

He asked them if they were to tolerate the interference of the Royal Society in the performance of what they regarded as a necessary and expedient operation? ("No," and applause.)

Certainly if docking is carried out in the manner which Mr. Bergh describes, it is time a stop was put to it, and the scientific docking of horses taught.

AGRICOLA.

Goderich, 21st March, 1885.

A WORD FOR THE BERKSHIRES.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

The idea that the Berkshire has been or can be improved by the use of the Neapolitan hog, should be sharply rebuked by all interested in perpetuating in their ancient purity the world-renowned Berkshires.

Those who have seen the difference between the well fatted, muscular, beef-like meat of a pure-bred Berkshire, and that of over-fatted pork where lean and fat are stored separately, do not think highly of the so-called improvement arising from the use of the fat accumulating Neapolitan, whether it comes direct from the Neapolitan or through the Essex.

Taking into consideration the fact that Berkshires are the only well-bred swine that produce the choice hams and bacon so largely in demand for export and for home consumption, and that this demand increases from year to year, it is a matter of no small importance that breeders guard with jealous care the purity of the breed, never for a moment entertaining the thought of an outside cross.

PHIL THRIFTON.

CART HORSES: THEIR BREEDING AND REARING.

We are indebted to Mr. George F. Bowden, of Uttoxeter, England, for the following valuable paper read at a meeting held in London:—

DEPRESSION IN AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND COMMERCE, AFFECTING HORSE BREEDING.

I should be taking a one-sided view of my subject did I not notice the depression, not only in agriculture, but also as a natural sequence, in trade and commerce. I say a natural sequence, for I hold that if agriculture fails, trade and commerce must naturally languish. In consequence of the carrying trade of the country falling off, at the agricultural sales, during the past autumn, horses for working on the farm made considerably less according to age, that they did three years since.

In recommending the keeping of the best mares and fillies on the farm, I am not ignorant of the fact, that in the great level of the Fens and its borders—the home of the Shire horse—the depression has, since 1874, been felt with an intensity totally unknown until recently, in the south, west, and other localities, and that the best animals had to be sacrificed in order to make both ends meet.

One of the objects I have in view this evening is to try to suggest some means by which sound stallions can be introduced into these districts, and this branch of agriculture again be restored.

GOOD DEMAND FOR BREEDING ANIMALS.

A ray of light is shed on the fact that there is at present an active demand both at home and abroad, for stallions, mares, and fillies, with good pedigrees—without the latter they are almost unsaleable—for breeding purposes.

RETROGRADE MOVEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN CLASSIFYING THE SHIRE AND AGRICULTURAL HORSES TOGETHER IN THIS YEAR'S PRIZE LIST.

The Shire Horse Society, in supplying a felt want, and by the united action of its members—which now number over a thousand—has met with a success unparalleled. It has published six Stud Books, containing the pedigrees of 4,195 stallions and 3,509 mares and fillies, and to-morrow will witness the opening of the sixth annual show.

By its influence, the Society has brought the Shire horse in the front rank, both at home and abroad. It is with regret, deep regret, I have to bring before your notice the extraordinary action of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, in classifying the shire and agricultural horses together in the prize list for the coming meeting at Preston, but still retaining separate classes for Clydesdales and Suffolks. The entries in the shire horse classes at Shrewsbury last year were more than double the number of Clydesdales, while the latter were more than double the number of Suffolks. All the breeders of Shire horses I have spoken to on the subject view this retrograde movement with a feeling akin to indignation, believing it will place the breed in a false light, not only with foreign purchasers, but also with managers of international exhibitions. Who could expect separate classes to be given to Shire horses at the forthcoming shows at Buda, Pesth and Buenos Ayres while the Royal Agricultural Society of England ignores their claim to separate classes.

Do not let the uninitiated suppose for a moment that the Shire horse breeders fear meeting the Agricultural horses.

