

In addition, they prefer that the cows that raise these calves shall give as big returns as possible from the sale of cream or butter. Most of our contributors have discussed the question of building up a dairy herd from this standpoint and have somewhat nettled some breeders of dairy stock by making mention of "dual-purpose" cattle. Strictly speaking they refer to *milking Shorthorns*. For conditions such as these correspondents refer to there is room for a wide difference of opinion. Few will argue that any of the dairy breeds are to be considered when the intention is to keep the young stock for feeding.

On the other hand there are a few men in the West who class themselves, strictly speaking, as dairymen. They supply milk or cream for town or city trade and never think of raising feeders. In such cases few will argue that they should keep anything but the best of the dairy breed of their choice. Perhaps the best argument these *dairymen* can use against the dual purpose cow, or the milking strain of *Shorthorn*, is that the best plan is to keep dairy cattle and buy feeders. Here again there is room for a difference of opinion.

MY OPINION ON SOME MATTERS NUMBER 6

I VISIT THE WINNIPEG INDUSTRIAL

It is a common thing for Western optimism to impel a man to pronounce each annually recurring function as the best that ever was held, at least under the auspices of that particular organization. However, it does not require any huge impelling force to induce one to proclaim this year's *Winnipeg Industrial* the best that the Canadian West has seen in many of the features that attract the agricultural class. To my mind *Clydesdales* and *Shorthorns* were of such general excellence that it is hard to imagine a greater aggregation appearing in any ring in the Dominion. However, no doubt the merits of these will be carefully dealt with in your report of the show.

One display that everyone should be interested in was the statistics and specimens showing the ravages of that dread disease, tuberculosis, and measures that can be adopted in avoiding its path. Many are inclined to ignore much that is said regarding it. No intelligent effort is made to maintain a pure atmosphere in the home or to provide a clean and healthy supply of food in every particular. The magnitude and directness of this display is sufficient to impress anyone with an ounce of "horse sense." The lesson is an easy one: pure air, pure food, healthy bodies.

But, we always are prone to criticize, especially when the toes of the common people are trampled upon. The man who proposed and the members of the exhibition board who agreed that purebred classes of heavy horses should be given their ribbons in front of the grand stand are deserving of no thanks from the farmers. And they got none. In fact, every lover of big horses who was not blessed with a pass had everything but words of commendation for the management that placed these attractive classes in a place where they could see them only when they were being led to and from the place where the judge was authorized to make the awards.

Now the average Westerner is willing to spend money rather freely. Nevertheless, he is not satisfied to pay extra cash where it is positively uncalled for. Indeed, many showed their desire to see these big classes judged in a practical way. They paid 25 cents to get to the grand stand. Imagine their surprise then to find that the pleasing string was many yards away, and that only a favored few could cross the race-track and be within reasonable distance of the animals they love.

I do not favor too great leniency in allowing the

crowd to encroach on the ring space when ribbons are being placed, but I do think that in all fairness horse lovers should not be obliged to pay out hard cash and then find themselves in such location that they know little or nothing about what is going on. It is bad enough to be kept away by a fence, but when there are two fences with many feet of space between them the situation is unbearable.

Everything considered, I do not think heavy horse awards should be made in front of the grand stand. What do the elite, who hold high-priced seats at such an exhibition, know about heavy horses? What do they care? Is there anything gained in trying to display these animals before them? It is the practical stockman, and not the society people with ample cash, who need the special benefits that accrue from seeing high-class animals when experts have placed the ribbons. A couple of good stock parades will satisfy these other fellows. By all means judge all horses, save drivers, high steppers, and such, in the horse ring, where ordinary visitors are at liberty to look on and know what is being done.

"AIRCHIE McCURE."

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People who view with such light-heartedness the embarking of Canada upon a naval policy, might be sobered down through knowing what financial burdens it may entail by a consideration of the growth of naval expenditures in Great Britain. The cost for the fiscal year 1910-11 exceeds that for the preceding year by about \$28,000,000, and 1908-9 by about \$38,000,000, the total appropriation of the present budget being nearly \$200,000,000, four times the annual expenditures for the decade 1870-80, and double the expenditures for 1880-90. Not only this, but it has withdrawn from the productive industrial work of the nation the vast number of 132,000 men. To secure competent men to till the soil is one of the great problems of Canada. It will be a mark of statesmanship now to keep the brakes upon the naval propaganda, and devote the money and the energies of the people to the development of the land and industry.

