

Yorkshire Swine at Pine Grove Farm.

Pine Grove Farm, the property of Mr. Joseph Featherston, M. P., is situated a short distance from Streetsville R. R. station and post office of the same name, which is on the Credit River in Toronto township, Peel county, Ont. For many years Mr. Featherston has been known as a successful breeder of Yorkshire and Suffolk pigs, and has for a long time been a most successful prize-winner in each class at all the large Canadian shows where he exhibited. His present herd of Yorkshires is headed by imported Lancashire Lad, bred at Prescott Union. He has great length and depth of body, and is covered with a coat of fine hair, which prevents the sun from burning or blistering his skin in summer, and effectually protects him from the cold in winter. This animal took the first prize at the last Toronto Industrial Exhibition as best registered Improved Yorkshire boar twelve months old, and with Whiston Pride and Lancashire Maid, both bred at Prescott Union, Lancashire, England, won the sweepstakes given for best herd of Improved Yorkshires. The imported boar Plymouth Pride, bred by C. E. Duckering, England, is also used as a stock pig. He is now nineteen months old; when matured he will be very large, with good back, deep sides and strong bone. He has proved himself a very successful sire. Another young boar, bred from Mr. Saunders Spencer's stock, Holywell, Eng., is being bred to some of the younger sows. Besides the above Mr. Featherston has in his pens two other young imported boars. Among the breeding sows now in the herd is Whiston Pride, a beautiful specimen, of immense size, which was considered by many the best sow of any breed exhibited at Toronto last year. She was imported in August, 1890, and has since raised two litters of pigs. Lancashire Maid is sister to Lancashire Lad. She won first at Toronto last year for the best sow twelve months and under. Another imported sow bred by Mr. Saunders Spencer, and another, the choice of the pen which won first at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show in England in 1890. Beside the above mentioned there are eight other good sows bred by such English breeders as T. Walker-Jones, Saunders Spencer and C. E. Duckering, and a number of good Canadian bred animals. A number of Mr. Featherston's swine may be seen at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, and some of the other leading shows.

Percherons in France.

BY BARON E. DE MANDAT GRANCEY, PRESIDENT
SOCIÉTÉ HIPPIQUE, PARIS.

I hasten to give the information desired by our Canadian friends, especially the breeders of French horses, and those interested in their importation.

In order to give you fuller details on this subject, we will say a word about our exportations for 1889, which were much above the average. Until that time our breeders of Perch and Normandy guided their production by the demands of the American market. Every year the American importers purchased 3,000 or 4,000 horses, which required, therefore, 3,000 or 4,000 above the local demand. But in 1889 the Argentine Republic, then in the height of its prosperity, suddenly called for several hundreds of those splendid stallions which had such success in the United States.

Competition brought the prices to an unknown level heretofore. I saw a farmer of Nogent le Rotrou sell a lot of colts of eighteen months for \$12,400. Assuredly the colts were very fine, but a few months sooner that farmer would have thought himself very fortunate to sell those colts for \$6,000. These results gave breeding in our region an extraordinary impulsion. Believing that it would always be so, our stallion breeders grudged no expense tending to renew their stock.

It is customary with us for the proprietor of a fine stallion to grant the use of his horse, to neighbors only on condition that if it be a male colt it will be sold him for a stipulated sum.

When the mare was well known, frequently colts were sold before their birth for as much as \$400, \$600 or even \$800. Such folly brought on disastrous results. They did not tarry. Our exportations for 1890 began under the worst conditions.

The Argentine Republic, being in a period of financial and political crisis, bought nothing. The crops of the United States failed completely in the greater part of the far west. The farmers were mostly ruined. Importers seeing the impetuosity of their buyers made fewer or no purchases. Breeders of Perch and Normandy had sold all the year before. Fortunately for them they had not their usual stock, but, nevertheless, they suffered from the situation. Horses of very first order kept their price, but others decreased considerably in value. Altogether 1890 was a very bad year for our breeders.

The outlook for 1891 is much better. Probably the Argentine Republic will not buy much, but the crops of the United States are very promising. Eastern money is plentiful in the far west, and orders are becoming every day more important.

The horse fair of Montague took place on the 14th of last June. Count Mercier, Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec, honored us by his presence. He could judge for himself of the beauty of the horses under view. Many American merchants were there also. Important sales were made, and since then prices have risen considerably. This result had been foreseen and even discounted, for I remarked that the season, beginning with us in January, was most active, the use of the best stallions being in the greatest demand, many paying as much as \$20, and hardly any under \$6. I wish to draw attention to these prices, because I see in the Canadian papers that the Haras National, as by agreement with the government of the Province of Quebec, and with the federal government, charges only \$4. I know all the horses placed in the different stations of the country, and I can testify that the very lowest charge in Perch would have been \$12 or \$15. Many would have been \$20. It is, therefore, evident that the Canadian farmer, owing to government intervention, pays less for the use of the Percheron horses than the farmers of Perch itself.

