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The Farmer's Advocate of Winnipeg

ternational Live Stock Exhibitions at Chicago. The Centennial and Columbian exhibitions are events of the past and as to the showyard victories of Canadian horses they need not be dwelt upon.

At the World's Fair in St. Louis five Canadian horses were shown, but no stable attained more illustrious distinction than that of the Canadian, Mr. Robert Beith, of Bownanville, Ont., who with his Hackney horses won five prizes and two championships. These victories are of particular interest for the reason that the strength of the display rested with horses bred upon the ranges of Western Canada. Mr. Beith selected from the range stud of Rawlinson Bros., of Calgary, his champion stallion, Saxon, his first prize and champion mare, Priscilla, and his reserve for champion mare, Minona. In the same year, 1904, at the International in Chicago, Saxon and Priscilla were champions, showing against imported stock.

The following year these western-bred horses, full of glory from many showyards were sold at auction when Saxon brought \$5,500, Minona, \$3,625 and Priscilla, \$825. Such notable horses as these were only possible of production by the purchase and use in the stud of the best stallions available, a policy that Canadian horsemen invariably follow. The sire of the noted trio mentioned above was the world-famous Robin Adair, who after ten years service in the stud on the range was taken to New York in 1901 where in the hottest competition he won the championship of the show, and coming back in 1902 was first in his class and reserve for championship. But this was only natural since his sire, Rufus, was champion of the breed in England in 1889 and 1890.

Just this last summer this famous stud, which gave to American showings so many noted members, and to the admirers of fancy horses so many of the most stylish park pairs, was dispersed at auction, and realized some \$70,000, being \$20,000 more than the valuation the owners put upon the stock, which goes to show the appreciation in which the horse-loving public held the blood which predominated.

Before leaving the lighter types of horses to discuss the heavy drafts which are most numerous in Western Canada, I might mention that each spring, Winnipeg has one of the most extensive horse shows held in the country. At the last show in June so many high-classed horses were prepared for the exhibition, that one ambitious exhibitor had to go down to Chicago and select from the famous stables of Tichenor & Co., representatives to strengthen his string to win, and from the same show the noted judge of road horses, Mr. Geo. Webb, of Pennsylvania, took a blue ribbon winner to carry the honors at the Eastern States shows. Horses are quite a hobby in Western Canada and in addition to the large ranches, several racing stables are maintained in which are owned such celebrated track performers as the Broncho, Harold H., Red King, Joe Patch, Chestnut Brown, etc.

But illustrious as are the road and carriage horses of the British West, none the less famous are her showyard winners among the heavy draft types. Her breeding establishments of Clydesdales are nowhere surpassed on the continent and her breeders never fail to buy the best that the market offers, as illustrated by the number of international winners and champions in Scotland, that have found their way to the farms and ranches of the Canadian West. Taking the winners for two years at the International at Chicago, the exhibition at which the continental champions in the live stock arenas are each year decided, we have in Western Canada the first prize three-year-old in 1902, the champion first and second prize four-year-olds, and the first prize yearling in 1903. Since then the well-known importers, Alex. Galbraith & Son, of Janesville, Wis., who show one of the strongest strings on the continent, have invariably sent to their Brandon, Manitoba, stables the choice of their selections.

But strong as their horses are, they have found it difficult to hold their positions against importations by Canacians direct from the home of the breed, and competition has developed in the showings of such shows as Winnipeg, Regina, Brandon, Calgary and New Westminster that has tried the prowess of the most redoubtable champion. All the winners at the International have been compelled to take lesser honors in these showings, and this year the great champion of females in Scotland, Rosadora, the winner of the Cawdor Cup, the highest honor to which Clydesdales can attain, was decisively beaten for championship by a home-bred mare in the hands of one of the latest aspirants for exhibition honors, to be exact, Eva's Gem, shown by R. H. Taber. Others also had the satisfaction of turning the tables upon the champion, her own stable mate, being one; Polly Chattan, a mare from Calgary being another; and Irene, a Regina mare, being the last.

At present, Canadians are most enthusiastic in the work of breeding Clydesdales. Brandon, the hustling little city in Western Manitoba, is a veritable hot-bed of horsemen. In it four large importing barns are maintained by McMillan, Colquhoun & Beattie, Alex. Galbraith & Son, J. B. Hogate, and Trotter & Trotter. Further west near the town of Arcola, W. H. Bryce has a most select stable, the pride of which is the Cawdor Cup winner before mentioned, Rosadora.

Altogether Mr. Bryce has some thirty head of picked mares from Scotland headed by the first prize three-year-old stallion at the Highland, the strongest Clydesdale shown in the World. Mr. Bryce's lot were picked without consideration of cost and represents an investment of \$30,000.

Near the capital of Saskatchewan, Regina, there are several breeding farms where Clydesdale perfection may be found. At one of these owned by A. & G. Mutch, the 1907 champion female, Eva's Gem, was bred, together with several others that have won the highest honors at different exhibitions where the strongest competition by imported stock prevailed. Each year Messrs. Mutch add to their stables from selections in Scotland and supply an ever increasing demand for breeding stock throughout the new country.

Another of Regina's most prominent breeding establishments is that owned by R. H. Taber, who this year, with stock he had selected from the Mutch stables, won male and female championships, at the Winnipeg Exhibition. The story of Mr. Taber's achievements upon his Saskatchewan farm illustrates what may be accomplished by determination, business acumen and steady work. Six years ago he held a responsible position in one of the largest railway offices in Canada with bright prospects of advancement, but the independent life of the prairie held more lure for him than the routine of the office, so he turned his face toward Saskatchewan, secured three quarter sections of land and with the money he made out of wheat raising invested in horses which at this season's show brought him a national reputation. Nor was his material costly. With a true horseman's instinct he bought young stock with promise of making champions and the awards of judges abundantly vindicated his judgment.

Further west in Alberta the heavy horse interests are ably championed by a son of old Scotland, Mr. John A. Turner, who distributes fully fifty per cent. of the stallions that his adopted province demands and who invariably leads in her provincial shows.

Besides Clydesdales, Canada is providing a lucrative market for American importers and breeders of Percherons, the American settlers being ardent admirers and liberal buyers of this breed.

For breeders of horses of all types, Western Canada is affording glorious opportunities and ample accommodation. The demand for all classes of working horses is practically unlimited and at prices ranging from one hundred and fifty to three hundred dollars each.—FRANKLIN J. SPENCER, in Canada West.

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