HORSE

Observations on Horse Subjects

The editor of *THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE* forwards us some portions of a letter written by a gentleman at Minnola, Man., commenting on certain statements made in this column in the issue of July 6. The writer takes exceptions to our remarks regarding the use of scrub stallions, and goes on to say: "While I am using a pedigree *Clydesdale* stallion owned by a syndicate, of which I am a member, and while we have travelled purebred stallions for nine years, and while I do not approve of the use of crossbred sires, still some crossbred horses are from good stock, and some of them get good foals. Further, a man would be better breeding to a good, sound crossbred horse than to an unsound purebred one, and there are plenty of purebred horses that are far from sound. The agent who goes out and sells them makes from \$200 to \$600 for talking the natives into buying, etc., etc."

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We agree in the main with what this writer says regarding the use of unsound sires. An unsound stallion is likely to transmit the tendency to unsoundness to his offspring, and the use of such a sire is not desirable in any circumstances. However, it doesn't seem logical to us to choose between an unsound purebred and a sound crossbred. It is something like comparing the efficiency of the instruments available for use in committing suicide. One man takes a dose of strychnine and another finishes himself with a butcher knife. Results are likely to be bad in both cases. So with the choice of stallions. The unsound sire, that is, a stallion with such unsoundnesses as spavin, ring bone, periodic

ophthalmia, side bones, curby hocks, etc., is not a desirable horse to breed to. His offspring are likely to develop these same diseases. The crossbred may be as sound as a dollar, in so far as freedom from such unsoundnesses as these is concerned, and yet his offspring may not have much "quality" to commend them. They are strongly liable to be "scrubs," and as between a sound scrub and an unsound good-sized colt from a purebred stallion there isn't much choice. In our experience the one is worth about as much as the other. Results are bad in both cases. In horse breeding it isn't well to have to make such choice.

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There is another point, too. A lot of people have the notion that because a horse is purebred he is more likely to be unsound than is a grade. The idea is unfounded. Our own experience is that a larger percentage of unregistered stallions are unsound than is the case with purebreds. Consequently, unless a man has sufficient judgment to detect unsoundnesses, he is more apt to run into them in using an unregistered stallion than he is when breeding to a purebred. The theory that more purebred than grade stallions are unsound has long since been exploded. It has been amply demonstrated in such American states as have adopted rigorous laws governing the licensing of stallions for public service, that there is nothing in the supposition that the "wiry" grade is more free than the pedigreed stallion is from the diseases that made a horse "unsound."

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The great objection to the use of grade stallions is that a man never knows what kind of foals he is going to get. We have known grade draft horses that were big enough and good enough and sound enough individually to warrant the expectation that they would sire foals that would be at least equal in size, quality and soundness to the progeny of the best purebred drafter that ever foaled a mare; and yet the majority of their offspring were scrubs. We remember a neighbor of ours back in an Ontario community in the times when good draft colts were selling from sixty to ninety dollars a head at three or four years of age, who became infatuated with a grade drafter, chiefly, we suspect, because the fee to ensure a foal was four dollars, and who forthwith began breeding his mare to the brute. The grade was a sure shot, and foaled the mare five years in succession. About that time horse prices began to go up, and the neighbor found himself harboring a bunch of "weeds" worth rather less than one-third the money the same number of colts would have been worth sired by one of the first-class purebred stallions travelling the community at a fee of ten or twelve dollars. He traded the outfit off for what it would bring, and was anywhere from five hundred to a thousand dollars out from his little "flyer." It is pretty nearly the same in every case.

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Grade stallions lack prepotency—the power to stamp their own individuality on their offspring. Some purebred horses are deficient in this ability, but the proportion is small as compared with grades. What a mare owner wants to be reasonable certain of is that his foals will bear in the largest measure the meritorious characteristics of the stallion they are from. In using a grade, or "crossbred" stallion, as our friend prefers to call it, there is no certainty that the foals will bear the quality of their sire. His blood is mixed. He has not come of a line of ancestors that were bred for generations with the object of concentrating the blood of the breed and type this stallion stands for. Probably the mare that foaled him was one of our ordinary little "wizen-up" females, weighing a thousand pounds or so of no particular breeding. His sire, say, was a strongly prepotent *Clydesdale* or *Percheron*, and it so happened that the little mare produced a foal that in size and quality closely resembled the sire. That, however, is no warrant that the foals this stallion will produce will take after the horse. The chances are just as good that