

is a long stride in the agricultural progress of Maritime Canada, we trust, and its results will be felt far beyond the limits of the division concerned directly in the new report. A. E. BURKE.

HORSES.

STATE FAIR CLASSES FOR AMERICAN CARRIAGE HORSES.

With a view to developing the breeding of American carriage horses, a movement was inaugurated in 1907 by the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, in co-operation with the American Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, to provide a uniform system of classification for American carriage horses at the State fairs. The department's classification (which, by the way, includes four classes for stallions, five for mares and fillies, one for foals, and one for stallions and get) is the work of the committee on heavy-harness horses of the above Association. This committee is organized to represent the Federal Department of Agriculture, the American Trotting Register Association, the American Saddle Horse Breeders' Association, and the American Morgan Register Association. The classes provided are open only to horses of American blood registered in one of the three above associations' records. In the case of mares recorded in the American Trotting Register, they are eligible whether registered as standard or non-standard. The type sought is described as follows: "Not under 15 hands for mature horses; smooth, compact and symmetrical conformation; neck of good length, inclined naturally to arch; sloping shoulders; well-set legs of medium length; sloping pasterns and good feet; short, strong back; well-sprung ribs, well ribbed up to coupling; smooth loins; full flanks; straight croup, with well-set tail; full round quarters."

Entries in all cases are supposed to be judged on conformation, style, action and manners as a suitable type of carriage horse. Special attention will be given to trueness of action. Good knee and hock action are essential. Entries in all classes should trot and walk straight and true, and judges are especially to avoid horses showing any tendency to pace, mix gaits, paddle in front, or sprawl behind.

The objects to be served by the introduction of this classification are declared as follows: "The widespread adoption of this movement is of the greatest importance to farmers and breeders who own horses suitable to get American carriage horses, for the reason that the fairs are in very close touch with farmers, who are the breeders of most of the carriage horses sold on the American markets, and the value of the American horse for carriage purposes is rarely appreciated by the farmers who breed them."

Hundreds of horses are sold annually by farmers at really insignificant prices, which, after some months of finishing and handling, are sold as carriage horses at prices up into the thousands. Furthermore, there is a continual sale of stallions to supply this trade. These horses are usually of only moderate value as speed producers, but are of excellent carriage type. If kept entire, and properly mated, they could be of inestimable value as foundation sires of the American carriage horse, but, as a rule, they are castrated and lost, so far as breeding value is concerned. With the powerful educational influence of the fairs and stock shows thrown into the solution of the carriage-horse problem, the farmer will not only be educated to appreciate the intrinsic value of the native light horse for carriage purposes, but will recognize the worth of the stallion with good conformation and quality, but only moderate speed, as a sire of carriage horses, and the problem of fixing the type will be one of early solution.

It is said the movement to provide this special classification has been well received. The effort was commenced too late to have it generally adopted in 1907, although four State fairs did so in that year, the Iowa State Fair and the Blue Grass Fair of Kentucky having undertaken it of their own initiative. The character of the exhibits, while not all that could be desired, was considered as good as could be expected. Eleven State fairs have provided the classification for 1908, either in whole or part, and considerable interest has been shown by county and district fairs. The list of eleven State fairs includes Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Kansas, Tennessee, Illinois; Tristate Fair, Memphis, Tenn., and the Missouri State Fair. In addition, the Blue Grass Fair, in Kentucky, retains the specifications and classifications adopted by them last year.

NAMING CLYDESDALES.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the exclusive use of several names were granted in the registration of Clydesdales there. The word "Gartly" was given exclusively to A. McMennie; that of "Montreave" to Sir John Gilmour; "Silver" to the Seaham Harbor Stud, Ltd., and "Baron" to A. & W. Montgomery. In a letter, the Secretary has requested the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada to co-operate with them in protecting the use of these names in Canada as well. This matter was discussed by the executive here, and it was decided to refer the matter to the annual meeting of the Association. Meanwhile, as they were all favorably disposed toward this movement, the registrar has been requested to endeavor to persuade all applicants for registration to avoid their use as far as possible for the balance of the year.

This is a matter on which I would urge as free discussion as possible. The indiscriminate use of names made popular through some animal of superior merit, or the successful efforts of some devoted breeder, cannot fail to be perplexing to future students of Clydesdale history. Records which have followed some system which simplifies the study of the breed, have gained an added value by doing so. Others, which have not, have been losers by not doing so. The great Percheron stallion, Brilliant, left a name which has been lost through its indiscriminate use, until, to one not very familiar with the breeding of this breed of horses, it means nothing. The "family" system of the American Trotting Register has added value to that record. The maternal "family" of the Shorthorn pedigree has certainly added value in the same manner.

