

grain company whose object shall be to dispose of wheat by the most direct methods and at the least possible cost. The operations of this company are expected to prove, that too large a percentage of the cost of producing and placing our wheat in the world's markets goes to grain merchants. With careful management and a reasonable amount of good fortune there is no reason why a company in which farmers hold the majority of stock should not be as much of a success as any other company, and besides the dividends will go to the producer of the wheat as a stockholder rather than to a third party. Where such concerns have been tried, the saving effected to the farmer has just about equalled the current rate of interest upon the capital stock subscribed except in places where there were glaring instances of corporate monopoly.

With regard to the stock business the announcement is made that the Alberta government will establish and operate pork packing factories in order that hog raising and dairying may be made profitable. The step is a radical one in Canada and is probably prompted by the principle of aiding infant industries, and the success of similarly conducted institutions in Denmark, either one of which would appear to be sufficient justification for the policy. By these two examples of apparent desire to cooperate, it would seem that we are getting away from the old British idea and custom of individual independence handed down from baronial times, when every man was king of his own castle, and besides becoming cosmopolitan in our population we are also displaying a willingness to adopt commercial practices which have proved a success in countries where personal liberty is not so much a worshipped theory as it is among Britishers.

National and Provincial Parks.

The Western Horticultural Society in convention on February 14 and 15 passed some most commendable resolutions. Two of the clauses in one of these read:

"Resolved that in the opinion of this society the forest reserves now existing in western Canada by order-in-council should be immediately made permanent by legislation, and that the most stringent regulations be enforced to protect these reserves from fire, including the acquirement of the rights of any settlers therein; their presence may endanger forests; and that in view of the rapid settlement of the country, an immediate topographical survey should be made of the forest areas bordering upon or situated within the prairie districts with a view of setting aside further forest areas as permanent reserves."

The setting apart of land for forests and parks is one of the duties of government that is always neglected in new countries and in growing cities. The whole aim of every one concerned seems to be to get the land under crop or the city lot improved. It is only in after years when first settlers begin to feel the need of parks and forest reserves by actual necessity, and by comparison with older countries in which they may happen to travel, that the enormity of the oversight is appreciated.

Strange as it may seem there is no disposition on the part of new countries to learn by the experience of their elders. The natural resources always appear so inexhaustible, that the idea of conserving them is regarded as the product of a pessimistic imagination. What concern had the early settlers of Canada for large natural national parks near to the cities of Montreal or Toronto when they were already made? Yet to-day a few thousand acres of the virgin forest as it existed two hundred years ago within easy reach of our great centers of population would be considered the greatest of boons. In the settlement of Ontario, millions of acres of the finest forests the earth ever produced were cut down, and not until these had forever disappeared did the government of the province realize their worth and grandeur and value upon the character of the growing population. Then when they finally took action to reserve a park it had to be hundreds of miles removed from the centers of greatest commercial activity. Ontario's lesson should serve for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for although these provinces have not complete control of the crown lands within their boundaries, yet by judicious representation much of these lands might be reserved for national parks.

Nor should the setting aside of national parks be sufficient. It should be the aim of each

province to establish Provincial national parks at convenient intervals, and municipal authorities might do much to enhance the value of the district over which they have jurisdiction, as a place to live, by giving greater attention to the conservation of natural beauties and the setting apart of grounds for recreation. Our greatest city, Winnipeg, has already been criticized for the lack of her park areas near to the centre of business, and we have as yet no assurance that the newer cities which are springing into existence are even as well provided for in this respect.

HORSE

Nobody has counted them but it is safe guessing there are thousands of horses throughout the country that require the services of an equine dentist.

It is coming to the time of year when horses that have been running wild should be taken in and worked a little to toughen their shoulders.

If there is no time to oil harness in the summer months when the sun can dry it in, give it a good cleaning and oiling now. Oiling harness is like giving a boy a bath, it should be done once a year whether it needs it or not.

Some western horse dealers who have gone south and east complain that horses are higher priced there than here. The statement is true of some classes, the fancy leather horse, for instance but not of the farm chunk.

This is about the time of year one can see long overgrown hoofs on the colts about the yard. Take a few minutes and cut the feet down, even if you have to use an axe.

The French Coach Makes Good on the Range.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In the issue of the Farmer's Advocate of January 31st there appears an article on the above subject by R. P. Stericker, in it he claims he has "no axe to grind" in favoring one breed at the expense of another and he may honestly believe it possible to horse a coach satisfactorily with Hackneys, but as a breeder of French Coach horses I cannot let his statements pass unchallenged. In reviewing the breeds suitable for breeding coaches, Mr. Stericker says "looking at the French Coach horse as an individual, he comes pretty close to 'filling the bill,' he has size and quality and quite a bit of action", but adds as a reason for discarding him, that "he does not reproduce, that he is a cross bred and has not been bred long enough in line", that "his pedigree shows seven-eighths Thoroughbred." With regard to the first remark, for the last eighteen years I have bred from 100 to 350 range mares every year, mating them as carefully as possible and I can safely say I have found no stallion more prepotent than the French Coach, not excepting even the Thoroughbred. Range mares of necessity vary so much in type and breeding that it is of the utmost importance to use a strongly prepotent stallion and it was the results gained by experience of the cross by the French Coach that induced me to discard all other light breeds in his favor. The great test of "price and sales" has been eminently satisfactory, as the former has been doubled and I have not a 4-year-old gelding of that cross left.

