

Breed Only from Good Mares

Dr. H. G. Reed, V. S., Halton Co., Ont.

The abnormally high prices which have been paid for horses during the past year has given a great stimulus to horse breeding throughout the country. This would be for the best under favorable conditions, but unfortunately conditions are not favorable because of the fact that comparatively few really good mares have been left in the country. Farmers, tempted by the high prices, have sold their best mares and as a result many inferior animals will be bred this season from which it will be impossible to get good results.

We hear a great deal nowadays about using only high class and well bred stallions, and rightly so, but in too many cases the brood mares are not the kind of animals that would give even the best stallion a fair chance to do himself credit as a sire. Good breeding counts for just as much in the dam as in the sire, only of course the mare produces only one foal in the year, while the stallion may produce scores.

NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS.

It can be laid down as a rule that the better bred a mare is the more valuable she will be for breeding purposes. But altogether aside from breeding there are some qualifications which a mare should have before she is allowed to reproduce her kind. She should be sound, or at least free from any blemishes or diseases which are known to be hereditary, such as spavin or ring bone, certain forms of blindness, roaring, etc.

Spavin and ring bone would soon largely be things of the past if breeders were more careful in this respect. Then I suppose that over 50 per cent. of the blind horses in the country have lost their sight from attacks of a disease of the eyes called "periodic ophthalmia," or as it is often called, "moon blindness," and yet mares which have gone blind from the action of this most notoriously hereditary disease are being bred every year, with the result that a very large proportion of their progeny will share the same fate as the dam sooner or later in life.

CONFORMATION.

As well as a reasonable degree of soundness, a mare also should be an animal of good conformation. There are many mares quite sound and yet not fit for breeding because of lack of good conformation. They are not worth much themselves. No person wants to buy them, and the chances are all against their progeny being much better than the mares are themselves.

A horse of poor conformation is a much more hopeless proposition than a blemished one. A blemish such as a spavin can be treated and in the majority of cases the animal made serviceably sound, but nothing in the world can be done to help a poor conformation—she was born bad and bad she will remain during her natural life—and the farmer using such mares for breeding is not engaged in a profitable business.

FREE FROM VICE.

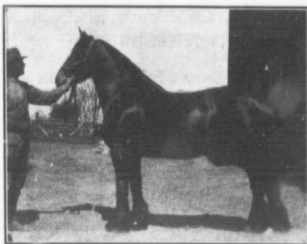
A good mare should also be free from vice. Many mares are so vicious that they cannot be worked and often for that reason they are used as breeders, and while it sometimes happens that such a mare will raise progeny that are gentle, the chances are all in favor of the foal being as vicious as the dam. In fact, the breeder may lay it down as a rule that if he has a mare which is not a desirable animal from any cause and one which he is not able to sell to his neighbor or which the ordinary dealers in horses will not purchase, the best thing to do is to make what use of her he can or if he cannot use her, then destroy her—do anything rather than let her reproduce her undesirable propensities in her progeny.

The business of breeding horses ought to be one of the most profitable branches of the farm, but if there is one thing more than another to which farmers ought to give more attention it is to

the selection of only really good mares for breeding purposes. "Like will beget like," is a very old and very true adage, and while it is of the greatest importance that this rule should not be overlooked in selecting a stallion, many people are not careful enough in applying it to the breeding mare.

WEED OUT INFERIOR MARES.

Let the average farmer make up his mind to weed out the inferior mares, and in the course of a very few years the value of the horses in the



The Right Sort of a Clydesdale Mare

Notice the general conformation of this mare, particularly as regards her forequarters. She is owned by Mr. A. Stark, Halton Co., Ont.

country will be doubled. It costs no more to raise a horse that will sell for \$200 than it does to raise one that will only bring \$100, to say nothing about the great number that cannot be sold at any price.

A reaction will probably come in the horse market, but the breeder who is raising only high-class animals need have no fear of the future. The chances are, however, that thousands of colts will be reared during the next few years which will never sell for the cost of rearing them.

