

'bussers and vanners; but when it comes to sending horses of this weight, but lacking these requisite good points—coarse, sour-headed brutes, short in the rib and rough-legged, with bad, shelly feet—they are just as great a drug in the market over there as they are here.

The writer remembers crossing some three years ago in a Beaver Liner, on board which was a load of horses consigned to a firm of dealers near London. With the exception of one or two, the whole lot may be best described as general purpose horses, of a very common, rough pattern; the best of the lot, a gray mare, having two big side bones, while two or three of the others were also unsound. Such horses as these cannot possibly be taken across the water profitably, and they only serve to lower the standing of Canadian horses in the British public's eyes.

In fact, breeding horses of this description nowadays is bound to be a losing game, in this country at all events, as by the time they are four or five years old they are not worth as much as a good steer.

The horses that, in my opinion, will pay best in the long run for shipment to England or Scotland are big, heavy draught geldings, but they must be big and sound. When a Scotch or English dealer speaks of a big draught gelding, he does not mean a 1,500 or 1,550-lb. horse. What he wants is a horse that will weigh 1,700 to 1,800 lbs., and, to use their expression, "have a bit of weight to throw into the collar," and to get the weight they are willing to sacrifice some quality. Of course, quality always counts, provided the weight is there also, and I do not wish to be understood here as championing the round-boned, greasy-legged kind; but I do believe that Canadian breeders have of late been falling into the error of running too much on quality alone, and neglecting the important point of size and weight. This was very strongly impressed on my mind during the visit to the Old Country referred to. Going through the stables of a well-known dealer, in Glasgow, I examined and priced a number of horses, and could not but notice that although nice, smooth, blocky horses of from 1,400 to 1,500 lbs. were offered to me at prices ranging from \$175 to \$250, just as soon as a horse was reached weighing 1,700 to 1,800 lbs., although he might be perhaps a bit plain, the price went up at once to \$300 to \$350 and higher; one, a magnificent chestnut gelding, weighing close to 1,800 lbs., and of beautiful quality all through, being held at \$475.

According to the reports sent over here of auction sales of Canadian horses in England, this has also proved true with them, the biggest and heaviest geldings always selling for the best prices, unless possessed of some serious fault. I would strongly advise your readers, therefore, who are going to breed draught horses, to breed them big; get all the quality you can in conjunction with size, but be sure and get them big.

Of course, I do not for a moment mean to say that only big draught horses can be profitably exported from Canada to England; on the contrary, I believe that a fair profit may be made on a good stamp of vanner or 'busser, but to fetch a price they must be good ones, with clean, hard shanks, good feet, and plenty of middle. A light-middled horse is no use in this trade; such horses are not by any means too easy to find at present, and they can only be produced by a careful system of breeding, with a view to producing just this class. They cannot be obtained by any happy-go-lucky way of breeding, such as using a stallion because he is owned by a neighbor, or because his fee is low; and if our farmers fall back into this way of doing things, which was, I think all will admit, too common by far in the past, then, in my humble opinion, good-bye to any chance of finding a good market for our surplus horses across the Atlantic.

BLUE-BLOOD.

Encouragement to Horse Breeders.

BY ALEX. GALBRAITH, SECRETARY AMERICAN CLYDESDALE ASSOCIATION.

I am satisfied that the average Canadian farmer is capable of reading the signs of the times, and is, therefore, bound to see clearly for himself that there is "land ahead." Present day indications for horse breeders are decidedly bright. At no previous time during the last 25 years have circumstances so combined to bring about an early and substantial all-round advance as we are now surrounded by; in fact, it must of necessity follow as the night the day. We had, during "the eighties," a long and bright day of sunshine in the horse business. In "the nineties" we have been passing through a corresponding night of blackness and sorrow. Although not quite at the end of the tunnel yet we are certainly approaching it closely. If everybody waits until the good times actually come before setting their house in order, nobody will reap the full benefit. Fortunes are not ordinarily made by supplying present public wants, but rather by anticipating them. The man who can correctly anticipate the next season's wants can always make money, and why not the farmer and horse breeder? And it seems to me that the Canadian farmer will be more likely to do so than his cousins this side of the line. Why? The American farmer is extremely versatile—much more so

than is good for him sometimes. He is always ready to change from raising hops to raising horses, and from horses to hogs, at the shortest notice. I have known them stop raising cattle and go to raising carp fish in order to rectify the markets. The Canadian is more steadfast of purpose; has far greater love for his stock and is less easily discouraged. He pursues in good and bad times the even tenor of his way—stays by his first love and does not readily chase after false gods. His greatest advantage, however, is that he loves his work, and in staying by it becomes proficient. This is not "taffy," it is truth; not an idle compliment, but an indisputable fact.