See the report of judges of both classes at Shrewsbury Royal Agricultural Society Journal, page 621:—

"The paucity of entries, and the inferior character of the animals shown in the Agricultural classes, compel us to unanimously advise the omission of these classes, from the future prize lists of the Royal Agricultural Society."

What Shire horse breeders want, is a fair field and no favour from the most important Society in England, viz.: That they may be treated as other recognised breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs. I would suggest that a show of hands be taken before this meeting closes, to test the feeling of those present on this question. Further, that a deputation should be appointed at the general meeting of the Shire Horse Society, to be held on Wednesday next, to wait upon the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society.

I feel certain that the change arose from want of thought, and that those who advocated the change did not represent the majority of that Council, and as their regulations are not like the laws of the Medes and Persians, I trust they will re-consider the matter which would be a graceful action, and appreciated by all interested in Shire horses.

PHYSIOLOGY OF BREEDING.

I wish as far as possible to avoid touching on the same matter I have previously written about, but I feel I should not be doing justice to my subject if I omitted giving Mr. James Howard's views upon the physiology of breeding, expressed at a discussion upon the same subject at the London Farmer's Club, in March, 1878.

"He believed that scientific men of the present day had come to the conclusion that in every class of animal the parent, as it were, sows certain seeds in the system, many of which were not germinated, or fructified, but remained alive in the system, and perhaps were fer-

tilised afterwards. This would account for what had so often been noticed by every breeder of any long experience, viz., how animals 'throw back' to former parents. The germ or seed had remained in the system and had not fructified, but when mated with a subsequent parent, the seed which had so remained in the system unfructified became fertilized, and hence the value of a long and pure pedigree, especially in the male animal."

Mr. Howard further adds:—

"I deem the cardinal points in the art of breeding which have been fairly established are as follows:—

(1) That from the male parent is mainly derived the external structure, configuration, and outward characteristics, also the locomotive system or development.'

(2) From the female parent is derived the internal structure, the vital organs, and in a much greater proportion than from the male, the constitution, temper, and habits, in which endurance and "bottom" are included.'

(3) That the purer the race of the parent, the more certainty there is of its transmitting its qualities to the offspring; say two animals are mated, if one is of purer descent than the other, he or she will exercise the most influence in stamping the character of the progeny, particularly if the greater purity is on the side of the male.'

(4) That, apart from certain disturbing influences or causes, the male, if of pure race, and descended from a stock of uniform color, stamps the color of the offspring.'

(5) That the influence of the first male is not unfrequently protracted beyond the birth of the offspring of which he is parent, and his mark is left upon subsequent progeny.'

(6) That the transmission of diseases of the vital organs is more certain if on the side of the female, and diseases of the joints if on the side of the male parent."

Although the influence of the male on the female is well known, it is not so generally admitted that the female exerts influence on the male when mated with subsequent females.

To prove this I will ask permission to give a case that came under my own observation. As it is somewhat deviating from my subject you will please consider this in parenthesis.

(Some time since my little boy had two Belgian hare rabbits given him, a buck and doe. The first result of their being mated was a litter of six young ones, all true to color. Not caring to keep the buck I gave him to the son of a neighbor, when he was turned with a number of silver-grey, yellow, and other colored tame does. After my boy's young rabbits were weaned I sent for the same buck. In due course the doe produced a litter of seven, only two of which were true to color, the others partaking of the color of silver-greys, and ordinary tame rabbits.

I mentioned the case to a celebrated breeder of Welsh black cattle, he said that it would explain what had hitherto been a mystery to him. He had allowed his pedigree black bull to serve ordinary Welsh cows, some of which were red in color, and although he had none but pure black cows in his herd, his bull had got several red calves.)

I instance these two cases as showing that successful breeding is no mere matter of chance, but requires thought, care, and study.

It is expecting too much of a first-class stallion to expect that all his offspring will turn out as good as himself when he is mated with a number of mares, many of which are inferior.

BREEDING FOR COLOR.

A friend of mine had a preference for cattle of red color, and although his herd of cows consisted chiefly of roans and of whites, by