

## THE HORSE.

### Breeding Heavy Horses For Profit.

That the average farmer can breed heavy horses more profitably than the lighter classes is a fact that few will deny. Foals of the heavy breeds are not so liable to injury during colthood, are salable at an earlier age, and without the education or handling that is usually considered necessary to make an animal of the light classes marketable; and, if during colthood, by reason of accident or other causes, one should become blemished it does not lessen his value so much, so long as it does not interfere with his usefulness. Then again, the dam is more capable of performing the work on the farm during the periods of gestation and of nursing. Of course, there are farmers who are essentially light horsemen, and those may more profitably raise light horses, principally because it is more congenial; hence they take a greater interest in the stock than if they were of the heavier classes. We are speaking now of the average farmer, who breeds not because he has any particular liking for any particular breed or class of horses, but for "what there is in it."

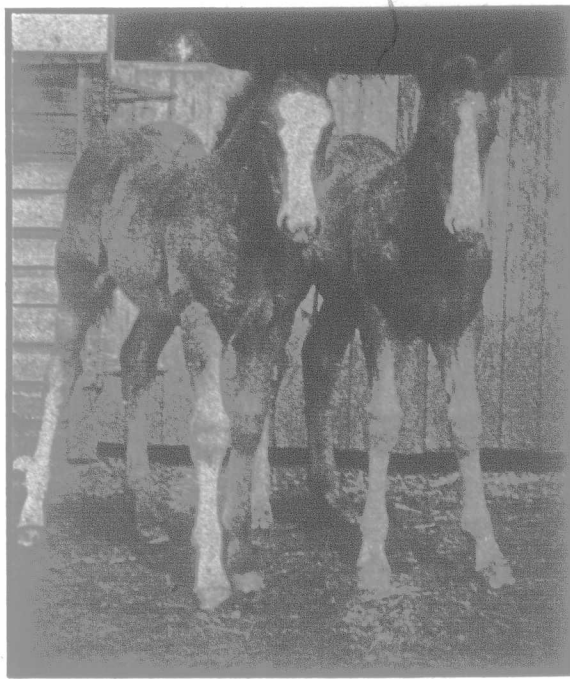
That, under existing conditions as regards demand, market, etc., heavy horses can be bred with profit, there can be no doubt; neither can it be denied that this branch of farming is badly neglected. There are several reasons why horse breeding has not been, and is not as profitable to the class of man under discussion as it should be. One reason is that he does not go about it with the same system as he does with the other branches of his business. His horse-breeding is done in a haphazard, slipshod manner. He probably gives careful thought and consideration to the breeding of cattle, sheep, swine and probably poultry. He selects or purchases good females of whatever breed or breeds he wishes to produce, and then either purchases pure-bred sires or patronizes those who have them. Year after year he follows this course, and, as a natural consequence, there is a gradual improvement in the type and quality of his stock. In horse breeding it is often different. Existing conditions may induce him to try. He has one or more mares that while reasonably valuable and satisfactory for ordinary work purposes, cannot be said to belong to any recognized class or breed. If a man who gives necessary thought to horse breeding were forced to breed such mares, he would consider carefully in order to decide the class or breed of sire to select; but the owner, knowing that heavy horses sell well, selects a sire of some heavy breed, when probably better results might reasonably be expected from a sire of the lighter classes. The result is unsatisfactory. The progeny, like the dam (but probably more so) is not representative of any breed or class, and, while it may make a serviceable animal and sell at a fair price, the breeder probably comes to the conclusion that all the talk about profit in horse breeding is only so much "hot air," and gives up the enterprise.

In order that reasonable success may attend horse breeding, reasonable intelligence and attention must be given it. In the first place, the mares selected to become the dams of heavy colts must have good individuality and one or more crosses of some draft breed. There is no question about the fact that if the breeder can afford the outlay it will pay him to spend a few hundred dollars for a registered mare or two of the breed he wishes to produce. The first outlay will, in a few years, prove to be well invested money as he will be able to produce pure-breds, and a registered animal of either sex is worth much more money than an unregistered one of the same class, even though the individuality of the two be much alike. Hence we say, "Secure pure-bred dams if possible," but at all events secure those with the characteristics of the breed fairly well marked, and then by carefully selecting pure-bred sires of the same breed, keeping the fillies for breeding purposes, and using the same precautions in selecting sires to breed them to, there will be a marked improvement in each generation (with few possible exceptions) and they will soon be eligible for registration. But all this waiting for eligibility to registration, and the selling of geldings for less than could be got if they were pure-bred stallions, will be avoided if pure-bred dams are secured at the start.

