

OUR HORSE MARKET.

By MANAGH BEE, Manitoba.

Uncle Sam has lately been making an effort to work up a market for his horses in Europe by sending over a commissioner to work along that line. It might be well if our own government did something of the same kind, for while so much has been done to improve our dairy and other products, little has been accomplished in improving the quality of our surplus horses. Dairy associations, government pamphlets, agricultural periodicals and farmers' institutes, together with Professor Robertson's work, both at home and in England, have placed our cheese in the forefront of the world's markets, and our butter and bacon are fast getting into the same enviable position. This has been accomplished by educating the farmers as to what the market required and how to produce it. Were this done in the same way as regards the breeding of horses in Canada this branch of the farm might be made very profitable and a great source of wealth to the country. It may be said that we already have a market for our surplus horses in the Old Country, and it is true that a large number of our horses go to England and are well liked there, but the trouble is that they are a class of horses that bring but a comparatively small figure, and by the time the shipper's profit, freight and other expenses come out of it, there is but a very small profit, if any, for the man who raised the horse. The Canadian horses that have been exported are used as 'bus horses, for vans and such vehicles as require horses that can go faster than a walk and still have a certain amount of weight. The lighter animals become cab horses. Quite a number are also used on the street railways. The horses used for these purposes may be said to be a cheap nondescript lot, so that our horses nearly all going for these purposes does not say much for them, although they are found to be good horses for these purposes. Now what the Canadian farmer wants to breed is not a cheap horse, but one that will bring a good big price, and to do this he must breed with something definite in view, and also feed accordingly.

The horses that command good prices in the Old Country may be divided into two classes, light and heavy horses; the horse of medium size being the cheap class. As far as size is concerned some of the light horses might well be classed as medium, for their weight would warrant it, but their clean legs and quality bring them under the head of "light horses." This medium horse, if he may be so called, is a horse which shows cart blood without being a draught horse. The light horses, for which there is a demand in England, must either not have any cart blood in them, or if they have, they must not show it.

The raising of draught horses in Canada for export would be profitable, but to be so they must be big fellows. It is size that counts for the city dray work, and horses large enough to suit the Englishman will always find a ready sale at highly profitable figures. The trouble in Canada seems to be to raise them successfully. It is said by some authorities that it cannot be done, that the climate will not allow it. This,

however, is scarcely the case. Do we take the pains that the Englishman does in feeding our colts? Do we see—no matter how busy we are—that our colts never miss a feed and are always cared for to the best of our knowledge, never being stinted in plenty of nourishing food? In fact, is their growth pushed from start to finish, to say nothing of the care exercised in breeding compared with that on the other side of the Atlantic? That horses big enough for the Old Country market can be raised is proved by the fact that it is occasionally done. An instance of this is given by Mr. Leslie Smith, manager for W. P. Clark, St. Cloud, Minnesota, where such a large stud of Clydesdales are kept. Mr. Smith says that they are there raising colts just as big as their imported animals. Certainly Minnesota is not Canada, but the climate is severe enough there to make this case applicable to Canada, and it is referred to, as Mr. Smith is an authority who can be relied upon. It is not a case of can we raise draught horses big enough for the British market? We can do so, and if we do so they will bring from £30 upwards in Liverpool.

As to light horses, there is always a demand for good ones of the right type, both in England and the States, saddle horses, including hunters, selling well, and when really good, bringing very high figures. High steppers of the Hackney type are at present very much in demand, and tall and showy carriage horses will be found very profitable when raised. Speaking of saddle horses, there is a market for them which it would be well for the Canadian farmer to always keep in view, namely, remounts for the army. Horses suitable for this purpose will always bring a price that will make it remunerative to raise them; but if farmers would raise this class of animal they must breed very differently from what they have been doing in the past. The aim should be in breeding a cavalry horse to get an animal with a good middle and shoulders, long muscular quarters, a clean neck, with

breedy and intelligent head and face, short cannon bones and large bony knees and hocks. This can only be accomplished by the use of the thoroughbred sire, and where the progeny got by him fail to suit for the purpose bred they will be found fit to work on the farm, and though smaller than most of the farm horses now are, they will not be found small when it comes to hard work. The constant demand for horses for army purposes might be made of considerable profit to us in Canada, but in order to do so the farmers must first be educated as to the class of horses wanted and how to breed them.

"ILLUSTRATION STATIONS" FOR FARMERS.

The following is a summary of the scheme for local agricultural stations presented to the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons on April 22nd last by Professor J. W. Robertson, Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner:

The most important direct aids to agriculture given by the Dominion Government are:

- (1) The establishment and maintenance of Dominion dairy stations, whereby the making of butter in creameries during the winter has been introduced into all parts of Canada, and by means of which co-operative dairying has been established in districts where it was unknown.
- (2) The cold storage service for the carriage of perishable food products.
- (3) The imparting of information on the needs and preferences of markets which can be supplied with Canadian products, and the making of trial shipments of the same.
- (4) The maintenance of experimental farms.
- (5) Encouragements to agricultural societies, chiefly in the North-west Territories; and
- (6) Protection of the live-stock interests by veterinary service and quarantine.

During the last ten years, very

marked progress has been made in improving the quality of manufactured farm products, such as butter and cheese, and in feeding live stock profitably.

There has been much less improvement in the methods of cultivating crops, in the selection and general use of the most productive varieties of cereals, grasses and roots, and in maintaining the fertility of soils.

Research and Illustration.

Every experiment is capable of rendering a two fold service. It may discover what was before unknown; and it may illustrate and demonstrate the application in a profitable way of principles and methods which are not new. It is seldom advantageous to combine in one experiment the objects of research and illustration. It is always a good plan to concentrate effort and attention on a few things, until some real progress has been made. The hurried multiplication of experiments, without definite comprehensive plans, may cause amazement, but they seldom yield practical service. The history of experiment stations maintained by the Governments in all lands shows a general tendency towards making them, or letting them become "show places," having therefore a very limited range of usefulness. Too much Barnumism renders no service to science or to farmers.

Information Presented in a Taking Way.

When any principle or method that may be applied to farm management has been discovered as a good one, the information about it should be given in such a way that it will be as soon as possible beneficial to those for whom it is intended. There is great danger of valuable information being buried in bulky printed reports beyond the hope of resurrection. For men who are mostly employed in working with material things, such as land, farm tools, animals and products, illustrations should be given (1) where they can see them, (2) in such a way that they can readily understand them,



Group of Prize-winning Ayrshires.

Bred and owned by J. Terrill, Wexler, Ont. Five-year-old Frankie—2108—and her four daughters. Frankie stands to the right. She was calved Jan. 3rd, 1892; sired by Leo of Norval—314—; dam, Lady of Park Hill—1580—. The next is Primrose—2487—, calved April 4th, 1894; sired by Prince of Byron—583—; dam, Frankie. Pearl—2831—, calved March 14th, 1895; sired by Norman of Robertson—1901—; dam, Frankie. Ida May—2982—, calved Feb. 21st, 1896; sired by Norman of Robertson—1901—; dam, Frankie. Susanna—3285—, calved April 14th, 1897; sired by Dominion Lad—1802—; dam, Frankie. This photo was taken about the 2nd of June, 1897. Frankie dropped another very fine heifer calf on the 4th of March, 1898. Its name is Germania. Germania was sired by Dominion Lad—1802—.