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BREEDING COBS AND PONIES.

"Aim high" is a good motto for the breeder as well as for the student, or politician, or statesman, but it appears to be quite possible for the horse-breeder to aim more highly than the breeding material he has at his disposal will warrant. For example, it is sheer folly for the possessor of a fourteen-hand mare to breed her to a big coach horse in the hope of producing another coacher. Nor would any sensible man expect to get a race horse or even a clever hunter by breeding a big Clydesdale mare to a thoroughbred horse. As long as a man has a big roomy brood mare, however, there are many possibilities before him, but the trouble comes when he has a small mare which he desires to breed. As already pointed out, it is folly to breed such an animal to a big horse. If she happens to be thoroughbred, the chances are that if she is very small she will never throw a good race horse, though she might possibly do so. The question is, what shall be done with our little mares? Could the breeder do anything more sensible than devote his little mares to the production of neat little cobs and ponies? Such animals are always in demand

in every city, but the trouble is to find anything of a neat cob or pony at a price within the reach of a man who merely desires a family pony that shall be driven by the mistress of the house and ridden by the boys and girls. A handsome, compact, and well-turned pony can be kept in first-class fix for ordinary family use at a very moderate cost; he is a luxury to a city family in moderate circumstances, and the only reason why there is so little enquiry for such animals is to be found in the hopelessness of getting them. Any little weed of a well-bred mare should throw the very ideal of a family pony to a small cob or pony stallion of the proper type, and she would be vastly more useful employed in that way than in breeding to animals disproportionately large, of no matter what class.

MAKE YOUR PASTURES COMFORTABLE.

There are few things about a stock farm that pay better than good pastures. No matter how much feed is obtainable from other sources, nothing will wholly take the place of thoroughly good pastures. The (Chicago) *National Live Stock Journal* says:—"There are three elements which every good pasture must contain, namely, water, shade, and grass. Without a cool, fresh, permanent water supply, the very best of rich meadow can be of little service to the animals that graze upon it, for good water is an appetizer, a tonic, besides helping to supply the liquids that are essential in the animal system, both for digestion and nourishment. Who can expect to raise healthy and vigorous stock when the green slimy pools of long-stagnant water are the only drinking places afforded on the farm? We need to be as particular about the character of the water we provide for our stock as of that which we provide for ourselves. Then, again, through the heat of the day a shady clump of trees, out in the centre of the pasture, where the breezes can help to drive away the flies and gnats, is of extreme importance. This, coupled with good water and succulent grasses, enables stock to pasture in comfort, and use their food for improvement, rather than in racing from insect torments and for water."

But these requisites are not all, though many of our Ontario and Quebec farmers seem to think they are. In fly time cattle and horses should be liberally supplied with smoke fires, or "smudges," as they are usually called. In the North-West they understand this thoroughly. They not only have smoke fires but "smoke yards." If there are only one or two smudges the "bosses" in the herd will take possession of them to the exclusion of all others, but this is not all; should there be no wind, the animal that attempts to monopolize the fire is apt to stand over it, and in doing this he too often gets his hoofs in the fire and has them ruined before he knows what's the matter. To guard against both these evils strong and capacious yards are built and several fires built in each. In this way a few yards will serve the purpose for a large herd of cattle, and make a material difference in their condition in the course of the season in any locality where the flies are troublesome.

The authority we have already quoted adds on this same subject the following:—"It is truly a pleasure to walk out into a well provided pasture and see the cattle at noon time, satisfied with their morning croppings, lying in the shade and drowsily chewing their cud. Everything in their appearance indicates that all wants are satisfied. Contentment is their lot, and good pasture has done it. In this new country, where the farm, in so many cases, has to be made by its owner, a little forethought can provide what is wanted, and especially in this matter of trees on the pasture. Where all trees have to be planted, see that some are planted with direct reference to the comfort of stock, as, under the leafy awning they afford for protection from the hot sun, so in winter, amid the timber for protection from wind, the stock will find comfort for themselves, which means money for their owner."

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

It may well be questioned if it be wise to interfere with those channels into which capital naturally finds its way. Nineteen years ago the United States offered to laborers and mechanics the best wages obtainable in the civilized world. It is true that the currency was some-