

inches in length, brownish above, and white beneath, and has two black bars on the neck and breast. The wings and upper tail-coverts (the feathers overlying the base of the tail-feathers) are orange brown, and these last mentioned markings constitute the identification mark of the species. It is a bird of the pasture-fields, where in lays its four clay-colored eggs, marked with blackish-brown, in a depression in the ground. The name of "Killdeer" is derived from the similarity of its call to these words. The Killdeer should not be regarded as a game bird, since it is a valuable consumer of insects, eating wire-worms, pea-weevils, May beetles, grasshoppers and many other injurious species, and if shot its small body makes but a mouthful.

This winter has been one of the mildest in years, with snow on the ground in many parts of Ontario for but a month or five weeks and if the belief that a hard winter was necessary for the arrival here of northern birds was true we should have seen none of them at all. But we have had snowflakes, redpolls, Northern shrikes, Canada jays, and pine grosbeaks in the southern parts of Ontario, and in February, that distinguished visitor from the north, the evening grosbeak, was seen at Madoc and at Kingston.

The evening grosbeak is about eight inches long and has a very large yellowish bill. The male is dusky yellowish, with the forehead and rump brighter yellow. The crown and tail are black and the wings are black with a large white patch. The female is similar but more gray than yellow. It breeds in the northern portion of Western Canada and in Ontario is a rather rare winter visitor. When it does visit Ontario it usually comes in flocks of from ten to twenty, though occasionally the flock may include seventy-five or more individuals. It is very tame and may be observed at close range.

## HORSES.

Is the box-stall ready for the colt?

Promptness means much in a case of difficult parturition.

Clean it out thoroughly, whitewash the walls and use a disinfectant on them, and keep it well bedded with clean fresh straw.

Prepare an antiseptic for the treatment of the colt's navel. A ten per cent. carbolic acid solution is good.

It might be well to have a little castor oil, and perhaps some laudanum on hand in case the foal should develop diarrhea.

In the article in our issue of March 13th, "The Thoroughbred and the Farm," an error in type occurred, \$750 being given as the subsidy to Thoroughbred horses, when it should have read \$250.

This is the season of the year when the work horses should get the best feed. The sweetest, brightest hay in the mow, and the plumpest, meatiest oats in the granary should be saved each year for the horses in preparation for and during the spring work.

It is said that the Minister of Militia is about to establish a remount station in Western Ontario, and that fifteen stallions are to be imported from England for this station, stallions to travel in various districts during the breeding season, and to return to the station when the season closes.

A writer in an American contemporary, recently advised the following to dry up a mare. "Milk all the milk from the mare, and rub the parts with soft soap and salt well mixed. If no soft soap is handy, melt common laundry soap (either factory or homemade) with a little water, and mix with the salt. Do not let the colt to the mare, or milk her yourself after using the remedy. The udder will fill, but finally go down and no bad results will follow." The paper referred to published this without comment, and we do the same.

The best time to clip the work horses is at hand. There is little doubt but that they will do the seeding easier and with less loss of flesh, and with less time spent in cleaning if their winter coats are removed before going on the land. A clipped horse requires some care, and should not be allowed to stand in drafts when heated up. A blanket is sometimes required, but clipping is surely good practice.

In Wisconsin State horse breeders' clubs have been formed on rather an extensive scale. There are now ten of these clubs called county clubs, the largest of which has 257 members. These clubs have been found very helpful in the enforcement of the stallion enrolment law. Any individuals having complaints, make them to the club officers whose duty it is to report to the department any infractions of the law.

Stallion enrolment seems to be working well in Wisconsin where since its inception in 1907 a steady decrease in the number of grade and mongrel or scrub stallions, used for public service, has taken place. In 1907 when the first statistics were compiled by Dr. Alexander, who has had charge of the work since its inauguration, 65 per cent. of the stallions of the state were of grade or scrub breeding. In 1910 this percentage had fallen to 55.5 per cent.; in 1912 to 51.5 per cent. Two hundred and fifty-six new pure-bred sires were enrolled in 1912. One hundred and ninety-four grade sires, and one hundred and ninety scrubs were retired from service during the same year. This is progress. Ontario will show like progress in time.

