

EDITORIAL.

Clonmore, 2:21.

The Standard-bred stallion, Clonmore 5288 (record 2:21), represented on our front page, is no stranger to Canadian, nor, indeed, American, horsemen who have watched the best performances of young trotting stock during the last few years. This horse is still at the head of Mr. G. K. Foster's famous Standard-bred Stud, "Rock Farm," Danville, P. Q., where he has sired a large number of the most popular trotting offspring. For a number of years members of his get have been successfully campaigned on noted American tracks, among the best blood in the world, and they always give a good account of themselves. Not only are they race winners, but their invariably useful size and gamey staying powers give them a value beyond the fast ones that have little to recommend them except their speed. Nor is this to be wondered at when the pedigree, conformation, and habits of their sire are taken into consideration.

Clonmore was bred by Mr. C. F. Emery, "Forest City Farm," Cleveland, Ohio, U. S. He was sired by Connaught 2432, record 2:24, sired by Wedgewood 629, record 2:19, the sire of Lucile, 2:14, and the dam of the famous John R. Gentry, 2:03. Connaught's dam was Consuela, the dam of Harold 413, who sired Maud S., 2:08, and the G. S. of Kremlin, 2:07. Harold was by Hamiltonian 10.

Clonmore's dam was Hopeless, by Hermes 548, record 2:27, the sire of Holmdel, 2:18, and many other standard performers. Hermes was by Harold 413, tracing to Hamiltonian 10, as above stated.

Hermes' dam was Hermosa, by Edwin Forest 49, sire of the second dam of Nancy Hanks, 2:04.

Hopeless' dam was Evadne, by Ericsson 130, by Mambrino Chief II., sire of dam of Director, 2:17. Evadne's dam was by Imported Consternation, sire of the 2nd dam of Trinket, 2:14. Were Clonmore not a getter of extraordinary stock, we would be compelled to lose faith in the law: "Like produces like."

The engraving, which is very true to life, shows Clonmore to be strong and handsome. He has not been raced to any great extent, so much in demand have been his services in the stud. His three-year-old record was 2:29, and his record of 2:21 was made to high wheels, which is as good as a mark of 17 or 18 to a bike sulky. His colts are all of good color, size, and style, and are frequently sold for big prices before maturity.

Taxation of British Agricultural Land.

We have before us a text of Hon. Mr. Chaplin's (ex-President of the Board of Agriculture) Agricultural Rating Bill recently introduced in the British House of Commons, where it is backed by the mover; also Hon. Mr. Long, present Minister of Agriculture; Hon. Mr. Balfour, Chancellor of the Exchequer; and other eminent men. We will not weary our readers at this busy season with its details. Substantially, Mr. Chaplin's proposal is that agricultural land (which shall be held to mean available meadows, pasture land, market gardens, and allotments) should, after March, 1897, be assessed at one-half its assessable value; buildings, however, to be assessed separately. This will, it is estimated, create a deficiency of £1,500,000, to be made up by grants from the Imperial Exchequer. It seems to be generally conceded that the burdens upon land are excessive, compared with other ratings, and the relief aimed at in the Bill voices the urgent request of farmers in all parts of the Old Country, where so much has been heard of late with regard to agricultural depression.

Slow, but Sure.

An English writer of prominence, in considering what experimental enquiry has done for the farmer, points out that there is a tendency to increase the number of experimental stations; but it must not be forgotten that the laying out of a number of plots or inaugurating certain tests and the recording of the results are not all that is necessary in the prosecution of useful experiments. As it is, he adds, results are published which have not received proper verification, and probably, if further trials were made, would never be verified. Such cannot be too strongly condemned. They have a deterrent influence on the adoption of sound lessons taught by other experiments that are more skillfully and carefully conducted. It might be invidious, he goes on to say, to single out those which a practical knowledge of farming shows must be misleading, though it would not be difficult.

The Position of the English Wool Trade.

The prospects of the wool trade are ably set forth in the English *Royal Journal of Agriculture*, by Mr. J. W. Turner, of Bradford, England (the "metropolis of the world's wool industry"), who is entirely conversant with the situation, being, as he is, one of the largest wool merchants in Britain.

It will be remembered by those who had wool to sell last year that the price of certain grades made a decided advance during the summer season. This was especially true of the luster and demi-lusters, which are common to the Leicester, Lincoln, Cotswold, and Romney Marsh breeds, which advanced between May 2nd and September from 9½ pence to 16½ pence. This extraordinary rise Mr. Turner considers not to end with a short-lived boom, but to remain for some time, thus lifting at least the special classes of wool above the depressed condition of other trade. To quote Mr. Turner's own words: "The long-continued depression of prices is coming to an end, and with the recovery of tone will come an increased discrimination between the value of special and the value of general production." This sounds much like what we have heard so much of during the last few years, that agriculturists must specialize and produce something above the ordinary. The advance was due to a change in fashion which placed bright, lustrous goods in the very front of fashion.

At this moment, says Mr. Turner, we are face to face with a serious deficit in the production of Merino wool in Australia, owing to the destructive drought of last season. For another reason, the best of these wools will continue to be in short supply from the effect of so much crossing of breeds in that country for the sake of better mutton carcasses. It is estimated that the enormous produce of the River Plate, originally Merino, is now quite half cross-bred. "Indeed," says Mr. Turner, "many Argentine clips which have come to England this season have been pure-blooded Lincoln and Romney Marsh." The great bulk of wool at present grown is of the cross-bred type, which will tend to keep the keenest competition among the medium grades. It is therefore evident that nearly all the British wools which have been displaced by colonial competition are wools of the half-bred class, which class seems to be extending all over England.

