

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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be used in the case of meat supplies. No business man will continue to produce to the maximum any article for which he sees a lessening demand. Cut down the market for beef and lamb and you jeopardize production of these products. Keep up the demand and eventually the supply will overtake it, for demand always increases the effort to meet it. If meat is wanted it will be produced more surely by demand than by curtailment.

Don't Run to Muscle at the Expense of Brains.

By SANDY FRASER.

I wis readin' a Yankee yarn the ither day about a big farm doon in New Jersey that is owned an' managed by a chap o' the name o' Seabrook. It's no' such an unco' big farm either, in a way, but the pile o' money he mak's oot o' it is no' to say triflin', at the least. There are six hoondred acres in the farm an' on this he grew a crop last year that brought him two hundred an' twelve thousand dollars. An' this year he expects to mak' it three hundred and feefy thousand dollars. What dae ye think o' that for a guid story, or guid farming, whichever it is? It mak's a hundred acres an' yer wee milk checks look pretty small, no mistak'. Ye begin tae wonder what's the matter wi' yer business ability when anither chap has got sae far ahead o' ye in the race for the almighty dollar. But it seems we're no' a' built that way, sae there's na use cryin' about it. There's ower muckle Scotch caution in the maist o' us tae permit oor ever gettin' intae the millionaire class, but I'm thinkin' the comin' generation will be a wee bit different in this respect. It wis that way wi' this Seabrook chap. He an' his feyther went into the business taegither at first an' they got on weel eneuch for a number o' years an' finally a season came when big crops an' high prices met, an' they cleaned up twenty-four thousand dollars. The auld mon wanted tae pit this money in the bank an' retire frae active life. He had never seen sae muckle money at once in his life before, an' he wanted tae hang on to it. But the young chap wis different. He wouldna' stand for this, sae settled the matter by buyin' the auld mon oot. Then he went tae wark in his ain way. They had been in the truck-farming line o' the business an' had pit in an irrigating plant an' had used fertilizers an' manure tae no end, but it wis small potatoes tae what the young fellow went in for when he got things in his ain hands. He bought mair land, he pit up six green-houses that cover about half an acre each, an' he increased the irrigating plant tae the point where it cost him around two hundred dollars an acre. Whenever he took hauld o' a new piece o' land he manured it at the rate o' a hundred tons tae the acre. This manure cost him o' the average two dollars an' fifty cents a ton. Altogether it cost him about six hundred dollars an acre tae get his

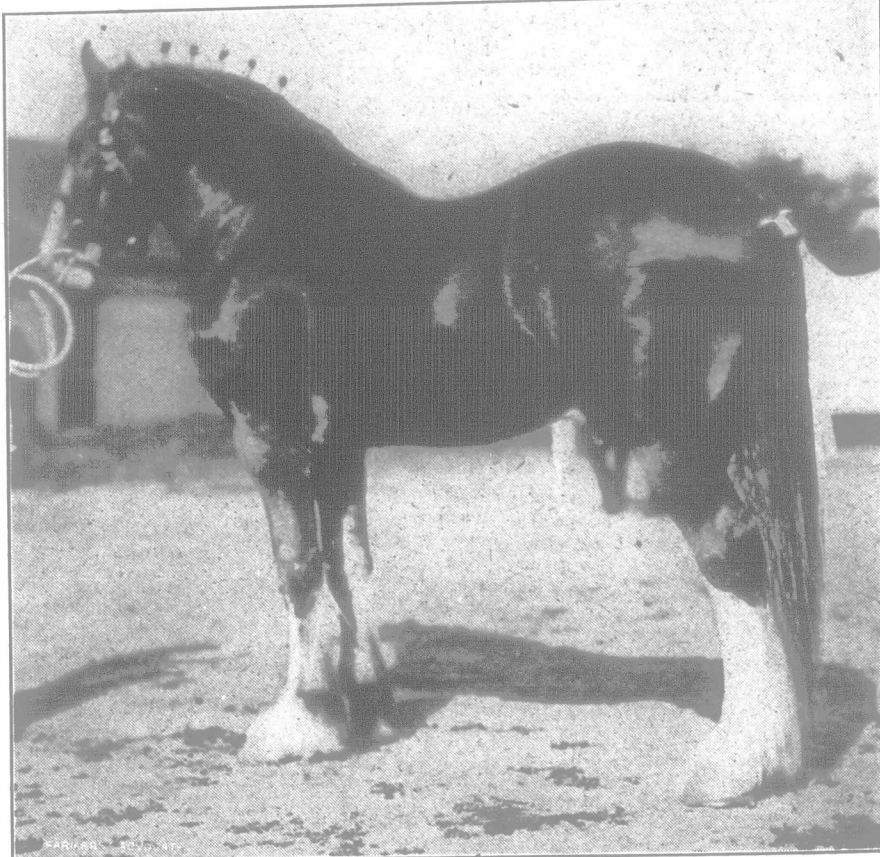
land in shape for a crop. It looks like an unco' big risk tae spend sae muckle guid money on the chance o' gettin' a crop in a year that will pay it back, but his faith in his farm an' in his ain business ability were justified a' richt. The whole investment is payin' twenty per cent., which is four times as much as the average farm in this country is daein'.

