

## THE HORSE.

### Legislation and Unsoundness in Stallions.

We have never been strongly in favor of attempting to legislate good stock into a country, because such can scarcely be accomplished. Before a law can be enforced it must have public sentiment behind it. Before a community, a township, a county, a province, or a country will breed nothing but good, pure-bred stock, public sentiment in that community, township, county, province or country must favor high-class, pure-bred stock. The people must demand a law before that law can do much good. Just so the call for better stock must come from the breeders, and not, as a general thing, from legislators or government employees. If an individual or group of individuals have a desire to obtain a better sire and a few females of a higher class, they will usually find a way to get them. It is all right to make it easy for them to obtain what they want, but the people themselves must hold the initiative in the matter if it is ever to be the success which it should be. If a man or group of men desire a Percheron or Belgian horse, they will never be satisfied with a Clydesdale or Shire, and it would be folly to attempt to induce them to take one. If they do take it, the chances are that they will lose interest and neglect it, and possibly they know what will nick with their mares as well as does the man placing the horse. If they want a Clydesdale or Shire they want it, and should get it. The same is true of the various breeds of other classes of stock. It is altogether impossible to give 100 per cent. satisfaction with something "just as good," which can never be as valuable to the man who has an inherent desire for something else.

Over in Britain there is an agitation on foot to attempt to legislate unsoundness in horses out of the country. In the various provinces of Canada legislation has been enacted, making it compulsory to have stallions inspected and enrolled, and in Ontario the grade stallion is being legislated out of business, which we believe is a good move and one demanded by the horsemen of the province. Some objections may be raised to legislation which would prohibit the use of unsound stallions, particularly as authorities are not agreed upon what constitutes an unsoundness. The whole is very well set forth in an article which recently appeared in *The Farmer and Stock Breeder*, from which we quote:

"The question at issue which breeders have to decide is not whether they are sympathetic or unsympathetic to the travelling of unsound horses, but to the means which may be adopted to remove them. We all agree that the unsound horse on circuit is an evil. It is said that one of the proposals is to prohibit the service of all stallions which are unsound. If this is so then we regard it as an effort to run before one finds one's feet for walking. Opposition to such a step must not be interpreted as due to lack of sympathy, for less drastic proposals may achieve the same end. We are hopeful that no such step will be seriously meditated, for it would naturally bring the heavy-horse breeding community into arms; that is to say, the community which has the largest stake in the progressive march of horse breeding. It is quite right that we should do nothing to encourage the travelling of unsound horses, and an effort should be made to dispense with the cheaper grade of stallion—whose services merely make trouble. To achieve that end we are quite willing to go some length, but when the proposal is extended to include horses of undoubted breeding talent which may not be perfectly sound, then we think there is something to be said in favor of walking warily.

"It must not be supposed that we urge in principle the retention—for breeding purposes—of unsound horses. Very far from it; but if we read history aright we realize that it is the gradual elimination of unsoundness that is the sensible plan. History certainly tells us that certain horses have made their mark, and it cannot be supposed that all famous stallions have been entirely sound animals. Let us put it to the breeder. Would he rather have a horse that is perfectly sound—knowing him to be an indifferent getter—or would he prefer a stallion that may have some form of unsoundness and yet prove a superlative breeder? We look at these things in the common-sense light, and we must presume that the question of impressiveness does enter into the case. Soundness is only one of the merits of a stud horse. The question is further complicated by the impossibility of applying a general rule to the mares.

