

How Shall We Mate Our Draft Mares?

The breeding season is now approaching, and prospective breeders will necessarily soon have to decide how they shall mate their heavy mares. Of course, those who have registered mares will simply need to consider the individuality of the sires, while those whose mares are not pure-bred may be undecided as to the breed as well as to the individuality of the sires to be chosen. In this respect there is great danger of very expensive mistakes being made when the subject is not well considered. One of the strongest principles of most, if not all, successful breeders, has always been "stick to type." The breeder who, either from disappointments in former efforts, desire to experiment, or other causes, decides to patronize a sire of a breed other than that which predominates in his mare, will, with few exceptions, be doomed to disappointment. Experiments in breeding animals are very expensive, and should be tried only by those of independent means, and who are breeding as a pastime rather than with a view of financial success. If the prospective dam has one or more crosses of any recognized draft breed, a first-class sire of that breed should be selected, and in such cases reasonable probability of the produce being a better individual than the dam exists, but where a sire of another breed is selected there will, in all probability, be a deterioration rather than an improvement in qual-

heavy horses of different types will make an improvement in type and characteristics. In fact, it has been proved by actual experience, that when such crosses are made the progeny is inferior to their parents on either side. I have no fault to find with any of the breeds mentioned, either as breeds or individuals. There are excellent animals of all these and other breeds, but I object to the mixing of the breeds. The draft-horse breeders of Canada having for so many years been breeding to the Clydesdale and Shire, it cannot be other than disastrous to attempt to make a change now. If they keep on as they have been doing for a few generations more, they will have practically pure-bred mares of their own production, and the size, type and characteristics of their horses must of necessity be improved; while, on the other hand, if we change to another breed, these will just as surely deteriorate, and we will have a class of animals with no definite character or type. Hence I repeat. "Stick to type."

"WHIP."

The first indication of spring—the immigrant train.

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The champion Clydesdale mare at Toronto Exhibition, Donna Roma, recently sold for \$1200. She was by Woodend Gartley.

date and place of the accident. No. 18 of 1895, s. 1; No. 38 of 1897, s. 43 (1).

2. The agent shall in all cases forthwith post in a public place and manner in the station house a notice giving a full description of the animal or animals with a statement of the time and place where the animal or animals were killed or injured and such notice shall not be removed for three months unless in the meanwhile the owner becomes known to the agent. No. 18 of 1895, s. 1 (a); No. 38 of 1897, s. 43 (2).

3. Any person infringing any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be liable on summary conviction thereof to a penalty of not more than \$50. No. 18 of 1895, s. 2.

Shorthorn as a Dairy Cow.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

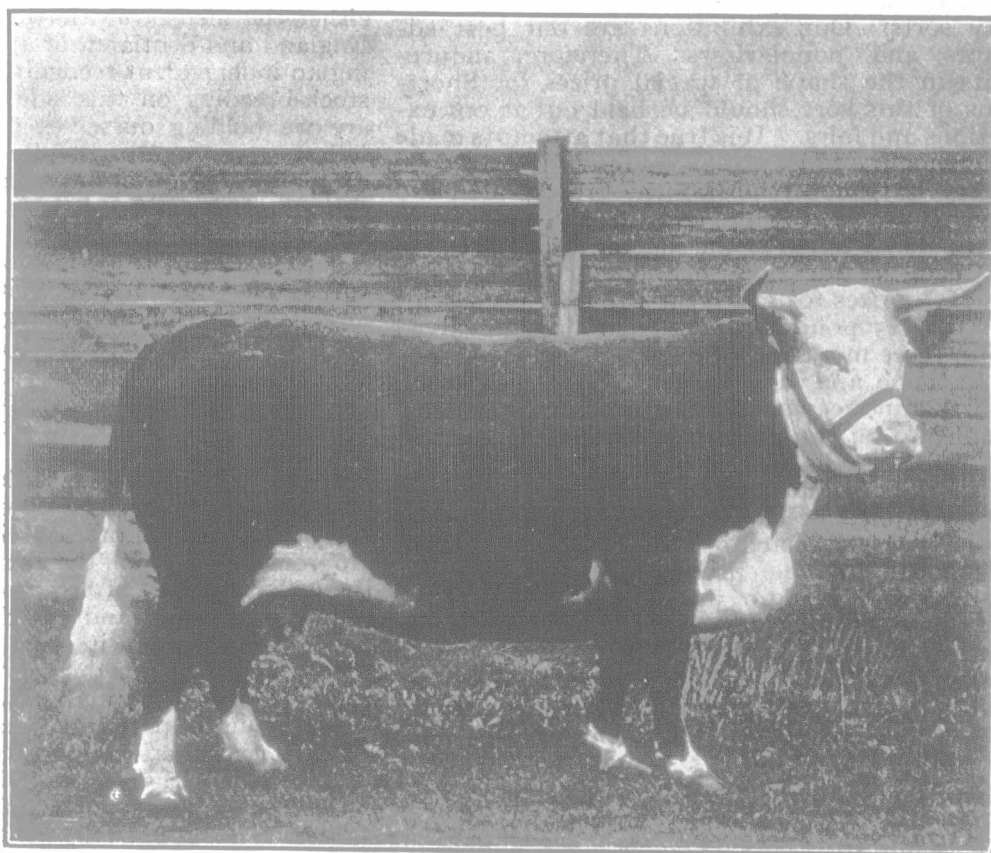
The primary function of the Shorthorn cow is the production of beef, but, at the same time when one questions the average user of this class of cattle, he finds that except possibly by some of the Western ranchmen and some of the larger pure-bred breeders, they are preferred above other classes of beef stock because of their better milking qualities. Moreover, when one analyzes the matter, he cannot but concede that the ultimate success of any breed of stock depends upon the ex-