Everything is rin accordin' tae a system that tak's in ilka detail o' the wark o' the farm. There are ten foremen, each wi' his ain gang o' men, daein' a particular kind o' wark. All the shipping tae the Railway station is done wi' motor trucks, although there are about thirty head o' horses on the place for daein' ither kinds o' wark. The sellin' o' his strawberries an' ither garden truck is a' done by lang distance telephone, an' when he sells, it's no by the basket, but by the car load. An' this sellin' an' shippin' gaes on the year roond. Wi' his green-houses an' a' he can gie the millionaires their tomatoes in January gin they want them, an' are willin' tae pay fifty cents a pound for them, an' almaist onything else they may be wantin' as weel.

The twa chief reasons for the success o' this business are given by the mon himsel' as bein' first, heavy fertilizing, an' second, control o' the moisture. These two things mak' the gettin' o' a big crop every year about as certain as onything on this airth can be. An' when a person gets tae farmin' on this scale he canna' vera' weel afford tae tak' chances.

Noo I suppose this style o' farmin' may be a' richt for the mon that likes it, but I dinna' ken whether I'm that kind o' a man or not. I've visited some o' these big farms in ma day, an' generally there's ower muckle o' a hooraw an' rush tae suit my idea o' life on the farm. I've heard some say that farmin' as it is generally carried on wis mair o' an occupation than a business, an' that wis why the average farm didna' pay mair than five per cent. on the investment.

Weel that may be so, but gin a mon has a guid



Mendel Prince.

Grand champion Clydesdale stallion at Toronto and London for Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont.

healthy occupation that is bringin' him in a guid living an' maybe a wee bit mair, he's pretty weel fixed, tae my mind. Gin ye think ye hae the ability tae farm a thousand acres an' dae it weel, gae ahead. There's money in the business provided ye're smart enough tae tak' it oot, but a lot o' these big farms that I've seen were juist warked tae about half their capacity. It made me think o' the auld sayin' about the "wee farm well tilled", an' there's a guid money points in its favor. The mon on a hundred acres can get a guid deal oot o' life gin he tak's advantage o' a' his opportunities. It's enough tae mak' him as independent as ony mon that lives. It will keep him an' his family as comfortable as there is ony necessity for, an' it will gie him a certain amount o' leisure for some o' the ither things that help tae mak' life mair worth the living. When a mon's wark ties him doon sae tight that he canna' tak' time tae dae a wee bit o' readin' ilka day, in the papers, or a book maybe, noo an' again, it's time he made some sort o' a change. I ken some men that took their breakfast by lamp-light ilka day this past simmer, an' nine o'clock at night never saw them in the hoose. What did they ken or care about the war or onything else that wis o' interest tae the world at large? Na, na, they had big farms an' the crops had tae be pit in an' then taken aff, na matter what happened tae the chap around the corner. Industry is a' richt in its way, but when a mon has time for naething mair than tae eat an' tae sleep an' tae wark, frae January first tae December last, his trip through life isn't gaein' to dae much for him. He'll be juist about the same size o' a mon at the end o' the journey as he was at the beginning.

