

HORSE

A remarkable degree of soundness was a feature of the exhibits at the Hackney Show in London recently. Of the 386 Hackneys vetted only 12 were rejected, or less than 4 per cent., while only 6 of the 102 ponies failed to pass inspection.

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Each spring when a man has to buy more horses to break more land to grow more cats to feed his horses, he wonders if it would not be cheaper to buy a traction engine to do his breaking, seeding and such other work. In the meantime people are learning more about traction engines and the fuel they require.

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It has been figured out that the cost of feeding, grooming, and harnessing a farm horse is approximately seventy-five dollars a year, and that the average working life of that horse is ten years. At the North Dakota station they concluded that cats costing over thirty cents a bushel were too expensive a feed and recommended the plentiful use of bran at \$15 a ton or less.

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Wisconsin as a state has stepped into prominence as the home of one of the best hackney-breeding establishments in the country. The particular circumstance which has given her this prominence was the recent purchase by Mr. Fred Pabst of Milwaukee of several of the New York horseman's (Eben B. Jordan) best show and breeding hackneys. Wisconsin prides herself upon her carriage horses.

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The prize list for the horse show to be held in Winnipeg, June 13th, 14th and 15th, is ready for distribution and may be had by those intending to show from the secretary, 726 Union Bank building, Winnipeg. The little brochure, which contains the rules and regulations of the show, the classes for nearly all types of commercial horses and a list of the special prizes offered, is one of the most attractive productions of its kind that we have ever seen. The Winnipeg horse show is deserving of patronage and success.

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"The trouble with your Canadian horses", said the Scotch horseman, "is tha fit." "The snith das na fat the shie ta the fit, he fats the fit ta the shie." And then he proceeded to tell how across the water they develop those great saucer-shaped hoofs that we set so much store by. The toes of the colts are kept short and the heels a little longer, but the whole bottom surface level. Then if the hoof head shows an intimation to contract instead of spreading right from the coronet, blisters are applied about once a month and between blisters grease and oil to keep the foot soft and expansive. Shoeing is also done with more regularity than we practice in this country. Horses that are worked steadily on the streets or on hard dry footing or are kept in show condition have their shies set about every four weeks. With us this would appear

to be too expensive of time, but we are not trying to improve our horses by any other process than that of importing fresh blood and breeding to better stallions and selecting mares is the best basis upon which to work to improve horses, but the good that does can be immensely augmented by keeping the feet in shape and the young stock growing upon feed that keeps them mellow, sappy, neither fat nor thin.

Enrolment Ordinance Distinctly Beneficial to Horsebreeding.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The important points touched in some of the following questions I shall endeavor to answer:

(a) What is my opinion of the system of stallion enrolment?

(b) How is it affecting the breeding of horses in the district?

(c) What suggestions have I to make regarding the use of unsound stallions?

(d) What are my suggestions by way of improvement to the present enrolment ordinance?

My opinion of the system of stallion enrolment is that it is a good one and is certainly a move in the right direction. I think everyone will admit that a farmer or owner of a small bunch of mares is not always in a position to know whether the certificate produced by the owner of a stallion is a genuine one, or if genuine, of any value. But there can be no doubt about the certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture, for every stallion owner is required to forward the pedigree certificate of his horse to the Department for examination. If it is found to be in a reliable stud book, a certificate is issued by the Department, stating that the horse is a purebred animal.

If the pedigree certificate forwarded is not in a reliable stud book or the owner cannot produce one, no matter what claims he may make, only a "grade" certificate will be issued. The owner of a stallion is also compelled to post a notice containing a copy of the Department's certificate on the inside and outside of the main door of every stable the stallion stands in. Also all advertising issued must contain a copy.

The object of this compulsory enrolment is to protect farmers and stallion owners against unwarranted claims of horses as being purebred and registered when they are not.

It is certainly having a beneficial effect on the breeding of horses in this district. The majority of farmers know now that it pays many times over to breed to a good horse and they consequently seek out one of pure breed. The result is that the purebred horse is now getting all the trade and the grade stallion is going out of business. The result is that more purebred stallions are now being brought in. I could mention several that have been imported during the past year. Many of the so-called purebred stallions before the ordinance came into force have now mysteriously disappeared. I am looking forward for a great improvement in the horse breeding industry in this district.

With regard to the use of unsound stallions, their use can only be detrimental to the horse breeding industry.

As regards improvements to the present enrolment ordinance, the only suggestion I have to offer is that I don't think it goes far enough; as a further protection to the farmer I believe every owner of a stallion should be compelled to have his horse examined once a year (before the season opens) by a qualified V. S. for any defects or unsoundness, and that a copy of this report should appear on all bills or advertising issued.

