

The Horse.

BREEDING AND USING HORSES.

Horses too small here - English horses
- Duke of Portland and his tenants - Government grants.

General want of thorough cultivation on Quebec farms due to want of proper horse power to work agricultural machinery. This is a greater drawback to thorough cultivation, than anything else owing to shortness of seasons in this Province. Would be a great benefit to farmers if, some means were provided by which they could breed a good stamp of agricultural horse cheaply.

Applying manure without cultivation is not farming. Thorough cultivation, according to old Jethro Tull's system, without any manure at all, would produce far better results. And we should have fewer weeds. Under our conditions of climate and seasons, with an abundant supply of agricultural horse machines to be had, on easy terms of payment, I think that thoroughly efficient horse power may be said to be the most important factor in thorough cultivation. The full superiority of horse power over good manual labour, to be correctly estimated at its true value, should be that of good horse power, not bad, or indifferent.

And, in this province, where our farm work has, perforce, to be got through with in a very short space of time, where our farms are all of the most undesirable shape, as far as sowing time in getting from one part to another is concerned, we want quick stepping horses of sufficient power rather than very slow ponderous ones. We require the most efficient horse power, for all our horse implements, more here, than in any other climate or country that I know of, if we want to make sure of getting our tillage thoroughly well done and at the right time. That and draining, I should put manure, and the application of it, with the exception of top-dressing, in the third place, as it is a waste of valuable matter to put it on land untilled, and undrained. In our peculiar climate, Spring and Autumn, exist only in the Almanack, and we jump from winter into summer, and from summer into winter, and there is after, nearly always indeed, barely enough time to get our so-called Spring and Autumn work, completed to the satisfaction of a thoroughly good farmer. And, we should all try to be thoroughly good farmers, if we can.

Until our French Canadian farmers learned how to take better care of their cows, there was not much pretence at dairying in this Province.

They take better care of them now, and feed them better, but they do not yet know or care to breed a good cow. Grass fed horses with very often not even a small feed of oats at midday, during autumn ploughing, will not do good work, and cannot get it done in time. As a rule, here, the horses are turned out of the plough, into the pasture, to shiver through a cold Autumn night, and caught again in the morning, to work off their stiffness in the plough. Is it any wonder that they take a long time to get to the end of a furrow? I have seen more than an equal amount of ploughing, in the same kind of soil,

done by one pair of strong active, well-fed, and well-bred horses, weighing about 1300 lbs, in the same time, than by two, and occasionally, three pairs, of undersized half starved animals.

Canadians who have been on English farms have expressed surprise, at the number of horses used for some particular work, and the, to them, extraordinary care taken of them.

This may sometimes appear to be the case, but then you may be sure that there is never any fear of the work not being efficiently done, and they are all strong, well fed horses, in good condition. The only reproach the good old American farmer can make on this score to the English one, is that his work is sometimes needlessly well done, that less labour or tillage would have been sufficient to produce an equally effective result. The English farmer does not think so, and does not mind keeping a horse or two more, than he does absolutely want, if he feels he can afford to do so. Besides, very often this extra horse is a mare, a good blood mare of her class, who can be relied upon to bring in a recruit to the ranks of the workers, in proper time when required, or put an occasional tidy sum into the farmer's pocket. It is curious that although we may less horses at work, at the same time, on a Canadian farm, that there are a great many more in proportion to the size of the farm, only they are of hardly any value, and of very little use.

Upon any farm of hardly more than a 100 acres, it is quite common to see 4 or 5 horses in different stages of decrepitude, and as many more worthless youngsters in different periods of uncharitable coldhood, when two or three good sound animals of sufficient size, would be sufficient, and could do the work much better.

At the last meeting of the S. I. L. (1) Dr. Couture emphasized the unfortunate fact that the Province of Quebec had adopted the principle of refusing any sort of Government aid for the improvement of live stock of any kind. In Ontario, on the contrary, breeders received an annual grant of \$10,000.

The Society passed a resolution, begging the Provincial Government to vote a grant to the Society of Breeders of the Province of Quebec, in each section, in order to effect improvement in our different classes of live stock.

The object to be obtained, of course, is, presumably, for the conferring of the greatest benefit on the greatest number. We want of course to do something that will begin to make it possible in time for every farmer in this Province, or most of them, to have good stock in his farm instead of bad; by affording him the cheapest means of building it up gradually. And anybody that has experimented with a pure bred bull and a herd of grades, knows that it does not take very long to do this. A good deal of the benefit to be derived from the voting of any sum of money devoted to such a purpose, depends upon the method of its employment. I think that we have seen that in former days. Still, I do not think that it is a matter to be left solely to private enterprise or that private enterprise should be rewarded by anything in the shape of prize money. That would not be of much use to the ordinary farmer nor will special or extra prizes at agricul-

(1) I. e. The Dairymen's Association.

tural Exhibitions do any good. We have enough of these already for the class of people, who avail themselves of this method of advertising, for the sake of which, they do not mind spending 50 dollars to gain a 20 dollar prize.

