

dales and Percherons, from the farmer's point of view.

At the outset, I consider the time has come when every Ontario farmer should view from a business standpoint every detail of his business, and see to it that every department is not only self-sustaining, but showing a balance on the right side of the ledger.

Too many of our progressive farmers consider they are doing fairly well if they are able to perform the horse labor of the farm from year to year, and maintain the average value of their working horses, even if they, in so doing, have to be at the expense of buying an additional animal now and again. All such should endeavor to realize that, in this department they are not showing the financial return which lies in their power to do. Writing from personal experience and from observation as well, we should not be satisfied with our returns if we cannot, at the end, after performing the year's labor, cause these animals to show an additional substantial balance in our annual receipts, and that without considering the results of breeding, which we now have. The point I wish to make is, that it is a great mistake to keep work horses from year to year for the sole purpose of performing the labor of the farm without any of your profit whatever resulting therefrom.

There is no reason why, through careful buying, or raising, and fattening, we cannot after having the labor performed, obtain a substantial advance upon the purchase price. There is also the additional consideration as to what the margin of profit may be from the handling of the two breeds, so that in dismissing this question, it may be considered under the following heads:

1. Serviceability in performing the labor of the farm.
2. Profit in raising and selling.
3. Adaptability to cross with our present stamp of draft mares.

Although, in the performance of the work of the farm, I have no fault with the Percheron, in the consideration of our country, and as well as in the country of their origin, the Clydesdale and Shire have proven themselves so serviceable as farm work horses, that for this purpose, taking all kinds of work on the farm it would be very hard to improve upon them. Your correspondent claims on behalf of the Percheron that they are faster walkers, better travellers, easier keepers, and more spirited than the Clyde. Although in every breed we may run across good, bad and indifferent in these respects, yet it is a fact that in this country real high-spirited animals do not often go hand in hand, still, as good walkers, good keepers, and showing sufficient life, a good Clyde possesses those characteristics to a marked degree, and for docility and general serviceability they are highly satisfactory. Of course, it will be acknowledged that if you wish to use them largely as roadsters or van horses they are somewhat out of place, yet the day has now come in the older settled portions of this Province when growing produce for sale in the raw condition has become more largely a thing of the past, and that being so, we have not now the same call for horses which will make quick time with light loads between the farm and the market town.

Coming to the consideration of profit in the rearing of the two breeds, to my mind, there is no question as to the preeminence of the Clydesdale. Handled in a proper way there is no trouble in their breaking;

when they are two years old they are quite able to work and earn their keep, and when a sufficient age, three, four and five years, they will always command the topmost prices as draft animals, for which there is a great demand, and high values for the right kind. In this respect I may well say that in this section of country these animals have brought considerable wealth into the homes of their careful and experienced owners.

Again, when we consider the fact that the draft horses of our country are very largely the offspring of Clydesdales and Shires, having been bred to the heavy classes, it would be a serious mistake for our breeders to introduce Percheron blood upon these animals. We have had a few Percheron stallions travel throughout the season, and the results of such breeding has more than confirmed the suspicions and opinions of the best breeders of our locality.

If our farmers desire to breed Percherons they should by all means get the females also, but on no account should we endeavor to cross the males of that breed upon our heavy mares, with the expectation of obtaining anything better than what we now have. To my mind, as a serviceable farm horse, which will give a good profit for their care and raising, and in the end return an extremely satisfactory price in the market, there are none of the breeds of draft horses that will give the same all round satisfactory results as the Clydesdales and Shires, and our farmers would do well to note these facts, and stick to those well-tried breeds.

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Choosing the Right Stallion

Now that the horse breeding season is on and the roads are once more full of horses and horsemen, the question naturally arises with almost every farmer, for the high prices prevailing for a good horse makes every farmer who owns a mare a horse-breeder, what kind of a horse will I use? To the breeder who owns pure bred stock the question is one of which horse has the breeding, conformation, action, soundness and propensity to give the best results, and he is not long at a loss to decide the question. But for the man who owns a good grade mare or two the question is much more complex, and the question is: What breed of a horse do I want? Which of the various kinds of saleable horses would I have the best chance of obtaining from such a mare?

Daily the farmer is interviewed by the various horsemen, and each and all are convinced that his own particular breed is the one which the owner should use, and his own particular horse is the best one to get at the result wanted. The thoughtful bred horseman will talk of quality, of possible saddle horses, carriage horses or anything else. The standard bred comes along in charge of a horseman who sings a song of swallow-like flights through space on wheels whose spokes are invisible, while the telegraph poles along the roadside look like the teeth in a fine comb to the happy owner of a three-year-old from "this old hoss and just a mare like that." Then comes the coacher, the Hackney and the Cleveland bay, all of them ready and willing to sire high priced carriage colts from any old kind of mare they may happen across, whose owner has the stuff that pays hotel bills. The drafters are just as keen to produce big heavy lorry horses from a general purpose mare as the light fellows are

to accomplish the genesis of trotters and timber-toppers in the same way. All this is naturally to be expected when it comes to a matter of business, but it is exceedingly confusing to the farmer who has some ambitions in the horse breeding line without the experience which leads to a careful selection of the dam as well as the sire.

WHY SO MANY NONDESCRIPT HORSES?

There is no other source to which the country can lay more blame for the myriads of nondescript representatives of the equine race, than the breeding of the general purpose mare. There is scarcely to be found in our country to-day a stallion that is not a registered representative of some well established breed, and this has been the case for many years. Yet of the working horses to be seen in many parts of Ontario, how many of them could be classed as anything like representatives of any of the recognized breeds of horses. Among the draft horses there is certainly a great deal of Clydesdale blood, many of them showing the requisite number of crosses to entitle them to registration, and a great deal of Clydesdale "character" would be noticeable in the general purpose horse in most places, and yet how many are to be found with a scale that would entitle them to classification as draft in size? The same old story in every case; almost every farmer can tell you of good ones he has raised and "sold" at a good price. There is no horse that pays the farmer better than the draft horse that he breeds himself, but it does not follow that he should sell the best mare he ever raised because he is offered the same price that his neighbor got for as good a gelding. The neighbor could well afford to sell the gelding, but the mare would have been a source of profit for years to come.

Among the Arabs, who have made a name as horse breeders, you can buy a good stallion who wishes, but it is almost impossible to obtain a mare from them at any price. The lesson is quite obvious. If you never have a pure bred mare you can never breed a pure-bred colt. It is almost equally true that if you never have a good mare you can seldom have a good colt.

BRED WITH A DEFINITE OBJECT IN VIEW

Said one of our leading cattle breeders recently, "When I breed my herd of cattle, when I select the females and my herd bull, I know exactly what I am looking for in the produce. I know what I want, and I am doing all that I know is necessary to obtain it." It is to be regretted that more of our horses are not bred the same way. But conditions are different. Stallions are led through the country, and their groomers feel it incumbent on them to make as large a season and as profitable a one as possible, to the end that all kinds of arguments are adduced to persuade the owner to use each horse that comes along. The assurance that the propinquity of the horse will guarantee everything looks like an acceptable doctrine, and the talk is safe for the horseman, as he has four or five years to make good in any way, and if the produce is not all that is expected it is then too late to mend matters.

Just at the present time there is a good deal of talk about the licensing of stallions. If some supervision were applied to breeding mares it might prove equally beneficial. A stallion is usually a superior sort of

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