

the higher apes and man. Even in the apes it is extremely doubtful if they ever make use of tools (sticks, stones, etc.) in their native state. They can however be trained to use sticks to pull objects within their reach, to push chairs into position, to use in climbing to some desired location, to drive nails with a hammer, to drive screws with a screwdriver, etc., and tame monkeys often, apparently spontaneously, acquire the habit of throwing objects at persons who annoy them. The matter of language requires but brief consideration, as it is commonly realized that this factor, which plays such a vital part in the life of man is practically non-existent in the lower mammals. It is true that they can, by different sounds, communicate to one another such fundamental things as warnings, a state of distress, a state of contentment, etc., and can probably indicate "follow me", but while we may term this the beginning of intercommunication we can hardly call it language.

When we come to discuss reason the conclusion as to whether it is possessed by animals other than man depends upon our definition of this faculty. If we define it as "the ability to draw inferences and make practical use of them" then some of the higher mammals, particularly the monkeys, possess it, since experiments clearly demonstrate this point. If we define reason as "the derivation of conclusions through the comparison of concepts" it is impossible to say if any species but man possesses this power, since concepts are entirely mental and no other animal is able to show us if its mind is able to form them or not. Taking the first definition as the most desirable, as it at least gives us something which can be investigated, we are safe in saying that the higher mammals are able to reason, and also in saying that in the animal mind we have the beginning of all those faculties which reach their highest development in the mind of man.

THE HORSE.

Federal Assistance to Horse Breeding Explained.

"The Farmer's Advocate" has been questioned re the proposed Federal aid to Horse Breeders' Clubs, and since this subject was not fully discussed at the breeders' meetings recently held in Toronto we thought it wise to have an explanation of the scheme from the Live Stock Commissioner. Accordingly Mr. Bright has sent us the following letter.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In reply to your enquiry as to the circumstances which led up to the adoption of our policy of "Federal Assistance to Horse Breeding", I beg to give you herewith the facts as they appear to us, and also a brief outline of the policy, together with a concrete example of how it works out. This should be of particular interest to many of your readers.

For a number of years owners of high class stallions, generally speaking, complained that they were unable to compete with the cheap, though inferior horses, and that there was no encouragement for a horseman to pay a high price for a good horse. While this would not apply in special districts it must be recognized that the owner of a valuable horse, after paying for maintenance, insurance, interest on investment and the expense entailed in the collection of his fees, has frequently little left from his outlay, particularly in districts where he has to compete with grade and scrub stallions standing for service at a very low fee. As a result, really high-class stallions can be maintained only in districts where the breeding of horses has been given serious and progressive attention. In view of these considerations it was deemed advisable to inaugurate a policy which would make for general improvement in the horse industry by encouraging districts to organize breeders' clubs for the purpose of hiring good stallions. The liberal grant made to such clubs enables them to procure the services of really good stallions at a very nominal fee. At the same time it insures the stallion owner a definite and satisfactory return on his investment. The policy is one of particular interest to both breeder and stallion owner, and is one that is bound to give a permanent stimulus to horse breeding.

Stated briefly, the outline of the Federal Scheme is as follows:

