

and I believe it. The long chapter ends, and then all kneel down, and the old man prays. I and my younger brother fall asleep with our heads on one chair. How we got to our room, we remember nothing. The next morning, after breakfast, the Bible is taken down again, and the good old man prays and the worship is repeated thus through all the golden days of my youth. The pleasant converse of the fireside, the simple songs of home, the words of encouragement as I bend over my school tasks, the kiss as I lie down to rest, the patient bearing with the freaks of my boyish nature, the gentle counsels mingled with reproof and approval, the sympathy that meets the pangs of every sorrow and sweetens every success—all these return to me amid the responsibilities which press upon me now, and I feel as if I had lived in a heavenly home, and straying, lost my way.

Well, the good old man grew old and weary, and at last fell asleep and was laid away in the quiet burying-place. Some of them who called him "father" now lie side by side in the same calm place. The others are scattered, and dwell in homes of their own, where the same useful lesson is being learned by another generation. The old house, barn and orchard have passed into the hands of strangers, who, I hope, are learning to look upon them as I do now. Lost forever, left behind, that home is mine to-day as truly as it ever was, for have I not brought it away with me and shown it to you. It was the home of my boyhood. In it I found my first lessons for life, and by it was my young soul fashioned. To me, through many years, it has been a perennial fountain of delight and purifying influence, simply because it was my home, and was and is part of me. The lilac at the gate, the rose at the window, blooms for me now. The landscape when I summon it, and I hear from every part of that farm and home voices calling me from lips which memory makes immortal. J. C. SHAW.

#### Afraid to Take the Yeas and Nays.

Premier Whitney appears to be afraid to allow the rank and file of his followers to commit themselves publicly on the question of closing the rural highways to automobile traffic on certain days of the week. In the concluding hours of the 1908 session, an amendment to the automobile bill being put through, was by the Premier refused consideration unless, according to rule, five members should signify their desire for it to be voted on. The necessary number stood up, but the speaker claimed he only counted four, and refused to change his ruling, in spite of protests. Another feat of throttling the desire of rural communities seems to have been resorted to this year. To be fair, it must be admitted that the bill put through committee this year possesses several commendable features in advance of legislation hitherto enacted in this Province, but it does not include any provisions for keeping motor cars off the roads on Saturdays and Sundays. At the concluding business session, D. C. Ross, M. P. P., North Middlesex, proposed an amendment, providing that certain hours be set on Saturdays and Sundays, when automobiles should be debarred from using rural highways.

His amendment, says the London Advertiser, found considerable support on both sides of the House, Messrs. Craig (East Wellington), Fraser (Welland), and A. B. Thompson (Centre Simcoe), being among the Conservative members who supported it, while Messrs. Elliott (West Middlesex), Clarke (Northumberland), and McCormick (East Lambton), endorsed it for the Opposition.

It was lost in committee, and when the third reading was called, Speaker Crawford hurriedly declared it carried, without giving Mr. Ross a chance to demand the yeas and nays. Mr. Ross protested vigorously, but without avail, the Premier and the Speaker refusing to reopen the question.

Sir Oliver Lodge claims that industrial occupations cannot suffice for the whole population of Britain; that some additional facilities must be given to the cultivation of the land; that the immense amounts now paid away to foreign countries for wheat, for timber, for dairy produce, and other products of the soil—a sum which in the aggregate is of incredible magnitude—should be diminished, and the country made more nearly self-sustaining by improved conditions of land tenure and the restoration of labor to the soil. In short, easier access to the land is imperative in Britain.

## HORSES.

### Licensing Stallions.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Now that some of our leading horsemen are seeking legislation re the stallion business, is it not time for the farmers to take up the question? Why is it necessary to license stallion business? Those who can read through the legislation business as I read will see that it is to protect the importer, so he can raise his price for a stallion as he desires. We have only to look at some of the scrubs that are brought to this country, and the way some of them are imposed on the farmers, at a price far above their value. Then they advertise a horse with a big name and a long pedigree, with lots of breeding. What about the price? The average farmer cannot afford to buy one, simply because the importers have it all in their own hands. There are a lot of stallions imported to this country which I believe did not cost at the Old Country side above \$100. Granted there are some good horses imported to this country, we have only to go to the horse shows to see them. But are these the general run of the lot? I was looking at an imported horse last week that was highly cracked up, and was being asked a high price for. I examined him closely, not because I required him, but just to satisfy my mind. I found him with two greasy legs, and inferior action. He seemed to have no control over his hind quarters, and no conformation to boast of, yet he was imported by a noted importer. I dare say, if I had been round my home in the Old Country, I could have bought him for about \$100 to \$150, unless things have altered this last few years. And yet these men require protection to foist their unsound animals on the farmers, to make a big pile for themselves. It sounds almost like the Standard Oil Company business. A common plea is that farmers favor a cheap horse. Can we wonder at that, seeing that some of the Canadian-breds are better than the imported ones? There is a Canadian-bred horse standing a few lots from me, at a \$9 service fee, and his colts sell, at four years old, for anywhere from \$200 up; yet, for an imported horse we have to pay as high as \$15, and with no better results, if so good.