JAMES SALLONS.

The Scrub Stallion Evil Will Work Its Own Cure.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

On this question of stallion enrolment, my opinion of the matter is it is well worthy of recognition by all who are interested in the improvement of horses, but it is no detriment to the continuous use of scrub stallions, for to every registered horse in this district there are six mongrels. This part of Southern Alberta is at present undergoing a change from a range country to farming; it will take some little time to convert the errors, but men will perforce have to come to the conclusion that it only pays to raise good stock when they are compelled to run them on land they own and pay taxes on.

It costs as much to raise, if not produce, a \$20.00 pony as it does a \$200.00 horse. It is my opinion it would be out of the question to interfere with scrub studs and try to enforce the discontinuance of their use with the public. The object lesson will come to men patronizing the like, as I have already witnessed lately. A hauberman came down to buy horses for the woods teams that fit his order, from fourteen to fifteen hundred. He did not hesitate to pay \$500.00. Other grey teams were shown him; at sight of them he commenced to pull his moustache and beat the ground with his foot and at once divert his attention to something else without asking the owner the figure he might have the audacity to ask for them. Such experiences are humiliating to some degree, but cannot fail to be beneficial to more than the parties actually concerned. We must abide the time of the scrub stallion, which I think will not be long now.

I may state in conclusion that the clause relating to the enforcement of lien for service fees in my opinion is extended over too long a period. In many cases it is impossible to trace up the offspring of such service, the statement being made they are dead. Besides, a man may breed five to ten mares; one half have foals. The game is scarcely worth the plunder seeing that you can only collect fee for service of mares that actually have foals. Some people say *insure a colt to stand up and snick*. Such is absurd and should never be condescended to by the owner of any worthy stallion; it gives the owners of the mares the chance of overworking his mare; if she loses her foal he is out nothing.

HORSEMAN.

Puts a Finger on a Weak Spot in Horse Breeding.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

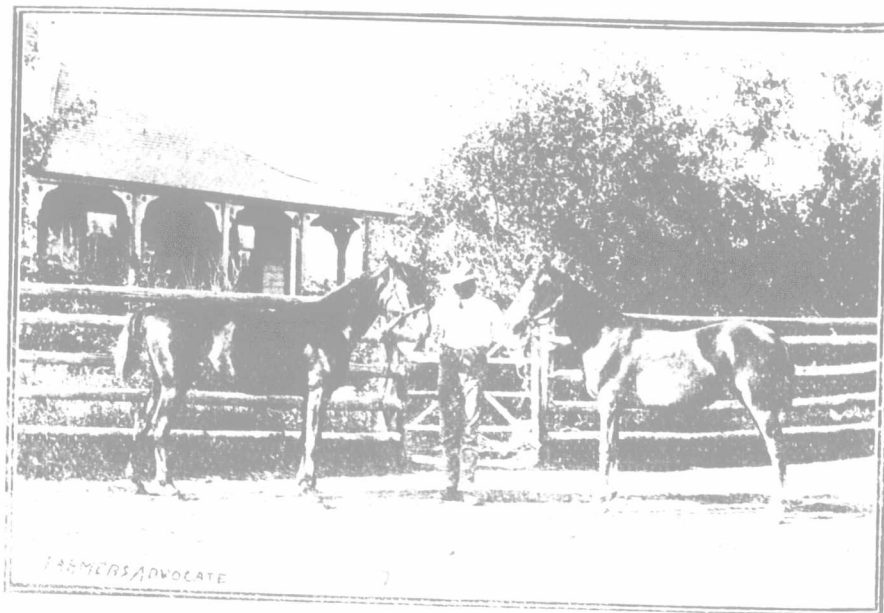
Yours in reference to the enrolment and breeding of stallions to hand. The horse I bought three years ago was unfit that season for breeding purposes on account of having too many mares the season before. On that account I dissolved partnership and had to sell him. I think that is one of the great errors—a horse having too many mares. I used them in the county of Norfolk, England, and we never allowed a horse more than six mares in the season and never travelled more than twelve miles during the day. I find the owners of stallions to-day are thinking too much of the dollar and again are not using the right kind of mare to breed from a good horse. In that case it is an impossibility to give a valuable horse a show when the foal arrives. We have two very good Clyde horses imported in this and the Melford district this spring and are under a syndicate, and they are much needed. I much object to the fee being so high and to stallions being allowed to travel with unsound feet and legs. I'm not in this syndicate and I don't know their rules.

L. J. P.

(A copy of the enrolment ordinance can be procured from Department of Agriculture at Regina, Ed.)



HACKNEY MARE AND FOAL



TRAVELLING HACKNEY FILLS