

Breeding Horses for Definite Purposes

Practical Talks by Practical Men—Two Evenings with the Horse Breeders

The large and commodious rooms prepared for the series of meetings held by the Canadian Spring Stallion Show were well filled on the evening of March 2, and the educational lectures delivered by the various speakers were highly appreciated by all. Mr. W. S. Spark, V.S., the first speaker, was right at home on his appointed subject, that of the heavy draught horse. If good draught horses were to be bred, we must go about it intelligently and in the right way. One of the first considerations was to use only sound animals for breeding purposes. Equally fallacious was the use of cheap inferior sires. So many seem to think that if they obtain stud service at \$2 or \$3, while their neighbor pays \$15 to \$20 for his, they were just so many dollars ahead, and even the fact that their neighbor was able to sell in the end for \$100 to \$150 more, did not seem to impress them, for many still continued to use the cheap ones. One of the most beneficial regulations that could be introduced into the business would be that of the registration of all stallions severally sound. This question was to be brought up at Ottawa. Only such horses as were pure, or thoroughbred, of good useful type and sound, were to receive such certificates, a list of which would be sent to every Farmer's Institute in the country. This would improve the breed or produce a breed for which there was a large demand, do the country much good in every way in which the draught horse figured, and be one of the most beneficial measures ever taken for the eradication of unsoundness and disease.

A good practical suggestion for the everyday farmer in the breeding of horses was when you bred such a mare as you happen to have to a good horse and get a good filly, keep it and sell your geldings. She will in the end replace your old mare, and every cross is a step higher. Make certain districts noted for the breeding a certain kind of horse. This was better than all breeding or trying to breed something different from what his neighbor did. It would make the matter of sales easier as buyers would know where to go for that kind of horse every time, instead of having to roam the whole country for any kind of horse. The statement may sound rather odd to some, but at the present time there is no breed of horse in Canada now except the standard breeds, and the speaker was not a lover of the standard breed. There was a good kind of horse in Canada once, but it has been ruined by indiscriminate breeding, crossing with Percheron and Belgian horses. It can never be brought back, but something could be done, a good draught horse could be bred, and the best way to breed it would be to cross the Shire with the Clyde. It would be a grand breed that would combine the good qualities of both. Some would say not to mix them. The Prince of Wales, of whom Clydesdale men were so proud, was the grandson on both sides of Shire granddams. One of the champion Shire mares had two crosses of Clyde blood. Why not bring them together and make the finest horse in the world? The object in breeding a draught horse was to produce an animal that could move the greatest load with the least effort and the greatest ease. The best way to do it was to do as Lawrence Drew had built up the Clyde, by getting the best Shire mares and crossing them with good Clyde stallions. Drew selected the mares with the best legs and feet, and that is

why the Clydes have better feet and legs than the Shires today. By means of stereoscopic views, Mr. Sparks showed a number of different types of horses, pointing out the defects and good points of each.

PROF. GRISDALE ON FEEDING

The evening of March 4th, the first address was by Prof. Grisdale, on the best way to feed. "The important point," he said, "is to feed in such a way as to make the best horse at the smallest cost. Feeding is an art, and like all art, there is some science in it, and one can only learn that side of it from practice. The feeding of draft horses has embodied in it three great objects: Feeding to make as large as possible, to make the size obtained of a character as useful as possible, and to keep the animal in a healthy condition. Beginning with breeding, a stallion is an animal of requirements and character similar to other horses. Many owners



W. S. Spark, V.S.

of stallions feed to get them as fat as possible before going out on the road in the spring with them, and the commonest result of this was that the stallion lost a good deal of his power. It is a great mistake to do this. Great care should be taken to keep the animal in the fullest health and vigor. Moderate condition, with lots of exercise is the best way to obtain this. The same is the case with the mare. Many people resort to condition powders and other fads to do this, a more effective mode is to feed commoner and cheaper foods, that are raised at home, such as contain the elements for the formation of bone and muscle. A critical time with mares is after service. One should always be careful not to overstrain or overwork, as the foal itself is the direct reflection of the mother's history while it was being formed. Good grass is the best food first, and later grain, oats, roots, good, untainted hay, and pure water. As foaling time approaches, food should be reduced and made of a more loosening nature, as bran mashies, etc. After foaling, feed to give lots of milk. Best grass, oats, bran. As for the colt, the first thing is to get it started to suck. See that its bowels are open, if not,

give castor oil. If it is, from any cause, necessary to give cow's milk, dilute it two parts milk to one of water, and add a little sugar. Always give it to the colt about the same temperature each time it is fed, and from a clean vessel.

To disregard this is to invite indigestion. At weaning the give clover hay, cut on the green side, and fresh, and fine. The first winter after weaning is a critical time. How a colt passes through it often means whether it will ever be a good draft horse or a common farm plug. Feed well, clean clover hay, oats and roots. The second winter he should do with less care than the first. Mr. Grisdale also spoke of the fact that leaving a field for pasture for horses too long was not a good plan. There was too much of a tendency for it to become filled with parasites that attack horses. Regularity was the great thing in feeding horses. Hay should be fed from the ground, not, as was once too often done on an overhead rack.

MR. S. W. FULLER, OF WOODSTOCK spoke on the different kinds and classes of light horses and how to breed them. The saddle, hunting horse, and the heavier harness horse met with a good demand in the English market. Such horses stand from 16 to 16.1 hands and weigh twelve hundred to twelve hundred and fifty pounds. Odd colors in this class are not wanted. Such horses may be bred from general purpose or partly blooded mares, and Yorkshire, Cleveland Bay or Hackney horses. The Yorkshire coast stallion is preferable to the Cleveland Bay and the Hackney, and if you get good whole colors is preferable to either, as you get better action. Lighter horses such as victoria pairs and dog-cart runabouts are from 15 to 16 hands in height and weigh from 950 to 1,150 pounds. These want action, and you can't get too much. To get them, breed a well-bred mare to a Hackney or standard-bred stallion. The hackney is best for action, but the other is more rapid. The combination horse, or the ride and drive horse, should be a good color, and about 15.3 hands high, good to ride or drive, and able to go at least 8 or 9 miles an hour. They are best if bred from a thoroughbred horse. The park hack must be a very handsome horse, 15 to 16 hands high, with some action, and color here is not so important. They ought to have a good deal of thoroughbred or pony blood in them. Hunters should not be more than 16.1, color is of no consequence, they must be strong and have good staying powers. They should be from a well bred mare and a thoroughbred horse.

W. S. Rutherford, in commencing his address, said that the Yorkshires and Cleveland Bays were a thing of the past in Ontario, and was not so in the States. One who used one was a man who wanted to get a colt, and wanted it to be a colt and that was all. The others had spoken of feeding and breeding, he would speak of housing the horse. Mr. Rutherford then outlined a most excellent plan for ventilation. The plan he suggested is that of having U-shaped pipes passing under the wall. These are always left open. A pipe passing from the top of the stable to a ventilator in the roof, with an apparatus for closing it, similar to a dra-pipe in a stovepipe, is an effective method that can be regulated according to the number of animals occupying the stable, to temperature, etc. At the close of the meeting a few timely remarks were made by Mr. Kydd, who, among other things, stated that in his Institute work there might be a great deal of good done in making arrangements for the placing of good stallions in districts where they could put in a profitable season, on the contract plan, already in use in Scotland.