

HORSES.

Unwisdom of Cross-breeding.

A short time since we were asked how we would advise breeding a Thoroughbred mare of some 1,200 pounds weight so as to produce a salable class of stock for city purposes. Of course, in the case of such a question, the answer is confined within certain limitations. However, we took occasion to impress upon our inquirer the wisdom of breeding the mare to a stallion of her own breed, providing, of course, that she was actually Thoroughbred, and eligible for registration. Pure-bred stock of quality possesses a premium in value above its intrinsic worth for commercial purposes, by reason of its suitability for the production of high-class, prepotent sires, calculated to improve the general horse stock of the country. This will remain so until pure-bred horses are as common as pure-bred pigs, chickens or sheep. To cross breeds habitually, is to check the work of improvement, for a cross-bred sire, however good as an individual, is an uncertain breeder; that is to say, one may not be sure of the type and quality of his progeny. He lacks prepotency. Of course, an occasional gelding or mare, phenomenally valuable for exhibition purposes, may be produced by crossing, but, for the most part, it is in the general interest of the cause of stock improvement that pure-bred females be mated to males of their own breed, and this will usually be found the best business proposition for the individual to pursue, providing his females are sound, and of reasonably good type, quality and disposition. Cross-breeding is a dissipation of accumulated influence for good.

Farming in the Old Country.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As almost all the readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" are interested in farming, perhaps you would like a bit of experience I have had in the Old Land. My father was a farm manager in the eastern counties of England. He had 600 acres to manage, and about 8 to 10 men, except at haying and harvest; then we had 16 to 18. Our stock comprised 16 workable horses, 8 stallions, 2 horses for the owner to ride and drive, and also 3 blood mares, which were ridden or driven, as desired, and a stud of colts and mares to break-in for the London market. The work horses were mostly all Shires, and three or four Suffolks. The Suffolk mares were put to blood horses to get 'bussers for the London 'Bus Company. These colts would be broken at 3 years, or coming 4 years. The colts are always broken on the plow on the sandy part of the farm. This was to harden them up. After about six months' easy work on the plow, they were taught to drive double in a road brake, and then put in single harness on the road for about three weeks. We always tried to get about three or four colts broken at the same time, and then the Luyers would come to try them, and buy them, mostly, as we rarely had one unsound. They would fetch from \$200 to \$250, which we considered a good price. The three blood mares were always sent away to a stud horse for about six weeks. This would cost about \$50, and \$2.25 groom fees; the moneys were always paid, whether the mares were in foal or not. The colts from these mares were mostly sold unbroken; if unsound, they would be kept to do light work when the others were extra busy. The colts were sold at two years old for about \$100 to \$125. This may seem a small amount, but they are plentiful locally, as the grass is good, on account of the sea washing up the dykes. The mares live out all the year round, with an open shed to run in, and a little hay or straw, and a few mangels pulped. We scarcely ever had a Shire horse to sell, as they were kept on the clay land most of the time, and a great many mares slipped their foals, mostly through boys and men overworking them, or owing to ill-usage. When we did sell one, they would fetch about \$200. The colors were mostly dark brown, black and dappled gray. The Shire stallions were always made to work, except during the breeding season, when they travelled round to the farms. The fees were from \$2.50 to \$5.50, whether mares were in foal or not. The 50 cents was for the groom.

The teamsters had to feed two stallions each, and four other work horses. The teamsters would travel with the stallions, and extra help would be hired to do their work. I might say, in addition to the eight or ten men we kept, we always had a good supply of farm lads, sons of the teamsters, who would do almost as much work as the men. There was one groom, one gardener, one cooper to look after his cows and all other

stock, with one lad to help. These would do no work on land, only at harvest time. The cowman's wife made the butter and looked after the turkeys and fowls. We only had 25 acres of grass for pasture for the cows and horses. But this was good land, and the stock would get fat on it. In the summer, we grew green feed for the horses. We cut this as soon as we required it in the summer. What we did not feed green, we cut when the flowers were falling off the tares, and it made great hay. For horse hay, we used sainfoin and English rye grass. This makes a good hay, except in wet seasons, when the rye grass musts badly. For cow hay, we grew red clover and lucerne, and trefoil. We tried alsike for a year or two, but soon stopped, as we had several sheep poisoned, by allowing the alsike to grow up to flower before the sheep were turned on. We kept 600 Southdown ewes, and crossed them with a Lincoln ram to get lambs for the market. We never raised our ewes. The ewes and lambs were fed in summer rye and tares. The lambs would have a place fenced off to get oil cake and bran, then would go on hay stubble till the mustard was ready. Before going on the mustard, the lambs would be sold. After the ewes came off the mustard, where the rams had been with them, they would go on turnips till spring again. The sheep paid best of anything on the farm. L. G. CLARKE. Peel Co., Ont.

Chicago Horse Values.