Notable Herefords in 1905



HEREFORD BULL "ENDALE."

Winner of numerous prizes at British shows



HEREFORD COW "LADY BETTY".

First at Royal Show, England, 1905.

STOCK

Damages for Cattle Killed.

Last spring at the Western Stock Growers' Association at Medicine Hat, one of the chief topics of discussion was the recovery of damages from railway companies for stock killed upon their lines. Dissatisfaction with regard to the treatment by railways continues to exist and in order that certain men may know how to proceed, both to recover damages and to suggest legislation we publish at the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, the ordinance of the North West Territories respecting stock injured by trains.

1. In the event of any stock being killed or injured by any railway train, the conductor or other person in charge of the said train shall forthwith notify the nearest station agent of the railroad company upon whose line of railway the accident has occurred and the said agent shall forthwith in case the owner is known or afterwards becomes known to the agent send a notice to the owner stating the

tent to which they satisfy the requirements of the average farmer. True, the large breeder, for the most part, depends upon the small pure-bred breeder for his market, and does not always realize this; but the smaller breeder, who sells mostly to the general farmers, soon hears criticisms when the milking qualities of his stock fail. And there is good reason for the criticism, for, at least in Eastern Canada, the margin of profit on feeding cattle, under average conditions, is so small that the farmer must look to the milk pail for part of his return. In discussing this question I would prefer to consider the milking beef cow rather than the dual-purpose cow. Perhaps it's only a difference of terms, but to me it conveys a different meaning. Yes! At least a large proportion of Shorthorns should be good milkers. The statement has been made in many sections of Canada, that Shorthorns are not so good milkers as they used to be, and the explanation is not hard to find. We have at Truro a good herd of Shorthorn cows. We have one good strain of milkers. The others are just good enough milkers to raise their own calves well, and, in some cases, give a little extra during the first few weeks of lactation. We look for sales, for the most part, to our young bulls and heifers, and in every case we find that given the same food, we can raise a more parallelogramic,

ity; we might say a mongrelization. If the dam have one or more crosses of Percheron blood, a sire of that breed should be chosen; if of Clydesdale or Shire, choose a sire of either of these breeds if of Suffolk, choose a Suffolk sire, etc., etc.

During late years there have been a great many Clydesdale and Shire stallions, and of late years no inconsiderable number of mares imported. Breeders of heavy horses have of necessity patronized these sires, and now, in most sections of the country it is seldom we see an animal with any pretensions to draft size and type in which the characteristics of these breeds are not well marked. The mares, with few exceptions, out of which we must produce our draft horses, have two or more crosses of Clyde or Shire. This, Mr. Editor, is a fact that cannot be denied. The intelligent breeder, who gives the subject any consideration, must arrive at the conclusion that in order to be successful in breeding operations he must continue to intensify in the offspring the type and characteristics that predominate in the dam, and that an attempt in any other direction must of necessity mongrelize the offspring and bring disappointment. It would require many generations of careful breeding to "breed out" of the progeny of these mares the characteristics they now possess, and it has yet to be shown that the crossing of