

HORSES



BARON'S PRIDE (9122).
Famous Clydesdale stallion. Typical draft horse.

balance of the large acreage being grown for this factory may be found within a radius of six miles. Everywhere, on well-drained soil, the beets presented a magnificent sight, and should the present month be a favorable one for storing-up sugar, the highest anticipations of the most optimistic may be realized.

PROBABLE YIELD.

In many cases the yield will doubtless be 15 tons per acre, and over a large area 12 tons will surely be harvested, indicating, if all goes well, a probable output of say 6,000 tons of sugar this season from the Wallaceburg factory. For these the farmers will this year be paid four dollars per ton. Next season the price will range according to the amount of sugar in the beet. In the Michigan factories 33 1-3 cents for each one per cent. sugar in the beets is commonly paid. So great is the company's faith in the future of their enterprise and in their ability to satisfy the growers, that they have required the latter to sign contracts to grow beets for but one year. The profits obtained, it is considered, will be sufficient inducement to cause them to continue.

NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE CROP.

Some prominent agriculturists have declared that sugar beets were an exhaustive crop on the soil, and that land on which they were grown was unfitted to produce a heavy yield of any cereal grain thereafter. Such, however, has not been found the case in actual practice. At Wallaceburg some farmers pointed to the best crop on their premises with the statement, "I had sugar beets on that field last year." A field of oats grown on the farm of D. A. Gordon, and herewith portrayed, were superior in every respect to any seen by the writer on the trip from London to this place. It is well known that the beet-top contains a comparatively higher per cent. of fertilizing constituents than the root, and when the former is fed on the field, or in the stable and the manure returned to the soil, no loss can accrue from that source. Moreover, when the patron of any factory appreciates as he should the value of beet pulp, and returns to his farm to be fed the amount allotted to him at the factory, no loss in fertilizer is suffered through beet-growing. This is proven by the well-known fact that sugar in itself contains neither nitrogen, potash, lime nor phosphorus, but is composed entirely of the elements carbon, oxygen and hydrogen, obtained either directly or indirectly from the air. It is said that in France, where nothing but the sugar has been removed from the farms during many years of sugar-beet growing, no diminution in plant-food has resulted. The growing of beets affords a splendid opportunity of combating noxious weeds, which have, unfortunately, become very prevalent in certain districts of Ontario, and the frequent cultivation necessary to conserve moisture and aerate the surface layers is sure to improve the mechanical condition of the soil.

THE LABOR PROBLEM.

In some parts of Ontario, where factories have been proposed or are being erected, farmers have feared that the scarcity of laborers would render the rearing of sugar beets in any quantity an impossibility. At Wallaceburg about 100 men were imported from Belgium to assist in carrying on the work. These have proved a valuable acquisition, as many of them were familiar with the industry in their native land. Although objections were at first offered to the newcomers, no one appears to have suffered. All who cared to work have found employment, and that at remunerative wages. Growers have generally been able to keep pace with the work so far, and until raising and hauling to the factory begins, no rush will be necessary. Every precaution is already being taken to make the transportation of the beets from the fields to the sheds as light as possible. Wharves are being built at convenient points

along the river, and sidings are already laid at places along the railroad, where farmers can easily unload their beets from the wagons. Many flat boats capable of carrying several tons are also either in course of construction or completed, and altogether the preparations are proceeding in a most enterprising and businesslike manner.

During the process of manufacture, which will likely last about 130 days, upwards of 300 men will be employed, and that too at a time when other industries are generally slack.

SHIPPING FACILITIES AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

The splendid shipping facilities at the command of this company comprise in themselves a feature worthy of special mention. Passing through the town of Wallaceburg, and connecting it with Chatham, St. Thomas, London, Port Stanley, Detroit and Sarnia, is the Lake Erie & Detroit River Railway. At this place, also, the north and east branches of the Sydenham river join, making a stream deep and broad enough to accommodate a steamer of considerable size as it flows on its way to Lake St. Clair, 16 miles distant. Thus means are afforded not only for placing the sugar in the hands of buyers, but also for the importation of coal, lime or any other commodity required in the process of manufacture.

