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AND N.-W. T.

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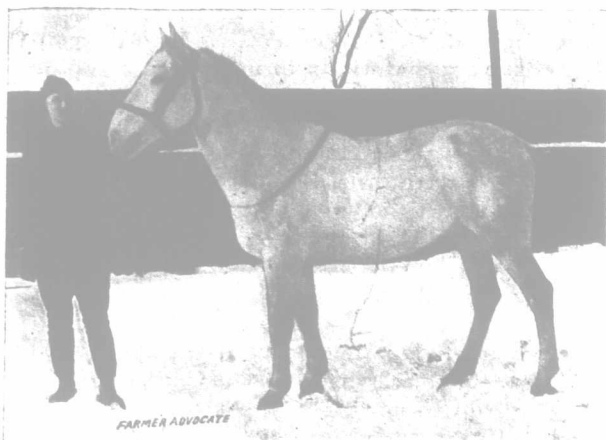
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A Term Misused.

In this age of specialization, much importance is attached to terms. In every department of trade, and with every professional man, there is a vernacular peculiar to the class. Words originate in or become common to any particular vocation, because they have outstanding significance. Among the breeders of live stock there is a term that is used and misused until it has come to have different meanings with different people. That term is "Thoroughbred."

According to men who are at the very front in breeding and dealing in live stock, this word has but one use, namely, to designate a certain breed of horses—the English Thoroughbred—and stands in relation to that class of horses as the word Clydesdale stands to the great Scotch breed. In other words, the Thoroughbred is a distinct breed, as the Shire or Percheron are distinct. To say that a horse is a thoroughbred Shire, or a bull a thoroughbred Hereford, is just as ridiculous as to say he is a Percheron Shire or a Shorthorn Hereford. To the English race-horse alone belongs the term, because he has been longer bred in a direct line than any other domesticated animal. To distinguish the improved breeds from the scrub stock, the proper term to use is "pure-bred," "registered," "pure," or "pure-blooded," but the best authorities prefer only the term as given—pure-bred. Let the term "Thoroughbred" be used only where it applies.



BUGLER.

Twelve years in active service at Fort Osborne, Winnipeg.

The Agricultural College.

The announcement recently made by Manitoba's Premier, while at Brandon, that the Government had decided to establish an agricultural college in the Province, should be hailed with satisfaction by all who have at heart the highest interest of agriculture—the foundation and superstructure of this country's wealth. It was long ago that the "Farmer's Advocate" first pointed out the need of an institution suited to give to the sons of the farm that education which would fit them to more intelligently manage the great grain and stock-producing areas of Western Canada, and enable them to compete, both in the press and on the platform, with their brothers of the so-called higher professions. Many valuable articles, involving in their preparation both time and research, were published; and a course suitable to the needs and within the finances of the Province was outlined.

All this it is unnecessary to repeat. Our position on this question is the same to-day as it has always been. We believe that the agricultural interests of this country demand such a school or college of instruction; and it is certain the will of the people cannot be ignored. Every little State and Territory to the south of us can boast of its center of agricultural learning. Why not Manitoba? Was a more productive soil ever tilled than ours? At no time was agricultural development more in evidence in this land than at present, and never was the necessity for the establishment of an agricultural college more apparent. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the seeds so well sown in the past may soon bring forth fruit. The action of the Government in this matter and the stand taken by the members of the Legislature representing both political parties during the approaching session of Parliament will be watched with unusual interest by all who consider the welfare of their country before party.

A traveller recently returned to Winnipeg, says: "A sore evil I have seen under the sun. A farmer, after much labor and patience, arrives at the elevator with a load of wheat, to receive not money, but abuse and churlishness, if the grain be not No. 1 hard."

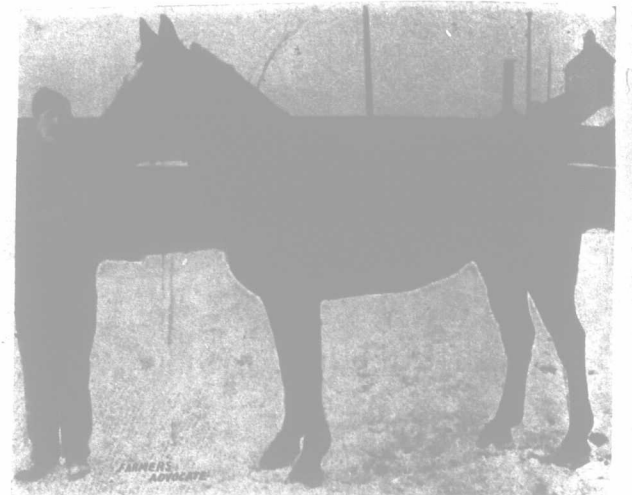
HORSES.

The Range Horse in the Army.

