

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-
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"

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,
unequalled 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; Birdsell 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-
trimage 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 export-
ation. 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-
schild, 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



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