

I think what we might more reasonably expect. At the present moment Canada is precisely in the condition to give this kind of breeding a fair trial. Very large importations of draught horses have been going on for the last twenty years, and no doubt numberless farmers possess the style of mare that I have endeavored to describe. Of course the great difficulty in breeding is judgment, and although a man may closely describe an animal, his description may not convey the same idea to every farmer's mind, for what one man may consider clean, hard bone, good action, and courage might by his neighbor be understood in an entirely different light. These things, however, cannot be avoided and proper discrimination in selecting the right kind of dam must be left almost entirely to chance. Another point I think essential, and that is, as near as possible, purity of breeding in the dam. Chance bred animals showing a considerable amount of draught blood I should not by any means consider suitable, for then we should have endless breeding back to some unknown bad strain. For the same reason it would not be wise to use mares bred from a thoroughbred sire and from a draught mare to breed again to a thoroughbred horse; she should go back again to the predominant breed. It strikes me every day in noticing the harness horses in our large towns here in England, how much better and truer action the half-bred draught horses have, such as parcel vanners, than the cabbers and tram-way horses. This action is entirely derived from the draught horse, and this type of animal merely wants an infusion of quality to bring a long price and repay the breeder well. A capital letter on breeding hunters by a Tenant Farmer in a late number of the *Agricultural Review* gives a most gloomy picture of his endeavors to produce hunters from well-bred mares and a thoroughbred sire. He tried it for a number of years with constant failures, till at last he gave it up in disgust and tried something the same kind of breeding that I have indicated, only he used a clean-legged, good-actioned draught horse on the mares he previously had bred to a thoroughbred. This plan succeeded well and in every instance he was successful and made money, though not extravagant prices. But for many reasons the thoroughbred sire and draught dam would be safer and preferable. The dam would in the first place be more roomy than the well-bred mare, would be a better milker, and the foal would be kept quieter and not run to death and continually getting into scrapes. I should very much like to hear of some of the horsey Canadian farmers giving this new idea a fair trial. Looking at it in its very worst light they can come to no harm, as they are always sure to breed animals with sufficient size to do any kind of farm work. Yours, &c.,

C. I. DOUGLAS.

#### OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

From our special Correspondent.

LIVERPOOL, 9th April, 1885.

To-day (Thursday) news of the Russian attack on our Afghan ally has been received, and already the evening papers are chronicling the fall in consols, and general trepidation among the Lombard and Threadneedle street jobbers. A war with Russia would be immensely popular, and waiving the attendant misery, it would materially benefit this country. For Russian wheat we should substitute Indian, Canadian, and American grain. Hides and tallow we should draw from the River Plate, and for lumber Canada would again be in request, and so on through all the leading items of commerce. This, while simply a mere

diversion of traffic for us, would be a frightful loss to Russia. The further withdrawal of our magnificent Atlantic traders from their peaceful employment would leave an opening for the overplus tonnage, which has of late been lying worse than idle on the hands of shareholders, while the absorption of unemployed labor, with its accompaniments of higher wages and greater spending power, would act at once on the values of all consumptive products. Commercially speaking, we have therefore nothing to fear should matters assume a more serious aspect, and speaking from a patriotic point I think we may safely rely on our gallant soldiers to maintain the prestige of Old England unshaken.

#### AMERICAN STORES FOR IRELAND.

At a meeting of the Irish Cattle Association the question of admitting American store cattle formed the principal topic of discussion, and was viewed with considerable favor, many of the members believing that it would benefit Ireland very greatly. An older society known as the Irish Cattle Trade Association has refused to amalgamate with the new concern, because they consider the importation of American stores would be ruinous to the small farmers and graziers. It is expected a fusion of the two concerns will be arranged, the junior concern having promised merely to "discuss" the store cattle matter, leaving the promotion of Frewen's fad to private enterprise. The Association have, however, pledged themselves to advocate the American system of selling by live weight, a step in the right direction, which I am sure Canadian exporters would rejoice to see universal throughout England and Scotland.