Complete Shelter from Storms

Geo. M. James, Middlesex Co., Ont.

I am a firm believer in the planting of spruce for wind breaks. In 10 years a row of spruce will make a complete shelter against our fiercest



House where Dr. Drummond Died

The high building, shown in the extreme background, is the house near Cobalt, in which Dr. Drummond, the famous Canadian writer of lullaby poetry, died. Lines of pine similar to those shown in the illustration run in all directions and for many miles through the Cobalt district. They furnish the power with which the mines are operated. The ditch shown is similar to hundreds of ditches that cut up the surface of the soil, and which have been dug by propostors. Notice the rocky nature of the soil and the freedom from trees. Wherever the mines are located, the land is similar to this.

stoms. I would be in favor of all township councils offering a bonus to owners of land adjoining all highways to plant spruce, for their shade, for their looks and for the complete way that they prevent the snow from drifting.

Think of the money saved in some years if no drifts were allowed to form on our public roads! I have given another large order for spruce, intending more perfectly to shelter my buildings.

An Investment for Abundant Water*

Frank Ellis, Brant Co., Ont.

Since installing an artesian well, which I did at the considerable expense of about \$600 for the outfit complete, I am satisfied that my cattle yield one-third more milk and they do better in every way than they did previously when I had to rely on an indifferent supply of cistern water, drive the cattle a mile or more to the creek, or haul water for them in times of drought. It is a great advantage to have an abundant supply of water. It is pleasing to see the cattle come from the pasture and drink whenever they feel like it. My well may seem a costly one, but could I not get another, it could not be purchased for as many thousands as it cost me hundreds of dollars.

My sympathy is with any man who tries to farm without abundant water for his stock. I believe that it would pay any farmer who is without water to borrow money at a very high rate of interest to install a well rather than to be without abundant water.

LOCAL DIFFICULTIES.

We are so situated in our immediate locality that it is a very difficult matter to get a good well. Several of my neighbors had on different occasions tried to drill for water. In every case they were forced to give it up on account of boulders. When I came to this farm and erected my buildings I took it for granted that water was out of the question so far as a well was concerned.

At the barn I had a cistern built that would hold 250 barrels; one at the driving house held 50 barrels, and besides we had one at the house. A person would think that these three would supply all the stock kept on a 100-acre farm. To my sorrow, however, just when I was busiest I would have to take my team and draw water. If I did not draw water, we had to drive the cattle over a mile for it, and it always so happened that we were out of water in midsummer or when it was very cold in winter.

So much for the stock. As for our house, we have most surely had local option for years, for we certainly had soft drinks when drinking soft water.

THE CONTRACT GIVEN.

Such was the situation until a well driller from Brantford came along one day and offered to put in a well for me, casing and drilling, for \$1.75 per foot. Should he not get me a good well, there was to be no pay. That seemed fair to me, and as I was quite disgusted through having to do without water, I gave him the contract. He drilled 243 feet. It proved to be a big job, for he struck boulder after boulder from the surface to within 17 feet of the water; then they struck rock, which was 220 feet from the surface. Drilling in the rock was progressing when all at once the drill dropped about one and a half feet. This tapped a stream, and apparently a very large one, for the water came within 50 feet of the surface, and it has since proved impossible to lower it one inch.

PUMP BY WINDMILL

I put a Brantford mill and pump on the well and forced the water into a steel tank in the bathroom over the kitchen in the house. From there it goes to a 40-barrel tank in the basement of the barn, from which it is distributed to the house as desired.

A pipe leads from the tank in the bathroom down to the sink in the kitchen. We have there on tap good cold well water, which we can take whenever we want it. We all drink about three times the water that we used to, and the doctors tell us that considerable water is essential to good health. All told, the investment in this well is one of the most satisfactory expenditures that it ever made.

*This article is one of the series of essays by prize winners in the Dairy Farms Competition.