The writer discusses the situation entirely from a wool standpoint, and states that he feels safe in saying that the mongrel sheep grows wool which will have a continual tendency to take an inferior position in the wool market.

There are, however, wools which can be grown in Britain which are not so much subject to competition from foreign wools. The leading breeds are enumerated as follows:—

"1. The Scotch Blackfaced, in which the buyer principally requires length and strength of staple. The pure old breed possessing these qualities will always find a market for the carpet trade.

"2. The Cotswold, long, strong, and healthy wool, which has throughout the long depression sold better relatively than any other wool for making the hard, stiff goods known as camlets and lastings for the Eastern markets.

"3. Pure luster, the growth of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, and the East Riding of Yorkshire. There is no wool precisely like this anywhere else in the world. It moves in price with alpaca and mohair. It can be mixed with, or used in place of, the latter, which, owing to the disturbances in the Turkish Empire, is scarce, and is likely to be scarcer; or it can be made into beautiful bright goods without any admixture. These goods are in fashion, and are using the wool rapidly. But the countryside is covered with sheep which will not grow it, and which are crowding out the legitimate tenants.

"4. Demi-luster, straight, silky-haired wool, not so bright as Lincoln, but a little finer, and which one has got into the habit of calling the Leicester breed. [Increased fineness in any of the foregoing would not be an objection, so long as it was arrived at by selection within the breed itself, but any crossing with Southdown spoils the original properties and produces the one class of wool which has to face the keenest competition.]

"5. Pure Down, a wool which is still unequalled for hosiery purposes, and which will always find a market of its own, sometimes quite independent of the general course of prices. Of this wool I should like to say—Keep to the old-fashioned style; keep it as short and as fine as possible; let no suspicion of a long-wool strain get into it; and, if I am not mistaken, pure Down wool will take a respectable place as regards comparative prices.

"Many of the so-called Downs are, however, nothing but half-breeds. I have often been asked, in effect, by growers to believe that what I called a half-bred clip was grown on the backs of the very purest Downs. But you cannot get the trade to believe anything except what it sees, and if you want Down prices, you must not sell half-bred wool."

In conclusion, Mr. Turner states that he cannot help thinking that the revival of the present fashion for lustrous goods will leave behind its good effects, which will operate for some time after the fashion itself has passed its first bloom. But as far as can be seen, the benefit will be conferred first and foremost upon the wools mentioned, as being most adaptable to special goods, which are even now receiving the attention of designers.

More Care in Horse Breeding.

It is long since the German Government saw fit to assume an oversight of the horse breeding interest of the country. For a number of years every stallion has had to pass the inspection of a committee appointed by the Government before he could be used in the stud. This rule is rigidly carried out under penalty of a fine or imprisonment if violated. In England there is felt the need of something of the same sort, though people of a democratic and naturally progressive spirit may not tolerate the paternal interference that prevails on the Continent. A writer in the *Mark Lane Express* advises that State aid be given to horse breeding, and offers the following outline of a scheme which he considers may be enlarged upon:—

(1) A county or other committee should be formed, comprising a number of practical farmers and others who are especially interested in the breeding of cart horses, and of one representative from each of the several local districts.

(2) Local districts of varying areas, according to the acreage and staple of arable land and the number of mares usually bred from each, should have a cart stallion apportioned to them.

(3) The fee for service be fixed at 10s. each mare, to be paid by the owner at time of first service, with an additional fee of 40s. at a certain fixed period for each mare which should prove in foal, 10s. of this sum to be paid by the owner of the mare, and 30s. from the general fund.

(4) Each stallion to be limited to 100 mares.

(5) Each stallion to be selected by two members of the committee and the member of the committee from that particular district in which the respective stallion is to travel.

(6) That soundness, substance, and activity of the stallions be studied by the select committee far more than mere fashionable breeding.

The suggestion is also offered that all stallions used should be provided with a veterinary certificate, stating that they are free from recognized hereditary diseases, viz., roaring, whistling, ring-bone, unsound feet, navicular disease, spavin, and cataract.

When the need of such care has become evident in those old countries, where genuine worth is recognized, and where America turns to for animals with which to improve its stock, this, together with our own experience in the way of unprofitable prices for the inferior or nondescript class, should impress breeders with the importance of breeding from only such sires and dams as will produce a class of stock that will be desirable because of its intrinsic merit.

Nappan Experimental Farm.

Col. Wm. M. Blair, who since its inception has been Superintendent of the Experimental Farm for the Maritime Provinces, at Nappan, N. S., recently resigned his position and the Government has accepted the resignation. Mr. Geo. W. Forrest, who from many years' experience has a practical knowledge of farming in the Maritime Provinces, has been appointed to the position.

Whatever else is grown or not grown upon a farm where cattle and sheep are kept, a few acres of rape should be tried this year. We hear of farmers sowing it among oats this spring, to be fed off in the fall. Try a piece this season, and find out how good or how bad it really is.

A practice which some far-seeing farmers have found profitable is to plant a small patch of potatoes when the seed is dear and a large area when they are so cheap as to be almost given away. Many who received low prices last year will plant less this season, which will make better prices for the 1896 crop.

The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon Prof. Wm. Saunders, Director Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and Mr. James Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist and Botanist, at the annual convocation of Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., on April 29th. For many years Mr. Fletcher has been one of our most valued contributors, our May 1st issue containing his latest article, a seasonable one on "Injurious Insects."

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