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size gradually worked to in that way. As size is attained from 1,400 to 1,600 pounds a ton stallion may be used satisfactorily. The same principle applies to all horse breeding, the more divergent the types of parents the smaller are the chances of breeding good horses from them. It is always well to stick to one chosen breed, continually piling cross upon cross. Choose a sire that has both excellence of breeding and individual excellence of form and quality in every respect.

Undesirable factors in conformation seem to be transmitted with greater force and certainty than those which we most desire. If we use stallions and mares of low grade we are merely inviting the production of doubly inferior progeny. The best stallion will only beget a certain proportion of his offspring good. The inferior stallion will beget progeny, a large majority of which will be bad. There can be no hope of salvation by breeding inferior stallions to inferior mares.

FAT STALLIONS.

The breeding stallion derives no possible benefit from the load of fat that is too commonly put upon his frame by drugging and stuffing. On the contrary, such obesity engenders sluggishness, disease and impotency. We should expect our draft stallions to transmit vim, vigor, activity, power and ability for hard labor. These desirable qualities are not associated with fat and flabbiness and cannot, to any great degree, be transmitted by a stallion in that condition. To give the best results in breeding he should be in muscular condition and have perfect health and vigor. The requisite condition is that which comes from ample exercise or actual labor, and in short savors in every way of that condition and disposition which is desired that every stallion should transmit to his offspring.

As "like produces like" it is reasonable to expect that a stallion capable of efficient work in harness, will be likely to procreate horses possessed of ability in the same direction, while fat, flabby stallions maintained in idleness and luxury will be much less likely to impart the required vim, vigor, power and staying qualities. Stallions exhibited at our leading stock shows and offered for sale throughout the country are often pampered in condition. Many of them, for this reason, fail to beget an average number of foals from their quota of mares, or beget foals that are weak in constitution, deficient in size, crooked in limb when born. The over-fat condition alluded to is not altogether the fault of the dealers who handle such stallions. The average buyer admires, appreciates and demands phthoric condition. Naturally, then, the stallion salesman feeds for polish and plumpness, and the buyer is apt to continue the process at home, with the result that the horse does not give the best of satisfaction in number or strength of progeny. Under the circumstances it is often good policy to buy young stallions in preference to mature ones that have long been pampered for show purposes or sale, and such colts should be so fed as to develop them naturally, and thus favor the best results from their use. These matters require and deserve consideration from all concerned.

There is one quality which I count easily first in betokening promise of prepotence, and that is a high-headed, bold, noble masculine virulence. I mark it most important of all when accompanied by soundness and desirable conformation in other points. I never knew a stallion with the head and neck of a mare to be a good breeder. Quality counts for much in a horse that has size, but watch out that it is real quality and not a weakness masquerading under that high sounding title. Every undersized, runty little stallion is dragged up for his quality. Quality will always sell, but weight with quality is the combination that brings the big money. We recognize quality in a general way by refinement of conformation and texture of hair. Quality, even if an intangible attribute, is ingrained in that horse. If a horse has real quality he has it all over him.

No one should buy an unsound stallion, but neither should he buy a sound one if he has nothing else to recommend him. In choosing a stallion outside of actual unsoundness, avoid long couplings, light ribs, weak loins, light flanks, narrowness of conformation, calf knees, sickle hocks, straight pasterns and small, steep, fat, shelly or low-heeled feet, crooked top lines, low backs, drooping rumps, short, straight necks, sour heads, sow ears, small, piggy eyes and also bad tempers. Soundness of wind must be insisted on always. The step at the walk should be straight-forward, each foot being picked up cleanly, and showing the shoe at each stride. At the trot the movement should be bold and free, the legs carried well together, especially behind, and the legs should be clean, wide and flat. It is a recognized fact that absolutely perfect animals can rarely, if ever, be found, and that few of our breeders can afford to reject breeding stock for small and unimportant defects. There can, however, be not the slightest doubt that it would be to the great advantage of every breeder, and to the horse breeding industry of the country, were all actually unsound and notably unsuitable

stallions to be rigorously rejected.—E. A. Davenport in "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," Winnipeg, Man.

