

main quietly without fretting. In case the mare returns heated from work she should be allowed to cool off, and a little of her milk drawn off before she is admitted to her foal. As one of the chief points to be attained in Shire foals is bone, size and muscular development, it is essential they should learn to eat as early as possible, and that good, suitable food be given; and for this purpose crushed oats and bran with a little oilcake meal will be found well suited. Spring foals are usually weaned about September, according to age and circumstances. To effect this it is best to keep them in a loose box away from their mothers for a few days; after which they can be again turned out to pasture, when they should receive an increased amount of grain to compensate them for the deprivation of their mother's milk, the mares at the same time being kept at work and put on dry feed. Colts, like calves, should always be kept improving for at any rate the first two years of their existence, but care should be taken not to over-do it. Crushed oats and bran with timothy hay, oats, straw and roots (both carrots and turnips) will be found excellent rations for colts and mares during the winter time, the allowance of grain for the mares being regulated in proportion to their work.

Many people object to the hair on the legs of heavy horses, and some even clip it off. This is a bad practice, as the hair protects the skin of the heels, and its removal produces a tendency to cracks in the heels and grease. It is, I admit, a great trial of temper when a well-haired horse comes home with his heels loaded with mud, as they often do. Some get rid of it by washing; but if this is done the legs should be thoroughly dried before the horse is left. The better method, however, instead of washing, is to dry the legs as far as possible and then remove the mud when dry with a hard brush.

What is the difference between a Clyde and a Shire is a question often asked. The Clyde of the present day is very closely connected with the Shire. From old portraits and illustrations the Clyde of fifty years ago appears to have been an upstanding, active, well crested animal, having sloping shoulders, good feet and pasterns, and possessing about as much bone and hair as is found in the Suffolk of the present time. Robert Burns, who should have had a good knowledge of farm horses, gives the following description in "The Auld Farmer's new year's morning salutation to his auld mare Maggie":

At brooses thou had ne'er a fellow
For pith and speed;
But every tail thou pay't them hollow;
Where'er thou gaed.

The sma' droop-rumpled, hunter cattle,
Might aiblins waur't thee for a brattle;
But sax Scotch miles thou try't their mettle,
And gart them whaize.
Nae whisp nor spur, but just a whaitle
O' saugh or hazel.

It would be impossible to imagine a Clyde of the present day competing against a hunter with the least prospect of success. While the *Farmer's Magazine* for 1856, remarking on Clydes at the Royal shows held at Carlisle and Chelmsford in that and the preceding years, says, "One of the greatest defects that struck us was the variable character of the breed. They are all sizes. There seems no doubt that the Clyde, like the Shire, received a cross of Flemish blood, and in later days also of Shire blood. Mr. Lawrence Drew, the celebrated breeder of horses, and many other farmers, used to come annually into Derbyshire and buy Shire mares to take into Scotland for breeding purposes, and many of the prize-winning Clydes trace their ped-

igrees to Shire mares, amongst others the celebrated *Prince of Wales* (673), who is half Shire, his grand dam, on both sides being Shire mares. For the last fifty years the attention of breeders of Clydes has been directed in a great measure to the increasing of the size of the Clyde, while that of Shire breeders has been towards obtaining a more shapely and better proportioned horse, with equal success, and now both are paragons of their kind. The Shire is usually larger in size, with a better body, more bone, and nearer to the ground than the Clyde. The Clyde, accustomed to a moister climate, appears to feel the heat more than the Shire, who is also a better feeder. Mr. A. S. Reynolds, M. R. C. V. S., Veterinary Inspector for the corporation of Liverpool (where, by-the-by, the finest draught horses in the world are to be seen), says that the Clyde will yet require much greater development of limb and frame before he can successfully compete with the Shire for the heavy work required in such business centres as Liverpool and Manchester, where individual bulk and power is indispensably necessary to overcome the enormous weight to be moved. It must not be understood that I undervalue the undeniable merit of the Clyde, which is great, but as the Clyde is believed by many to be the heavy draught horse, I am merely advocating the greater claim to that title of the Shire, who in Canada is comparatively speaking unknown. In this vast country there is abundance of room for both; and an amicable emulation will conduce to the benefit of both breeds. As no Shire stud book has yet been published on this continent, and the English Shire stud book is probably accessible to but few persons, a note on some of the most successful sires and prize-winners in England may not prove uninteresting.