We have private individuals of much enterprise in this Province, who are breeders of valuable strains of thoroughbred stock, but the results achieved by their private enterprise, however successful to themselves, are not of any benefit to the ordinary farmer. They naturally prefer to sell their stock at the highest price obtainable in the best market.

Where do most of our best Jerseys and Ayrshires go?

To the United States, and not on to our Quebec farms, or if they do, certainly not at farmers prices.

There is no duty on thoroughbred stock for breeding purposes going into the U. S. and the expenses of transit from here, are not greater than from many parts of the U. S. to others. In many countries in Europe, certainly in France and Germany, farmers receive most valuable assistance, in the way of obtaining the services of thoroughbred sires at very low figures, and in England farmers have always been able to benefit by most liberal arrangements on the part of wealthy landlords, and do so continue to benefit, even in days of hard times for land owners.

Take the Duke of Portland's propositions to his tenants on the Welbeck Estate for instance.

"The Duke of Portland will provide at his own cost a limited number of sound mares for breeding purposes and distribute them amongst certain of his tenants chosen after application for same, under following conditions. The mares can be ridden or worked in the ordinary way in connection with the farm.

"Mares to be covered every season by one of the stallions provided by his grace, or by any other approved thoroughbred horse. On a mare proving in foal, it must only be lightly worked prior to date of foaling, and not for two months after foaling. Returns of foals to be made every year and of barren mares.

"The Duke of Portland will allow the tenant the use of the mare for three years at least, but she will be liable to be removed from the care of the tenant at any time, should his grace consider such a course advisable. The Duke of Portland requests that each mare be exhibited at the Welbeck Tenants' Show and 1st 2nd and 3rd prizes will be given by him to the animals considered to be in the best condition for breeding, by a competent judge. Each tenant accepting a mare on the foregoing conditions will keep her entirely at his own expense, and will further give the Duke of Portland the first refusal of the produce up to three years old, at a fair price.

"If his Grace decline to purchase, then the tenant is at liberty to dispose of the produce, as he may think fit, but, he would prefer the fillies were retained, to breed from in after years, as his sole object is to encourage a better class of half bred animals on his estate. The Duke of Portland would strongly urge tenants to give especial care to their foals, the first year, so as to make them more valuable afterwards. It is to be distinctly understood the mares provided by his grace, belong to him, and although they may be worked as men-

tioned, they are lent to the tenants for breeding purposes." We do not want to tempt farmers to lose money in trying to breed winners of big Government prizes, nor would any good be done in that way, but in the absence of any sort of private enterprise, of the value of the Duke of Portland proposition, with the fairness of which, there is not much to be found fault with, it is perhaps not unreasonable, that those who take a great interest in the improvement of live stock in this province, should expect that a Government, that professes very highly indeed to favour agriculture, should do as much for one of its most important branches, as they do in Ontario.

C. F. BOUTHILLIER.

PATENT REPORT.

Below will be found the only complete up to date record of Patents granted to Canadian Inventors, which is specially prepared for this paper by M.M. Marion & Marion, Solicitors of Patents and Experts, Head Office: Temple Building, Montreal, from whom all information may be readily obtained.

- 55,091—D. Colten, Inwood, O.—Car Coupler.
- 55,095—F. L. Barthelmes, Toronto, O.—Wood Pulley.
- 55,096—G. T. Laird & J. K. Gould, Mont Pleasant, O.—Feeding Troughs.
- 55,105—S. J. Schneider, Toronto, O.—Sheet iron stove.
- 55,118—W. Hayes, T. W. Double & H. F. Klipp, Tilsburg, O.—Storage door.
- 55,124—J. B. E. Rousseau & J. Boulet, Québec.—Leather cutting Machine.
- 55,125—I. Fréchette, Montreal.—Machine for making endless wire nails.
- 55,153—F. R. Edwards, Thurso, P. Q.—Rowlocks.
- 55,138—John Lee, East Toronto, O.—Safety controlling device for automatic air-brakes retaining valves.
- 55,142—J. G. Legrand, Montréal.—Ore washing machine.
- 55,143—D. Blondeau & H. H. Gaudry, Québec.—Combined inkstand with envelope and cigar cutter.
- 55,147—W. Chipman & R. Lemox, Ottawa.—Vehicles wheels.
- 55,149—G. E. Green, Assiniboia, Ont.—Machine for moving stone, earth, etc.
- 55,153—H. M. Gardner, Hamilton, O.—Combined Grocers' package, Grater, Slicer, Mouse and Fly Trap.
- 55,162—J. A. Manning, Toronto.—Excelsior packing.
- 55,167—W. L. Marshall, Port Perry, O.—Harrows.
- 55,182—A. Green, Abingdon, O.—Road carts.
- 55,183—Jas. Ingells & M. Birkett, Brantford, O.—Churns.
- 55,191—W. A. Cowan, Middleton, O.—Stove pipes.
- 55,198—Jos. Edward, Smith Falls, O.—Weather strip.
- 55,200—J. Braithwaite, Winchester, O.—Curd cutting mills.
- 55,204—J. F. Ross, Toronto, O.—Self sealing cans.
- 55,208—Henry Morris, Walkerville, O.—Guard rails.