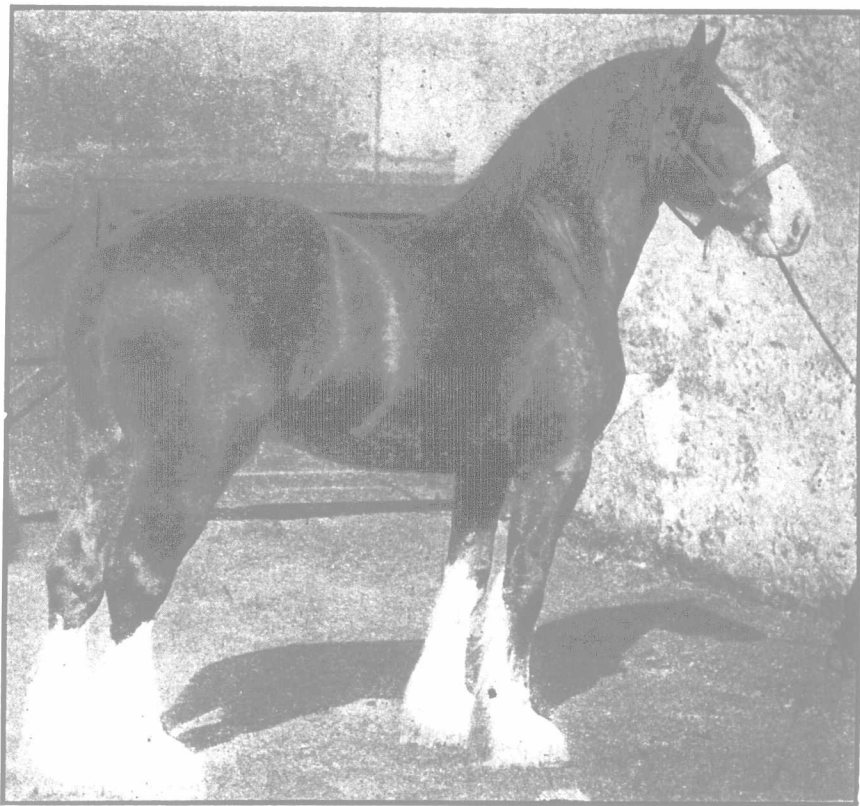
1. The Club shall guarantee the stallion owner a definite number of mares at a certain service fee per mare, said mares to be in good breeding condition, and not affected with any contagious or infectious disease.
2. All stallions named by Clubs for the purpose of securing Government assistance must be submitted to an examination by an authorized veterinary surgeon.
3. The Secretary of the Club shall forward to the Live Stock Branch, with the regular application, a list of its members, also a copy of the memorandum of agreement signed by both parties interested. This agreement shall not become binding until approved by the Live Stock Commissioner.
4. The minimum service fee shall be not less than Twelve Dollars.
5. All service fees shall be collected by the Club.
6. Payment of service fees shall be made as follows: one-third of the service fee for each guaranteed mare shall be paid by the Club to the stallion owner at the end of the service season.
7. The remaining two-thirds of each service fee shall be paid when the mare proves to be in foal. That is to say, the remaining two-thirds shall be paid for only such mares as prove to be in foal.
8. At the end of the service season the stallion owner shall furnish the Live Stock Branch with a sworn

statement setting forth the number of mares bred to his horse and the name of the owner of each.

9. The Live Stock Branch shall pay the Club an amount equal to 40 per cent. of the total amount paid at the close of the service season on the full number of guaranteed mares, on receipt of the stallion owner's statement and of a properly audited and sworn statement signed and declared by the President and Secretary.

10. The Live Stock Branch shall pay the Club a second grant equal to 40 per cent. of the amount paid to the stallion owner on the total number of mares that prove to be in foal, that is 40 per cent. of two-thirds the service fee paid for each mare that proves to be in foal, on receipt of a properly audited and sworn statement signed and declared by the President and Secretary of the Club.

As a concrete example of how this policy works out, let it be supposed that a club guarantees the stallion owner one hundred mares at the minimum service fee of \$12. At the end of the service season, the club must pay to the stallion owner one-third of the service fees or \$4 each on the hundred mares, making a total of \$400. The Live Stock Branch will pay the club 40 per cent. of this amount or \$160. The second payment to the stallion owner will depend upon the number of mares in foal. Let it be supposed that out of the hundred mares bred there are sixty in foal. The club will then have to pay the stallion owner two-thirds of the service fee, or \$8 on sixty mares, or a total of \$480, and of this amount the Dominion Live Stock Branch will pay the club 40 per cent., or \$192. Thus the Club would pay the stallion owner a total of \$880 while 40 per cent. of this amount or \$352 would be returned to the Club by the Live Stock Branch, which would reduce the actual fee paid by the club for each mare in foal to a very nominal amount indeed.



Few Appreciate the Value of a Good Stallion in a Community.

Parties interested can obtain booklets which fully explain the whole scheme, also application and agreement form by addressing the Live Stock Branch, Ottawa.

JOHN BRIGHT,
Dominion Live Stock Commissioner.

