

Although we favor pure bred sires, yet there is here and there a stallion of mixed breeding, whose colts are of unusual merit. Take for example "Justin Morgan," "Old Royal George" or "Hornpipe;" although the latter's reputation is chiefly local, being confined to south-western Ontario, yet he left a wonderfully good list of general purpose colts. Watch your township and county exhibitions, and when you find a stallion of this sort, use him. Do as the ADVOCATE recommends in selecting seed wheat, "sow the variety which produces the greatest yield in your own section."

Although we have handled a good many horses during the past ten years, yet we cannot be accused of selfishness in anything we say, as we have no interest in any stallion, and consequently "have no axes to grind."

If your mares are light, use a stallion on the heavy side. Do not go to a great extreme, as we do not like too violent a cross.

Do not select one that would be likely to leave flat-footed colts, or colts that are coarse in the head or legs, as this cross sometimes produces stock that are too heavy in the head and limbs for their size.

We would prefer one weighing about 1,600 lbs., and would place them in the following order.

1st, Percheron Norman; 2nd, Suffolk Punch; 3rd, English Clydesdale. Although the Clydesdales are perhaps the best draught horses in the world, yet we do think them too heavy to produce, as a rule, first class general purpose colts. Still, we know of one now, three-quarter bred, of the Wm. Wallace strain, who is leaving as fine a lot of general purpose colts as any heavy horse within our knowledge.

In using a Percheron, use one of the type of the ancient Percheron, having a short back and long hips. The ancient Percheron was not so coarse and heavy as the heavy Normans or Percheron Normans so much in vogue at present. He is more springy and active, and as far as we can learn makes a much better cross on our lighter mares than his big half-brother.

A word of warning just here. Canada has been flooded for years with light horses; now the reaction has come. The great North-west is being settled, and we find a huge demand for heavy horses. Beware! Do not breed your general purpose horses too large and clumsy. The North-west, after it has been ploughed a couple of times, will require no heavier horses than we do. What help would a horse weighing 1,600 lbs. (with a bog spavin on each hind leg) afford his driver in a blizzard?

If your mare is of medium size, select a stallion of medium size, weighing from 1,400 to 1,600 lbs. Try to couple them so that the produce will weigh when matured and in good working condition from 1,300 to 1,500 lbs. The Cleveland Bay is highly spoken of as a stallion for this cross. We have never had much experience with the "bays," but have conversed with horsemen who have tried them and were much pleased with the result. We know that a light Percheron works well here. His colts are heavier and more blocky than those obtained from the Cleveland Bay when bred to the same mares, but are not so stylish or dark-colored, a large proportion of the latter being grays.

We think as fine a lot of grade, general-purpose horses from one stallion as we ever examined, were sired by a light French stallion, not weighing more than 1,500, and from mixed Canadian mares.

If your mares are large and roomy, of good disposition, with plenty of bone, and not inclined to curby hind legs, use the heaviest and stoutest thoroughbred English race horse in your vicinity. Some of the best horses for general purposes are obtained in this way. This is the cross which produces the renowned English hunter or steeple-chase horse.

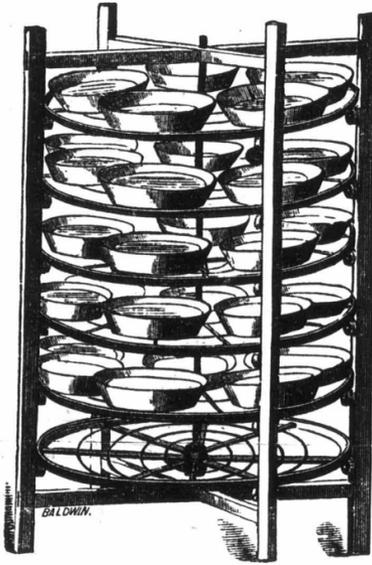
There is a strain of thoroughbred horses in Ontario called "Lapidist" which we admire very much for crossing upon thick, heavy mares. "Clear Grit" belongs to this family. We might mention the names of several prominent dealers who consider this one of the best families of light horses in Canada. Colts sired by a thoroughbred usually possess more pluck and spirit and have better wind than most horses. They are, consequently, not generally so good for poor teamsters, more especially if they are hired help.

If your mares prove poor milkers, feed the foals a little cow's milk. The action of the dam's milk will counteract any injurious effects. They will rapidly learn to drink. Feed the foals well the first winter on good hay, at least, cut green, or you will not be able to raise the best class of farm or general-purpose horses.

Sints and Selps.

Improved Patent Milk Stand.

