

**THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE**

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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**Crayon Portraits.**

On page 277, of this issue, we make an announcement of special interest to our readers desirous of obtaining beautiful crayon portraits of themselves or friends. The terms are altogether unprecedented. Read carefully the details of our offer, and take prompt advantage of it.

**The Next Ontario Fat Stock Show.**

In our Gossip Department will be found a report of an important meeting of breeders held at Guelph on June 25th, when arrangements were made for the next Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show.

**The Dominion Minister of Agriculture.**

The advent of a new Government at Ottawa will afford the Cabinet architect another opportunity to place at the head of the Department of Agriculture a competent man who is in practical touch with the Dominion's greatest industry. The important responsibilities of the Portfolio of Agriculture are every year increasing. We have now an elaborate Experimental Farm system on hand, consisting of the large Central and four branch institutions for various sections of Canada, where grain growing, fruit culture, dairying, entomology, poultry-keeping, agricultural chemistry, etc., and to a certain extent live stock husbandry, with other associated lines of work, are carried on. Incidentally, we would like to point out once more that it is high time that Live Stock Husbandry—the right arm of Canadian farming—had an adequate representative on the Experimental Farm staff, instead of being relegated to the background; sheep breeding, for example, strange to relate, being completely ignored, according to the last annual report—if we except six Dorset Horned sheep at Agassiz, B. C.!

It is, therefore, a department where practical knowledge is one of the essentials of its head, if he is to be any more than a "head" in name only. The rapidly developing export trade of Canada in animals and animal products, the absolute necessity of preserving the health of the one and the purity and excellence of the other, our relations in regard to live stock trade with Great Britain and the U. S., the interchange in pure-bred stock—these and other considerations suggest a few of the points with which the Minister of Agriculture must be cognizant. It is, indeed, a grave charge, and we trust will be judiciously filled. As is intimated in another column, the idea should not be to go in merely to "spend money doing something for the farmer." There is too much of the lavish paternal spirit abroad in the world, and we notice in some quarters a disposition to assume functions and to embark in work that might fairly be left to private enterprise. What is wanted on the part of such a minister is actual knowledge of the needs and conditions of Canadian farming, a good grasp of the agricultural situation and its tendency generally, backbone enough, as we stated on a previous occasion, to stand squarely for the interest of farming without raising any narrow class cry, progressive ideas without any waste of resources, for Canada has no tax money to fritter away, and common-sense in the general management of the Department of Agriculture,—these are what, in our judgment, will best serve the interests of the farmers and breeders of Canada.

**Hackney Horses in Ireland.**

A short time ago a deputation of Irish horse breeders waited upon the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland to protest against the importation, at the expense of the Government, of Hackney stallions into the congested districts of Ireland. The ground taken by these gentlemen is that Ireland has been and is a producer of hunter and Thoroughbred horses having a reputation equalled by those of no other country in the world, and in order to maintain that good name it is necessary to protect so far as possible the original blood from contamination by outside strains of horses.

The more zealous ones see that just now there is great need of this preventive measure because Hackneys have been coming in and have already produced ready sellers at good figures from Thoroughbred mares. For the moment it would seem that this should cause no alarm in the way of objection, but during these pinched times there is a great tendency to grasp at what will bring a present dollar, whether the future offers anything hopeful or not. It is true there are a great many too fine, weedy Thoroughbred mares in Ireland which cannot produce salable hunters, but if crossed with a strong, high-going Hackney, would bring forth an offspring just now in brisk demand for the harness. These are the ones that the opponents to the introduction of the Hackney can see are doing the damage, while their opponents claim that the wise thing is to use the horse upon these mares that will turn them to good account.

The opposition is not due to an under-estimation of the Hackney breed, or a dislike, on abstract grounds, to any horse but the Thoroughbred, but it is not desired to encourage mares which shall be of a kind different to those which have for more than a century brought good money to the Irish farmer. Those on whose behalf the deputation spoke felt that the fillies got by Hackney sires would in

course of time find their way into hunter-breeding districts, which even Hackney breeders know well would militate against them for the saddle.

