the tooth, he inserted a probe into the cavity from which the tooth was extracted, and passed it outward through the hole from which the abscess discharged. The mare could have been bought for five dollars before she was operated upon, and the owner would have thought himself that much richer could he have got it. In the month of June the writer saw the same mare, in the best of condition, and this after having done her share of the spring work on a hundred-acre farm where only two other horses were kept.

These cases only forcibly emphasize and illustrate what may be the real cause of unthriftiness and disease in horses that would be sound in health if their teeth were only given proper attention.
Middlesex Co., Ont. SPEC.



Shire Stallion, Present King II. 19948.

Champion Stallion, London, England, Shire Horse Show, 1906.

of the farmer producing horses for his own use or for market, we would decidedly say for the market, as, with the most careful mating, you will have misfits enough for your own use. The question, what breed of horses, when mated with the general run of mares of this country, produces the largest proportion of useful farm horses, is answered in earlier part of this paper. As to what light breed of horses, as a class, will bring largest prices, I should say the Thoroughbred. The answer to the question, what breed of heavy horses will bring best general results, I should say Clydesdales are the most numerous and most popular. As to encouraging additional breeds, I would answer, confine yourself carefully and give attention to improving the breeds we have.
Huron Co., Ont. BREEDER.

Heavy Mares to Heavy Horses and Light Mares to Coach Horses.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice in the March 8th number a New Brunswick view on the horse-breeding question. This man mentioned breeding light mares with heavy horses with good success. I claim he is wrong, for he will get nothing but a pony Clyde. For instance: I know a man who bred a light mare to a Coach horse, and got a team that sold for five hundred dollars when horses were cheap, and afterwards bred same mare to a Clyde horse, and got a pair of pony Clydes which he sold for one hundred dollars each.

I believe in breeding heavy mares to heavy horses, and light mares to Coach horses. I don't believe in farmers raising trotting horses. They are no good to a farmer, for they are not heavy enough for farm work. If every farmer bred his light mares to heavy horses,

[The above article illustrates forcibly the widespread suffering and loss there is among horses and the wisdom of having the teeth regularly looked after. Some of these travelling dentists do a vast amount of good; others are incompetent, and no more to be trusted than any quack. At one time a visiting "horse dentist" buncoed a number of medical men in London, Ont. He went to each, and discovered a good many whose teeth, he averred, required filling. In the incisors of four- and five-year-olds is a natural cavity. This, he gravely assured the owner, should be attended to. Several of them "bit," and paid a handsome fee for filling cavities which would have disappeared naturally in the course of a year or