Of these *Honest Tom* (1105), foaled in 1865, is perhaps the most celebrated. He was a bay, standing 17½ hands high, weighing 2,200 lbs., and was bred by Wm. Welsher, of Walton, Norfolk. His sire was *Thumper* (2123), and his dam *Beauty* by *Emperor* (688). His pedigree is rich in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire blood, and traces on both sire and dam sides to *Seward's Major* (447), he tracing back to *Honest Tom* (1060), who was foaled in the year 1800. To no horse are breeders of Shires more proud to trace their stock to than old *Honest Tom* (1,105). He was a true type of cart horse (in fact so good was he, that breeders of Clydes as well as Shire breeders still use his cut reduced in size as advertisements of their stock), and performed the greatest triumph ever achieved by any horse—drawing first prize at the Royal six years in succession, besides many other prizes. In 1871 he was purchased by the Fyld Cart Horse Breeding Company for over \$2,600, and afterwards became the property of Mr. Miller, of Singleton Park, Bulton Leflyde, Lancashire, in whose possession he died in February, 1885, at the age of twenty years. His get have been successful both at the Royal and other shows. *Admiral* (71), one of his sons, after being the champion at the first London Shire shows in 1880, and also winning first prize at two Royals, besides other prizes, was subsequently exported to Australia, where he was sold for over \$8,700. In fact there are few shows where some of his descendants do not appear in the prize-list.

"I like the JOURNAL better the longer I take it."—Thos. Carr, Hopeville, Ont.

"In renewing my subscription I cannot express myself in suitable terms, so highly do I appreciate your JOURNAL. Long may it continue to shine forth in the interests of those who must sooner or later become the backbone of the country, namely the stock raisers of the Dominion."—G. H. Healey, Manor Farm, Verden, Man.

East Lambton Farmers' Institute.

(COMMUNICATED.)

The sixth public meeting of this Association was held in the Town Hall, Forest, Jan. 18th and 19th, and was attended with the most encouraging success: Prof. Panton, who has now visited Lambton for the third time in the present capacity, was accompanied by Mr. Simpson Rennie, of Scarborough. The representation of farmers was good, and the discussions that followed the papers and addresses evinced a growing acquaintance with the theory as well as the practical part of agricultural pursuits. The light the Professor throws into the feeding of cattle, and the development and growth of the fruits of the field, is certainly creating a spirit of enquiry, and leading to scientific reading and intelligent investigation.

At the evening meeting the platform was occupied, in addition to the college staff, by our three members of Parliament, who delivered eloquent and rousing speeches in connection with farm life, to a very large and attentive audience.

The number of members in connection with the E. L. F. Institute, is between 60 and 70, and the interest taken in the objects of the Society are certainly on the increase.

It is always encouraging to know that those meetings are well attended, for they are usually well provided with a staff of speakers and essayists, well equipped for the work of dispensing knowledge free. When the meetings are thinly attended, as it sometimes happens, it is very discouraging to those gentlemen who have come, it may be, a long distance to present their offering on the altar of the common good of the neighborhood. But that is the least item of the loss. The farmers who stay away, through indifference, remain on the same plane on which it may be they have spent a life time, or a very large portion of one, not one inch in practice in advance of their dead fathers, although their opportunities have been greater a hundred fold. They have stood all their days on the threshold of a beautiful temple, but to them unexplored, and have never entered in. We have seen a maiden who preferred a painted ribbon to adorn her head dress, to a wise book, the reading of which would have greatly adorned the immortal shrine, above which the ribbon was flaunted as only light-headed girls know how. We felt sorry for the maiden. But was she any the less wise than the farmer who prefers to go to the bush to-day and do what could as well be done to-morrow, instead of going to the Institute meeting to gain, it may be, more knowledge of his own life work than he will gain in twelve months in the bush?—ED.

For the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Soiling a Means of Enrichment.

BY A. DUNCAN, FARQUHAR.

It is a self-evident fact that the raising of wheat under our present system of farming is not paying the cost of production, nor so far as we can see is there any prospect of it paying any better in future. Judging from present indications it is extremely improbable that wheat will exceed 75 cts. per bushel in price for a long time to come.

By continued cropping, much of the soil has become so exhausted that it will not produce a full crop and is fast becoming filled with weeds, so that when it is seeded to grass it produces weeds very largely, hence the stock fare ill indeed on such pasture.

As a remedy for these evils we must first clean the land and seed it down in a good clean condition, when it will produce good crops of grass and hay, and put us in a position to keep more stock and feed them better. We must keep a far larger herd of cattle and of a better class than we are now keeping. We conceive it is possible to keep 40 to 50 head on a 100 acre farm by adopting the soiling system.

Rye can be sown in the fall which will cut the first