### Should It Go Further?

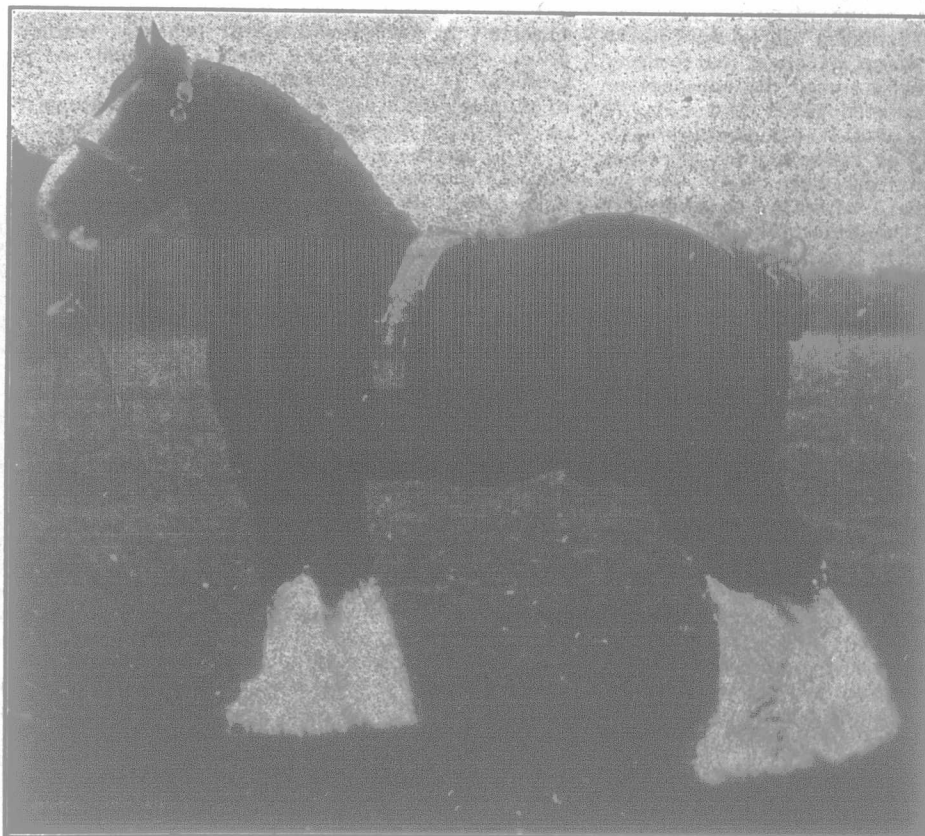
During the past few weeks several communications regarding Ontario's stallion enrolment measure have come to this office. Some have been adversely critical, and all have been statements of the belief that it does not go far enough. All are agreed that inspection and enrolment should be made compulsory, some going as far as to advocate the grading of the horses passing inspection. One correspondent suggests a minimum fee set by the government, to eliminate all

horse out of business. We must not be too hasty in our criticisms of the Ontario Act. It takes time for the effect to be noticeable, and at the time it was passed it was just about as far as the government dare go. Horsemen, as is the case with all other classes of people, do not care to be driven. The act, while not as effective and strong as it might be, has at least caused those interested to think. Horsemen from one end of Ontario to the other have discussed the measure and nearly all now favor compulsory inspection. How much more adverse would have been their criticism had compulsory inspection been upon them at the time the enrolment act was passed. Many would have been up in arms. The slower process will be the surer in the long run, and compulsory inspection is almost sure to come, and grading may also follow. Good is sure to come of the measure in time, and now that the horsemen are in sympathy with the taking of a step further in the matter the government should not hesitate to make the move. Let the act grow in scope and effectiveness as public sentiment warrants.

### The Proof of the Pudding.

With horses, as with all other classes of livestock in the show-ring, the best advertisement a breeder can possibly get is a strong line of young stock bred by himself on his own farm. It may be a somewhat difficult matter for a man, no matter how well he may be versed in requirements of every breed or every class of horses, to go out and buy a championship string of youngsters, but if he will put up the money he can get the colts and with far more certainty than if he attempts to breed them. This is not meant to discourage the breeder, not at all, but to show him how really great is his work, when, after combating all the laws of atavism and reversion, and battling with the untold uncertainties of breeding, he has succeeded in producing a real champion or class header. Herein lies the merit. A stud which is producing winners is of far greater service to the community and to the country's horsebreeding than the one which is maintained at great cost, being built up entirely from other stables which are producing the good things.

One of the most noticeable features of the recent Shire Show in London, England, according to those who were present, was the increase in numbers, and the marked improvement in quality in the younger class. While some of the aged classes were not very well filled, all the classes for younger animals brought out strong



Danesfield Stonewall.

Shire stallion. First in the class for aged stallions, and reserve for championship, at the great Shire Show recently held in London, England. Exhibited by F. E. Muntz.

scrubs. He believes that setting a fair to high standard for all would cause mare owners to use nothing but good horses. This does not seem practicable. If the fees for scrubs were raised to say \$12, fees for the good horses would likely be raised correspondingly or nearly so, and the scrub would survive. Besides horsemen would not care to allow any government to dictate the service fees which they should charge. It would be just as logical for the government to set the price for seed grain, or the price which an owner should ask for his horse if he wishes to dispose of him. Service fees must be decided upon and set by the stallion owner, and the price, be it high or low, is usually a fair indication of the value of the horse, based on his conformation and breeding, especially where stallions are plentiful. Of course where stallions are very few in numbers this may not apply, a single horse, or perhaps two horses having a monopoly of a district, but usually, even where this latter condition prevails, some enterprising man sees the opening, and more and better horses are introduced.

As indicated in a paragraph elsewhere in this issue, stallion enrolment has been a success in Wisconsin, and is gradually driving the inferior

strings. This shows a healthy condition of affairs. Good youngsters are being bred in the studs. In this country conditions are a little different. Many of our best horses are imported, and we have room for still more good imported horses of the various draft breeds. We wouldn't for a moment think of discouraging the importing of high-class stock to improve that already in the country. Large importations, of course, swell the classes for mature horses at the shows, and the aged classes, three-year-olds and two-year-olds, are always stronger in this country than the classes for yearlings, foals and brood mares. This is, under the circumstances, no more than could be expected, but there is great room for improvement, especially in numbers in these younger classes. "By their colts ye shall know them," should be the motto of every breeder in this country, and when he has a promising colt he should not hesitate to take it to the exhibitions. Greatest credit is due the breeder who produces the top-notchers.

What significance has this at this time of year? The show season is a considerable distance off; yes it is, but the mating season is near at hand, and the kind of horse the mare is mated to, has much to do with the chances the