

Horse Breeding in Canada.

Those of our old time breeders that can remember the French Canadian horse as bred years ago, can look back with pleasure to the wonderful endurance, kindly temper, freedom from disease, universal soundness, and other good qualities embraced in him, which go to make a No. 1 horse. Horses of this breeding are now considered undersized for heavy work, and scarcely attractive enough for the street or park, but among them we can find some of the most perfect specimens of horse flesh that the horse-loving public ever looked upon, seldom standing over 15½, and oftener under 15 hands. He was, and is, the biggest little horse ever put together. His beautiful style of going, his great wear, honest temper, always made him a favorite wherever tried. Undoubtedly, he lays claim to have been one of the first brought over to this country, some writers claiming he came over from France as early as 1660, and was afterwards crossed with the Narraganset pacer, a number of which were brought to Quebec from the New England States some 150 years since. The Narraganset pacer is claimed to be of English origin, but all is obscure as to the original breeding. His speed and endurance, qualities that were inbred in the Canadian pacer have helped build up the American trotter through the Pilot Jr. cross, Pilot Jr. being sired by Old Pilot himself, a Canadian pacer, this cross giving us the two fastest to date, as Maud S. and St. Julien, both of whose dams were sired by Pilot Jr. Old Pilot himself, it is claimed, did show 2.26 under saddle, and he was very fast, both as a trotter and as a pacer.

Much has been written in controversy about the blood of the Canadian pacer in the trotter, but doubtless this honest level headed horse has nicked well with the thoroughbred blood of Messenger, Mambrino, and others that have helped to found many of the trotting lines of breeding. A few friends, and those interested, are now getting together data, and intend, if possible, to establish a record for the Canadian horse. If more care were practiced in their

breeding and selection, there is plenty of material to form a distinct sort, and they would furnish us with a hackney or road horse second to none. It is claimed by those who have made a study of these sorts, that the Norman horse is alike the founder of the French Canadian and the more modern French Coacher. Those brought to Quebec at this early date, receiving too often short rations in a vigorous climate, by inbreeding he has been reduced in size, while the Norman horse, of sunny France, with abundant feed, a warmer climate, and careful crossing, has been built up to the beautiful horse he is today. However, they both retain the splendid constitution and vigor, as well as the active movements of the old Norman war horse.

It is now many years since France first established her government studs, and through this management the French Coacher of the present day has been produced. With the Norman horse for a foundation, and by selecting thoroughbred blood from England, and judicious crossing of these sorts, a horse has been produced that, for coach or carriage purposes, stands among the very first. The French Coacher, like his English cousin, has undergone changes through the lapse of time incident to the requirements of the country. What establishing the faster mail coaches and advent of railways in England, so has peace and war done for this class of horses in France, as he has alike been required for cavalry mounts, and to draw the carriages of the opulent in the cities. For this last purpose the handsomest horses were in great demand, and to the late Emperor belonged horses of the most lofty type and brilliant action that could be obtained, and private individuals vied with one another in obtaining for their stylish turnouts horses of the highest standard that wealth could purchase. The war, for a time, put an end to all this luxury, and a horse for cavalry remounts was in greater demand, and less size and a more activity was the order of the day.

The French Coacher now stands about 16¼ to 16½ hands; in color he is brown bay and chestnut. He is a

thicker and and better muscled horse than his English namesake, and has more attractive action. Quite a number of these horses have been brought into Ontario of late, but we have not yet been able to find how they are crossing with our mares, as the produce is not of sufficient age to judge.

The French system of government inspection has much to recommend it, and doubtless France would be in a different position as regards horsebreeding, if the money thus expended had been withheld.

In Canada, establishing studs through government aid, would interfere with individual enterprise, and never could be made a popular move; but, if a system of inspection and license were adopted, it would have the effect of encouraging the bringing in and retaining the best horses, and would serve to check the use of horses without any pretensions to breeding, and which are the greatest detriment to our horsebreeding operations. We have something like 120,000 brood mares in Ontario. If these could be raised up to \$150 per head this would be 12,000,000 of wealth alone, and this only represents one quarter the number of horses. By raising the standard of excellence in our mares, and importing and retaining only the best stallions, how quickly we would double our wealth: there would at once be a direct demand for more than we could produce; we would also have horses fitted to do the work required of them for the different departments and the work would be better performed.—*Farmer's Advocate.*

Cheaper Beef Production.

In our last issue will be found in tabulated form the result of an experiment conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College with ensilage as a fattening fodder. Prof. Shaw manager of the experimental department has compiled the result in readable form—in a letter to the *Toronto Empire*, he says: "The opinion has been rather freely expressed of late, even amongst farmers, that beef could not be fed any longer at a profit, and that because of this it would be better for them to devote