"Let us see what would happen if such a proposal were adopted. Suppose a very valuable young colt is offered for sale. What sort of market would he meet, even if bred from sound parents, if, on the off-chance of his turning unsound, he is refused the opportunity of proving his breeding talent? We can imagine that it would do away with the sale of young horses at enhanced prices, and practically restrict the demand to older and proven stock. Can it be imagined that this would benefit trade and that horse breeding would gain in the long run if the operations of the smaller man, as seller, were thus restricted? There would be little speculative purchase of young colts. If, on the other hand, a proposal were submitted limiting the services of unsound, mature horses to those carrying a minimum of a £10 fee, the proposals may find wider acceptance; but, in our belief, the correct way to tackle this matter is not summarily, causing a shortage of stallions by refusing to

allow a horse to serve at a fee if he is unsound, but to make it compulsory that all travelling stallions should have certificates to show whether they are sound or unsound. It should be made an offence, if patronage has been solicited, and the certificates are not shown to the patron on request. We do not believe in hastening unduly the ideal, and we doubt indeed if the millennium in horse breeding will ever arrive when different opinions are known to be held upon the identification of unsoundness. Any plan which is likely to interfere with trade must be depreciated, and we have certainly not reached that point when we can declare that the impressiveness of the stallion is a small thing to set against the presence of a side-bone."

## LIVE STOCK.

### Care For the Young Stock.

During the first year of the average farm animal's life it usually makes more growth than throughout the rest of its entire career. This may be somewhat surprising to many people but, nevertheless, it is true. For instance, a well-grown draft colt will make up to 1,200 pounds in one year and its ultimate weight may not be over 1,700 to 2,000 pounds. Data on 35 draft colts from mares 1,700 pounds weight and sired by a 2,000 pound stallion showed that at

six months they weighed an average of 830 pounds, and at 12 months 1,170 pounds. They were grown with the intention of making them as large as their parents. In cattle the same principle applies, since in one year a well-grown beef animal may weigh from 1,000 to 1,400 pounds and the ultimate weight at three years of age not over 1,500 to 2,000 pounds. The pertinent point in these figures is that during the first year of an animal's life (horses or cattle) it makes by far the greatest development. This development is lesser and lesser in its momentum as the animal ages from birth to maturity and, if through inefficient feeding or managing the maximum growth is not obtained throughout the animal's entire life, the ultimate development will not be what it should have been. Moreover, since the rapidity of development is greatest during the first year inefficient handling during that period will have infinitely more injurious effect than the same inefficiency in later life. In brief, improper care will result in its greatest injuries at an inverse ratio to the age of the animal.

Every atom of carelessness with the colts and calves during this fall and winter will tally seriously against their maximum development, in fact their standard at maturity will be a telltale of mismanagement. If under-feeding or some other factor is unavoidable, let not the younger stock bear the burden, but rather the more mature which can withstand hardships with less ill effects. May the growers of stock realize that the first year in an animal's life is all important.

## Final Fall Touches for Stable and Barnyard

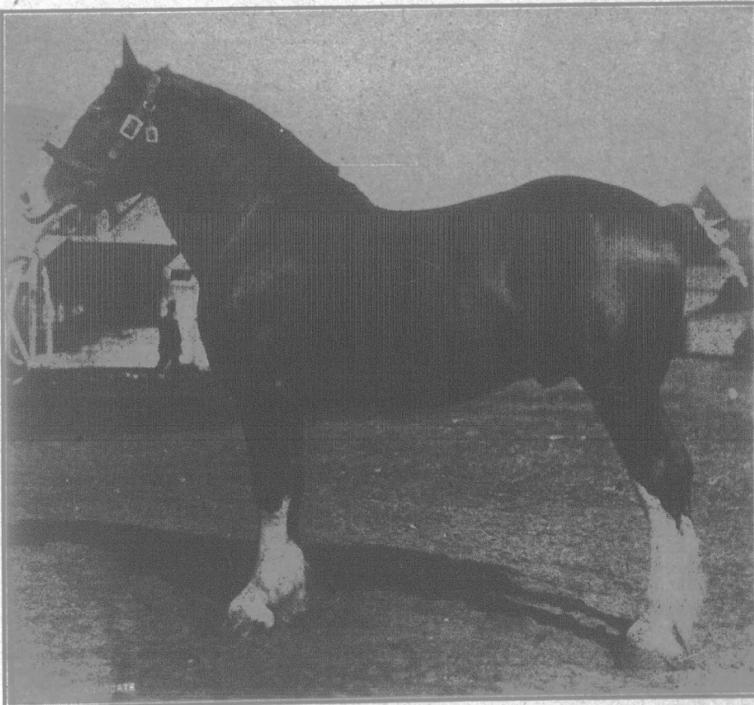
Feed and labor have not been more scarce in many years than they are this present fall. Consequently it is incumbent upon all stockmen or mixed farmers to make such preparations as will conserve the fodder and improve the facilities for handling the live stock this winter. Uncomfortable stables will cause the animals to require more feed to keep them thrifty or produce gains; inconvenience will result in many an extra step and unnecessary hours spent in doing chores. One cannot afford to feed lice and ticks or any kind of vermin this season. When the mow is built high with hay, the bins heaping with grain, and the silo or root cellar full of succulent feed, we are often indifferent to methods of conservation; but when conditions are generally

