

any perfected result. One might as well invest fortunes in lottery tickets, shut one's eyes, and wait for what turned up.

And, this is, unfortunately, what has been done, and is done here, very often in this Province, where excellent stallions have stood, time and again.

If on the other hand, you are willing to persevere in your attempt, what a lordly recompense shall you not receive for your troubles and your sacrifices. Fusion takes place, blood become assimilated, shape and type become apparent little by little, and after a while, lo and behold the descendants of these first crosses, once so jeered at, bring money to the stable.

Your neighbour, the man who breeds for the sake of breeding at hap-hazard, the wiseacre who doesn't believe in pedigreed stallions whose service fees cost more than a dollar, will bring to market for sale a horse which he will sell for \$50, and which it has cost him \$70 to breed and raise.

It is also very necessary that breeders should get into the wholesome habit of always asking for the proof of the origin of the different stallions travelling the country. "So your horse is a pure bred Percheron, show me his certificate of registry; he's a $\frac{3}{4}$ bred Percheron? what is his number in the Haras Stud Book? You say that he is a Clyde, show me his certificate of pedigree."

Since it has been opened, more than 10 owners have tried to get registered in the Haras Percheron Stud-Book stallions that were only Percheron in name, or whose only claims were on ancestors lost in the gloom of ages.

As to the carriage horse, which the Haras hopes to breed by the aid of Anglo-Norman and cross-breeding, we shall have something to say about it shortly.

We may say in conclusion, that one of the best means of improving a breed of animals, is the quality of the rations upon which they are fed, and the feeding of grain to horses. As the Arab Sheik, who ceded to us (he would never say sold) the station El Kebir, who afterward made a name in Colorado, used to say in his Oriental style: "If I hadn't seen his dam, I should have said that he had been engendered by oats."

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(From the French.)

A few Comments on M. Turenne's Article.

The old Canadian horse had a very sound constitution and very sound legs. This does not apply to the horses we now have here. On the contrary, they are not particularly hardy in constitution, by any means, and they are particularly unsound in limbs. My French-Canadian farmer, who is a good judge, tells me, and I believe that he is not far wrong that, on the Grande Côte between here and St. Eustache, about 6 miles, there are not half a dozen absolutely sound working horses. Mr. Morris, an old resident of Ste. Thérèse, who has given me leave to use his name, assures me that, 40 years ago, the horses about here were ever so much better than they are now, and that to his certain knowledge, they have been deteriorating steadily ever since. I do not believe in any very large draught breed for use on farms, not even in England, least of all, of all places, on farms in the Province of Quebec. Of all the large breeds, such as Percherons, Shires, Clydes and Belgians, I like the Belgians the least, and the Percherons, if very good of their kind, the best. But this proviso must always be retained, I would rather have a good sound Shire or Clyde, than a second rate or unsound Percheron. As to the Percheron being a fixed type, that is quite

certain, and they are I think an older breed than either Shire or Clyde. (1) On March 9th 1878, Mr. Frederick suggested the establishment of a Stud Book for Shire-bred horses. That is not so very long ago. The Anglo Norman, or French coacher is a thoroughly good horse. He might be styled a sort of enlarged Hackney, formed by putting English thoroughbreds and Norfolk trotters to large Normandy mares, and breeding from the produce. They are in my opinion far superior, when the best of their kind, to the Cleveland bay, or any other coaching breed, with which I am acquainted. But, as to improving within a reasonably short space of time, the mongrels we have at present, to such an extent as to be able to breed from selected crosses, two typical type reproducing breeds, and to do this by using nothing but Percherons and Normans, would be about as difficult and as Sisypus-like a task, as one might well wish to attempt; more especially as, Mr. Turenne remarks, the Haras can do so little without the intelligent co-operation of breeders.

Fifty per cent of the mares here are small and light, but, better made than the larger ones, which are, as a rule, exceedingly badly shaped, three cornered, coffin-headed brutes, bred from a half-bred Clyde, or a weedy trotting horse, in the first instance perhaps, and then bred from again without the slightest consideration of the fitness of similarities, and the unfitness of dissimilarities, into which somebody, I forget whom, has summed up the whole mystery of breeding. Because some breeders have advocated the use of large stallions and small mares, in order to increase the size of a breed, citing the facts that in mammalia generally the male is larger than the female, both in a wild and a domesticated condition, and that the female regulates the size of the foetus, some of the people who started horse-ranches in the West, now more than 10 years ago, conceived the happy idea of getting size on one side, Clyde stallions, and quality on the other, *bronco* mares, a large portion of whom I may add are very much better shaped than our Canadian ponies, and expecting to get an amalgamation of both in the first cross. Although, an occasional instance of a very short, thickset horse, on very short legs, appeared, a sort of diminished and rather improved Clyde on a pony's legs, the general results were so deplorable that they changed their minds and procured stallions and mares better suited to each other. They have all of them, had to begin over again and in consequence of various mistakes of this kind, and this is the reason why the horse-ranches, except in one or two instances, have not yet sent us down any horses for sale. All this I know from cowboys on the ranche.

In *The Field* of March 12th which I have just received, there is an account of a visit to the Percheron Stud Farm Cheyenne, in Wyoming, over the initials G. B.

He says: "the sires were mostly imported Percherons, but that they do not seem capable of producing something uniform from the different breeds. In any case, they do not suit small well bred mares of which there are so many in America."

The argument that the use of Clydes has been so successful in Chateauguay and Huntingdon counties, will probably be adduced. Now, I think it must be altogether unlikely that that had nothing but small French-Canadian pony mares, when they began draught-horse breeding, there. They must either have started with some big mares, or they must have been at it a good deal longer than is generally supposed, and a good deal longer than it would be desirable to wait, before the improved Canadian horse-types make their appearance, for to my certain knowledge, the horses there were just as

(1) The Clyde has notoriously been crossed with the Shire,