"That he is a cross bred and not bred long enough in line." No breed of horses ever received more careful attention from a government or people than that which has been bestowed upon the development and improvement of the French Coach breed. In 1690 over two hundred years ago, the French Government imported Arab and Barb stallions selected for beauty and high qualities and crossed them on the finest mares of the old saddle breeds of Merlerault and Cotentin. The produce was called "demi-sang" and the name is still used to designate the French Coach horse, to distinguish them from other races in France. The literal translation of this term has given rise to a belief amongst some not acquainted with the facts that a French Coach horse is actually a half blood with a Percheron dam for his mother. Nothing can be further from the truth. Under no circumstances would the French buy a

coach stallion possessing any draft blood. On the other hand, the continued use of the Arab and his derivative, the Thoroughbred, as seen by his pedigree, now so strongly impregnates the French Coach horse breed that so far as blood can do it, makes it practically pure Arab engrafted on the old Merlerault stock, or as Mr. Stericker puts it, "seven-eighths Thoroughbred" and more.

In 1833 the French Stud Book was established. To ensure size a law was enacted excluding all horses from public races below 15½ hands high, this precluded the breeding for speed alone. To ensure endurance, trotting races were established of two and three miles, always on a sod track, necessitating a high round knee action and under saddle carrying from 140 to 170 pounds. The average speed of these races is from 2.30 to 2.45 per mile.

Added to this the breed instead of being the product of a multiplicity of ideas has been developed under the exclusive guidance of the Director General of the National Studs of France and as these officials are educated in the same school from generation to generation and taught to value the same form and qualities, we can understand how it is possible for the breed to have attained such perfection of size, quality, action, endurance and speed, as it undoubtedly has. If its length of breeding and quality of blood does not ensure prepotency, what shall we say of the Hackney, which was essentially a crop bred horse without a recognized book as late as 1880. The Yorkshire Roadsters and Norfolk Trotters, of which he is the outcome, were, though in many cases of uncertain pedigree, good hardy horses, roadsters in every sense of the word, able to do their ten and twelve miles an hour and keep it up. Unfortunately in "improving" them everything was sacrificed to the craze for high action, until today his uses are limited to the show ring or a couple of hours slow driving in the park. His best friends cannot accuse him of either speed, endurance or size, the very essentials of a Coach. I agree with Mr. Stericker that as a sire he must have the best thoroughbred or trotting blood under him and the qualities which he lacks combined in the dam, failing this, his get will be too small for the land, too rough to ride and only fetch "plug" prices.

For a farming district this is a serious drawback, as such mares as Mr. Stericker describes as necessary are scarce as "hens teeth." The sire par excellence for the farmer is one which from the best mares will throw a valuable animal and from the 90 per cent. of indifferent ones, will aid them in raising the type and correcting their own shortcomings. In this I contend the French Coach has no equal, he has the kind and docile disposition of the Hackney, the same handsome conformation with perhaps a little the advantage in neck and length of thigh, his high round carriage action is preferable for road work. In size there is no comparison, as he stands from 16 hands to 16.1 hands high and averages 1400 pounds, in speed he is only excelled by the American Trotter. In endurance the French Coach is bred for work, the Hackney for show, and in blood and quality he is only excelled by the Thoroughbred himself. Finally as to his power to transmit these qualities I can prove it beyond cavil or doubt to anyone, who cares to come to my ranch and study the offspring of the three French Coach stallions I have used during the last seven years. The Hackney has his own valuable place and uses but he never was and never will be a coach horse.

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Points of the Draft Horse.

Discussing the points of the draft horse, in his excellent bulletin on the "Principles and Practice of Horse-breeding," Dr. A. S. Alexander, of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, treats in a very lucid way of a number of common unsoundnesses, saying, in part:

Ringbones are deposits of superfluous, granular bone at the upper, middle or lower portions of the pastern bone, and in aggravated cases cause lameness and involve and interfere with the proper action of the fetlock joint above or with the joint between the lower end of the pastern bone and upper part of the coronet bone, at juncture of horn of hoof and hair of hoof-head. They give a bulging appearance to the part of the bone affected, and have the feel of bone, and constitute unsoundness. They affect the pastern and coronet bones of both fore and hind feet.

Sidebones are located at the quarters, near the heels, at the juncture of the hair and hoof. They are due to the lateral cartilages (elastic plates)