The reputation of Canadian horses in the Eastern American cities and in Great Britain is good. Many of the highest-priced carriage geldings in New York City have come from the Dominion. At the recent New York Horse Show quite a number of prize winners were either owned by Canadians or had been purchased of them. The breeding of one beautiful little mare that won second prize in a class of 42 harness horses, 14 1 to 15 hands, is noteworthy. She was raised near Toronto from a little French-Canadian mare, and sired by the Clydesdale stallion, Garnet Crown, imported by Mr. Beith. The superb action of this mare captivated everybody, and she was a popular winner in a class comprising some very high-priced horses.

But, then, we hear that the horse is about to be displaced in every walk of life by "motorcycles." Some of our enterprising Chicago papers have been trying to "boom and boost" such machines, and offered \$5,000 in prizes for a race the other day, as a supreme test of what great things they could do. After four months' daily advertising only two machines appeared, although it was said that one hundred entries had been made, but the others were not ready. Of the two starters, one went "puffing and swelling" headlong into a ditch; the other went over the course at the rate in which an ordinary Shetland pony could have traversed it. The next race was arranged so that all could be ready, and came off last Thursday—Thanksgiving Day. Six machines started, but only two were able to make the journey—a short run of some 50 miles in all, on good roads, in the suburbs of Chicago, and the winner came in "blowing" about 10 hours afterwards. Fancy the breakneck speed this machine must have gone to travel 50 miles in over 10 hours. Another "motorcycle" left New York during the recent Horse Show, en route for Chicago, but the last half of the journey had to be made on board a freight train; no comment is necessary. Verily the so-called "horseless age" appears as distant as ever.

It is always edifying to glance backward and, like old Pythagoras, enquire "what we have learnt from all we've seen?" Now, we have seen during the last decade a vast over-production of nearly all kinds of horses, and this over-production continued year after year without diminution before it was realized; in fact, before the evil effects were visible in the market. Simultaneous with the evidences of this over-production came one of those periodical spells of commercial and industrial depression to which this country has always been subject. These two causes, aided by electricity and the bicycle fad, joined hands to produce the terribly depressed and unprofitable times for horse breeders through which we have been passing. But now these conditions are entirely changed. Instead of an over-production throughout the United States, there has not been during the last three or four years one-half the number of colts raised that is necessary to supply the home demands without taking into account the export trade. Our farmers will awaken some morning to discover that there is a strong demand for good horses of all kinds, a demand which, for five years to come, they cannot supply, for the simple reason that they have practically abandoned their breeding operations. The horse market cannot be overstocked so rapidly as the cattle, sheep or hog market, but once let it become glutted, and that condition necessarily continues just so much longer. It has been undergoing a "purging" process for a considerable time back, and the year 1896 will undoubtedly show the first substantial signs of a restricted supply and correspondingly advanced prices. The tide that has "ebbed" so decidedly and disastrously will in due course "flow" with opposite results.

Canadian horse breeders, do not lose your courage; you have an excellent reputation; you have the skill and the persistence; and whether you produce draught horses or carriage or road horses, keep up the quality, breed from the best, feed and handle them well, and your reward is as sure as the sun rising in the East.

At the next English Shire Show substantial recognition will be given to the breeders of the prize-winners. Nearly all the glory nowadays goes to the exhibitor, and the breeder is apt to be forgotten. According to the new proposals, breeders of first and second-prize winners would benefit in these victories to the extent of £10 and £5 respectively. By this means the interest in the show, it is hoped, will be still further stimulated. Applied to all the classes, this extra outlay represents a sum of about £100. The only exception which the society think necessary to make will be in the gelding classes, where the breeder of the first-prize winner will receive £5. The society have altered their number of judges from four to three.

