

9 EDWARD VII., A. 1909

old until he died. He was admired wherever he went. Whether it was in the city or the country people would admire him and say, 'That is a pretty horse, where did you get it?' He was raised by a farmer in the neighbourhood, I don't know where the mother was obtained, but he was just typical of what I understand the French Canadian horses to be; one of the handsomest and most useful horses that we ever had upon our farm, a beautiful animal and useful in every way. I think he must have been an ideal French Canadian horse.

TELEGONY.

By Mr. Owen:

Q. I wish to ask Dr. Rutherford to explain this fact. I was told it by a Presbyterian minister. He owned a mare of the light harness type. He bred her to a registered pacing stallion. She lost a colt about 2 months before her time. A few months after that he bred her to one of the best pure bred Hackneys, and the result was a pacing colt of the light harness type. Can you explain that?

A. I would ask you before endeavouring to answer the question whether the service by the pacing stallion was the first service that the mare had ever had?

Q. Yes, I think it was.

A. That is what is known as telegony and it is one of the most disputations subjects among breeders at the present day. It is claimed by many breeders and many men of experience, and I myself am a strong believer in the theory, that an animal bred for the first time is liable ever afterwards to show in her progeny some of the characteristics of the first male with which she has had connection. Prof. Cossar Ewart, who is a brother of the Chief Architect of the Public Works Department here, has gone most exhaustively into the subject and has demonstrated to his own entire satisfaction and to that of those who believe with him, that no such thing exists. I have, however, in my own personal experience, which has now unfortunately extended over a great many years, seen so many instances of it that it will take a great deal more than proofs which Prof. Ewart has produced to convince me that such instances as that which you describe are not quite in the natural order of things.

DISPOSITION OF THE FRENCH CANADIAN HORSE.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—There is one thing more I would like to say about the French Canadian horse—it has not been touched on—and that is as to his disposition. The horse as a rule is the most kindly, gentle and docile horse I have ever had the opportunity of handling, and he is also one of the truest to his work; he never gives out, it does not matter what he is at, if it is on the road he travels along forever, and if he has a load behind him he will tug at it until he moves it. He never balks and children can handle him with the greatest safety. In every way he is docile and kindly.

By Mr. Currie (North Simcoe):

Q. What result would you get by crossing the French Canadian mare with a Clydesdale horse such as you referred to?

A. King John, I think, is perhaps more of a Percheron than a Clydesdale, from his picture. The horse, himself, King John, was a very handsome horse, a horse of great symmetry and conformation. I think myself that in the first cross you would get probably a very useful animal, off the Clydesdale, a very good horse, but then you could not go any further with that cross; you would simply have to stop there.

Q. The reason I ask you is this: the farmers of Western Ontario, especially in the district I represent, will only breed to a thoroughbred or a close well bred