

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely  
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men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication  
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pitts beats the Ontario competitors in the amount  
he receives per cow, his returns for butter alone,  
not counting in the value of skim milk, buttermilk,  
etc., being over \$80 each—a great showing, cer-  
tainly. An average of 356 pounds of butter per  
cow in a year is a record to be proud of, and  
shows that not only were high-class cows kept,  
but that there was a skillful feeder attending  
them.

### The Demand for Good Horses.

The high prices ruling for heavy-draft horses at  
present, and the prospect, amounting practically  
to a certainty, of a continuance of the active de-  
mand for this class for years to come, at profit-  
able prices, would appear to appeal to farmers  
generally to give attention to the raising of more  
and better horses of that class. It is true that  
for the better class of carriage and saddle horses  
the demand is also uncommonly good, the market  
prices for such being high, and likely to continue  
so. And those who have well-bred mares of that  
class, of proper quality and conformation, by  
breeding them to superior sires of their own class,  
may, with confidence, count on a continuance of  
high prices for the best. But to breed from that  
description of mares, mated with heavy-draft sires,  
is to cater to the market for low-priced stock,  
while the expense of raising and keeping an in-  
ferior horse is quite as great as for one of the  
better sort. Breeding sound mares of the light  
class to heavy-draft sires may, and probably will,  
produce useful, general-purpose horses, described  
in the market reports as "chunks," but this class,  
when offered for sale, bring only half to three-  
quarters as much money as the big, heavy sort,  
and have cost nearly as much to raise.

That this is a fair statement of the case, is  
evidenced by the reports of the horse market in  
such centers as Toronto and Montreal, appearing in  
these columns from week to week.

In one of our Toronto reports last spring,  
taking March 11th, 1909, as a representative is-  
sue, drafters weighing up to 1,600 pounds were  
reported as selling up to \$215 each, while general-

purpose horses were quoted at \$140 to \$180, and  
serviceably sound horses at \$40 to \$80.

In our Montreal report of same date, heavy  
drafters, 1,500 to 1,700 pounds, were quoted at  
\$225 to \$300; light drafters, 1,300 to 1,400  
pounds, \$175 to \$200; small or inferior at \$50  
to \$75; choice saddle or carriage, \$300 to \$500  
each.

In our Toronto report of last week, drafters  
were quoted at \$180 to \$220; expressers and  
wagon horses at \$175 to \$200, and drivers \$100  
to \$200. The same week, Montreal reported  
heavy drafters of 1,500 to 1,700 pounds as selling  
at \$225 to \$300 each; light draft, 1,400 to  
1,500 pounds, \$180 to \$240 each; and small  
horses of 1,000 to 1,100 pounds, \$100 to \$150  
each; choice saddle and carriage animals, \$350  
to \$500 each, but only select horses of this latter  
grade command figures worth while.

Lecturers at the late Winter Fair, at Ottawa,  
are reported as having stated that for extra-good  
heavy drafters as high as \$800 to \$1,000 a pair  
could be had. These, of course, are extreme fig-  
ures, which could not reasonably be expected as  
an average, but there is a wide margin between  
these values and the average price prevailing for  
good heavy-drafters, and there is ample encourage-  
ment in current market prices, and in the outlook  
for the coming years, for farmers to breed and  
raise horses as a commercial undertaking, apart  
from the more speculative field of pedigree stock-  
breeding, where prices are more or less influenced  
by popular lines of breeding and super-excellence  
of certain individuals.

## HORSES.

### The Shire Horse.

By Arthur G. Hopkins, B. Agr., D. V. M.

The demand for heavy-draft horses has directed  
the attention of many horse-breeders to the sources  
from which blood may be had in order to obtain  
the results desired. With that end in view, the  
attention of readers of "The Farmer's Advocate"



Leek Advance.

A Shire stallion in three-year-old form.

is directed to that famous old breed, known as  
the English Cart Horse, or, in everyday language,  
the Shire.

There are certain essentials which must be ob-  
served when recommending a breed for a certain  
purpose, especially when it is sought to impress  
the characteristics of that breed or type, or that  
class of equine stock termed "grade." One point  
that may not be overlooked is the age and history  
of a breed, for on those two items depend largely  
its prepotency; in other words, its ability to trans-  
mit any or all of its desirable attributes to stock  
of mixed, little, or no breeding.