In Vol. 14, C. C. S. B., there are sixty "Barons" recorded, many of which are not closely related to the great sire of Netherhall. Vol. 15 is only better in that it has 58 "Barons." This cannot fail to cause some uncertainty in the future, especially in the recording of four-cross fillies and Canadian-bred horses generally.



Sir Spencer (13211).

Clydesdale stallion; bay; foaled 1904; sire Sir Hugo, by Sir Everard.

There is, perhaps, no breed of animals in existence which owes so much of its merit to a few outstanding sires as does the Clydesdale. This is a fact well known to all horsemen. It is also an incontrovertible proof of the value of good pedigree, and the importance of the work of preserving the "family" strain, inasmuch as it places wider and more exact knowledge at the command of the breeder. The crossing of Prince of Wales (673) upon the "Darnley" "family" of mares was a process by which the Clydesdales of Scotland gained in fame and popularity by leaps and bounds. What a galaxy of grand breeding sires this one incidental cross produced. It was followed by others, not many in numbers, but momentous in their results and their proportions.

The time is palpably ripe for the repetition of such history in Canada. Should Canadians have the fortune to find themselves heirs to such a heritage, there is no better means of knowing it early, and reaping to the full its advantages, than some system of keeping exact record, not only in books of registration, but, easily and fully and unmistakably, in the popular mind as well.

Were "families" more clearly defined, the principles of breeding would be taken greater advantage of. Where a good stallion produced a prizewinning foal, it would prove an inducement to the owner of another mare by the same sire as its dam to breed to that stallion. The writer feels confident that a discussion of this question will prove of interest to your readers, and that you will welcome a discussion of the matter through the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate."

J. W. SANGSTER,

Sec'y Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada.

CHAMPING ON THE BIT.

A correspondent says: "I have a three-year-old colt I am breaking in, which has formed a habit of biting at the bit. Have tried every means I can think of or have been told about by neighbors, but to no avail. Will you kindly tell me, through your valuable paper, what is your idea of the best method of stopping him."

Champing the bit is one of the lesser vices which a horse will sometimes acquire. In some cases it is the result of a nervous and irritable disposition, when very little can be done to remedy the condition. In other cases the trouble can be traced to defective teeth, or possibly the colt will be getting his third permanent molar. The irritation caused by cutting this tooth may be the source of the champing. If you do not need to work him this summer, turn him out to pasture; the change may be beneficial in more ways than one. And he may forget the habit. To try different "rigs" on him would probably only make him worse, as it would add to his nervousness. Sometimes a bit which hangs low in the mouth offers more temptation to a horse to champ than one that fits his mouth closely.

SOME SCOTTISH OPINIONS.

The Highland and Agricultural Society includes in its latest report the opinions of correspondents upon different phases of horse-breeding. Some of these we reproduce. The first subject is: "Breeding from Unsound Horses."

The correspondent who raises this question writes: "Of late years, a good many horse-breeding societies have been formed all over the country. Landlords and tenants alike subscribe to the funds of these associations. A deputation is selected to appoint a horse to travel the district, and the owner of the selected horse receives a premium on condition that mares belonging to members of the society are served at a low rate."

The work done by these societies is too often spoiled by the fact that they neglect to have a guarantee that the horse is sound. Again and again we see premiums paid for an animal which afterwards is found to be a 'roarer' or a 'shiverer,' or having some hereditary defect which invariably comes out in his stock. The deputation see a flashy-looking animal, good at the 'grund,' and they seldom even try him for wind troubles. Societies should insist on having a veterinary certificate that the horse they are getting is sound. We would then find that fewer of our young horses would develop nervous disorders when being broken to work."

Most farmers will cordially agree with what this correspondent says. While the large majority of horses which travel Scotland are, we believe, perfectly correct in this respect, there will always be a few of what a potato man would call "rogues," and these may do great mischief and cause no little loss before being discovered.

A useful suggestion under this head, by Mr. M. Gilchrist, Ballindalloch, is that horses should be fed four times a day in place of three times. Mr. Harry Hope says a great thing is to get horses well driven. He finds married men better horsemen, as a rule, than single men. Mr. W. S. Ferguson and Mr. G. D. Clark make suggestions to somewhat the same effect, the latter remarking that the finding of men who love their horses and do not abuse them is now exceedingly difficult.

Mr. Cunningham urges careful grooming and attention to the feet of horses. Mr. J. R. C. Smith says nothing contributes more to the well-being of horses than an even temperament on the part of the men, and regular feeding; while Mr. George Bell, as improvements in management, suggests the discarding of bad feeders and rash workers, more attention to grooming, better ventilation of stables, dismissal of plowmen known to ill-use horses, and the withholding of feeding when not required.

Mr. Bell makes the further very practical suggestion that wide end ridges in plowing would frequently save tearing off shoes, blemishes, and cases of lameness.

Another subject discussed was "The Working