

## PURE-BRED STOCK

### NOTES AND NEWS FROM THE BREEDERS

These columns are set apart exclusively for the use of breeders of pure-bred stock and poultry. Any information as to importations made, the sale and purchase of stock and the condition of herds and flocks that is not in the nature of an advertisement will be welcomed. Our desire is to make this the medium for conveying information as to the transfer of pure-bred animals and the condition of live stock throughout the country. The co-operation of all breeders is earnestly solicited in making this department as useful and as interesting as possible. The editor reserves the right to eliminate any matter that he may consider better suited to our advertising columns.

#### Farming World Man on the Wing

The Farming World Man on the Wing has just concluded a delightful trip through the picturesque and charming Province of Quebec. Seen at this time of the year, when the grip of winter, which fastens so firmly on this historic old province, has at length lost its power; when the sun shines bright and strong, giving to the air a balmy softness, sure premonition of returning spring; and veiling in translucent haze the horizon of wooded hills; Quebec has a charm as potent and as peculiarly her own as her most gracious and sweetest summer longness, and that is saying a great deal. As one travels by rail or road, Quebec unfolds before the gaze in scenes of beauty ever-changing, some that would appeal to the eye of the agriculturist, and some that would not, but always picturesque and beautiful and always old "Quebec." Amidst what always looks to the Ontario man like partly cleared and improved settlers' farms, can be seen houses and barns, decidedly ancient, the unpretentious but cosy looking homes of Jean, Pierre and Jacques, the French-Canadian habitants. Gazing out over extensive valleys, in which are nestled a few such rural homes, the smoke curling lazily from the white-washed chimneys, recalls to one's mind the lines of Longfellow's Evangeline and the "peaceful Valley of Grand Pre." But very hilly, almost mountainous, is a very large portion of old Quebec. High hills, partly or wholly covered with forest, steep hillsides, with strips and patches of woods interspersed with farm and field and meadow, and deep valleys between, with the ever present streamlet or lakelet in the midst, and always the brown thread of the highway winding down, its location appearing for the most part to have been the purest matter of chance, or to have followed the cross country steps of some long departed Indian. Up and down these roads the horses are driven, at full speed oftener than not, and with little apparent regard for consequences, indeed it is on these down grades that Jacques loves to demonstrate how fast his trotter can go.

This is perhaps the greatest short-coming of the French-Canadian as a farmer, his love for the trotting horse, and it is only after a personal visit that one can understand how firm a hold the trotter has taken on the Quebec farmer's heart. For he loves his horse with far more pride than affection, and to "get left" on the road by some neighbor, whose horse can outpace his own, is a disgrace which can only be borne with the utmost fortitude, and a determination to breed, buy, or get hold of one that can go faster. Then, too, is the ever-tempting siren of the American buyer, who will purchase at a large figure, and make his favorite famous among the race horses of the world. These, together, form a combination too strong for the astuteness of honest Jacques, the big, fat, Belgian that could work his farm well may go hide

himself, the Percheron may be good enough for others, and the Clydesdale that would work his farm best of all, and always sell to Montreal at a good profit, can flaunt his feathered fetlocks in other fields—all the draft horse kind may go hang, he will scratch his fields as best he may, and dream of the triumphant day when he, too, will vindicate his own private opinion of the kind of horseless old Lizette is made of, by sending the sorrel colt to become a factor in the great modern gambling machine, the race track. And very amusing it would be, if not tinged with the pathetic, to hear the honest Jean impressing the mind of the prospective purchaser with a comprehension of the merits of his horse. Garrulous profanity, hyperbole, and frenzied gesticulation, each lend assistance to his broken patois and one smiles to recall the lines of the amusing little rhyme: "When Bill thought 'uv his old grey mare,"

The very thought 'ut that old mare  
Wuz lightnin' in the eyes uv him,  
Hot ginger in his melin' mood,  
To give him tired nature vim."

and certainly the poet of the habitant caught the spirit that thrills his breast when he wrote:

"The moon, she's high up in de sky,  
An' ever-ting shine bright,  
Mon old cheval, she's never trot  
Lak way she's trot dat night."

With such a market for good draft horses as is the city of Montreal near at hand, one would expect to find a little attention paid to breeding them, a line which the farmers of Ontario are finding so profitable, but in spite of this and the fact that within the Province are to be found some of the leading breeders and importers of live stock, still the light, weedy trotting horse, and a little runty scrub cow hold sway. There is, indeed, some signs of a change for the better in many parts of the country, particularly in the growing tendency of the habitant to do collectively what he will not attempt as an individual, and in many parts a number of farmers are uniting forces for the purchase as a company, of pure-bred males for the improvement of their flocks and herds. A commencement upon such safe lines can scarcely be improved upon, and there is a promising possibility of the French-Canadian farmer becoming an extensive purchaser of pure-bred live stock, to his own infinite betterment. For the French-Canadian is a gentleman of the utmost good sense. He smokes his own tobacco, and then smokes it. He believes absolutely in his trotter and his little grade cow. But with all this he is not beyond learning if the lesson is made plain enough, and he will take advice, if it is made to look practical enough. To tell him that a stallion costing \$2,000 would get him better colts is a good deal like advising a newsboy of the superiority of the automobile over the bicycle. You may

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