Just what this new industry will mean to Canada it is difficult to estimate. By its introduction into Michigan, farming has been placed on a more paying basis than ever before, and the price of agricultural lands in the vicinity of factories has nearly doubled in value. Already the stimulus is being felt in the districts surrounding Wallaceburg, Dresden, Berlin and Warton, the four towns in which factories will be in operation this season. The outlook is one of great moment to the husbandmen of this country. Canada consumes annually about 300,000,000 pounds, the product of other countries. If our soil and climate be as well adapted as present appearances indicate, we have surely room for several more factories. At least twenty of ordinary size would



AMERICAN TROTTING-BRED STALLION "CONVERTED" TO HEAVY HARNESS.

be required to supply the home demand, and if farmers in districts where good beets can be grown will but consider their own interests and co-operate with those who are ready to invest the necessary capital in a plant, there is no reason why Canada may not soon become an exporter rather than an importer of sugar.

An Ontario County Telephone System.

A despatch from Beaverton, Ont., gives the following information regarding the successful inauguration of an independent telephone system there: "Beaverton has an independent telephone system, established in opposition to the Bell Telephone Company, and giving good satisfaction to those using its lines. The rate per instrument is only \$18 to farmers and \$15 to those residing in the village. The new 'phones have been in operation only a little over a month. Last spring, the Eden Creamery Company, whose creamery is situated about five miles from Beaverton, applied to the Bell Company, and were asked \$60 a year for a connection.

"A firm of Beaverton merchants and the farmer interested in the creamery joined hands and formed a private company, of which Mr. George A. Proctor, a farmer of Thorah Township, was a leading member. The low rates at which they offered to instal 'phones found a ready demand in the community, and there are now between 20 and 25 instruments in operation.

"The success with which the new company has met will be realized when it is known that within a couple of months they have installed as many 'phones as the Bell Company has in operation altogether.

"The lines are not all completed yet, but the instruments already installed have proved the value of telephonic connection to the farmers, and further extensions will be made immediately. About 50 'phones will be put in this fall, and an equal number next spring."

Stick to Type in Horse Breeding.

A recent despatch from London, Eng., states that the British War Office now has on foot a scheme for encouraging the breeding in Canada of horses for army purposes. A large number of stallions fitted to become sires of the typical war horse are to be shipped across the water, it is said, and the entire scheme is to be under the direction of the Canadian Minister of Agriculture. This report, coming as it does only a few weeks after Mr. Broderick's statement in the British House of Commons, that 500 Canadian horses annually would be bought in time of peace, will not cause much excitement on the part of horse breeders in this country. Since, without special preparation, we were able to supply over ten thousand remounts for the recent campaign, why should inducement be offered to breed five hundred per year when the war clouds of the world have cleared away?

In reviewing the horse market for a number of years, during which time prices have varied considerably, the situation presents one feature more striking than all others, and that is, that good specimens of the different classes have always brought profitable prices. Men who have been breeding only straight Clydesdale or Shire on their farms for years are those who have reaped a rich reward. The same may be said of other types such as fancy drivers, and the horses that are likely to bring profit to their breeders in future are not those which may have been bred specially for army purposes, but horses typical in conformation of some recognized class, the result of intelligent selection and mating. Districts are known in Ontario where thoughtful farmers have so co-operated for years, in their patronage of sires of a definite class, that today the majority of the horses found therein are fair representatives of the ideals according to which they were bred. It therefore happens, when a buyer has an order for a number of a class, he goes to that section known to be breeding them, and where they can be had at least expense. Nevertheless, when the horses, and especially the brood mare, of the country are considered, it is surprising how few possess characters fitted to identify them with any particular class. The happy-go-lucky style of patronizing a stallion, merely because he was a "fine horse," or because his owner was popular, has brought its reward in the predominance of no-class or scrub stuff. Some men who have been breeding to rather heavy stock, get the idea that something with greater speed would make a better general purpose horse, and so the common farm mare, in whose veins runs, perhaps, Clyde or Shire blood, is bred to a trotter, and only with disappointing results. At many agricultural shows, too, the horses are improperly classified, and too much importance is placed upon the so-called "general purpose horse," an animal which only circumstances can classify. When the call was made at Toronto Industrial, last year, for general purpose teams, there came into the ring pairs quite heavy enough to pass as Clydes, and others fitted only in weight for the race-track.

It may be mentioned, also, that the pedigree of the sire should not be lost sight of. The stronger the blood of his ancestry, and the longer it can be traced in a direct line, the stronger the possibilities of the progeny partaking of his characteristics, and the greater the assurance given to the breeder that they will be like him. A great mistake made by many is in breeding something for use only on the farm, instead of an animal for which a market might be had if required, and one which would be quite as suitable for agricultural purposes. What is wanted on the part of breeders in general is a deeper interest in the classification of horses, coupled with more intelligent selection of sires, and that adherence to type the product of which buyers are ready to pay for.



JOY BELL.
Typical saddle horse.