at the same time, establish the herd or flock along profitable lines.

Disease is exacting a heavy toll from the live-stock industry. Farmers, as a rule, do not realize what losses are really attributable to conditions that may be remedied with little labor and at small cost. Death losses, condemnations and veterinary bills are too numerous and during recent years they have been on the increase. Fall is a good time to fortify against them.

### Clean Up and Disinfect.

Before housing the stock permanently for the winter, clean up the stable. If there is any part of the floor that needs repair take it up and replace it with concrete. This is not a very expensive move for the initial cost is small and one has something that will last for a generation at least. If wooden mangers are still a part of the fittings, clean out the corners and see that no holes exist through which grain may be wasted or vermin may enter. Much live stock in this country is still fed from the old-fashioned wooden mangers and greater care should be exercised in keeping them clean and wholesome. In the fall of the year the stable walls should be repaired and swept clean of all cobwebs, accumulations of dust, dirt and manure. Disease germs harbor in such protective material, and no matter how thoroughly any disinfectant material may be applied, it cannot reach or effectively destroy bacteria concealed in such hiding places. When the mechanical cleaning is finished, call into use some disinfectant that is not too expensive but qualified



Silver Head.

Best Canadian-bred Clydesdale stallion at London, 1916, for J. M. & H. C. Robson, Denfield.

a direct negation to those already mentioned, it becomes necessary to husband our supplies and make every particle do its bit. To bring this about the stock must be healthy, comfortable, free from annoyance and fed in such a way as to make the best use of the fodder and grain available. Before actual winter feeding begins the stable and barn-yard should be put in condition.

The first essentials to the proper housing of animals are sunlight and sanitation. Hand in hand with these go ventilation, and so important are these three factors that anyone can profitably spend several days, at this time, making things right. Sunlight is a powerful germicide and the least expensive of any now available. We must economize in our methods of rearing and feeding, yet it is well to be ever mindful of the fact that false economy is just as bad a policy as that which condones waste and negligence. Banish false economy and extravagance in an effort to evolve a standard that will give the best returns at the present, and

to give results. Whitewash is a splendid material with which to apply chemicals or disinfecting preparations. The whitewash itself has some purifying qualities and it helps to brighten up the interior of the stable. Furthermore it will tend to fill the cracks and crevices making it less easy for dust and germs to find a lodging there. A whitewash, that will stick to the wall inside or out, can be made in the following manner: Take half a bushel of burnt or lump lime and slake with warm water, keeping it covered during the process to retain the steam. Strain the liquid through a sieve or strainer, then add a peck of salt previously dissolved in warm water; three pounds of ground rice, boiled to a thin paste and stirred in while boiling hot; one pound of glue dissolved in boiling water and one pound of Spanish whiting. To the mixture is added five gallons of hot water; it should then stand for some time. The wash is best applied hot and either brushes or spray-pump can be used to put it on.