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"Percheron" Heard From Again

Ed., The Dairyman and Farming World.—Were R. D. of Durham Co. to take in the great International Live Stock Show at Chicago, for a few years, he would begin to wonder what had become of the Clydesdale breed. He would soon realize that the Clydesdale was fast becoming a back number and that the deserving Percheron was coming into his own. There would be no more talk about his "western friend" not being well informed as to the merits of different draft breeds, especially the Clydesdale. That the Percheron is destined to become the draft horse of Canada is evidenced by its increasing popularity. Its numbers have been greatly augmented in recent years. This process of displacement, however, will not happen in a day nor in a year, but note this well that R. D. and his humble friend will see this displacement gradually brought about in the next score of years.

It is interesting that the importations made by American firms in Canada some years ago were not the success they should have been. This resulted from supposing that any sort of a Percheron will do for Canada. Importers took it for granted that Canadians did not know horses, with the result that Percherons of an inferior class, with defective and greasy hind legs, and with no pretence at constitution, were landed upon us. As a result, some of the offspring of this stock did not prove satisfactory and in many instances, Canadians became sore upon the Percheron. The inferior stock left by these scrub animals, gave rise to the Canadian indifference towards Percherons.

It would have been quite different had better horses been imported. It is wholly different in the States to-day, where the best of this noble breed are to be seen in strings of 40 and 50 in a single class at the leading exhibitions. There, we do not see the "round bones, the narrow hock-bones, the curby hocks" which R. D. emphatically states are the characteristics of the Percheron. In this statement he proves to be correct, that he is unfamiliar with the Percheron. That the Percheron has more endurance than the Clyde, does coincide with the experience of Chicago's largest users of draft horses. We find one, only of the large packing firms will have anything to do with Clydesdales. They drive the Percheron instead and well they might, judging from their appearance in the show ring. Indeed, so greatly are they admired that one of these wealthy firms was induced to exhibit his six-horse Percheron team a year ago at the larger shows in the Old Land.

We cannot expect the Percheron to show at his best in his first cross-grading upon our common class of horses. Where would the Clyde go? He would be graded upon Percheron stock of a grade equal to the common mare of this country? As soon as we get past the second and third cross and so soon as we get a few full blooded Percheron mares in this country and so soon as our large contracting firms and the carting companies in our big cities become acquainted with the merits of the Percheron, so soon will Canadians not be satisfied with anything else but this breed, which has been the triumph of the United States horse raising industry.—"Percheron," Calgary, Alta.

Silos Becoming More Popular

It is a noteworthy fact that each year sees an increase in the number of silos in the country. Our correspondents in Ontario, and in other provinces, have, of late, referred to the great increase in the number of silos erected in recent years. A correspondent from Norfolk Co., Ont., writes: "There have been several silos either built or re-built this fall.

Some who had silos before have built additional ones this year. Others who never had a silo, have built one." From Brant Co., Ont., a correspondent writes: "Corn is all cut and safely housed in the silos which have become a necessary part on every well-managed farm on which cows are kept." A correspondent from Waterloo Co., Ont., writes: "Those who have silos have this valuable fodder safely stored where it will be convenient for the winter feeding."

From Huron Co., Ont., comes the following: "Silos in some sections are quite general and are rapidly coming more in favor as farmers realize the large amount of waste incurred in saving corn in the old way in shocks." A correspondent from Wellington Co., Ont. writes: "Silos are scarce, but their day is coming." This shows that where silos are scattered, farmers are coming to realize that in order to get the most from their fodder, and especially from corn, silos are necessary.

This is as it should be for there is no industry, especially on the dairy farm, that gives such great results for the money expended in its erection, as will the silo. Those who are approaching another winter without the convenience of this modern means of providing a succulent fodder should lay their plans for a field of corn, and a silo in which to put it, ere another winter comes along.

Student's Judging Contest

The following judges were named at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Live Stock Exposition, to serve at the 1908 Exposition in the student stock judging contest:

SUPERINTENDENT.
Prof. J. H. Sheppard,
Agricultural College, N.D.
JUDGES

HORSES.
W. A. Dobson.....Marion, Ia.
Alex. Galbraith.....DeKalb, Ill.
Prof. W. B. Richards.....Fargo, N.D.
Robert Graham (alternate).....Toronto, Ont.

CATTLE.
Hon. John Dryden.....Toronto, Can.
Frank Harding.....Waukegan, Wis.
Prof. Andrew Ross.....St. Anthony Park, Minn.

SHEEP.
Robert Miller.....Stouffville, Ont.
H. Noel Gibson.....Millbrook, N.Y.
Prof. W. C. Coffey.....Urbana, Ill.
SWINE.
W. M. Lambing.....Cedar Rapids, Ia.
S. H. Gentry.....Sedalia, Mo.
Prof. W. B. Richards.....Fargo, N.D.

Prevalence of Weeds

The judges who awarded the prize in the standing field crops competition conducted during the past summer in Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island report that the weed problem is becoming most serious. The weed that is spreading most rapidly and that threatens to do the most damage to the perennial row crop is the pigweed. This weed is now reported from a great many districts in Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island, and wherever noticed, it is spreading rapidly. The annual row crops are also becoming common. Quack grass is on the increase in Ontario and is reported in a large number of districts in Quebec. Rag-weed is making rapid headway in Ontario and Quebec. Bladder Campion is reported to be spreading rapidly in some districts of Ontario and in the same provinces, wild oats are also becoming quite general, particularly in the north-western districts.

While, as a general thing, weeds are becoming more numerous, encouraging reports are received from some individual sections to the effect that more extensive clover growing, combined with larger areas devoted to hoed crops, has resulted in a definite system of crop rotation, is resulting

in the suppression of weeds. It is a matter of common observation that where two or more crops of grain are taken from the land in succession, weeds invariably get a strong hold and eventually almost crowd out the crop. This system of farming is responsible for the rapid spread of the perennial row thistle as well as other weeds in some districts and until the methods of farming are changed, little progress will be made in the fight against weeds.

The French Acre

Ed., The Dairyman and Farming World.—In your issue of September 16 there are some incorrect statements which were made by J. C. Chapais regarding the size of a French acre as given in English feet. He says: "For those who would like to make the computation between the measure of the acre and that of the French acre, let me say that the acre is 1.7377 arpent and an arpent is .8360 of an acre. The arpent is 191.85 English or Canadian feet in length."

As a matter of fact, an arpent is a small fraction over 186 English feet in length, and an acre is only 1.2286 arpents instead of 1.7377 as stated by Mr. Chapais, and an arpent is .7948 of an acre instead of .8360 of an acre.

Since a good many people in Ontario until the whole question is re-opened, it is best to give the correct figures.—David Currie, Renfrew Co., Ont.

Items of Interest

Exporters of apples have suffered much this season. Ocean-going boats were detained for days in the St. Lawrence River on account of fog and storms encountered. Hatchets had to be batted down and by the time the fruit reached England, it was literally barked. The English crop is very large and while our shipments were being held back, the English farmers were selling their apples at advantage.

A big combination of British and United States interests is behind the recent purchase of the Sun Stock Yards, West Toronto. So far, there has been no change in the management of the yards. There will be no change until the whole property is re-arranged to accommodate the various interests which are expected to center there as a result of the deal just closed.

We want a new name for The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World. Can you suggest one? Notice our announcement on Page 11.

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