#### THE LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

The short supply of States cattle here, as well as in London and Glasgow, has enabled sellers to advance prices quite firmly, and at present writing values for beef at our Birkenhead Lairages are almost on a par with those current in the open markets for best home-bred cattle. Supplies have been somewhat restricted in the principal stock centres, chiefly owing to the demand at this season being largely a "lamb and veal" one. No Canadians have been offered this week, the only cargo advised (for Glasgow) having arrived too late. Advices received here speak of one or two shipments from Halifax due within next ten days, but they have not been reported at shipping offices. The outlook is not encouraging to exporters, and even with the "nominal" freights quoted from U. S. ports, there is no live margin of profit in anything handled here. Our sheep buyers will be surprised to know that the restrictions against German sheep have been revoked, and as a consequence thereof mutton has tumbled down a point or two. The action of the Government in this matter is somewhat inexplicable, as there is every reason to believe that the European continent is in a most unhealthy condition as regards its flocks and herds. According to *Bell's Weekly Messenger* rinderpest is in Russia; foot-and-mouth disease is prevalent in Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Bavaria, and Austria-Hungary. In the latter country there were reported 70 districts infected in the middle of March; in Switzerland 65 infected places, and in Italy, in February, no fewer than 1,500 cases of foot-and-mouth disease. In the face of this sick roll, it may well be said that the action of Government in re-admitting sheep from German ports is inexplicable.

At the annual sale of the Marquis of Londonderry's stud at Seaham Harbor on 2nd April, 26 Shetland horses and ponies brought \$3,120, or an average of \$120 each. Some excellent Clydesdale entire horses, brood mares, and

geldings were also disposed of, the total receipts of the sale being \$44,000.

#### THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SHOEING.

BY C. W. GREGORY, MEDALLIST AND PRIZE ESSAYIST ON "ANIMAL HEAT," "THE SKIN AND ITS DISEASES," "THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM," &c.

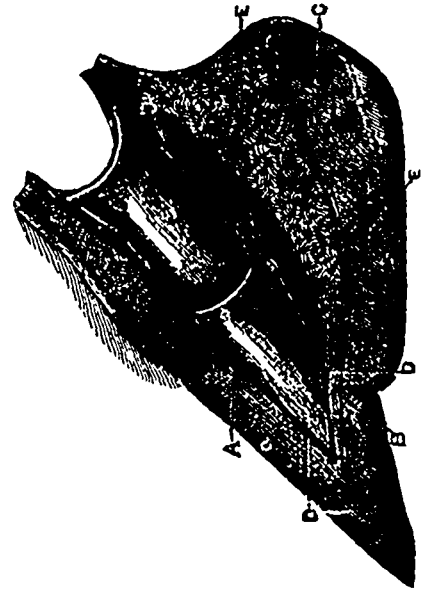


FIG. 1.—Section of Foot—A, Wall or Crust; B, Sole; C, Frog; D, D, Sensitive Foot; E, E, Sensitive Frog

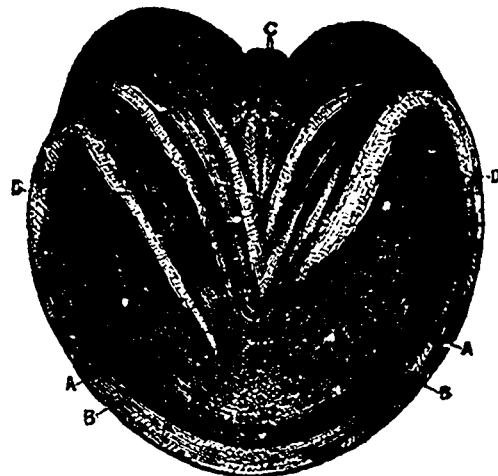


FIG. 2.—Ground Surface of Unshod Foot—A, A, Wall or Crust; B, B, Sole; C, Frog; D, D, Bars.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER, from the Author.

The art of shoeing consists of fixing a shoe on the hoof in such a manner as to preserve the natural tread, whereby the freedom and elasticity of action will not be impeded. This is accomplished or not according to the skill with which the shoe is put on, more than to any particular style of shoe used, whether it be the hunter, hack, roadster, or cart-horse; or whether the shoe be the "Charlier," "Rodway's," top-seated, plain, or calked; or whether the nailing be three-quarter or all-round; or whether there be five, six, seven, or ten nails used. The suitability of either depends on the strength of foot, the nature of roads, and the kind of work required from the horse. So also with regard to the frog bearing on the ground. If a strong foot, with strong, healthy frog, it may be allowed; but if the frog be soft or spongy it would be injurious, and lead to lameness. Under no circumstances should the frog be prominent beyond the surface of shoe.