

Knight of the Vale.

Our frontispiece engraving is a representation of that superb carriage stallion, Knight of the Vale, the property of Messrs. Knettel, Boissevain, Manitoba. Knight of the Vale (1799) is registered in Volume V. of the Yorkshire Coach Horse Society of Great Britain, also recorded in the American Cleveland Bay Stud Book, (999), Volume III., and No. 17 in the Horse Breeders' Lien Act of Manitoba. He was bred by Wm. Codling, Eskdalside, Slights, Whitby, England, afterwards passing into the hands of John White, "The Grange," Appleton, Roebuck, Bolton, Percy, Yorkshire, from whom he was purchased by his importers, Messrs. J. D. McGregor & Co., Brandon, Manitoba, subsequently being purchased by his present owners.

Before leaving England he made for himself a remarkable showyard record, winning second place at the great Yorkshire Show in a strong and representative class, and third at the Royal at Warwick in 1892; these are the largest and most important shows of Cleveland Bays and Yorkshire Coach Horses held in the United Kingdom.

Since coming to this side of the "pond" his successes in the show ring have been numerous, always heading the lists wherever shown. At the Winnipeg Industrial in 1893 he stood first in the four-year-old class, and took the sweepstakes (silver medal) for all ages; he also captured the "FARMER'S ADVOCATE" special (a very handsome marble clock and bronze ornament), given for the best carriage stallion in classes 8, 9 and 10, which included Thoroughbred, Hackney and Coach Horses. He also won first and silver medal at the Boissevain Spring Stallion Show, and at the Boissevain Agricultural Societies' Show in the autumn.

Knight of the Vale is a beautiful bay in color, stands 16½ hands high, and at present weighs about 1,600 pounds. He has the clean blood-like head and neck of the Thoroughbred, well-laid shoulders and grand top, good feet and large, flat, hard bone so essential to the roadster. He moves with that elegant and forceful action characteristic of the Cleveland Bay.

Foaled in 1889, sired by County King 110, first dam by Wonderful 533, third dam by Bass Rock, S. B., etc., etc., of extremely fashionable breeding, combining some of the most celebrated sires in the Cleveland Bay, Yorkshire Coach and Thoroughbred history. Among them such names from the Cleveland Bay records as Statesman, Wonderful, Cleveland Lad and Skyrocket; and from the stud book of Thoroughbreds, Necromancer, Bass Rock and Darley Arabian.

Manitoba is fortunate to have such a horse within her borders, and great credit is due to the importers and owners of such horses, and now when ordinary horses are so low in value it is the more important to breed only good mares to the best available stallions.

The Knittle Bros. can accommodate a limited number of approved mares during the season, with care and pasture at reasonable rates.

Seed Grain.

HALF RATE TARIFF ISSUED BY THE CANADIAN PACIFIC.

The following circular regarding the transportation of seed grain over the C. P. R. was issued on first of March by General Passenger Agent Kerr, and sent to the agents of the company:—

In order that farmers may be enabled to change their seed, this company will, between 5th of March and 15th April next, transport at one-half tariff rates, Nos. 1 and 2 Red Fyfe wheat, Nos. 1 and 2 white oats, and two and six-rowed barley (equal to sample in the possession of station agents, prepared by Mr. D. Horn, Dominion Government Grain Inspector, Winnipeg.)

This arrangement is confined to shipments between stations on the main line, Whitemouth to Calgary inclusive, and branch lines in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

Seed grain offered for shipment must be carefully examined by the shipping agent, and if equal to the official sample will bill the shipment at tariff rate, charges to collect, and endorse on waybill "for seed." On arrival at destination the receiving agent will, upon execution of a satisfactory bond from the consignee that the grain will be sown by him on his farm and used for no other purpose, reduce the freight charges one-half. This bond, when properly executed with consignee's receipt for delivery on the form prescribed by the accounting department, will be authority for clearance voucher.

Carload lots passing through Winnipeg to destination to be subject to inspection; waybills for such shipments to be endorsed "to be inspected at Winnipeg, and held to order Robt. Kerr."

Shipments intended for delivery at flag stations must be covered by special order from the undersigned.

ROBERT KERR.

Timely Notes for March—No. 2.

