

economy that mark Canadians as individuals. As we understand the case, this is what the commission is intended to at least partially accomplish. A non-partisan tribunal persistently recommending to the government certain policies of economy would strengthen the government in proposed legislation looking toward that end or support the opposition in opposing proposals to exploit natural resources.

From the nature of the announcement we gather that the commission will be wholly of an honorary nature, that it will be composed of men and possibly women who have made successes in their private businesses and who would be willing to offer sagacious suggestions not only to parliament, but to the people as a whole, on matters pertaining to the elimination of waste and the conserving of wealth already possessed. Suggestions so offered would carry with them the weight of authority that comes from successful accomplishment, and as a consequence would be received with more than ordinary attention.

Such a commission would necessarily require to have at its service, a secretary with a live appreciation of the responsibilities of his position and a good general knowledge of the nature of the work required of the commission. So equipped, we entertain the fullest confidence that the commission would be able to render a service of which the nation stands very much in need.

HORSE

Service Tells

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

There has been a lot said during the past winter in your columns and elsewhere, about the Percheron being the greatest of all draft horses. It is hard to decide which is the best in the show-ring as different judges have their own ideas. Take for example the draft horses owned by large contractors in Britain. What are they, Percherons, Clydes or Shires? They buy what will suit their trade. If they thought the Percheron was the most suitable, they would buy them as they are close to the Percheron market and could buy them as cheap, or perhaps cheaper, and surely they would buy the most suitable horse to suit their trade and pay a dividend. They are all working for the dollar and it is not a fad as some people think the Clyde men are after with feet, bone and action.

Doune Lodge, Sask.

W. H. BRYCE.

Horse or Auto for Homesteader

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Which would you advise me to get, an extra horse at \$150, or a good second-hand run-about automobile at \$200 to \$250? I am homesteading and need something to carry me to the store and to a neighbors where I board. I also have to take my cream to the station, six miles three times a week.

Sask.

G. H. M.

It would be under very exceptional circumstances that we would advise buying an automobile in the place of a horse or pair of horses. But there are conditions where it would be advisable. Our correspondent, for instance, would have to rig up some sort of a vehicle to carry his cream cans as well as buy a horse, which would bring the cost up to \$200, so that on the score of first cost there would not be a great difference.

In the operation of the automobile or the driving of the horse the advantage would probably be with the latter. To buy gasoline and repairs requires an outlay of cash, while the feed for a horse can be produced at home. Then, when one

has an extra horse it is always a help in getting the farm work done, either by putting on more force or by changing around. The advantage is still further with the horse if it is of the female sex and able to reproduce herself. An automobile cannot be expected to last as long as the reasonably hardy mare and will depreciate in value as fast as a mare and colt will grow into money.

But we must not despise the auto. They are finding a place on our farms and ranches and are doing good service. Probably we will soon have them so that their engines can be used for pumping, sawing, crushing, etc. Some remarkable changes are due to take place in farming operations. Who would have thought a few years ago that in 1909 ranchers would be seen driving to the annual bull sale in autos? Yet that is a matter of history.

Mares Leak Milk—Colts Die

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Last year I had serious trouble saving my colts. The mares would run over their time, from one to three weeks and leak milk during this time. The foals came very weak and only lived one or two days. I lost, last year, the foals from every mare giving milk before foaling. Lost three out of four foals, one mare foaling on time and saving hers. Some of these mares were worked right along, the others occasionally. The same trouble is beginning this spring. Is there any remedy? If so what is it?

Sask.

H. P.

Apparently the cause of the death of your colts is, that on account of the mare's milk leaking for two or three weeks prior to parturition, the young creatures do not get the colostrum, or first milk. This substance known as colostrum is the first milk, and differs from ordinary milk, in that it is a natural laxative, and when taken by the young animal causes the bowels to expel the meconium. The meconium, or first dung, is a black substance and should, under normal conditions be expelled soon after birth. When it is retained much longer the condition is abnormal, and gives rise to dangerous constipation, and frequently death. This condition is likely to follow when the dams are worked hard until near foaling time, especially when the first milk has leaked away, as the milk is then deficient in those purgative qualities which are so necessary for the new-born animal.

In cases where, from any cause, the young animal does not get its mother's first milk, it should be given a dose of castor oil, an effort should be made to remove the meconium from the bowel by enemas of oil or soapy water. If it can be reached with the oiled finger a loop of wire may be carefully inserted, and the hard lumps brought away. The preventive treatment consists in attending to the condition of the pregnant mare. Two weeks before she is expected to foal she should be taken off work and placed in a good clean, roomy, loose box. On fine days she may be allowed gentle exercise outside; she should be fed on easily digested laxative food. Bulky food should be fed sparingly. Mares frequently carry their young over the prescribed eleven months, in fact gestation varies in length of time to a considerable degree, it is given by good authorities at from 330 days to 390 days. In one case reported the mare foaled on the 420th day, but in our experience the general average is 340 days. It often happens that in certain cases where mares go over the 330 days—or eleven months—the secretion of milk is ready for the foal when born. But from causes not always definable, the foetus is retained, the milk leaks, and the foal suffers from retention of the meconium when born, if the measures advised above are not taken to prevent the condition.

Improving the Clydesdale

Scottish breeders have been claiming credit for having effected considerable improvement in the Clydesdale horse of recent years, and it is generally acknowledged that, in securing approved quality and character of bone, pasterns and feet, and true action, they have admirably succeeded. The popular maxim of the average Scottish judge and breeder has been, and is, "No foot, no horse," but there appears to be a growing sentiment which calls for a more general exhibition of superstructure to match the foundation, and for the depth and width of body which gives weight, and strength of constitution, and is of no less importance than the underpinning.