A Christmas Greeting to the Shorthorn Breeders of the Dominion.

SIR,—While it cannot be said that the year about to close has been a brilliantly successful one in the Shorthorn trade any more than in other lines of business, yet it has certainly not been without encouraging features and signs of promise for the future.

In the first place, there were only two closing-out sales of really first-class herds during the year—Hon. Thomas Ballantyne's, of Stratford, and Mr. D. D. Wilson's, of Seaforth, and in each case I think I may say that the results exceeded the expectations of the disposers. Partial sales, as usual, have been disappointing.

In the second place, every sign of the times points to a decided reaction in favor of the beefing breeds of cattle, mainly from the mad rush of so many farmers into the production of butter and cheese in recent years. No observer can have failed to see that in very many districts where great numbers of beefing cattle were formerly bred and fattened there have been almost none raised during the past two years, and this is not confined to districts, nor is it confined to Canada. The United States have had a similar experience, as have had most European countries. It is not difficult to foresee in what this must result in the near future, viz., a great shortage of cattle capable of producing the best quality of beef—the only sort that it pays to feed, and that must always be in greatest demand. Another encouraging sign of the times is the fact that young Shorthorn bulls have never in the history of the breed in Canada been sold off so completely to breeders, farmers and ranchmen as they have during the months of March, April and May of the present year. If there were any breeders in Ontario who failed to sell their young bulls the past season, the fault must have been their own, as there never has been a brisker demand for even the very middling sorts; and though prices still range much lower than formerly, there is nothing the farmer can produce at the present time that is surer of sale or better paying than good bulls of approved breeding.

If the quarantine restrictions between this country and the United States were removed there would undoubtedly be a brisk demand from that country for our best Shorthorns, and this would be a great advantage to both countries, and, I think, without danger to the health of the cattle of either. Quarantine was first established by our Government against American cattle to satisfy the demands of the English Government, and thereby secure for our cattle free entry to the British inland markets. I, for one, am convinced that that privilege is now lost beyond any reasonable hope of recovery, and we have, I believe, seen the most effects of the change without any very alarming results. Then, seeing that the main reason for establishing and maintaining quarantine against American cattle has disappeared, I cannot see why the quarantine restrictions should not be removed also, resulting, I am convinced, in the removal of the American quarantine against our cattle. This is all the more desirable now because both countries require new blood from time to time, and the regulations governing entry of cattle from Great Britain into this country are such as to almost, if not quite, prohibit their importation. No prudent business man who understands the regulations and the situation would invest money in cattle and take the risk of having perfectly healthy cattle slaughtered, as has been the case, because from some feverish excitement they may chance to show a slight rise in temperature when experimented on for disease.

It may not have occurred to the Dominion Government that breeders of cattle in Britain would be very shy of selling cattle from their valuable herds to have them experimented upon on landing in this country, and possibly condemned, as above stated, thus branding their herds as diseased. The truth is, these regulations amount to a prohibition of the importation of cattle into this country, and I doubt if this is not by far a greater menace to the continuance of our high standard of quality in our cattle than would be compensated by protection from risk of importing disease from countries if not as free from disease as our own, yet as free as they have ever been. We require new blood frequently, and we must have it or suffer out of all proportion to the protection now supposed to be afforded from the importation of disease.

ARTHUR JOHNSTON,

President Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association.

Prof. C. F. Curtis, of the Ames (Iowa) Experiment Station, who recently visited Ontario, purchasing live stock for experimental purposes, evidently noted more than our high-class sheep and swine. In a late issue of Rural Life the professor says: "A day on some of the best farms of Ontario would be a revelation to many of our western farmers who consider themselves the salt of the earth and look upon the Canadians as a slow-going, unprogressive people. Our soil averages superior in native fertility, but much of this is compensated by the better system of cultivation that prevails there. Never in my life have I seen such plowing as is done by the Canadians. It is as much the exception to see a poorly-plowed field as it is to see a good one here."