

The Horse.

DRAUGHT AND ROAD HORSES.

There is without doubt much money lost in the United States in breeding weedy, ill-formed horses, mere screws that are neither fit for the road or farm. We have stated the loss occasioned to the horse stock of the West by breeding indiscriminately to the undersized Morgans, and also to weedy thoroughbreds, and have stated that the best horses for all work we had ever bred were from staunch, able thoroughbreds, upon strong-boned, large, roomy mares.

Mr. A. G. Williams, before the Central New York Farmers' Club, in speaking upon this subject, called attention to Messenger and his descendants. After noticing the Percherons and Clydesdales as noted breeds of draught horses, and also that the farmers of Central New York want a lighter, nimbler horse of from 1000 to 1200 pounds, easy and graceful in their movements and having good trotting action and endurance, a horse that will plow and drudge on the farm, as well as travel on the road, he said:

It is now generally conceded that imported Messenger was the best horse ever in America. He possessed all the requisites of style, speed and endurance, and transmitted his qualities in a wonderful degree to his sons. As some have it, he reproduced himself in his colts. From this horse have sprung three justly celebrated families of horses—the Mambrino Chiefs, the Bashaws and the Hambletonians. "These are the three great trotting families in the world, and from them have sprung Lady Thorne, American Girl and Dexter." The Kentucky horse is large, fully sixteen hands high, "rather coarse in his head and neck, active and cat-like in his movements." The Bashaws are not quite so tall, and are rather coarse and stocky, and of splendid action. The Hambletonians are more beautiful in form and symmetry than either of the other families. The prevailing color is a bright bay, with one or two white feet, with a star or blaze in the forehead. The tail is black, set high up, and is carried like a plume. He has a mild, full eye, wide apart, and a beautiful, muscular, arched neck. The breast is full, and the chest round and well ribbed up. A strong, flat, bony leg, well set on a high hoof completes my description of the horse nearest perfect of any in the world.

With these facts before the breeder, the path of duty is plain. It should be remembered in breeding, to produce the best results the mare should be relatively larger than the horse. A Mambrino Chief mare coupled with a Hambletonian stallion, would produce colts of the highest perfection. The most difficult part of this enterprise is the selection of the right kind of mares, as we have some as good stallions lately introduced into this country as there are in the world. Even without going to Kentucky for brood mares, by a careful selection of one in our own State having the most points of perfection about her, no doubt but that favorable results would follow.

Without doubt the coming horse is the Hambletonian. Now that so much attention is being given to this subject, and good blooded horses readily bring such prices and are so much better to use on the farm or road, we should deem ourselves fortunate that such a noble family of horses has been introduced into Central New York. This stock of horses are far in advance, claiming more of the old Messenger blood, through Rysdyke's Hambletonian and his famous sons, crossed with different strains of blood and such dams as the Stars, Mambrinos, Abdallahs, and thorough-bred mares, have produced great results. It will be remembered it costs no more to raise a good blooded colt than it does a common one. The difference in the service of a first-class and an inferior stallion is nothing as compared with the value of the colts you raise.—Western Rural.

This class of horses is undeniably the most valuable for the race course, but we much doubt their real, practical value for farmers and for the country. What have our papers in the United States and Canada advocated the blooded stock so highly for?

The country requires a heavier horse than 1200. We require an active, well-proportioned, docile animal. The heavy Clydes and stocky Percherons should, in our estimation, if the interests of farmers

and the country is consulted, be brought more into notice. But in every section the blooded stock has its votaries; they are among the speculative class and even monied men who keep stock for gambling.

We think that agricultural papers should advocate the class of most value to farmers. We believe neither the Clyde or Percheron classes are the most valuable for farmers, but the Cleveland Boy stock; they stand from 16½ to 17 hands high, are clean in the leg, have good action, are docile and easily kept. They should be more encouraged.

No farmer that has tried either the blooded stock or the slow Clydesdales, but prefers a medium sized horse for work and for profit. We think our duty as editors of Agricultural papers should be to call attention to the most valuable class for farmers. Let the admirers of the turf advocate the blood, but we require more useful horses. The loss is enormous from breeding too light horses.—Ed. F. A.

Farmers are like fowls—neither will get full crops without industry.

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THE PROVINCIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION for 1873, open to the world, will be held in the CITY OF MONTREAL, on TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY, the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th September next, on the GROUNDS, MOUNT ROYAL AVENUE.

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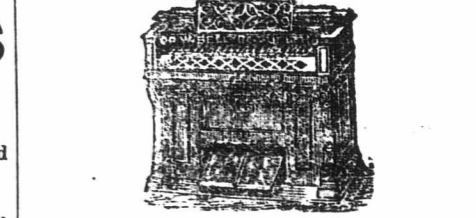
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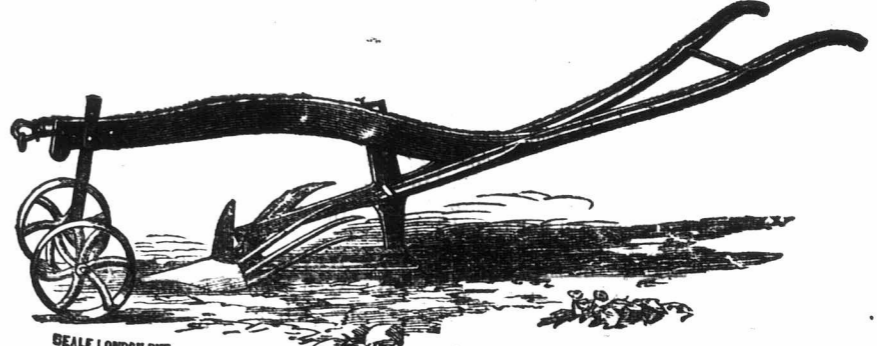
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