

**Horse Breeding in Canada.**

Which ever way fancy may lead men in breeding horses our heavy sorts of Clydesdales and Shires are the safest line in which the majority of farmers may continue to breed. There is less risk in having them blemished, a more certain sale. If size is united with quality, a more remunerative price is received according to cost of production. They require no breaking and training, the farm being the finishing point, as well as the breeding ground; therefore no middlemen come in here to reap a part of the profits. The colts are being broken to work while performing the labor of the farm, as they come into use earlier, are ready to work at from two to three years, at which age they are as fit for farm work as the lighter breeds are a year or two later; they do their work with greater ease and pleasure to the driver, and with less wear and tear to the tackling required in the work.

There are many mares suitable for breeding this class of horses, but selection is required to be carefully carried on, and grading up to a class of horse that is alike suitable for city trade or farm work is quickly and easily done, if only the right class of stallion is used.

Unfortunately here is where the difficulty arises—farmers are only too apt to overlook their requirements in order to save a trifle in the service fee, therefore the cheap horse gets the largest patronage. Of late years this had the effect of causing cheap horses to be imported by some; all of such horses ought to be working in the shafts in their own country, instead of being palmed off upon the farmers, not only doing damage to the breed they represent, but doing material harm to the whole line of breeding, by robbing the better class of stallions and spoiling the breeding and quality of the produce of the mares bred to them. These colts that have come, and which are of no use to us, are rough, with beefy legs, round spongy bone, straight short pasterns, coarse hair growing all around the legs, which no amount of attention can make look presentable. This sort are sure to be sluggish in gait and ungainly in appearance.

A visit to numbers of our spring shows in different parts of the country will impress upon a judge of horses what a number of this class have been imported of late. Farmers are too often of the opinion that because a horse has come over the sea he is all that they require. Never was there a greater fallacy. The demand has been so great in Britain that every colt with any pretensions to breeding is saved entire, and we are the unfortunate sufferers. Every mare bred to them will be a direct loss, as the offspring will not sell, therefore they stay with us and go to pull down our average quality. Some importers in the past have bought specimens of this class cheap, and sold them high, which means a large profit, but the day is going by for this kind of stock. We want horses of the improved type, and nothing else will pass—whether Clydesdale or Shire. We must have both size and appearance, with clean, flat bone, silky feather, well set pasterns, and feet that will stand the pavements. This sort cost money, and cannot stand at low figures. In England and Scotland, particularly the latter, this best type of horses can obtain higher fees than here, and men that have enterprise enough to import or purchase from our importers who are bringing over this class, deserve to be liberally treated in

this matter. In the better class just referred to, breeders have been eminently successful in the improvement made. The Clydesdale in the past has undoubtedly been the most popular draught horse of Canada; his handsome head and graceful forehead, and above all his particularly good legs and feet, with evidence of unmistakable wear about them, combined with an easy motion and attractive action, that is excelled by no breed of horses for heavy work. Among the Shires we may not be able to find as many with the quality of bone and feather, "flash legs" as some of the Shire breeders are just now styling them, they are to be had if the price is only paid for them, and the Shire horse has a middle that none can take exception to.

During the last few months there has been quite a controversy going on between some of the large importers of Shire horses and the breeders of this class in England, as to which class is the most suitable for American trade; the breeders trying to persuade the importers that the horse to import is what they don't want at home. Many of the Shire breeders will have to pay more attention to feet, feather and legs. A quick moving horse is what is wanted on this side, and we can sacrifice a little weight to get it, although both are required to make the perfect draft horse.

A glance at the report of any horse market will show that it is from the best that the profit comes; therefore, those that have good mares should see to it that nothing but the choicest stallions be used. A good draught horse for dray work is still worth from \$200 to \$300, according to weight and quality, and the demand will be likely to keep pace with the supply for many years.

**Chatty Letter from the States.**

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

Some of the leading Chicago packers and large cattle dealers think cattle prices will be higher for a good while to come. The strong demand for improved bulls is a pretty good sign. Beef cattle are selling \$1.00 per 100 lbs. higher than one year ago, and there is a remarkably good feeling among dealers and producers. That long looked for "good time coming" seems to be well on the way. During the past two or three years the marketing of cows and heifers has been very heavy. Latterly, however, there has been a falling off in that respect, and there are hardly enough cows coming to supply the demand for canning stock. Whether this change is due to the fact that owners have decided to hold the stock for breeding, or the fact that the surplus of cow stock has been marketed, remains to be seen.

Never in the history of the live cattle export trade were such heavy shipments going forward as now. There is a great demand on the other side, but the exporters all feel that they have contracted to fill too much space, and have lately been losing quite as heavily as they gained for a while, and there is little hope of an early change for the better.

Canadian exporters are now doing a heavy business, and prices on this side are holding up and going higher.

For some months past it has been talked that hog receipts would be far in excess of the demand. This talk has had the tendency to spur owners up to ship in their hogs as fast as possible so as not to get caught in the rush. And, as a matter of fact, this method of anticipation has seemed to keep the over-supply always just

ahead; and there are strong indications that hogs intended for May markets were slaughtered in April.

The country evidently has a large stock of pigs on hand, however; and, where corn is plentiful and cheap, it does not take long to convert pigs into mature porkers.

There is a noticeable improvement in the horse market. The demand for all good kinds is stronger this spring than it has been in years. Choice driving teams have sold at \$450 to \$600 per span; drivers, good to choice, \$175 to \$350; work horses, \$100 to \$140 per head.

Cattle, hogs and horses are selling in a fairly satisfactory way, but no class of live stock is giving such general satisfaction to feeders and breeders as sheep. Prices are the highest they have been in two years, and sheepmen are happy when 142 lb. corn fed Western shorn sheep fetch \$5.70; 130 lb. woolled Westerns, \$6.40, and good to choice lambs \$6.50 to \$7.50 per hundred pounds. Sheep owners certainly cannot complain.

**Some Particulars Concerning the Stud of Mr. W. L. Ellwood, De Kalb, Ill., U. S. A.**

In a recent letter Mr. Ellwood wrote us the following:—We expect to import a large number of Percheron and French Coach horses directly from France this summer, and our importations will consist, as heretofore, of the very finest animals which we can obtain. We have had a very good trade during the past year, having disposed of all of our Coachers, and almost all of our Percherons, which we believe speaks louder than words for the quality of stock we handle and the prices and terms we are able to make. We believe that the French Coacher is destined to be the coming horse of America, and we shall pay particular attention to this breed, and are confident that after the 1st of September we shall be able to show to our customers the largest and finest collection of these popular animals which has ever been offered for sale in this country; and we believe that no one who is in the market for anything in our line can afford to pass us by without giving us a call and examining our stock and getting definite prices in connection with the different ones. We have always aimed to treat our customers in a fair and liberal manner, which will ensure for us their future patronage as well as present. We are always glad to have our friends call upon us, at "Ellwood Green," whether they wish to purchase or not, and we can assure them of a hearty welcome. We have a number of farms which are used exclusively for our Percherons and French Coachers, and we will do all in our power to make the visit as pleasant as possible. We have met with good success at the fairs and horse shows where we have exhibited during the past year, having won more first and second premiums than any other man or firm in the country, both in our Coachers and Percherons. We were particularly successful at the great American horse show held in Chicago last fall, where we exhibited a large string of our best horses, and now have the ribbons which we won there on exhibition in our office, together with a large number of gold medals which our Coach horses won while in France, and we shall be pleased to show them to any one who will call upon us.

We thank you very much for the favors which your paper has shown us, and believe that the demand for draft horses in Canada is increasing.