The forty-third annual live-stock report, issued by the Union Stock-yard and Transit Co., of Chicago, contains the following interesting summary of horse values for the several months of 1908, and also for the years 1908 backward to 1903:

	Draft Horses.	Carriage Pairs.	Drivers.	General Use.	Bussers & Trammers.	Saddlers.	Southern Chunks.
1908.							
January ..	\$177.00	\$400.00	\$150.00	\$125.00	\$135.00	\$155.00	\$70.00
February ..	185.00	450.00	155.00	130.00	140.00	165.00	75.00
March ..	187.00	460.00	160.00	135.00	145.00	170.00	77.50
April ..	187.00	475.00	165.00	137.00	150.00	175.00	77.50
May ..	185.00	490.00	165.00	135.00	145.00	175.00	77.50
June ..	182.00	470.00	160.00	130.00	140.00	170.00	70.00
July ..	182.00	465.00	155.00	130.00	140.00	170.00	70.00
August ..	182.00	465.00	155.00	130.00	140.00	165.00	65.00
Sept.	177.00	450.00	150.00	130.00	135.00	160.00	65.00
October ..	175.00	425.00	145.00	125.00	130.00	155.00	62.50
Nov.	172.00	425.00	142.00	120.00	130.00	145.00	60.00
Dec.	172.00	425.00	142.00	120.00	130.00	145.00	60.00
Av. 1908 ..	\$180.00	\$450.00	\$156.00	\$129.00	\$138.00	\$164.00	\$69.00
Av. 1907 ..	194.00	482.00	165.00	137.00	152.00	172.00	77.50
Av. 1906 ..	188.00	480.00	158.00	134.00	147.00	174.00	72.50
Av. 1905 ..	186.00	486.00	156.00	132.00	145.00	172.00	70.50
Av. 1904 ..	177.00	475.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	160.00	64.00
Av. 1903 ..	171.00	455.00	150.00	122.00	140.00	156.00	62.00
Valuation of horses, 1908	\$14,260,000.						

LIVE STOCK.

Chicago Live-stock Trade, 1908.

Since 1900, there has been marketed and sold in Chicago a yearly average of over 16,000,000 animals, exceeding \$300,000,000 in value, or about one-half the combined receipts of the six principal live-stock markets of the United States. In view of these facts, the annual report of the Union Stock-yard and Transit Co., of Chicago, becomes a valuable register of the volume, tone and values of the previous year's trade. The 1908 report contains figures of the receipts and valuation for 1908. It gives 3,039,206 head of cattle, worth \$170,635,070; 421,671 head of calves, worth \$4,175,820; 8,131,465 head of hogs, worth \$97,810,295; 4,351,889 head of sheep, worth \$19,685,333; 92,138 head of horses, worth \$14,260,000; or a total of 16,036,369 head, worth \$306,566,518. While the year 1908 was a period of recovery from the near-panic at the close of 1907, yet the total valuation of live stock received during 1908 was only 4 per cent. less than the record valuation of 1907. This large valuation is accounted for mainly by an increase of nearly a million hogs and about 133,000 sheep, together with a material increase in cattle prices; though, on the other hand, there was a decrease in receipts of about 266,000 cattle and nearly 10,000 horses, together with lower average prices for hogs, sheep and horses, and smaller average weights for all classes of stock. The outlook is regarded as bright, not only for a season of peace and plenty, but for a season, also, of abundant activity, of a kind that makes for improvement and progress during the year.

Cleanliness of Hog Quarters.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

If a desire for cleanliness in animals could be taken as a standard in estimating their intelligence, the hog would be in the front rank. Those who are only familiar with the habits of hogs in a general way usually think of these animals as lovers of filth, but this idea has little basis in fact. No doubt, hogs seem to revel in mud, but this is only done for protection from heat and flies in hot weather. When clean water is available, the hog will prefer it to mud, even to rid itself of insects; and this preference, which is within the writer's own observation, indicates its desire for what is clean.

The importance of the hog's instinct to be clean should not be lost sight of during the fattening period. It is true that the animal will live, even if obligated to gather its food from filthy quarters, but gain in weight will never be so rapid as if the grain ration is fed on a clean floor. It is a good plan to use the broom freely on the hog's feeding-place after every meal. Notwithstanding the animal's natural desire for cleanliness, considerable filth is apt to be transferred to the feeding-ground, and, when this becomes mixed with feed, it tends to reduce the quantity that is eaten, which is, of course, undesirable, partly because it means waste, and partly on account of it delaying the day when the hog will be ready to be made into pork.

Another factor is worthy of attention. It is never wise to feed to hogs more than they can eat up clean at one time. Mussed-over feed cannot be as palatable as fresh, clean food, and hogs that are being fattened would rather go hungry than eat stale food of any kind. It is true, no doubt, that close watching on the part of the feeder is necessary in order to know just about the quantity that will be eaten up, without any residue being left. Should an overdose of food be given accidentally at any time, it is



A 32-year-old Mare which Raised a Foal in 1908.

Property of R. Kennedy, Ettrick, Middlesex Co., Ont.