Breed army horses, has been the advice given to farmers by some inconsiderate writers since the South African war created a scarcity in this country. The folly of catering to a market which in time of peace can never amount to much has frequently been pointed out by the "Farmer's Advocate." Horses which suit the army are seldom valuable for agricultural purposes. At present there is on our Western ranges a class that is not specially desired by the cultivators of the soil, and yet excelled by none at the military stations wherever used. "Bugler," a range-bred horse, and a typical charger, herewith portrayed, has for the past twelve years done good service at the Winnipeg barracks, and now, at the age of sixteen years, seems as useful as ever.

With our Western military officers, the range horse is a great favorite. His sure foot and wonderful powers of endurance are especially commendable features from the standpoint of army service. Animals with strong backs, well-muscled loin and quarters, are not difficult to find in the range country, and, owing to their unfitness for heavy draft purposes, usually command only moderate prices. Well-broken specimens, however, that are really typical saddle-horses in conformation, bring good figures, but these, on the range as elsewhere, are in the minority.

Range conditions are almost ideal for developing hardy saddlers. Plenty of exercise, pure air, and the turf, nature's floor, produces the kind that wear. There is a mistaken idea that these animals are all difficult to train, but such has not been found true in actual practice. The so-called broncho may have peculiarities which modern education cannot readily improve, but the class used by the army are quite different in breeding and type. The accompanying cut of "a newcomer" at the barracks represents, in the raw state, exactly the kind sought after by our military friends. Seeing, therefore, that the desirable army horse can be so easily produced by ranchmen, farmers should bend their energies to breeding animals fitted for heavy work.



A NEWCOMER AT FORT OSBORNE.
Winnipeg.

The Dollars and Cents of Horse-breeding.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—It would be very nice and convenient if the farmer could reduce all his operations to the basis of figures, and thus be able to tell exactly where he stood financially. "Figures don't lie," we are told, hence the advantage of placing some sort of dependence on them. Such being the case, it might be well to look into the cost and probable returns to be obtained in breeding farm horses.

It may be assumed at the start, that in order to insure a mare with foal, it will cost from \$12 to \$15, if the service of a good horse is obtained. These prices are reasonable, and yet, unless for special breeding purposes, such as pure-breds, either of draft or the lighter breeds, much higher fees cannot be afforded by the man who is breeding horses to sell for \$100 to \$150 at four years old. If we admit the figures given above are reasonable, we can at once arrive approximately at the price the syndicate or the individual can afford to pay for a stallion. The financial end of the question has to be closely studied in this country, where the wealthy titled horse-breeding enthusiast is absent, and where a farmer does not get the services of champion horses for very moderate fees. The earning powers of a stallion can be figured out approximately; in fact, near enough to a mark on which to base an opinion.

The stallion going to one hundred mares or over in a season, and foaling eighty of them, is a very good horse, some will say a rarity. We will allow eighty in-foal mares; we say in-foal mares, and not foals, because the stallion who guarantees living foals takes too big chances to ever be a financial success. Eighty at \$15, means a gross income of \$1,200, less fees uncollected.

What are the expenses? Let us see:

Groom, 3 months, at \$60 a month.....	\$180.00
Box-stall, feed and care, 9 months, at \$20 a month	180.00
Veterinary and shoeing bill.....	50.00
Sec'y of Syndicate (or cost of collecting fees, advertising, etc.).....	50.00
Insurance on horse, 10 per cent. on \$1,200 (one-third value)	120.00
	\$580.00

If to this is added interest at six per cent. on a \$3,600 purchase, we have a total annual expenditure of \$796, leaving \$404 to be paid into a sinking fund, or to reduce the principal. No charge for feed has been made for the three months of the season, it being assumed that the stallion's services will be given in return for stands, etc., according to the usual custom.

As an investment, the prospect of paying \$3,600 for a stallion, providing he is a first-class horse of good breeding, sound, active and a sure foal-getter, is not a gilt-edged one, or one likely to attract a business man. How much less a chance of being remunerative it is when a syndicate pays the above price for a horse possessing few of the essential attributes mentioned above? The farmer, under the inspiration of big wheat crops, is apparently anxious to go into a deal with men whose business it is to syndicate horses at twice or thrice their value, judging from the flourishing business the syndicators are doing.

Taken as a class, the farmer persistently refused for many years to pay a reasonable fee for the services of a good stallion, and now he has gone to the other extreme. As the result of former methods, the standard of horseflesh was not raised, and it is very improbable if his new venture will do any better. As in the case of pure-bred cattle, there is, of course, a wide range in the value of stallions, dependent upon individual merit and breeding. The syndicate or individual buying a stallion for say \$1,800, should have a fair chance, taking the figures given above as a basis, to get out with a profit, providing all goes well. Good horses can probably be procured