

enough to root it out. This can be done by fencing off the patch and scattering corn over it to induce the hogs to root."

Well, I should have thought that advanced farmers like Col. Curtis and the Secretary, Mr. Woodward, might have heard of such a process as "the autumn cleaning of stubbles," which, combined with the growth of hoed crops, roots or corn, soon clears a farm of couch-grass.

Very different is the answer to the question: Do not cows need exercise daily? I like that phrase of Col. Curtis: "blind stupidity" is good.

Geo. A. Smith—Yes; but they should have it in a comfortable place. If hitched with a fastening round the neck they can take it, moving backwards and forwards. If a man thinks his cows must go out of doors, he should drive them out and keep them moving and put them right back. This all-day business is wrong.

Col. Curtis—In this enlightened age the all-day exposure of cattle to our bleak winters smacks more of determined and blind stupidity and barbarism than of common sense or humanity.

Canadian horses.—The writer of the annexed quotation from the Field, is of course speaking of the men and horses to be found at a meet of the Montreal Foxhounds. The great fault of Canadian horses in general is that they have not "nice sloping shoulders and good withers"; in other words as, practically speaking, no one rides in Canada, horses are bred entirely for harness, and their shoulders are upright, they are low in the withers, and their action, in consequence is rough. If our Township farmers would only ride, instead of driving along their lovely country in those horrid buggies, they would soon learn how to breed hacks and hunters that would fetch remunerative prices in the foreign markets. Most of them have good hands, being always used to the plain snaffle-bit, and a hunter that can carry his head well in a single snaffle, and possesses withal a fair amount of breeding and "gentlemanlike" manners, is always worth, in England, pretty much what his owner likes to ask for him.

There is a very interesting account of the Montreal Hunt (1) in last week's Field, in which "M. F. H." says: "During a recent visit to Canada I was very pleased to find that the fox is hunted there with quite as much keenness as in the Old Country, and that the Canadian is just as fond of a gallop over his stiff timber-fenced country as any of our thrusters in the shires." This gentleman, who is a good judge of horse-flesh, in writing of the nags at the Kennels, says: "Canadian horses are very fair weight-carrying hunters, have nice sloping shoulders, good withers, and show plenty of quality. They are fine natural jumpers, especially over timber, and are, as a rule freer from hereditary unsoundness than the English horses."

The farmers of Canada are very blind to their own interests that they do not go extensively into breeding the proper stamp of weight-carrying hunter for the English market. The demand is always there, and from \$500 to \$1000 is about the average price for a fairly good horse to carry fourteen stone or more with hounds.

M. Maguire's letter is severe but true:

HORSE BREEDING IN CANADA.

To the Editor of the "Star."

SIR.—In an Ottawa paper there recently appeared an article with the above heading, in which this statement occurs: "It is satisfactory to notice that the attempts to improve the breed

(1) M. F. H.—Master of Foxhounds.

of horses in Canada are attracting attention abroad." This is only partly true, as our horses do not attract much attention in Europe. Buyers over there want either a carriage or an army horse. The trotting horse, as known here, may be classed with the scrubs, a surplus stock, and the only market open to Canada for such animals was the American, now virtually closed by the McKinley Bill. The same paper speaks of the success attending the breeding of thoroughbred stock. If by thoroughbred it means English thoroughbred, then only a very small amount is attempted. The Government has had its attention called several times to this very point. If on the other hand, the word "thoroughbred" is used in the sense of "standard-bred," then there is a very wide distinction in the meaning of the two words. The modern trotting horse is a mixture of breeds, and any horse can become a "standard-bred" by attaining the speed required by the National Trotting Association rules. A "scrub" if it could attain the speed would become a standard-bred. Unfortunately, the majority of our home-bred horses, outside of the draughts, are scrubs, because they are

FIT FOR NEITHER CARRIAGE NOR SADDLE.

If the Government would accede to the numerous signed petition that was presented to Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, many of the signers being members of Parliament and breeders as well, Canadian horses would be improved by the importation of thoroughbred sires, to be placed on the experimental farms, and also given to those counties who would apply for them, at such a price as to be within the reach of owners and breeders. I defy contradiction when I say that the class of horse in demand for export can be secured only by such use of the English thoroughbred. If breeders do not know that every time they breed from a grade they retrograde, it is time they learned the fact. We are told there are not sufficient well-bred mares to cross with English thoroughbred sires to produce the carriage and army horses that are required for export. I say let the Government import the stallions and we will raise the mares. By reference to the report of the banquet given to the British Agricultural delegates at the Russell House, Ottawa, on the 10th ult., it will be seen that, while complimenting the country generally, some of them referred to the inferiority of Canadian live stock, especially horses, thus supporting my contention on this point.

Ottawa.

W. C. MAGUIRE.

Wool.—My wife tells me that wool for knitting stockings costs, by the pound, one dollar sixty cents. I should like to know why there is such an immense difference between the price the farmer gets—30 cents—and the retailer's price: five hundred per cent is rather more than *usurious* profit; of course, as usual, the poor are the sufferers.

FEDERAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

(Continued).

These laboratories are called *experimental farms*. It is only of late years that the different governments have taken these institutions under their immediate care; but we learn that in our old mother-country, the good king Louis XVI., as long ago as 1783, established at Rambouillet, a few leagues from Versailles, an experimental farm, whither he was wont to repair for the purpose of escaping from the cares of royalty. To the practical experiments at this farm, France is indebted for the origin of a race of sheep which is still in high repute there. We know that, about the same date, Parmentier,