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HOW TO ENCOURAGE THE BEST CLASS OF STALLIONS.

Every man who breeds horses does not desire to produce a trotter, a race horse, or a marvel of size, a moving mountain of flesh and bone. And besides this, those who desire to breed very heavy draught horses, fast trotters, or successful race horses, are more frequently disappointed than otherwise. No breeder can be sure of producing a phenomenon of size or speed—if only a few could do so the product would soon cease to be phenomenal; but the man who breeds a good sound healthy mare, having plenty of size, substance, and quality, to a thoroughbred sire of similar make up, is moderately sure of a good foal; he will have half a dozen good foals to one bad one as the result of such unions. If, for example, such sire and dam are each sixteen hands high, and provided neither weighs less than 1,200 lbs. when in fair condition, it will be surprising if the foal does not grow up into just such an animal as is sure to bring a good paying price in almost any market. He will be a horse that has style and size enough for the carriage, he will be up to any weight if trained for saddle purposes, and he will make a

horse that will be ready to earn more than his hay and oats every day he remains on the farm after he has completed his third year. If by any accident such a horse should become blemished so as to be rendered unsaleable, he will be found thoroughly up to farm work, while the females will be the very best type of practically useful brood mares. The great point is to have the proper class of stallions distributed throughout the country. The farmers do not want weedy broken-down race horses, though the fact that a horse has been successful on the turf should be in his favor rather than otherwise. What are wanted are horses whose purity of blood is unquestionable, but which at the same time have plenty of size and substance to produce good substantial horses for carriage, saddle, or hunting purposes. In using such horses farmers are not only taking the proper steps to secure the best average prices for their colts, but by introducing size, substance, quality, and breeding they are laying the foundation for a future generation of horses such as cannot fail to do credit not only to their breeders but to the country in which they are bred.

The want of this very class of horses is now being felt even in England. The following passage from an article on horse-breeding in the *London Live Stock Journal and Farmers' Gazette* shows pretty clearly the feeling among the shrewdest horsemen in the United Kingdom:—

“The supply of both hunting and carriage horses of a good class has become very scarce in England. It has for years been unequal to the demand, and is year by year becoming still more limited. Englishmen are proverbial for their love of horses, and probably none of our domestic animals are held in greater veneration by the average Englishman than a sound, well-bred saddle or carriage horse. It is, nevertheless, manifest that the breeding of horses of this class has been declining in England—declining, too, in the face of an increasing demand and of advancing prices. That such should be the case is, for various reasons, much to be regretted. In well-conducted breeding of horses of all classes there is a tolerably sure source of profit, and in these times of agricultural depression it is important that

every branch of industry which can be pursued with profit should receive its due share of encouragement. While breeders of horses would benefit by giving increased attention to the rearing of a good class of well-bred saddle and carriage horses, it would also be advantageous for the nation at large that we should produce an ample home supply of horses of this class. For all interests concerned, indeed, it is very desirable that the breeding of light-legged horses should receive greater attention and encouragement than have been given to it in recent years.”

This states the case pretty clearly, and if these be the facts in England what shall be said of Canada? Here the tendency has too often been to cross the heaviest of draught horse sires upon little mares weighing from 700 lbs. to 900 lbs. Such violent out-crosses and such an outrageous disproportion between sire and dam can only in very rare instances be followed by any but the most unsatisfactory results. Every time, however, that a stout thoroughbred stallion having plenty of size and substance and unquestionable breeding is bred to one of our scrub Canadian mares a step is taken in the right direction. The *Live Stock Journal* goes on to say:—

“In view of these considerations, we have observed with satisfaction that a movement is now on foot for the encouragement of the breeding of high-class thoroughbred sires. At a meeting of the Council of the Hackney Stud Book Society, held in November last, it was suggested that classes for thoroughbred stallions suitable for getting hunters should be included in the show of that Society, to be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, on the 3rd and 4th of March next. The suggestion, as might be expected, at once commended itself to the favorable consideration of the Council, and it was resolved that the desired classes should be introduced, provided a sum of money could be collected which would enable the Society to offer substantial premiums.”

Of course it is not to be expected that Canada would subscribe so liberally to the establishment of a prize fund as a number of wealthy Englishmen have to this enterprise, but surely something might be done both at the Provincial and the Toronto Industrial