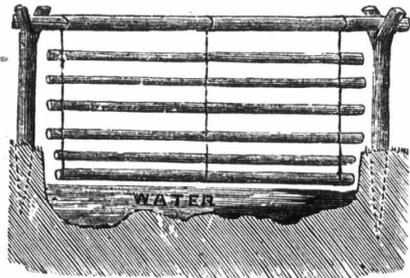
Our engraving represents an improved milk stand. The owners of the patent claim that this is the most important arrangement ever presented to the farmer for sustaining pans of milk and other



articles. They say: "Great difficulty has been experienced heretofore in setting milk properly, so that the cream will rise at all seasons of the year. This stand is made portable, so as to be easily put together or taken apart, which can be accomplished in five or ten minutes. The shelves are made in skeleton form, so as to allow a free circulation of air all around the pans, which is of the utmost importance. Each shelf turns by itself, independent of the others, and each will hold from six to twelve pans, thus showing that the stand will accommodate more milk than anything that can be made in the same compass. The free revolution of the shelves allows the pans of milk to be easily inserted or removed. The frame is such that it can readily be covered with a cloth or gauze covering which will effectually exclude insects and dirt. It has been demonstrated that milk will keep from three to four hours longer on this stand than on shelves, a very important item. The stand is appreciated at sight and is highly approved by those having it in use."

Flood Gate.

It is often necessary to have a flood gate, that is, a gate that will rise and fall with the motion of the water in the stream. For this purpose there are but few styles of gates used and all are constructed upon the same plan. The one shown in the accompanying engraving is well adapted for the purpose.



The one at the top is made from poles of the desired length woven together with strong wire which, in turn, is secured to the overhanging pole. As the water rises the poles float upon its surface and do not in the least impede its onward progress.

Pedigree Craze.

(FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.)

Sound, practical stockmen, as a rule, are not easily led to follow after the bubble fashion against the promptings of their better judgment, but once in a while some who are accounted the best among them act as foolishly over certain so-called fashionable families or breeds as does a silly woman over the "latest" articles in fancy millinery and dress goods.

A major part of humanity seem to follow and be led by a long headed few, whose specious arguments and example are accepted and followed, with hardly a question as to the prime motives of the leaders.

Generally when there is started a boom on any particular line of goods it must be on a good sound basis or else it is short-lived; but the large number of persons who, like a flock of sheep, follow as blindly their leader, are wholly unable to discriminate between popularity well merited and popularity which had its origin in the scheming and press manipulation of shrewd capitalists, perhaps whose inspiring motives are about as pure and philanthropic as those which prompts the miser's greed for gain. The popular idea is that the judgment of the majority is best for all. This theory is very good, but in practice the notion is too often misleading, for the reason set forth in the preceding paragraph, to-wit: The promoters of a craze of any kind, particularly when it is injudicious—if a craze can ever be the opposite—are generally the few who are pecuniarily interested, and are about the only ones who have a knowledge of the true inwardness of its origin; the innocent and too often ignorant "lamb" that are to be fleeced, being simply blind followers who, in the mad and thoughtless pursuit of their Will-o-the-wisp, seldom stop till their fleeces of hard earned dollars has been shorn; for it is but human nature to look for anything where we lose it. Persons who are ever ready to sacrifice something tried and true for something fanciful and new, are those who usually conclude that "farming and stock-raising are not desirable, congenial or profitable pursuits anyway." However, there is indeed "no great loss without some small gain," and he who parts with his gold foolishly and has nothing but bitter experience to show for it, should be thankful for the latter, as he may be richer than he was before.

There is now and has always been, to a certain extent, too much attention paid to an animal's pedigree and too little to the animal. In other words, we see a thoroughbred heifer, perhaps of faultless outline and general make-up—but even against our best practical judgment, we are afraid to bid very strongly till we see that she has in her veins the blood of a noble ancestry—if her great-grand-dam and sire were of aristocratic families, or ever had the advantage of being bred in a foreign country; we secure her no matter if there are enough pedigree worshippers like ourselves at the sale to run the price to a point twice the value of the animal. On the other hand, suppose the printer had mixed the pedigrees of this animal and one of plain "home-spun" breeding, and no one were present to correct the error; one would look at that animal and see at a glance her grand qualities, but because the pedigree did not show her to be a Gwynne, a Rose of Sharon, or some other favorite, bidding would be low and spiritless, and some sensible man who breeds from animals and not pedigrees, would secure a prize at a low figure.

A man who is compelled to look at the pedigree to decide whether he is bidding on a good animal or not, should purchase the pedigree and leave the animal for some one more practical.

Col. John D. Gillett, one of the best known short-horn breeders on the continent, it is said, has not a pedigree on his vast fine stock farm; but a glance at the records of the National Fat Stock Show, held annually at Chicago, will show that he has captured the cream of the herd and individual prizes. D. M. Moninger, of Iowa, whose display of cattle at the last exhibition attracted so much attention and secured so many premiums, is following the example of Col. Gillett—breeding animals and not pedigrees.