Likes the Trotters.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In your issue of February 22, you published an article headed "Horse Racing and Gambling Should Go". I presume it is published as an Editorial and therefore you are responsible for the statements made. Mr. Rancy's statements have been heralded far and wide by advocates of moral reform and I have no doubt but that when they secure legislation to prohibit everything they ask for that this country will be a model one.

I have had twenty-five years experience in horse racing and have owned and ridden running horses, also owned and raced harness horses both in the United States and Canada, and I don't think it fair to the harness horsemen to couple them in any discussion, or legislation, with the running horsemen. They are two separate and distinct classes and their patrons, I mean the owners of the horses and especially the people who go to see the races are not of the same class nor do they go to the races with the same object. The majority of the patrons who own or attend running meets do so with the object of taking a chance of winning or losing money, and the percentage of them who are real horsemen is very small and I don't think they are supporting it for their love of the horse, but more for the excitement that it creates. This is not so with the harness horsemen as they are in the sport for the pleasure they take from it and I know for a fact that very few of them make any profit from it. The running meets,

I believe, make a good profit on their investment, while it is a well known fact, that the promoters of trotting meets are more often losers than winners. The Thoroughbred horse in this country at present is of no use except as a racing tool, while the Standard Bred is one of the most useful animals we have, and their high standard is, without question, due to trials of speed or racing as it is called. The Standard Bred horse furnishes us with carriage horses, hunters, drivers, delivery horses, and for light land there is no better farm horse. There are still a small number of running horse owners who stick to the game for the sport it provides them, and I give those few credit for the manner in which the meets are conducted for I believe that if they dropped out that the balance would soon kill the sport with their dishonest methods. I felt it my duty to present these facts as I see them, and hope that in future articles that a distinction will be made between the trotting and running meets.

Kent Co., Ont.

FAIRPLAY.

LIVE STOCK.

Co-Operative Marketing of Wool in Nova Scotia.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In an Editorial in the February 22 issue of your paper reference was made to the best means of developing the wool-grading system in Ontario. Since this Editorial has undoubtedly set sheep breeders thinking as to the best way of selling their clip this spring, it occurred to me that a short explanation of how the

co-operative marketing of wool is carried on in Eastern Canada may be of interest to many of your readers. I might say that during the spring of 1916 I assisted in the co-operative selling of wool in a county in Nova Scotia, and hence to make this talk more practical I shall outline the work as it was carried on by the District Representative in that particular county. Early in the spring, by the holding of meetings in districts and by circular letters, this system was explained to the farmers of the county. The main points of the scheme were brought to their notice, such as how a higher price could be secured; how to properly tie and take care of the fleece, and other minor points. Shortly afterwards an approximate enumeration was made of the number of farmers who desired to market their wool in this way. In this particular instance the number justified the securing of the services of a grader from the Live Stock Branch, Ottawa, whose expenses were borne by the Department. The grader having been secured, the farmers were notified to bring in their fleeces—unwashed and

properly tied—to the District Representative, who had secured a building suitable for the storing of the wool. As each individual farmer brought in his clip it was weighed and a receipt given him of the exact number of pounds. Generally three or four specified days were allowed for the collecting of the wool, and at the end of that time the grader came and graded the lot into the different grades. It was then packed into special bales with the quality of the wool marked on the outside. This being completed notices were sent to the leading woolen manufacturing concerns in Canada, stating the number of pounds of the different grades offered for sale, and asking them to send in a sealed bid for the lot. A certain number of days were allowed for the receiving of prices offered, and at the end of the time the wool was sold to the highest bidder. In the county in mention, 411-8 cents per pound was received, which, calculating from the shrinkage of wool from tub-washing and from the local price at that time, was an increase of practically 12 cents over what the farmers would have received had they sold in small lots to the local buyers. This exceptional price can be attributed to two causes, and these are: first, that the wool offered for sale was put up in the way the manufacturing companies are anxious to receive it; and second, the quantity, 60,000 pounds, was sufficient to induce competition.

Wellington Co., Ont.

A. B. MACDONALD.

The Popular Paper.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Enclosed find \$1.50 for "The Farmer's Advocate" for another year. It's the popular paper in our family with both old and young. We get two daily papers, but if we have to cut any out it will not be the yellow backed one, although times are hard on account of the war and high cost of everything.

Lanark Co., Ont.

THOS. GARRETT.