The Shire is not a new breed of horses; authori-  
ties agree that it is substantially the same as has  
existed in England for the past two centuries,  
while some enthusiasts claim the breed to be di-  
rect descendants of the war-horses of Britain at

the time of Julius Caesar. In any event, the  
breed is of sufficient age to have its characteristics  
and lineage firmly and plainly fixed, and is none  
the less acceptable on that score.

In Great Britain, the welfare of the breed is  
looked after by the Shire Horse Society, a power-  
ful organization, holding an annual show and  
auction sale, in addition to publishing one of the  
most valuable, interesting and informative stud-  
books extant. Volume XXII, published in 1908,  
contained the pedigrees of 1,119 stallions and  
3,964 mares, as, also, statistics of a useful kind.  
In 1907, 390 Shires were exported to the United  
States, 117 to Argentina, 113 to Canada, a con-  
siderable increase over the figures of the year  
previous; 1908 and 1909 have each increased  
over these figures. The statistics given, together  
with a general average at the Society's auction in  
London, of over \$530 for 120 horses of various  
ages and sex, evidence the growing demand for  
the breed. At the sale referred to, \$3,465 was  
the highest price paid for a stallion, and \$1,050  
for a mare.

The soundness—a very important question with  
all horsemen—of the breed is best demonstrated by  
the Society's Board of Veterinary Examiners, be-  
fore whom all exhibits must pass before being per-  
mitted to be shown. Out of 313 horses examined  
rigorously, 27 were rejected, as follows: 10 for  
defective respiration (wrong in the wind); side-  
bones, 6; spavin, 4; cataract, 2; shivering, 2;  
stringhalt, 1; ringbone, 1; lameness, 1. Of 140  
mares censured, 8 were thrown out, and only 14  
stallions out of 152 examined—a splendid record,  
unequaled by other draft breeds, unless it be the  
Suffolk. It will be noted, also, the rigid exclusion  
of any tendency to hereditary troubles. Thus, the  
breed can be considered a safe and sound source  
from which to select sires to breed to the grade  
mares of the country, for farm work or city pave-  
ments.

The leading sires of winners at the breed shows  
were: Lockinge Forest King (18867), with 17  
winners in 1907, and nine in 1906; Dunsmore  
Jameson II. (17972), with 14 in 1907, and 18 in  
1906; Birdsall Menestrel 3rd (19337), with six  
winners, and four at the 1906 shows. Following  
this great trio are: Markeaton Royal Harold  
(15525), Menestrel (14180), and Tatton Friar  
(21453). The leading strains of blood are: The  
Harold (3703), and Lincolnshire Lad II. (1365).  
Of 132 winners, all but three traced back in di-  
rect male line to six common progenitors.

On account of the pa-  
tronage and support of  
many wealthy and titled  
Englishmen, the require-  
ments of the big cities,  
London, Liverpool, Man-  
chester, Birmingham, and  
Cardiff, for horses for dray  
and cartage work, together  
with attention shown by  
tenant-farmers, has kept  
the home markets for  
Shires very strong, and  
has thus hindered exporta-  
tion. Many tenant-far-  
mers who have been fortu-  
nate in having available  
the breeding studs of the  
wealthy landowners have  
of recent years made tidy  
incomes, although we do  
not hear quite so much of  
their operations as we do  
of their Shorthorn-breeding  
confreres.

His Majesty the King  
has been and is a great  
friend of the breed, and has  
sent many good ones from  
his stud to the shows and  
sales, as have Lord Roth-  
child, Lord Ellesmere, the  
Duke of Beaufort, Sir Wal-  
ter Gilbey, Lord Egerton  
of Tatton, the late Philo  
Mills, Arthur Gibson  
(brother to Richard and  
John T.), and many others.  
The writer well remembers  
his first Shire show, at Is-

lington, 1889, when the black horse, Vulcan  
(4145), won the breed championship and the  
Elsenham Cup for Lord Ellesmere, although run  
hard by the two-year-old Nailstone Conqueror.  
The two horses mentioned sold for \$10,000 and  
\$7,500, respectively.

My interest in the breed was not lessened by  
the notable winnings, as a sire and individual, at  
Toronto and Buffalo, in 1888, over all competitors  
from the other draft breeds, of the imported horse,  
King of the Castle. Since that time, a further  
and more extended acquaintance has only en-  
trenched them more firmly in my regard, so that  
I consider the Shire at the present time to be the  
most suitable and valuable breed for the Canadian  
farmer-breeder of draft horses, for farm or city  
use, to select stallions from.

On this side of the Atlantic the breed has had