

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:

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London, W. C., England.

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tion of selects than last year, and he evidently assumes this condition will continue, particularly if the co-operation of the agricultural press and Farmers' Institutes is retained for educative work. We cannot agree with him. In the first place, the press and the Farmers' Institutes fail to influence more than a fraction of farmers, especially against what they conceive to be their personal interests, and it is just as unreasonable to expect farmers to go into a certain grade of hogs for the good of the country, as it would be to expect packers to cure it a certain way out of philanthropy. Canadian packers cure Wiltshire sides for export in preference to any others, because that is what they can make the most money out of. Canadian farmers will raise bacon hogs in preference to any other class if there is more money in it, but not otherwise. Prof. Day was inclined to criticise the press for tacitly admitting the contention of farmers that the thick, fat hog would produce gains more cheaply than the bacon breeds. He wanted the press to take issue with such statements by asking for proof. He believed facts would show a better case for the bacon hog than was commonly supposed. Considering fecundity of the sows, the bacon and thick-fat types, it is contended, would break about even as to cost of production, unless it might, perhaps, be in the case of pastured hogs. Still, we consider the case for discrimination is a strong one; first, because a great many farmers will not look at the matter this way; secondly, because the progressive man deserves reward for his effort. The writer has fed many kinds of hogs, mostly those of the bacon type, and knows how galling it is after taking every pains to comply with the packer's requirements, to sell his hogs for exactly the same price as a neighbor who has paid no attention to the matter. There is no solace like that of the pocketbook, and we cannot too earnestly impress upon packers that unless they begin again a policy of discrimination, we will go backward in the quality of our hog supply. It takes some years

for the effect of any educational or other influences to be manifest, but the tide of popular favor is now turning, and we appeal to the packers not to wait till the records of the next few years show them their mistake. We appreciate their position, we understand their reluctance to change their policy, but we respectfully point out that such a step is an urgent necessity, and we trust that all the packers will meet the farmers in a second conference at an early date, and discuss in an open-minded manner the pros and cons of this subject, looking to the general inauguration all along the line of a permanent system of sharp discrimination in buying which will ensure to the progressive farmer a premium for enterprise and pains.

The Toronto News Scores the Oxford Bachelors.

"The Farmer's Advocate is disposed to favor the taxation of bachelors over 35 years of age. An esteemed reader assures us that in one township alone in the County of Oxford, Ontario, there are, upon a moderate estimate, at least 150 bachelors, most of them well-to-do land-owners. When one considers the numbers of eligible young women whose equal no other land has produced, and who are gradually flocking to the cities where their activities find other channels, this is simply appalling. This may be true, but it is only one side of the question. There is a growing indisposition on the part of women to enter the bonds of matrimony. If those 150 bachelors were to offer themselves as husbands, they would probably discover that the 150 young women, though eligible, were not waiting to be asked, but had plans and ambitions of their own. Matrimony now represents only one of a number of careers of which women are free to make a choice. The remedy indicated would be not to tax the bachelors, but to let them know that marriage is a privilege for which they must qualify by good conduct."—[The News, Toronto.]

We regret to observe from the foregoing observations on the matrimonial question, that our usually clear-sighted contemporary is suffering from a severe form of astigmatism. "The Farmer's Advocate" is satisfied that it is not so much a question of eligibility, but of a disinclination (mistaken, we believe) to assume the responsibilities and privileges of matrimony that is the trouble with many of the well-to-do old bachelors of Oxford and a good many other counties. We have also a decidedly clear conviction that the normal young woman is matrimonially inclined, and she is not rushing off to town because of her ambitious yearnings for a career, but to make a living, and she does it under conditions prevailing in factory life, etc., which, in too many cases, do not improve her qualifications as a homemaker. But just as we find a growing appreciation in the public mind of agricultural pursuits, so we look for a reviving appreciation of domestic economy and home-making.

HORSES.

Some Breeding Theories.

All who are interested in horse-breeding are familiar with certain popular theories and opinions relating thereto, and few conversations on the subject proceed far before one or other of them is introduced. Of these theories, one of the commonest is that it is unwise to breed from two-year-old fillies, and almost folly to expect one to throw a really good foal. One often hears remarks such as this in relation to a two-year-old, "Yes, I am breeding from her this year; of course I should not have done, you know, only I was afraid she was getting too big, and thought it would stop her growth a bit"; and, again, in answer to a hope expressed that the mare will breed a good foal, "Oh, well, it will be her first foal, and she will only be three, so we can't expect much." Having so often heard remarks similar to the above, and being interested in the subject, I determined to see if this and other theories, which I shall refer to later, had any foundation in fact, and with this object in view I took down the names of a number of the most celebrated Hackney stallions (to which breed alone any remarks of mine in your columns refer), and set out with the aid of a Studbook to ascertain the ages of their parents at the time they were responsible for their production.