"RECONSTRUCTION."

That's the term the bankers use when they break down and compound with their creditors. Well, let us see whether we Manitoba farmers cannot adopt a reconstruction scheme, without the help of the bankruptcy court. It is generally admitted that we have, most of us, come to the end of our rope—not all, but most of the farmers in Manitoba are anything but prosperous, while many are in a desperate condition financially. To those who see no possible "way out" of their incumbrances, I would recommend compounding with their creditors, if possible; if not, it is really better to throw up the game, and go out to work for others. It is better in every way; you may, in the latter case, again get a clear start, while by staying on the old place, and fighting against the fearful odds of compound interest, mortgage and chattel mortgage, etc., you will only ruin your life and probably kill your wife, and make slaves of your unfortunate children. Better to have only one cow of your own and work for another man, than to spend your time looking after a whole herd of chattel-mortgaged cattle that you can hardly ever hope to redeem.

To that more numerous class who are simply "hard up"—short of cash, but not hopelessly in debt, it is better to look the matter firmly in the face, and "reconstruct." Dispense with the hired man, or keep fewer men; don't pay such extravagant wages as have been in vogue; dispose of some of those unprofitable horses, even if you sell them cheap; reduce your expenses; don't buy any new implement, or organ, or carpet until you have cleared off your old debts. It is surprising to see what we could have done without, after our money is spent. You could have managed with that old mower for another year, I might have got along very well without that new waggon, and Jones acknowledges now that he could have done without that press drill, while Bishop can't for the life of him see what he wanted with a hay press. There is, however, a smaller class, who even in these hard times have made ends meet, and in some cases the ends have lapped over—they have even saved money, and are better off than last year. These fortunate folks will need even more than their usual good sense and caution to keep their heads above water during the coming year. In an informal gathering of farmers and others the other day, several gave their ideas on economising, etc., for the coming season. Said one, "I paid my man \$160 for the season, and when the wages were taken out of my wheat, there was hardly enough left for bread and seed." This man farms about one hundred acres, and is a careful, steady man. This year he has hired a better man for twelve months for a trifle more than he paid last year for some eight months.

My own wages account was bigger than all my grocery and flour bills came to, and we are going to reconstruct. We want more for ourselves. The farmer wants wages as well as his men, and his wife wants wages too, for who works harder than the farmer's wife? A third farmer has paid the same man good wages for three years, now he has the satisfaction of knowing that the hired man is comfortably off, while he is on his beam ends. There is no doubt the laborer is worthy of his hire, but the contention is that the wages should rise or fall in proportion to the price of produce, for it is manifest that wheat at sixty-five cents will allow a larger outlay for wages than the same grain at forty cents will permit. There is a great scarcity of money now; what will it be before the next harvest is gathered in? What little came in to pay for grain appears to have all returned to the east in settlement of debts of various kinds, and there will be very little more come in till this year's crop moves. So let us economize in every way possible.

EXTRAVAGANCE IN FEEDING.

The feeding season is not yet over; we may have an earlier spring than usual, but it is better to be prepared for a long feeding spell yet—until the middle of May. Watch your feeders carefully, see they don't have hay scattered on the snow all the way from the stack to the stable; that they give the cows the exact amount of feed ordered—not too much once, and then a skimpy allowance the following time. Use up as far as possible the produce of the farm, and less mill feed; buy whatever mill stuff you are likely to require, and have it stored away before the roads break up.

FATTENING CATTLE.

I think that those butchers who imagine they are going to get fat cattle at as cheap rates this spring as last are living in a fool's paradise, for, from all reports, farmers are not feeding so many animals this winter as usual. On comparing notes with several others, we found that we had all lost money feeding for the spring market last winter, owing to the low price obtained for the cattle in the spring. One of my neighbors fed two steers \$28.00 worth of grain, besides hay, and they returned him fifty cents for his hay and the labor of feeding, etc. Another fed \$25.00 worth of barley to three steers, besides refuse wheat, etc., and all the good hay they wanted, and he was offered such a small price for them that he would not sell, but let them run on the grass till fall, and then sold them for a little more than he was offered in the spring, and so on. The natural consequence is there are very few being fed in this district, and I hear it is the same in most parts of the province.