Messrs. R. & J. Beith's Hackneys.

For many years the firm of Robert Beith & Co. have been intimately connected with the importation of high class Clydesdale horses. They were the very best obtainable of this breed that found their way into this stud, price always being a secondary consideration. Having occasionally brought out a Hackney stallion along with their Clydesdales, and the success that has attended the introduction of these horses wherever they have been sold, has convinced the Messrs. Beith, as well as their customers, that there is a grand future trade for those who will breed this sort. Although the Hackney horse has become a great favorite with those who have wealth at their command, it is to the tenant farmers of England that he owes his present high degree of perfection, which is doubtless why his wonderful utility is combined with his handsome form and attractive performances. With the knowledge of how well this breed of horses would suit Canadian farmers, and with a determination to keep pace with the demand that has already begun, this firm recently invested in quite an extensive stud of Hackneys. We would, therefore, advise those interested in breeding light harness horses to inspect this stud at an early date and judge for themselves.

The stallion which they have now at the head of the very excellent lot of Hackney mares is Jubilee Chief, a black four-year-old horse, of capital character. His are the feet and bone that will stand wear; he has heavily muscled thighs and forearms; handsome head and neck; has clean high action both in front and behind, with a stride that carries him right along.

The first mare shown to us was Miss Rickell (1284), a chestnut, foaled in 1884. She was sired by a brother of Danegelt, and is a mare of capital breeding as well as performances, having won three firsts and two seconds at trotting

matches under saddle in England. She is a most beautiful harness mare and a pleasant driver.

Mayflower (767), foaled 1885, sired by High Flyer (1648), is also a chestnut, about 15 hands. She is of beautiful Hackney type, and shows well in harness, and is well up as a weight carrier under saddle. This mare is also a capital breeder, as her two-year-old filly will testify. This filly is now broken to harness; she is built on a larger scale, but still retains all her dam's good qualities.

A yearling stallion from this mare shows capital points; his legs and feet are made of the material that will bear the closest inspection; he has remarkably strong joints, and although he has had little to develop him, is a very promising colt.

Lizette (2259), foaled 1886, is a beautiful chestnut mare, standing about 15.3; is of good saddle and harness type. She is sired by Anconeus (887). This mare is a remarkably kind, nice driver, moves lightly and well. She has a brown yearling filly of nice form that shows nicely on the line.

Florence (668), a bay mare foaled in 1884, sired by Randolph (1123), is a useful mare, nicely turned, and has a beautiful brown yearling filly, and, like the previous mentioned yearling, was imported in dam.

The last to be mentioned is the five-year-old mare Conquest (1983); she is by the same sire as Lizette. This is, indeed, a beautiful mare; is full of quality from end to end. She is an ideal Hackney, stands about 15.2, shows the most brilliant action, both in front and behind, and is just as attractive under saddle.

This stud will certainly be a great attraction to those who are lovers of fine horses at the coming exhibitions. Their absolute freedom from anything approaching unsoundness, their strong joints, hard wearing feet, gentle disposition, and, above all, their attractive way of moving, will command attention wherever they are seen.

Graham Bros.' Latest Importations.

Mr. William Graham, of the firm of Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont., arrived home from Scotland on the 21st of August with nineteen head of horses. Seven Clydesdales, one five-year-old, three two-year-olds, two one-year-olds, four Hackneys and eight Welsh ponies comprised the lot. In a letter which we received just as we were going to press, Mr. Robert Graham described the horses as follows:—

The most noted among the Clydes is the Queen's Own (7176), the Bute premium horse this year; in color, a dapple brown, with a little white. He will weigh when in condition 2,100 lbs.; his feet and legs are the best, and he is an extra mover; in short, we think him the best aged horse we ever owned; and, best of all, he is by Prince of Wales (673), and out of a Paisley Jock mare. He is stylish and good all round.

Next in merit comes Symmetry (Vol. 14); he is one-year-old, sired by Ensign (5749), and out of a Pride of Borgue mare. Ensign was by Darnley (222). Symmetry won the Derby cup at Edinburgh this summer. He much resembles McQueen at the same age, but is larger. When matured I think he will be the best Clydesdale stallion ever brought to America. The other yearling, Macrone, is also very good. He is by Macgregor, dam by Good Hope (1679).

Craigonald (8557), three years old, by Craigisla (6641), dam by Macgregor (1487). Craigisla is by Prince George; he by Prince of Wales (673). Craigonald is a very sweet colt; his legs and feet are good, and his action all that can be desired.

In Hackneys our best is Neptune 2nd (2608), four years old; sire Norfolk Gentleman (492); dam, Cybell (23). Neptune is a model in every way. He stands 15 hands 2 inches, and his action is perfect. He is a great favorite with all who have seen him.

Dundrennan (2259), three years old, dam Cigarette (210), is larger than the last, and is also good.

The other two Hackneys, a filly and a horse are each two years old, and are good ones.

The eight Welsh ponies are all first-class.