On the ither hand gin he's a big enough mon tae handle a proposition like the farm we hae been talkin'

about, doon in New Jersey, an' to dae it wi'oot giving up all ither interests but that o' makin' money, why, let him gae ahead. Gin a mon can keep his balance on a big farm that's the place for him. But I've seen sae mony chaps, in my time, that hae rin all tae muscle at the expense o' their brains, that it has made me a wee bit scared for mysel', as weel as ither.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGE, M. A.

A bird with a very wide distribution in Canada is the Belted Kingfisher. It breeds from coast to coast and as far north as Hudson Bay, and is one of the most characteristic birds of the shores of our lakes and streams. It usually takes up its position on some dead tree by the waters edge or on some branch which overhangs the water and there sits motionless, as though carved from stone, until its watchful eye discerns a fish in the water below when it dives for its prey, disappearing entirely beneath the surface. It usually reappears with a wriggling fish in its powerful bill and carrying it to its perch beats it on the limb until it is dead and then swallows it head first. Sometimes when flying over the surface of the water the Kingfisher sees a fish, hovers for a moment and plunges after it.

Kingfishers are not at all sociable birds either with their own species or with other birds, and the Indian name "The Outcast" is not an inappropriate one. A pair will take possession of a locality and no other Kingfishers are permitted to live in the vicinity. Neither are they easy birds to approach, as they rarely allow one within fifty yards of them. When you come within this distance the bird is off with a loud rattling call and alights on a tree further along the shore. Thus it flies ahead of you for some distance, then with a wide sweep out over the water it returns to its first perch.

The nest of the Kingfisher is a tunnel in a bank, usually in a bank of compact sand or very fine gravel. This tunnel is excavated by both birds, the digging being done with the bill and the loosened soil thrust out of the burrow with the feet. The passage is round, about four inches in diameter and extends, either straight or with bends, for a distance of from four to twenty feet. It terminates in a domed chamber in which the five to eight pure white eggs are laid. The tunnel is used for several years in succession if the birds are not disturbed. The young at the time of hatching are naked, helpless and their eyes are not opened. They are fed on fish, and in old tunnels after several years occupancy there is quite an accumulation of fish-bones and scales.

The main food of the Kingfisher consists of small fish three inches and under in size. Some of these are minnows, but others are the young of commercial and game fish. While the distribution of these young fish is a loss

it is not a serious one as the Kingfisher is not abundant enough to have much influence upon the fish-supply. Kingfishers also eat small crustacea, grasshoppers, crickets, beetles and frogs.

A little bird which is usually more in evidence during the fall migration than at any other time of the year is the Red-breasted Nuthatch. This species is about four and a half inches in length. The upper parts are ashy-blue, and the under parts vary from bright brick red to brownish-white, the adults in fall and the young birds having the breast and abdomen much brighter red than the adults in spring. In the adult male the crown and the nape of the neck are glossy black, with a white line over the eye. In the female the crown is the same color as the back and the nape is blackish, not glossy black, and in these respects the young resemble the female.

The range of this species in Canada is from Newfoundland to British Columbia, and as far north as Hudson Bay and the Yukon. Throughout a large part of this territory it is resident, being present both in summer and winter. In southern and central Ontario it is, however, rare as a breeder and is very rarely seen in winter, being common only during the migrations, particularly the fall migration.

In habits this species much resembles the White-breasted Nuthatch, having the same disregard of maintaining the "right side up with care" position, and just as frequently runs about on the tree trunks head down as with the head up. It keeps more to the upper portions of the trees than does the White-breast, and has a greater partiality for pine trees as a foraging ground.

Its note is weaker, higher-pitched and more rapidly repeated than that of the White-breasted Nuthatch.