Army Horse-buying Discussed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of March 11, 1915, there appears an able article on the Methods of Buying Army Horses. The trend of which may be very satisfactory to the average city man, but just as objectionable to the farmer or horse raiser in Canada, where to-day there are thousands of sound, young horses which have accumulated during the past two years, suitable for army purposes. True, a large percentage have more size than the average cavalry horse, but would compare most favorably for the Canadian with the rejected American horses left in Canada last fall. It has been plainly pointed out that when the Canadian authorities commenced buying that the Imperial buyers withdrew. Now it would be interesting reading at present to know if they were not asked to withdraw, or what pressure was brought to bear on the Imperial buyers to remain in Canada. Could they not have been allowed a small corner to operate in, say Montreal or Ottawa in the East and Winnipeg in the West, on the same conditions that they are buying horses in the United States at present in competition with France, Russia and Italy? This would have given some outlet for the horses that are standing to-day stagnated in Canada, and their owners would be only too glad to receive for them the prices the Americans are receiving in British gold for horses, without the stamp "made in Canada" on them. If the Imperial buyers had remained in Canada and purchased all the suitable horses, and the war continued long so that the Canadian

pendent pointed out that there are still large numbers of horses needed in Eastern Canada for the Canadian army, and while buyers have scoured every part of the country and are still buying, even more men being sent out, they have only succeeded in getting about one-third the requirements. It is said that 8,000 horses are still needed from Eastern Canada by our own army. The explanation as to why the Imperial Buyers withdrew we think a good one. Even in the United States there is no overlapping, France buys in one part, Russia in another, and Britain in another. As far as we can find out the British authorities withdrew on their own initiative, and were not asked by any one. And as to small dealers selling there can be no objection to that, for they are undoubtedly helping the horse trade to get moving, and do not operate on a scale to corner the market.—Editor.]

LIVE STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

The war drags its slow length along. The question on many lips is: When will it be over? and that is obviously a question much more easily asked than answered. We do not share the optimism of many on this point, and believe the wisest policy for all parties in the British Empire is to act on the principle that it will not be won in a hurry. Meantime there is a good deal of difficulty in knowing exactly what is being done, the press censorship now being abnormally strict. It may, however, be said that the threatened blockade of the British ports, which was announced to begin on February 18, has not proved quite so terrible as was anticipated.

What may have happened does not quite appear, but there is a suspicion that quite a number of the German submarines have not returned to their base. It is even hinted that the British authorities know a good deal more about what has happened to them than they have told. It is at least certain that Great Britain has an amazing command of the sea, and that the day is far distant when that command is to be seriously challenged.

The result of the threatened blockade was to send wheat prices up with a bound. The source of this upward tendency is believed to have been found in Chicago. At the moment, however, there has been a rebound. The hammering at the Dardanelles forts by the combined fleets of the Allies has suggested to speculators the possible release of the Black Sea wheat carriers, and the probable relief of any straits there may be in the food supplies of some of the Allies. Of course, if the Russian wheat supplies

are released, Germany will get none of them and Great Britain and her Allies will have enough. Whether the reports of shortage of food supplies in Germany are to be trusted, is a point in respect of which dogmatism would be foolish. It may be intended to mislead, and it should at least be treated in that way. The Allies will come best out of the trouble if they put as little reliance as may be on all reports "made in Germany." The sound policy is to take no risks, and rather over-value than under-value the enemy.

The main shortage in this country is a shortage of agricultural labor. This is likely to handicap farmers in some districts very seriously. When one hears of four pairs of horses standing idle, the prospect of getting more land under tillage is not bright. The shortage is not universal, nor is it acute even where it is felt. But undoubtedly there are districts in which the usual agricultural routine of spring work cannot be carried through. A debate on the subject took place in the House of Commons the other day, and the gravity of the situation may be inferred from the fact that the Prime Minister intervened at an early stage. His own constituency of East Fife is one of those in which the scarcity of labor is being keenly felt. Mr. Asquith took up no irreconcilable position with respect to the employment of boy labor, He



Over 3,600 Pounds of Prime Beef.

Two steers of a carload of eighteen such cattle fed this winter by J. Ferguson, of Elgin Co., Ont. They are a carload of the biggest and best-finished cattle ever seen in a Canadian stable.

militia could not get enough suitable horses, could they then not make their purchases in the United States the same as the other Allied armies are doing at present? While every Canadian horse raiser fully appreciates the opportunity he has had to dispose of some of his horses, it would not have been much more of a disappointment to Canadians if the Canadian commission had seen fit to have made all their purchases of horses along with the Imperial buyers in the Republic to the south.

The writer asserts that the buying of horses is done direct from the farmers, cutting out the profits of big dealers. While this may be the case in some districts, it is very wide of the mark in other places. While the large commission men may be cut out with car lots, the smaller dealers or horse buyers are supplying, and have been, a large percentage of the horses bought for army purposes. Unless there are special days set aside for farmers to offer their horses with the horse dealers' strings excluded, there will be fewer horses bought direct from the farmers. Not that the dealers should not have every opportunity to dispose of their horses, for horse dealers and cattle buyers are just as necessary to every community as the country merchant, farmer or other producer.

Middlesex Co., Ont. ARTHUR F. O'NEIL.

[Note.—The article questioned by our corres-