Another point that I wish to emphasize as a reason why the business is often unprofitable and disappointing, is the selection of sires of breeds other than that of which the prospective dam in a greater or less degree represents. For instance—a man has a fairly good mare with one or more crosses of Clydesdale or Shire blood, and he decides to breed her. There should not be the slightest ground for question as to the breed of sire to select. He should, of course, select either a Clydesdale or Shire stallion, and thereby intensify the blood in the progeny, which should be (provided the sire is a better individual than the dam) a better individual than the dam. The same remarks, of course, apply to mares with Percheron, Suffolk or other draft blood. They should be bred to good sires of the blood they represent.

But this line of breeding is not always carried out. While the mare has the characteristics, more or less well marked, of some particular breed, the owner may prefer another breed and wanting to produce a draft colt, he thinks that his mare, being a good one herself, must of necessity breed well to a good sire of any draft breed, hence selects a sire of the breed he favors. What can he expect? He breeds a mare of impure breeding to a sire entirely foreign to her blood, and, of course, the result is in most cases unsatisfactory, and this may convince him that "there is no money in horse breeding" and he will give up the attempt. The same man

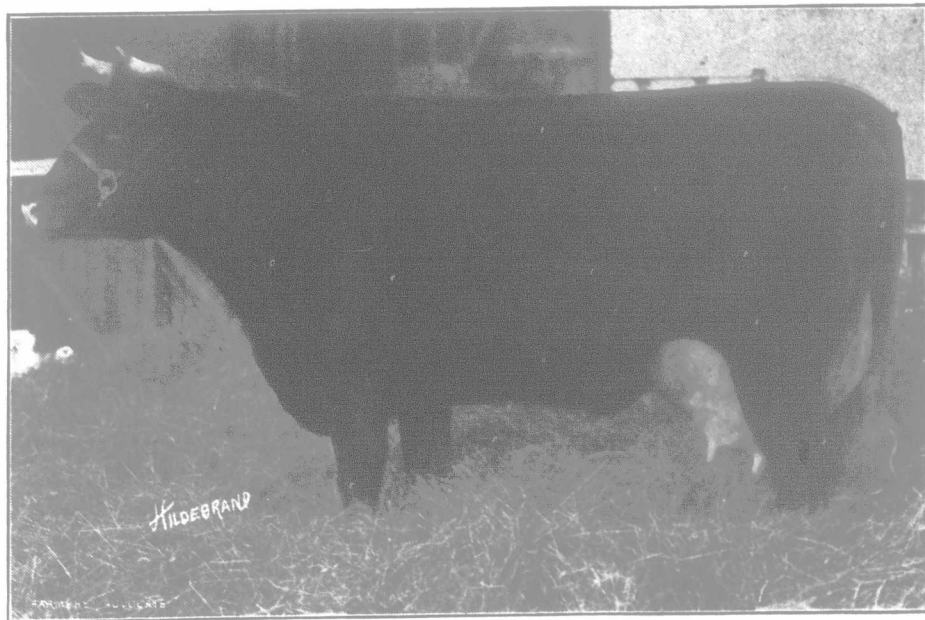
would not for a moment consider breeding cattle, sheep, or swine on these principles. Neither would he think of breeding horses this way if he gave the subject careful thought, but the trouble is, horse breeding with the average farmer is usually carried on as a side issue, and rather as an experiment. In many cases a sire is selected simply because he is owned by a neighbor or friend, and he wishes to help his friend along. In horse breeding, friendship should go for nothing. The selection of a sire should be governed solely by the breed and individuality of the prospective dam. In order that horse breeding may be carried on with reasonable probability of success, the breeder must stick to type and breed.



A Promising Pair of Drafters.

A very large percentage of the heavy mares in Ontario that are adapted to produce heavy horses have one or more crosses of Clydesdale or Shire blood. Hence no question should arise as to the breeds to be selected as sires, notwithstanding how much the breeder may admire the individuality of other breeds or the breed in general. If he wishes to breed, other than those mentioned, in order to be successful he must secure dams with at least some of the blood of the breed favored, and then breed on. Stick to the breed and each generation should be an improvement on the last, and he will soon have a class of horses with the general characteristics of his favorite draft breed.

