

market. Ontario has seen several periods in which seed potatoes were high in price and farmers in all parts considered it worth while having at least a few acres. The result was a drop to prices that did not pay for hauling to market, to say nothing of land rent and labor. The same has happened to a lesser degree with flax in Western Canada in bygone years.

Flax is a safe crop to grow under certain conditions. However, those who are planning to devote a large acreage to that crop in preference to wheat, oats or barley, should be prepared to accept what otherwise may be a serious disappointment next year after the harvest is ended. Of course, flax prices may remain high, but there is a big chance of them going to a low level if the acreage is as large as enquiries indicate. Those who have new breaking not in fit condition for wheat or oats may profit by putting some extra work on the soil and sowing flax later, but for the man who has the soil sufficiently cultivated for common cereals it would seem best to stay with one of the standard crops.

Pure-Breds Supplied by Government

In the issue of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, February 23, D. Ross invites criticism of his suggestion that the government provide farmers throughout the West with pure-bred sires. I cannot say that I view the matter in the same light as your correspondent. In the first place, if a farmer can afford to purchase registered females, he can surely manage to procure a pedigree bull-calf. If he cannot afford \$100 or \$150 for a mature bull it would not be difficult to buy a young animal for any price ranging from \$25 to \$50, which is less than a registered cow would cost. It is an old saying that the bull is half the herd, and better to go one cow short than put up with being obliged to use a scrub bull. If your correspondent had, two years ago, procured a pure-bred bull-calf he would by this time have had an animal, a credit to his own herd and a benefit to his neighbor's. The same remarks will apply to pigs. A pedigree boar can be bought at eight or ten weeks old for \$10 or \$15, and in a year's time will have doubled his value and be earning his keep. There is something to be said against buying young stock, but "circumstances alter cases," and when we can't do as we like, we must do as we can.

It is also true that in many cases the railway charges add considerably to the cost, but pedigree stock is carried at half rates, and on the whole it cannot be said that farmers have very much to complain of. The cases of the Western farmer and the Irish peasant are hardly parallel, and our government with the experimental farms, colleges and kindred institutions are in the best way helping the farmer to help himself.

Were horses under consideration I would agree, owing to their much higher value, that something might be done along the lines of Mr. Ross's suggestion, but—that is another story.

SASKWANIAN.

When seeding down to clover sow the grain thin and the clover thick. A thin seeding of grain will produce a moderate yield, and give the clover a chance to catch. A first-class catch of clover is of more importance to almost any farmer than a first-class crop of grain. The clover is produced at no expense, except for seed and for harvesting. It is, therefore, profitable in itself; while, in addition, by way of clear bonus, so to speak, its growth and the decay of its roots and stubble are of benefit to the land, equal, at least, to eight or ten tons of farmyard manure per acre.

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"As I am a very careful reader of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE and also trying to learn all I can about farming, I find it a great help, and I think it a little the best farm paper in the West. I hope that it may always be filled with such useful information."—T. A. McMahon, Alberta.

HORSE

In a brood mare a strong, healthy constitution is of the utmost importance. The long, low, wide sort, with well-sprung ribs and plenty of middle room to carry a good dinner bag, wide in chest, and thick through the heart, affording ample room for heart and lungs, plenty of width in hips and thighs, also essential in a brood mare, are some of the main points which indicate a good constitution. In selecting a brood mare, the character, symmetry, style, constitution, soundness, and type are of even greater importance than pedigree. But at the same time it is as well to know as much as can be learned of her ancestors. Knowing the kind of stock she sprung from is a point from which may be forecasted with some certainty the kind of stock she will produce. Pedigree stands for a good deal and the more known about each animal's line of ancestry the better, but be sure of individual merit first.

Clipping Farm Horses

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In the spring time farm horses that have grown a heavy coat of hair for winter protection should be clipped before commencing the heavy work of seeding. I have always clipped mine during spring since I started farming and I know the horse appreciates it, for there are many advantages in his having a light coat of hair when warm weather comes and heavy work is to be done.

If clipping, a horse will work easier, will not sweat so much, dries off quicker, rests better, keeps in better condition and is less liable to catch cold, for when he has a heavy coat of hair, all wet with sweat, it takes a good deal of body heat to dry it out, and if standing still is very liable to contract a bad cold. At spring time horses that have been idle all winter, like most of farm horses, are very soft and sweat easily. This is obviated by removing their heavy winter coat, and gives them a chance to do their best under strenuous work like that of seeding.

I clip from the hoof up to a few inches above trace high, leaving the hair on the back as a blanket. Some do not clip the legs, but I consider they should be, especially hairy-legged horses. On very cold days a blanket might be put under the harness, but if we keep the horses

going in the field there is not much danger of them suffering from the cold.

Horses are easily cleaned, too, when clipped and receive more benefit from the grooming, as you are brushing near the skin which works up the circulation in good shape and keeps the pores open, which is so necessary in keeping a horse in good condition.

Clipping farm horses in the spring is becoming more general, and to my mind the man who does this is bestowing a great kindness to the noblest animal of mankind.

