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Advertisements of an objectionable or questionable character will not be received for insertion in this paper.

OUR ILLUSTRATION.

It is rather late in the day to impress upon farmers the value of the Berkshire pig. He has long been looked upon as one of the standards of porcine excellence, and he will doubtless long continue to hold a commanding position in the estimation of pig-breeders the world over. Either pure, or as a cross with other breeds, the Berkshire is always sure to be a prime favorite.

EXPORTING RAW MATERIAL.

The country that under all circumstances made a point of exporting her raw material and of buying back the manufactured article would in all probability find that she was making a very serious mistake. Of course we do not purpose entering into a financial or economic discussion with any one on this subject. We know that there are many cases in which a country is pursuing the wisest course open to her when she is exporting her raw material and buying back that same material in its manufactured form, but the case which we are about to point out is not one of that kind. Just now, among the few who affect to admire the race horse, we find exporters of the raw material and importers of the manufactured article living almost side by side. No one who takes any interest in horse-breeding in Canada can help regretting the deplorable apathy displayed by many of our so-called horsemen. In spite of the fact that within the past decade Canadian brood mares, few as they are in numbers, have produced half a dozen race horses of a class such as were hardly hoped for twenty years ago, Canada is actually exporting thoroughbred brood mares to the United States. Within a comparatively short time, Princess, Lady Glasgow, Castaway, Castilian, Miss MacGregor, and Eveline Carter have been sold out of Ontario, and in a later batch, Stolen Kisses, Forsaken, Modjeska, Josie

B., and Lady D'Arcy have been bought for shipment to Mexico. And in return for these valuable brood mares, exported at an average of perhaps \$325 each, what has Ontario imported in the shape of thoroughbred horses to fill the vacancies? Baccarat, brown gelding, by imported Bonnie Scotland out of Bobinet by Brown Dick, cost \$1,750 about a year ago, and without having won went to Chicago and broke his neck in a race over timber. Blanton, a brown gelding, by imported Bonnie Scotland out of Minnie Brown by imported Australian, cost but little in the first place, won some small purses, and probably does not owe his present owner anything, as the latter bought him at Grand & Walsh's for about \$140. Lloyd Daly, a chestnut gelding, three years old, by imported Kyrle Daly out of Leverette by Lever, cost \$2,750, won two or three unimportant races, among them an excellent performance at three quarters of a mile in Chicago, and finally broke his leg at the Woodbine fall meeting and was destroyed. Had he met with a fatal accident the first time he galloped last spring he would have saved his owner several dollars. Mandamus, a bay gelding, by John Morgan out of Duet by Highlander, cost some \$1,200 or \$1,500 and never faced the starter all last season. Tally Ho is a chestnut gelding by Great Tom out of Benicia by Jack Malone. This youngster, though not tried in very hard company, never managed to get first to the wire last season, and the same may be said of Defiance (late Seminole) another chestnut gelding, by imported Australian out of Alabama by Brown Dick.

Now here are six thoroughbred geldings imported into the country at no inconsiderable cost, not one of which netted as much during the racing season as would cover the cost of his feed during the winter, while two of the most expensive of them are dead. Of the remaining four, it is scarcely probable that three will face the starter during the coming season. Should any one of the precious quartette go even slightly amiss his value will at once be reduced to that of a saddle hack, and a cripple at that. In addition to the half dozen geldings already mentioned four thoroughbred stallions have been imported into Ontario, but two out of the four are either unsound or so nearly unsound that the propriety of using them in the stud after they shall have completed their turf careers would be extremely questionable. It is not difficult to see where this system of exporting our thoroughbred mares and importing matured geldings and patched up race horses, whether geldings or stallions, will ultimately land us. The importers of these expensive but unprofitable brutes are sure sooner or later to become thoroughly sickened of the turf, while, if we continue sending away all our thoroughbred brood mares, the production of Provincebred race horses will soon come to an end. Our system is simply a ruinous one. Importations are all well enough, and even desirable, but let them be of the right kind. A well-tried race horse costs all the way from \$2,500 to \$5,000, and when purchased

what is his Canadian owner to do with him? He can start him in any stakes in which he happens to be entered, and he can campaign with him from Chicago to Sheepshead Bay and St. Louis, or from Brighton Beach to New Orleans, but what does he accomplish? The very men who sold the horse know just how to class him, and they can back him with more tact and cleverness than even his owner, for they know him better. Wherever he can win he is sure to be a red hot favorite, and the bookmakers know under just what circumstances to offer tempting odds against him.

The money that will buy one really good race horse, gelding though he be, would have bought ten rattling good yearling fillies by such good horses as Bramble, Enquirer, or Billett, last spring. Now, out of these ten fillies, the buyer would be in rather hard luck if he could not secure three or four good enough to win with, while in due time the whole lot would find their way into the stud, where if properly mated they would speedily become an important source of revenue.

And this is not the only desirable feature connected with the importation of thoroughbred yearling fillies. The warm blood of the race horse is the leaven which, hid in three measures of meal, leaveneth the whole lump so far as horse-breeding is concerned. For all sorts of horses requiring style, courage, and stamina there is nothing like a few bottom crosses of warm, race-horse blood. It is by means of her warm-blooded brood mares that Kentucky is leaving the whole world behind in the production of high class trotters and stylish saddle and light harness horses. What would the heavy or light weight hunter be without a few crosses of warm blood? Even the ponderous coach horse is all the better of an infusion of thoroughbred blood, for it means quality, finish, courage, and intelligence. Like other British colonies, Canada had the blood of her equine stock enriched by the addition to her breeding studs of many well-bred mares cast from the service during the stay of the various regiments formerly stationed in her principal cities, but the quality thus obtained is rapidly being bred out, and we must replace it from some other source if we would keep our horses up to even their present standard of excellence. At all events, we cannot do it by exporting such mares as Lady D'Arcy, and importing costly race-horse geldings to take her place.

Surely this is a matter worthy of consideration. Our present course will in a short time put an end to the breeding of race horses in Ontario unless something is done to overcome its effects. If this be not done the wiping out of every horse interest other than the heavy draught is merely a question of time. Those who take a live interest in the breeding of light harness, saddle horses, and hunters, might do worse than meet in convention and form an association for the advancement of their views and the promotion of the interests of those engaged in breeding these classes.