The mixing of breeds must result in mongrelizing the produce. The first cross between two good animals of different breeds often results in the production of a high-class animal, but one wholly unfitted for breeding, as the second or later crosses (and any breeding must be a cross in such a case) are generally very



Red Rose.

Milks over 50 lbs. daily. Owned by Flintstone Farm, Mass.

unsatisfactory. If the farmers of any given section could agree to breed any certain class of draft horses, and each secure one or more mares, either pure-bred or with one or more crosses of the breed, and then use reasonable care in selecting sires, that section in a few years would become famous for producing a certain breed of draft horses, hence higher prices would be obtainable than where only an isolated animal can be bought. Buyers would come to the section and, of course, could afford to give much more per head where the required number of horses could be purchased in a small area than when a large tract of country has to be travelled in order to secure them.

WHIP.

## LIVE STOCK.

The breeder the steer the greater the gain he will make in the feed lot.

When the flies get troublesome it is advisable to stable the calves during the day. They may be turned on grass at night if the weather is fair.

The Iowa Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association had a successful sale, when 53 head were disposed of at an average of \$400. As high as \$1,575 was paid for females.

Max Acres Sultan, a Shorthorn calf 14 months old, was disposed of at H. C. Lookabaugh's sale, in Oklahoma, for \$13,200. The average price for 43 head at this sale was \$1,370.

E. A. Ness, of Iowa, recently disposed of 68 head of Herefords at an average of \$689. Kinger Fairfax topped the sale at \$8,000. Glen Ula, a seven-year-old cow, brought \$1,700.

Are you taking precautions to keep abortion and tuberculosis germs out of your herd? Prevention is much cheaper than effecting a remedy once disease has gained a foothold.

Where the cows are stabled night and morning for milking it is a good plan to have a bag or strip of burlap hanging from the top of the door jam so that it will rub on the animals back thus removing many of the flies and avoiding having the pest in the stable.

The price of prime beef continues to advance. During the week of May 22 a yearling heifer from the barn of J. Leask, of Seagrave, topped the market at \$18.50. The same week a car load of steers, averaging fifteen hundred pounds, sold at \$16 per cwt. Small lots sold higher.

Stock require a considerable quantity of water during the hot weather and it should be accessible at all times of the day. If the pasture is near the buildings water might be piped to a trough in the pasture if it is not convenient to have the stock come to the buildings during the day.

The thriftiness of the hogs depends a good deal on how they are fed and looked after. Too many feeders are over liberal with the feed. J. C. Hughes, a successful Middlesex County farmer, usually has good success with his hogs. He says "I only feed what they will clean up in about fifteen minutes. If they leave feed one meal they get less feed the next. Shorts and finely-ground oats are the feeds I like for growing the pigs, and I like to see the pigs ready for their meal."

### Actinomycosis or Lump Jaw.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Actinomycosis, commonly called lump jaw, is a non-contagious, infectious disease of the ox, occasionally affecting other domestic animals and man, which manifests itself either in the appearance of a fibrous tissue tumor, which is rigid, or in a chronic abscess discharging a thick pus caused by a fungus, officially called *Streptothrix Actinomyces*, a very large name for such a small organism. The presence of this disease in cattle has been recorded since the year 1845, demonstrated by Langenbeck. Infection takes place through the mucous membrane lining the mouth, on infected barley beards, grasses, etc. The common seat of infection is the salivary glands, sub-maxillary gland underneath the jaw, and the tongue, often termed wooden tongue where it becomes swollen and rigid. In other cases there is a chronic ulcer on the superior surface of the

tongue. We find on post mortem examination many cases of Actinomycosis in the various internal glands, which show no external symptoms, and one would never suspect its presence on an ante-mortem examination. However, we will only discuss that particular variety called lump jaw.

Now, many of the farmers believe that a lump jaw is practically useless, and consequently when the drover comes along he offers anything from ten to twenty-five dollars for a bullock which probably is worth from eighty to one hundred dollars on the market, and the farmer sells the animal, thinking he is lucky to get anything for him. But this is a mistake. The fact is the ox affected with actinomycosis is either worth the market