

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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## The Horse Breeders' Lien Act.

There is in Manitoba a statute entitled the Horse Breeders' Lien Act, calculated as a protection to the farmer, in that the Provincial Government certificate is a guarantee that the stallion bearing it is duly registered in a recognized studbook of the breed to which he belongs; and to the stallion owner, in affording him an opportunity to legally protect his claims for service fees by obtaining through a very inexpensive process a lien of the colt until such claims are satisfied. Such a protective measure for the owner of a stallion should prove a great benefit to the country by encouraging the use of a higher class of stallions, through the protection thus afforded to the capital invested in valuable animals, and in encouraging the use by farmers of pedigreed horses only.

The Act is not, however, taken advantage of as generally as it might be, as the fact of its being on the statutes serves of itself a decided protection to the stallion owner; yet, the farmer should demand his share of the protection by insisting on the guarantee of registration. A recently-inserted amendment to the Act is worthy of special attention in this connection. The original registration fee, payable to the Department, is \$5, but "in the case of a sale or transfer of a stallion once so registered, the new owner, upon filing proof of such sale or transfer to him and, if required, surrendering the original certificate, shall be entitled to a new certificate of registration upon payment of the sum of one dollar." Copies of the Act and also printed forms of statutory declaration, upon which to enter liens against foals, under provisions of the Act, may be had on application to the Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

It has been suggested that this Act might go further in the way of protecting the farmer by providing that the certificate should not be granted by the Department unless a qualified veterinarian's certificate guaranteeing the horse free from hereditary unsoundness accompany the studbook certificate. There is no question but that pedigreed stallions with hereditary unsoundnesses are a greater injury to the horse-breeding interests than sound, clean stallions that may not be eligible to record in any recognized studbook. A discussion on this point in our columns would likely be conducive to good results. The Act at present does not recognize the American Clydesdale Studbook; this is surely an omission that should be rectified.

This subject is a timely one for horse breeders to consider, not only in Manitoba, but, perhaps, more especially in other provinces of the Dominion, where no such legislation exists.

## Seed Grain Competition.

OATS.

In our March 5th issue were published the names of the successful competitors in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, for the prizes offered by Sir Wm. Macdonald for the best samples of wheat. Below are the names of those boys and girls successful in the seed-oats competition:

*In Manitoba:* John Wells, Roland, 825; Rene Landron, Lorette, 820; Marjion Sherris, Rapid City, 817; Fritz Lundgren, Scandinavia, 812; Ragnhild Lundgren, Scandinavia, 810.

*In the Northwest Territories:* Annie H. Bourne, Inuvial, 825; Talbot E. Stueck, Abernethy, 824; David M. Strong, Olds, 815; S. Kirkham, Saltcoats, 812; Jessie M. Guthrie, Adair, 810; Hubert Anslow, Wadena, 88; Melomise Provost, Flett Springs, 87; John Strong, Olds, 85; Arthur Mitchell, Grenfell,

## A Linseed Mill for Edmonton.

A company has been organized at Edmonton, known as the Linseed Syndicate. It is proposed to build linseed oil works, and also to use the fiber for company purpose having seven hundred acres sown in flax this year, for which they are bringing the seed for distribution.

## Raise the Quality Standard of Stock.

Following up the idea advanced in an article in our last issue, advocating the use of only pure-bred sires of good quality, with a view to improving the character of the general live stock of the country, we desire at this time to emphasize the advantage of such a course, by calling attention to the very marked improvement visible in the progeny of a pure-bred sire from a common or low-grade dam, an improvement which is attractive and from the first appearance in life of an animal engenders a feeling of pride and pleasure in the mind of the owner, and at the same time gives an increased relative value, whether a calf, lamb or pig, before it is many weeks old, an increase more than equal to the extra cost of the service fee of the sire, if hired, or to its share of the price where the sire has been purchased. This is due to the fact that the first cross of a pure-bred sire gives to the offspring fully 50 per cent. of pure blood, which in its influence really amounts to much more than 50 per cent., owing to the prepotency of the pure blood of the sire, which stamps its impress so forcibly on the produce that often the result of the first cross is an animal bearing nearly all the appearance and quality of a pure-bred, and which, with reasonable care in the feeding and treatment, will, for the practical purposes of the butcher's block, or the dairy, make as good return for the feed it consumes as a pure-bred animal of the same age, that has received similar treatment. And when pure-bred sires of the same breed, of good quality, are persistently used, it requires only four or five crosses to produce a herd or flock that will breed true to the desired type with reasonable certainty and with much satisfaction. This is a method by which the average farmer may, in a short time, and at little cost, greatly improve the standard of his stock, and find himself in possession of a class of animals that will respond quickly to good feeding in gain of weight for the meat market or of milk for the dairy, and will sell for much higher prices than the ordinary, at any age, when he wants to dispose of them. In regard to early maturity, we are quite sure we are within the mark in stating that, given the same treatment, a grade steer sired by a pure-bred bull will, owing to his superior form and quality, sell for at least one third more at two and a half years old than a scrub will at three and a half years, besides being more satisfactory in every way to the feeder, the dealer, and the butcher. One only needs to visit the stock yards, and read the reports from week to week, to be convinced of the soundness of this opinion. It will be observed that we have been careful to stipulate that the sire must be not only pure-bred, but of good quality, even to breed good grades, and we stand by this, that even the owner of a grade herd of cattle can not afford to use an inferior pure-bred bull, but that it will pay him well to give a higher price for a good one, for we regret to say that it is too true that there are more than a few pure-bred scrubs in the country, as was evidenced at the Government sales held in the East, where much inferior stuff was offered, with little more than a paper pedigree to recommend them. There are hundreds of far better bulls in the hands of reputable breeders in the country than three-fourths of those put up at these sales, that can be bought at reasonable prices, and better worth the money than were those at the prices they brought. To buy intelligently a man should see the sire and dam of the animal he selects, and know something of the general character of the family from which it comes. Pedigree is well in its place, but there are so few in some families that bear a high sounding name, and it is seldom, if ever, safe to base one's judgment of the value of a beast on the paper that represents his breeding, if he be not individually robust, of good form, and possessed of good feeding and fleshing qualities. The failure to