Sask.

GEO. A. HARRIS.

Another Advocate of Clipping

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

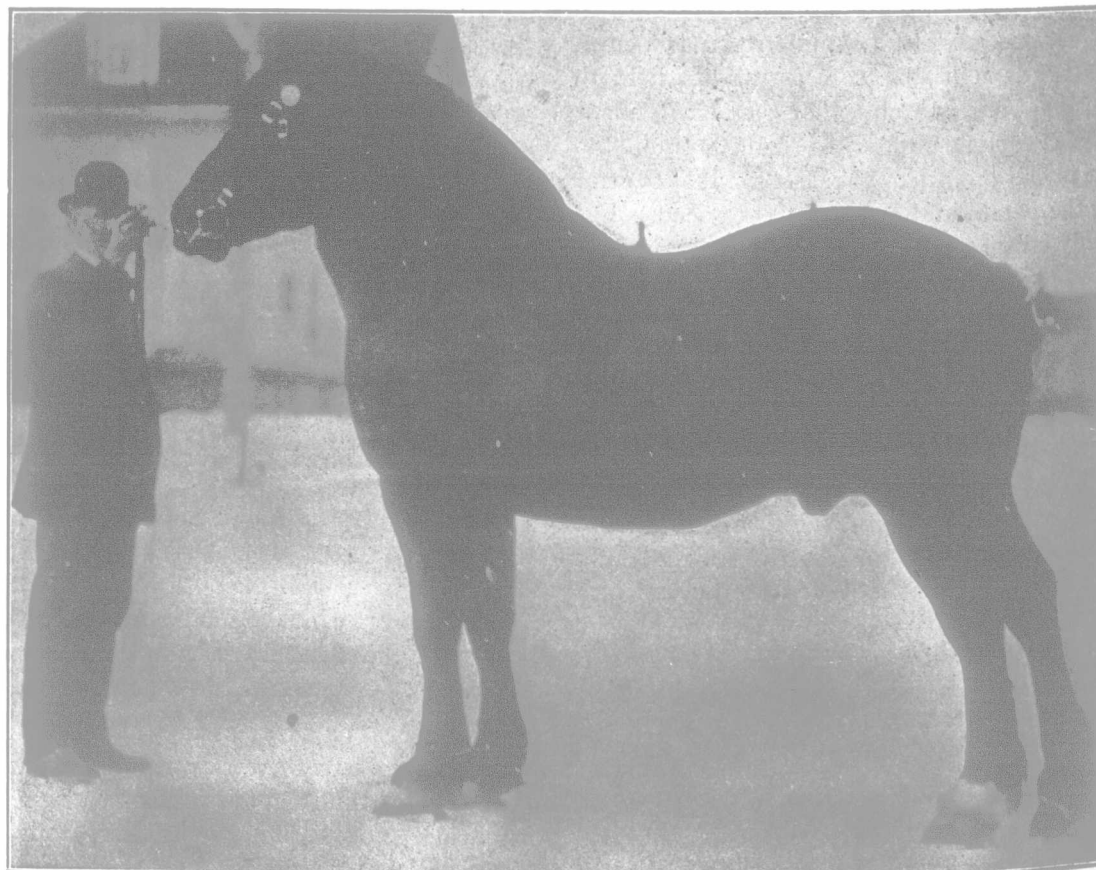
For many years the writer has half-clipped all his working horses, beginning at the mouth, continuing trace-high along the body and ending at the tail, thus removing the coat from the under parts of the body, where the sweat runs down, saturating the hair and chilling the whole animal. The hair should also be left on the legs from about eight inches above the knees and hocks down to the hoof. This will avoid the liability to mud-fever and chapped heels, to which horses with clipped legs are often subject. Do this on the slope, leaving the front about three inches higher than the back. If it is desired to thin the long hair on the legs at all, sprinkle some powdered resin on a paper, and taking a lit e between the thumb and finger, superfluous hairs can be easily pulled out.

Before starting to clip, see that the horse is dry and well-cleaned. Procure the best made clippers you can get, keep them in a dry, warm place and by taking care of them they will last for many years. Never cut the tail of a working horse nor the mane of any horse. If the hair is too thick or long, use a pulling stick about nine inches long, and at its thickest part about the size of your finger. Twist a few of the longest hairs round under the knob and if the horse is fidgety, do a little at it at intervals. If the mane or tail is too long but thin, scrape the longer hair through with a rather blunt knife.

Clip early enough in the season, and, if the horse requires it, repeat the operation again before the coat gets too long. Should an owner prefer to clip his working horses all over, light, well-fitting blankets should be provided to be worn under the harness. These blankets should be kept exclusively for outdoor work and replaced by thicker ones in the stable.

Sask.

HORSEMAN.



HATTON, (IMP.) FOALED IN 1907.

First in his class and champion Percheron stallion at the Manitoba Winter Fair, 1910. Imported by Colquhoun & Beattie, Brandon; owned by D. McCallum & Son, Forrest, Manitoba.