In England, where all breeds flourish side by side, it would unquestionably be a very high-handed proceeding to attempt to smother one breed in the interest of another; but in Ireland the case is felt to be different. No doubt there is distinct advantage in a given district confining itself largely to the production of one good type of horse, thereby working up a profitable reputation and securing ready sale. Ireland is a one-horse country in the sense of rearing one particular kind of horse, and that horse has paid well in its purity, and should the Government aid the introduction of a race calculated to change the trade to one which many horse-producing countries are engaged in, it is evident that a mistake would be made.

**STOCK.**

**Canadian Horses for the British Market.**

BY THE SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN CLYDESDALE ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The continued and rapid growth of the export trade in horses during the last few years leads us to enquire what kinds are likely to pay the Canadian or American farmer best if he means to cater for a share of that foreign trade in future. A recent visit to the other side enabled the writer to make some personal enquiries on the subject, the general replies being: "Send us all the good horses you choose, either for draft or carriage or road purposes, with plenty bone, size, and quality, and the more action they have the better price you can always get for them. Your poorly-shaped horses, whether trotting-bred or otherwise, with fiddle heads, ewe necks, spindle shanks, or curby hocks, we don't want at all." I asked the various uses to which imported horses were being put, and was told that a few, but only a few, of the very heaviest are fitted for dray or lorry work in the large cities; the bulk of the Canadian draft horses are either used in light lorries or vans, and many are sent into the country, being well suited for light farm work. A good many so-called carriage horses, but really misfits, also become "vanners" when they land. Others find their way into 'busses, tramway carts, cabs, and hansoms, while an occasional pair is picked up for gentlemen's carriage horses, and command really good prices. It will thus be seen that Canadian and American horses, being of infinite variety, are put to all manner of uses, and the horses which bring the best prices abroad are also the highest priced ones at home—the most difficult to produce, and therefore the scarcest. I refer to carriage horses and heavy drafters. Those two kinds—perfectly distinct from each other—are the only kinds that the average Canadian farmer can hope to realize a substantial profit from, and the misfits of both kinds will still sell at a fairly remunerative figure for ordinary purposes. As to carriage horses, there really seems no royal road to their production. They are occasionally bred in all manner of ways, and the most careful, intelligent and skillful breeders are often entirely at sea in their efforts to attain success in this line.

Many requisites are essential, but perhaps the chief ones in a 16-hand horse are style, quality, and action, while in the 15 to 15.2 horse it is like Demosthenes' three rules of oratory: "Action, action, action." Yes, strange as it may seem, lofty, straight, all-round action will count about 90 per cent. of the whole. Color used to cut a good deal of a figure, but not so much now, although chestnuts, bays, and browns are preferred generally, and if accompanied by attractive white stockings all the better. The main criticisms lodged at our horses are lack of strength and stamina. Of course the British wagons and vehicles of all kinds are much heavier than with us, and consequently more strength is required in the horse so that the load may be drawn easily, without the straining and tugging incidental to a light horse struggling with a heavy load.

I was also surprised to learn, on the authority of Prof. McCall, of the Glasgow Veterinary College—than whom none is in a better position to judge—that the Canadian horses used in Glasgow do not, as a rule, hold out or wear as well as the Scotch-bred horse of the same grade. Notwithstanding that the legs and feet of those Canadian horses when brought across are generally excellent, for some reason or other, unknown, they don't stand the tear and wear as they ought, but seem to "play out" altogether too soon. The only explanation I can offer for this, in addition to change of climate, is the fact that frequently young, green horses are taken across and put into heavy, constant work in the city right away. These horses cannot be acclimatized and are in no sense fitted for such work until they are at least a year in the country. The same rule applies to European horses brought to this country, and it is unfair to condemn American and Canadian horses as "soft," when they are not really getting a fair chance to show their metal. It is needless to state that any green, unseasoned horse will give way when placed in heavy work alongside one whose bones and muscles are already hard and tough as whalebone.