

# CANADIAN BREEDER

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## THE CANADIAN BREEDER AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

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### A PLAN FOR PROMOTING THE HORSE- BREEDING INTEREST.

A correspondent of the *London Field*, makes a  
suggestion regarding the promotion of the horse-  
breeding interest in England, which with a few  
modifications might be made applicable to Canada.

The suggestion is that a depot should be estab-  
lished in each county for the purchase of promising  
foals and one, two, and three-year-olds. That each  
year the animals that have reached four or five  
years be sold at auction to make room for the in-  
coming crop. The writer points out that so many  
youngsters go wrong in that country, that the risk,  
together with the cost of maturing them, deters

many farmers from going more extensively into  
horse-breeding.

As a matter of fact, comparatively few colts go  
wrong in Canada, especially if they are allowed  
half a chance and are not ruined with hard work in  
their baby-hood, while as for the cost of rearing  
them, too many of our farmers make very sure that  
it will not cost much to rear their colts because  
they are too mean and stingy to feed them decently.  
This, however, does not prove that depots for the  
purchase of foals, and their sale when matured,  
might not be profitably worked in Canada. It has  
long been an established fact, that farmers can do  
better by selling their milk to cheese factories and  
creameries, than by making it into butter and  
cheese themselves. The reason of this is not  
difficult to discover. Cheese and butter can be  
better made and more cheaply made on a large  
scale by experts, than on a small scale by people who  
have never thoroughly mastered the business. Why  
would not the same reasoning apply to the feeding,  
rearing and training of foals? Many farmers are  
located where good pasture is scarce and dear, and  
where hay brings the highest price. It will not pay  
them to journey thirty or forty miles with two or  
three colts for the sake of getting them into good,  
cheap pasture, nor will it pay them to build a  
stable for them and leave a man to take care of  
them that they may be wintered where hay is  
cheap.

If, on the other hand, a company should secure  
a tract of good pasture at a dollar an acre and a lot  
of first-class hay marshes at the same figure, if  
these tracts were located far enough north in the  
Laurentian Hills to make the land of little value  
for cropping other than with coarse grains and roots;  
then it would appear that men thoroughly versed  
and experienced in the business could feed, mature,  
train and sell young horses more cheaply than  
ordinary farmers could. A drove of 500 foals could  
be fed and looked after at an expense per head that  
would be much less than that required to cover  
the cost of caring for half a dozen. Foals matured  
in this way would, in all probability, sell for twenty-  
five per cent. more than those raised by the average  
farmer, as they could hardly fail to be well fed and  
properly educated. It certainly looks as though  
such a project might be well worth trying.

### CONCERNING COB BREEDING.

We have again and again pointed out the evils  
of breeding small mares to large horses. The  
temptation to do so is often very strong. Size  
always tells in a horse's favor where other things  
are equal, and the farmer who has a small mare is  
very apt to think he can better himself by breeding  
her to a big horse. And yet this practice is of a  
certainty lowering the character of our horses and  
prejudicing the interests of the Canadian horse  
breeder in the markets of the world. Our farmers  
do not appear to know anything about the value of  
really high finish and quality independent of  
size. They do not seem to know that there is a  
market for cobs because they seldom or never  
breed one. Take for example a man with a snug,  
compact, little mare, fifteen hands high, or even  
under that mark, and weighing perhaps 900 pounds.  
Should he breed such a mare to any handsome  
and compact thoroughbred horse standing on  
short legs (such as Springfield, Strachino or Day  
Star), and he could hardly fail to get a stout,  
stylish cob, full of quality and courage, having  
good bone, pace, and action, and being up to  
almost any weight. But in nineteen cases out of  
twenty he will not do this. He will be far more  
apt to breed his little mare to some big Clydesdale  
or Shire horse seventeen hands high, weighing a  
ton or more, and as dull and stupid as he is big.  
Perhaps the foal may, by a strange freak of nature,  
closely resemble the sire in most respects, and  
when three or four years old sell for a good strong  
price to some one who is willing to pay a strong  
price for size and weight independent of all other  
qualities. On the other hand, however, the small  
capacity of the little mare is apt to cramp and  
starve the foetus ere it sees the light. It is foaled  
a big, raw-boned, ungainly colt, and, as the little  
dam has not nourishment enough for him, the  
youngster continues as he was foaled, the big  
frame which has the first claim on his sustenance  
being built up at the expense of the muscles, which  
are attenuated, weak, and flabby. Every farmer  
in Ontario has seen many just such horses as the  
colt we are describing will grow up to be, and  
unfortunately for us, buyers from the United States  
and the other side of the Atlantic have seen them  
too.