The tendency to follow a fashion or fad to unwise extremes, to the neglect of qualities quite as important, or more so than the popular one in favor for the time being, appears to be characteristic of the rank and file of breeders of pedigreed stock, as witness the rage for red Shorthorns, and for solid fawn Jerseys with a black tongue and switch, which prevailed some years ago, to the serious injury of the breeds as to constitution and capacity for profitable production. This reference, it is freely granted, does not apply to the same extent to the popular tendency in Clydesdale breeding as to those of the breeds of cattle above mentioned, since the points to which the most attention has been recently given are, so far as they go, of great, if not first, importance, and, fortunately, need not to any great extent be sacrificed with the endeavor to gain additional avoidupois.

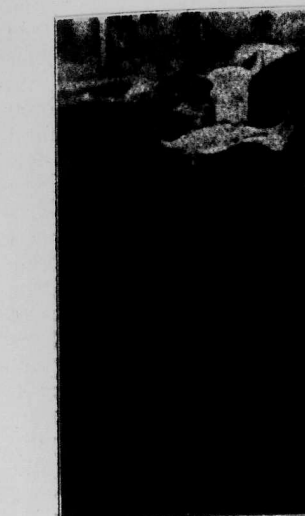
Special attention has been called to the importance of extending the popularity of the Clydesdale along the lines indicated by the recent publication in the *Scottish Farmer*, of letters from two writers from this side of the sea, claiming to be friends of the breed, namely, T. B. Macaulay, of Montreal, and Duncan McBane, names which would appear to indicate their nationality. The former writes that he is encouraged by observing that the type of draft horse demanded is being discussed in Scotland, and he indicates the points which he asserts are regarded as objections to the Clydesdales, as compared with Percherons in the United States, and to a considerable extent in Western Canada, where many farmers from the other side of the line have in recent years removed.

These he groups under four heads, namely: (1) Lack of weight; (2) excess of hair; (3) white markings; (4) lack of crest and carriage. The first of these (weight) being of most importance, we quote Mr. Macaulay as follows:

"Size is essential in any draft breed. Quality is also essential, but quality without size is, I think, almost as objectionable as size without quality. To award a prize to an undersized horse, no matter what his other qualifications, and thus to encourage his use as a sire, is to injure the breed. There are plenty of specimens of the breed which are both large and in every way grand. Size should be taken into consideration by a judge just as much as feet, hair, bone, and action. For a small animal to get a prize at any leading show, should be impossible. The Clydesdale is a draft breed, and a small animal cannot be a typical draft horse. If size (but not necessarily extreme size) be but recognized hereafter as a necessary show qualification, the weight question will, I think, soon right itself.

"The standards for judging draft horses in America (United States, and Canada) and Scotland are not alike. 'No foot, no horse,' is a true saying, but in Canada we frequently hear the remark that Scottish judges hardly look at anything but the feet. Your standard of judging has produced perfection in regard to feet, but the objection is made that your judges do not look up, and pay but little attention to weight, type, crest and carriage. On this side of the Atlantic these latter characteristics are the first to be noted and, while feet and action receive much attention, they are only viewed as features to be considered along with other features. When a Scots judge comes to Canada, and looks almost entirely at the legs and feet, his awards have little chance of giving satisfaction, for he ignores type and other features which to the Canadian mind are also of prime importance. A remark in 'The Horse Book,' by Johnstone, of Chicago, is worth noting. He says that, while 'No foot, no horse,' is true, 'No top, no price,' is equally true, and quite as important."

Mr. McBane, in his letter, says: "I find that, in judging, what Mr. Macaulay says is true, namely, that Scotsmen are looking all the time for faults at the ground and in action. That is, no doubt, a good policy, but they should not forget to see that the body is fit to fill the harness, and has space to hold a substantial meal after working six hours. That is when we require size and substance. You will find, by noon, that the narrow-waisted horse stands tucked up on the flank, tired on his legs, and is unable to eat. The manager then asks the driver what is wrong with his horse. I should say that what is wrong with him is the lack of substance in constitution—what we are fighting hard to get. It only requires to have hair in the right place, thin bones, good feet and action to make a Scotch champion. In order to get Clydesdales suitable for the valuable for-



STEER

eign market, they should points for excellence below 50 above that for the good body. This system ually encourage size breeders attend to this ri favorite horse, the Cly Canada. I am sorry to b and I hope Scotch bree to keep up the name Canada."

STC

Our Scott

In the little Island, A air is still very cold, b extreme moisture is being have not as much dust fly genuine spring, if the exp continues we will not be look for hill farmers is. Lambs are plentiful on the they have had of it. Th hills immediately, and t moderate condition after in March. Turnips were have turned out a poor quality. Potatoes were a minimum of disease, and disastrously low. Altoget the agricultural year 190 in spirit. He may be a cc his keenest enemies will good ground for a prolong

And yet farmers do oc little money. One of the shire men recently passed £19,461. This is a most shows what can still be d man who understands hi subject to work with. 1908, and the probability well in 1909.

ARMY REMO

Great Britain is face affecting national defence building of "Dreadnought of a sufficient reserve of About the shipbuilding It appears to be sound "Dreadnoughts" as possi costly toys. The greatest interests is peace, and th be prepared for war. Th horses, and the question going to tackle this q When is Lord Carrington to start his horse-breeding

At present the br that he will get £30 ap years old, and although h proposition, and looks t animals altogether. He money breeding Clydesd young horses have reach £30 apiece for them and expense in looking after expense of keeping arm years old. But neither mount infantry or caval ment than that now offer ed or the horses wanted bred by the farmer. Th to take the horses at thre