Now, surely a farmer is a free agent, and ought to breed to his own liking. And if he has any sense he will breed to the best horse he can get, whether it is imported or Canadian-bred. If the proposed scheme succeeds, we shall soon need legislation to breed our cats. I wonder if this is what we keep men in the House for, to tell us how to breed? I say protection is all right in its way, but this is going a bit too far. If farmers were all of my mind, they would buy a good mare and raise a few stallions, and change round from one district to another; call a meeting and form a society among themselves, and introduce new blood as required. I am sure this would work. It is not necessary for a stallion to be a great expense to a farmer when he does not serve a great many mares. Make him work on the farm and earn his keep, and he will have more muscle than the fancy-fed, Spanish-fly horses. Now, Mr. Editor, I should like to hear what others have to say, as I have no axe to grind. OLD COUNTRY JOE.

Peel Co., Ont.

### Clydesdale Certificates.

At a meeting of the Council of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland, held in Glasgow, April 1st, the new rule adopted by the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada, to the effect that all pedigree certificates for Canada must be in duplicate, and one tabulated, was brought up, and, after some discussion, the demand was acceded to, but the Secretary was authorized to "address a respectful remonstrance at the short notice given with respect to the successive alterations which have been made on the rules from time to time." It was unanimously agreed that notice of all such alterations should be given at least six months prior to the day upon which they are to be enforced.

The Thoroughbred show at Islington is the last of the great London spring shows. The entries showed an increase of 33 over last year, being 315 in number. The horses shown were of far higher average quality than in recent years, and this was especially noticeable amongst the young horses. The King's premiums, 28 in number, and each of the value of £150, offered by the Royal Commission on Horse-breeding, were competed for by 100 Thoroughbred stallions, against 88 last year. These premiums were distributed amongst the twelve district classes in which the winners must serve.

### Selecting the Sire.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

This is a very important subject to the Canadian farmer at the present time, and one, I think, that is not given proper consideration.

Too many neglect the all-important side, that is, to look for the very best, regardless of price, and then endeavor to go ahead; and, instead of getting the horse that goes to market at \$125, or even \$150, be able to take \$200. Look at the sales in Toronto—I dare say there are more horses sold there than any other place in Ontario. The good-sized draft horse, say, 1,500 pounds and over, brings from \$185 to \$250 each; while one from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds rarely brings over \$150. Why not try for the top price?

Some farmers say, "Ah, what is the use? my mare only weighs 1,400. I cannot get a large horse; I may as well use a cheap horse, it is only for myself; I am not breeding for sale," and so on. How are we going to get a larger class if we all do that?

There are too many scrub horses out to-day, which have no particular breeding; are unsound; the owner has very little money in one; he goes out at \$5 or \$8. "Well, he makes me a few dollars," says the owner. There is no license to pay, no standard to go by, but the wide-awake man knows for himself the horse to use is the one with breeding, good sound feet and legs, and free action—a horse not afraid to put his feet out in front or carry the head well up. This applies to heavy or light.

The farmer can be excused for breeding his old, used-up mare, but not for encouraging any scrub stallion that comes along, a man with him who stops at nothing, but tells anything, when, finally, to get rid of him, the farmer gives him the mare, thereby wasting one good season. When a buyer comes along and asks about the sire, he says, "You are asking too much; your colt is only from a cheap horse, with no breeding. If you had used such or such a horse, I would pay the price."

Now, Ontario has no equal for horse-breeding. We hear of our horses being in demand from all parts of the world, and should be proud to do our best in the interest of improving one of the greatest industries of to-day. Some farmers denounce the scab bull, and at the same time use a mongrel stallion to a mare that might get him a valuable colt if rightly bred. Patronize the registered horse—the man who has the money in his horse, not the one of \$200 or \$300—and get the right kind; they pay in the end. Do away with the mongrel; it is the only way to improve.

If we had more interested writers on this subject, it might do good toward helping us to see the necessity of trying to get the large, salable stock of any class we may go in for. What does \$5 for service count when you make \$25 or more in the sale? I hope to hear more on this line of business. D. F.

Manitoulin Island, Ont.

### Annapolis Valley Horse Notes.

In summing up the horse situation for the year, as compared with previous years, there is much to encourage us.

Here, again, the good work of literature, institutes and departmental activity is apparent. There is more intelligence shown in selection of mates for the farm mares. There is less violent crossing, and more of a tendency to greater weight in farm horses. As a general rule, the most desirable weight is from twelve to fourteen hundred, and I must confess that these weights, in view of the light draft, easy-running machinery sold now, are in the bounds of common sense. It is possible, with a horse of above weight, to get a good worker and a fairly good driver in one. The farms in the Valley, as a rule, are too small to make the keeping of more than two horses profitable. So the farm team must of necessity do the work of the farm, and also the family driving. The most popular horse on the farms in the western end of the Valley, at least, is one of above weight; short, strong back; not too tall; clean, flat bone, and very little hair on the legs. Mares of this description are much in demand for breeding purposes. The breeds of stallions used on this class of mares are light Clydesdales, Baristers, and French and German Coach. The fact is we have to take the best that happens along, as stallions are none too plentiful in this Valley. I know this will scarcely conform to "The Farmer's Advocate" idea of fitness in mating, but it is probably the best we can do with what we have. In the past we have purchased some good ones of the above type in Prince Edward Island, and this year some are coming from Pictou County, of our own Province. In a few years we hope to be at least raising all we want for our own use. One or two attempts have been made to form companies of ten or a dozen farmers, who purchase a stallion, dividing up the cost and the profits. A very good Percheron was thus placed at Lawrencetown two years ago, but this proved a losing speculation, as he died after a season of