

THE MARITIME AGRICULTURIST.

Devoted to the Interests of the Farmers, Stock Breeders and Horsemen of the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

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An Enterprising Horse Breeder.

DR. A. B. CUNNINGHAM OF ANNAPOLIS,
N. S. MAKES A FEW REMARKS.

A reporter of this journal had the pleasure a short time ago of visiting Dr. Cunningham and holding an interesting conversation with him regarding the horse breeding of this country, and also enjoyed the privilege of examining

some of the most fashionable bred animals in Nova Scotia owned by that enterprising gentleman, descriptions of which can be found in the stock notes of this issue. The following are some of the remarks made by the Doctor in the course of conversation.

"I have" said he "been breeding horses about six years. I made my start by purchasing a mare from Ohio by Mambrino Boy and bred her to a son of George Wilkes raising two fillies in succession. Since then I have studied the matter closely and have tried to secure what I considered the best strains of blood to be had in the United States. During my six years experience in this business I have watched the people of my own country closely, and have noticed that although they take great interest in high class horse raising and feel great admiration for a good animal, yet it stops there. They will not pay very much more for a well bred beast than for a scrub. It cannot be denied that the stallions throughout the country are improved, but the mares are inferior and the consequence is that the price of colts are kept down, and those that have a good share of blood in them are not sufficiently distinguished from those without it. Almost every steamboat sailing from our Bay of Fundy ports to Boston are filled with our best horses, bought up by Americans at nominal prices. I hope that the day will soon come when our farmers will stop breeding scrubs and will be in a position to get good stiff figures from the American buyers. I remember reading an article in the 'Horse and Stable' some weeks ago, a portion of which struck me very forcibly. It related to where a gentleman was visiting the stables of a prominent breeder in the States, and while there a very rough and poorly clad man made his appearance. The two fell into conversation and the last

came mentioned the fact that the previous year he had bred one of his mares to a very high priced horse belonging to the breeder and had now another mare without, which he intended breeding to a stallion whose service fee was \$250. The gentleman was somewhat astonished at this expenditure being made by a man who had all the appearance of being poverty stricken and asked him how it was that he could pay such extravagant figures. "I am too poor a man" was the reply to breed inferior stock. The answer was like a revelation to his interrogator, and I defy any one to prove that that man was throwing away his money. To show what a pedigree will do I may say that last February I sold a three-year-old filly for \$1,000. The purchaser never saw her, but was perfectly familiar with her sire and dam and trusted to me for the rest.

The filly's ancestors made her more valuable than many animals which were perhaps her superior in individual merit, but lacking that one essential thing—breeding. It has often been said that a farmer should only breed general purpose and draft horses. I do not agree entirely with this. It is true that he cannot raise trotters and make them do farm work while waiting for purchasers, for if he did that, his animals would soon lose those qualifications which he most desired they should possess. If I were a farmer I would raise colts from trotting strains and sell them young before they eat their heads off, demanding prices suitable to their breeding. Instead of having scrub colts selling at \$50 and \$75 per head I would receive \$400 and \$500 and upwards. That this country will compete with the United States in horse raising I have not the slightest doubt, but it will not be in the near future, unless we take to importing pure bred mares at the same rate as we have horses."