The first result of my investigations was that I found that the following six noted horses were the produce of fillies bred from at two years old, i.e., were dropped by three-year-old mares: Astonishment II., Diplomatist, Garton Duke of Connaught, Langton Performer, St. Thomas, and Vigorous. No Hackney man needs to be told of the fame of any one of these horses, and the fact of their resulting from the mating of two-

year-old mares should go far to dispel the prejudice existing against this practice, and also that against first foals.

A second opinion, and one, perhaps, still more frequently expressed, is to the effect that "it is no good breeding from old mares." Those who make this statement usually follow it up by saying that if you must pursue this unprofitable course, then use a young sire. The following statements of facts hardly seem to agree with this theory:

Candidate was produced by mating Denmark at 19 with Poll III. at 15.
Moore's Confidence was produced by mating Denmark at 16 with Poll III. at 13.
Danegelt was produced by mating Denmark at 16 with Nelly at 15.
Denmark was produced by mating Sir Charles at 19 with mare by Merryman at 22.
Gentleman John was produced by mating Lord Derby II. at 18 with Bounce at 15.
Lord Rattler was produced by mating Lord Derby II. at 15 with Beauty at 16.
Rosador was produced by mating Danegelt at 12 with Jessie at 17.

The following four horses were bred from aged mares, and so contradict the first part of the theory, but as they were got by young sires, they may, I suppose, be considered as confirming the second part, though, as there are only four horses so bred, as against seven bred from aged parents on both sides, there is more evidence against it than in its support:

Fandango (champion, New York) was produced by mating Lord Rattler at 2 with Polly at 15.
Hedon Squire was produced by mating Rufus at 5 with Polly at 17.
Reality was produced by mating Confidence at 7 with Foundation at 16.
Rufus was produced by mating Vigorous at 2 with Lady Kitty at 18.

Then, again, there is the converse of the last theory, viz., that young mares should be put to old horses. Against this we have the facts that

Cassius was produced by mating Cadet at 3 with Belle V. at 4.
Garton Duke of Connaught was produced by mating Connaught at 4 with Lady Cook at 2.
His Majesty was produced by mating Matchless of Londesboro' at 2 with Piggy Wiggy at 3.
Langton Performer was produced by mating Garton Duke of Connaught at 2 with Fusee II. at 2.
Matchless of Londesboro' was produced by mating Danegelt at 4 with Lady Lyons at 3.
Vigorous was produced by mating Norfolk Gentleman at 2 with Auntie at 2.

What conclusion, then, are we to draw from the above facts? Surely that age in parents has not the slightest influence on the degree of excellence of the progeny, and therefore that in choosing a stallion for his mare a breeder should not let the horse's age, one way or the other, weigh on his mind, but should confine his attention solely to his conformation and pedigree, selecting a sire strong in those points in which his mare may be deficient, and rich in that blood which will best combine with hers. If some breeders would pay more attention to these elementary points, instead of sending their mares to the nearest champion simply because he is a champion, and without a thought as to whether he is suited to them either in pedigree or appearance, we should hear of fewer disappointments in Hackney breeding, as this line of procedure never leads to anything but quite undeserved abuse of the stallion. —[Geoffrey D. S. Bennett, in Live-stock Journal.]

The American Gaited Saddle Horse.

The American saddle horse, says a writer in the Horse Show Monthly, is, of all horses, the most beautiful, the most intelligent, the most tractable, and the most versatile, and withal the most useful, because inherently the soundest and most free from structural defects.

The saddle horse is a purely American creation and product. There is nowhere in the world any other horse that is comparable with him. He is the natural result of the environment in which he was given birth. Let us briefly trace his history.

The saddle horse has been a making for a hundred years. Let us go back to pre-railway days in a young country, sparsely settled and but just emerging from savagery. Poor roads and few settlements, forest tracks and narrow bridle paths are conditions that make for horseback riding. "In the early days of this Republic there were no railroads, and the highways were not in the best condition for wheeled vehicles, even had they been obtainable." The people in those days largely depended on horseback riding, and that, too, for long distance travel, as well as for short time; hence they encouraged breeds of horses which could carry their burdens with ease, both to themselves and the rider. The best horses for the purpose were brought from Canada, where the pace or ambling gait had been most encouraged, while Virginia and the South Atlantic States had given more attention to the race horse.

The saddle horse, therefore, had his origin in necessity. If one had a long journey to make the convey-