observe this precaution accounts for most of the misfits found in pure-bred herds, and to breed from one of those generally means the perpetuation of its meanness in its offspring, and in future generations to which its influence extends.

## Government Auction Sale of Pure-bred Cattle at Calgary.

Arrangements have now been made whereby an auction sale of pure-bred cattle will be held at Calgary during the second week in April, probably on the 12th, when the Western Stock Growers', the Territorial Horse Breeders' and Pure-bred Cattle Breeders' Associations hold their annual conventions. The sale will be under the auspices of the Pure-bred Cattle Breeders' Association, assisted by the Territorial and Federal Departments of Agriculture.

The Association expects to be in a position to take a delivery of all animals intended for the sale, at any railway point in the Territories, and carry them to Calgary in its own care, free of all charges. The Local Government has promised to aid the venture, by paying all cost of transportation to the point of sale. Very complete arrangements will be made at Calgary for the reception and care of the animals, all at the expense of the Association. An entry charge of one dollar per head for members and two dollars per head for non-members will be made, which will represent the total cost of the sale to the seller, from the time his animal leaves his care until a sale has been made.

The scheme has received the enthusiastic support of nearly every pure-bred cattle breeder in the country. A carload of excellent individuals is going to the sale from the Prince Albert line, one from Crane Lake, and one from the Edmonton line. The sale will be extensively advertised by the Association, and a large attendance of *bona-fide* buyers is now an assured fact. All persons having pure-bred cattle to sell, males or females, should at once communicate with the Secretary, C. W. Peterson, Government Buildings, Regina, who will supply entry forms and give further information on the subject.

C. W. PETERSON,  
Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Regina.

## A Woman's Plea for a Garden.

Those who make gardens will now be looking over their seed catalogues and talking over their plans. I say those who make gardens, for it is a deplorable fact that there are many in this broad land who own and cultivate hundreds of acres who never plant a garden seed. They make a great mistake, for a little money spent and a little time expended in this direction would be rewarded by added comforts, and probably more robust health. Every farmer is in receipt of some seed catalogues, and good selections can be made from almost any of them. If one is inexperienced, there are always obliging neighbors who are glad to help, and also advise in other details. A corner of the best-worked land near the house can be chosen, and when this is done, always keep to this spot. It will not wear out, if you replenish the waste each year by applying some well-rotted manure. For the sake of marking out the plot, plant something around the edge, a row or two of trees being the most enduring, either starting them from seed or by transplanting. A thick row of Artemisia cuttings will in three years grow into a very nice hedge, and these can be obtained from the experimental farms. [Note: Care should be taken to keep the Artemisia well trimmed back to prevent its going to seed, or it may become a nuisance. — Ed. F. A.] Some small fruits should be set out. The easiest to begin with are currants, native black, and red and white; the latter to be had for the asking, from Experimental Farms. Perhaps you will not have decided to do all these things early enough to get trees and bushes this year, but you can put in vegetable seeds at any rate. Some readers may ask: Who is to do all this? Where is the time to come from? With the garden near the house, there will be little trouble about getting the work done when there is *the will*, as odd moments can always be found. There are few farmers' wives and daughters who, if given the chance, will not be delighted to work the garden. The change from regular housework, and the prospect of having a variety of vegetables for the table during the summer and fall, and a cellar full for winter use, is sufficient to gladden the heart of any true woman.

Central Assn. Mrs. A. N.