GENERAL.

Where can I procure a "New Era" Disc churn? Has any one of the ADVOCATE readers used one, and is it as easy to turn as claimed?

Why don't market gardeners grow cabbage, cauliflowers, celery, etc., plants in large quantities to sell to farmers at living prices. \$1 to \$1.50 a hundred, the usual price, is too high; twenty-five cents a hundred I find pays me well, and it would pay a professional gardener better, as he has more frames, and better ones.

Make yourself a forcing-bed, and if you have a hundred or two plants more than you want, you will be able to sell them for more than the seed cost.

Going to try the Robertson mixture this year? Get any doubtful seed grain tested at Ottawa Experimental Farm, if you are not sure of it, or test it yourself.

Keep your cattle stabled every night; though it is mild, it may snow before morning, and then you would regret it. "INVICTA."

Legislation for the Farmer.

For the benefit of those of our readers who have not followed the proceedings of the recently prorogued session of the Manitoba Legislature, we will endeavor briefly to indicate those acts which relate more especially to farmers:—

Exemption Act.—A bill was introduced providing for the extension of exemptions as follows: The amount of seed grain increased from sufficient for 30 to 70 acres, at 2 bushels per acre; the number of cows increased from 2 to 6; sheep, from 4 to 10; pigs, 2 to 10; fowls, 10 to 50; and feed for debtor and his exempted stock for 11 months following harvest time. The rest of the exemption act has been left untouched.

A year ago the registration of lien notes was prohibited; to this has now been added the registration of lien notes or orders often given by purchasers of threshing machines, which have in many cases been registered against their farms. An act to provide for giving threshers a lien in certain cases is explained by Mr. Graham, member for South Brandon, who was an ardent supporter of this motion, as follows, in the Free Press:—

"The act provides that the thresher can, for a short space of time, retain sufficient grain after threshing to pay for any threshing done by him for the farmer within a period of thirty days from the date of retention. As will be observed then, this applies only to the current year's threshing. My reasons for endorsing this act are that it benefits the farmer, the thresher and the thresher's gang, in this way: It is well known that threshing costs the farmers too much money at present, and equally well known that threshers are not getting rich at their work. Why? Because a large percentage of the threshing bills are never paid at all, and the price of threshing is kept at a high mark to make up for bad debts. Now, if the thresher is secure of getting his money, as he is under this act, he can thresh at a lower figure, he can hire labor at a less price, because the gang is also secure, and he will not be compelled to discriminate, as he has had to do in his own interest, against the farmers whose crops were known to be chattel mortgaged. For it is very evident that a thresher will not do work for a man whose crop is mortgaged to a creditor having the power to step in and seize all the wheat threshed, leaving the thresher without a chance to obtain any recompense. Such farmers would be passed by, and either threshed by an inferior machine or compelled to wait until their stacks were damaged by snow and bad weather."

The chattel mortgaging of crops, except for seed grain, has been made unlawful. Municipalities are empowered to grant farmers small loans to the extent of \$75 for the purchase of seed grain, with interest payable at six per cent. per annum. The jurisdiction of the county court has been extended from cases involving \$250 up to \$400, and counsel fee of ten per cent. has been removed on all sums up to \$100. The noxious weed act has been amended, as noted below.

Noxious Weed Legislation.

A very lively interest was taken in the Legislature when the Noxious Weed Act was under consideration. Dr. Rutherford, the energetic member for Lakeside, urged the great importance of doing something tangible in ridding the Province of weeds and preventing their spread into the newer districts. He would have preferred to have the grant for this purpose increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The grant was, however, allowed to stand at \$1,000, but the Act was amended so as to make it quite clear that the Inspectors could not be sued nor held responsible for crops damaged in the fulfillment of their duties of having weeds cut down.

Acting upon the recommendation of the Central Farmers Institute, the Russian thistle and the Tumble weed (*Sisymbrium Snapistrum*), which is so plentiful around Indian Head, N. W. T., were added to the list of noxious weeds. It has also been decided by the Minister of Agriculture to offer very liberal prizes for the best essay on "Weeds and Their Eradication," several of which, together with illustrations of all noxious weeds and other important information, will be distributed in bulletin form.