

ganization would possess any greater elements of strength, or be more likely to become an effective political factor in the affairs of the nation. If "Farmer" voices any considerable demand, the Grange machinery is ready and available in keeping alive an independent element in the country. There is also a representative organization, known as the Canadian Council of Agriculture, composed of representatives of at least four affiliating bodies, the Dominion Grange, with headquarters in Ontario; the Alberta Farmers' Association, and the Grain-growers' Associations of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, which may include others, and should be in a position to move in unison on agricultural issues of national import.

HORSES.

Well-cured clover hay is more suitable for fleshing horses than timothy hay.

It is always better to allow the horse to cease steaming before blanketing.

Horses of high quality usually possess greater endurance than those of inferior make-up.

Do not neglect to blanket the driver whenever he is left in an open shed or a cold stable after a drive.

Fine, silky hair is the best indication of good quality in drafters. Coarse, rough hair generally accompanies a roughness throughout.

In feeding the fattening horse, quietness and regularity are essential. Liberal rations must be fed, and everything done to promote the comfort of the animal.

Many horses are thin because of defective teeth. Have the mouths of animals which are in low condition examined by a veterinarian before they go into winter quarters.

If looking for a pure-bred mare for breeding purposes, there is no better plan than to go to the barns of a reputable breeder where the sire and dam, and often second and third dams, can be seen.

The brood mare should receive a grain ration throughout her period of gestation. A heavy ration is not advisable, but, to keep her in good condition and to insure the best development of the fetus, a fair quantity of grain is necessary.

It is not safe to assume that, because a horse is registered he must be a good one. He is more likely to be a desirable animal if he has a pedigree, yet very many inferior animals are registered, and the buyer should accept nothing but a good individual.

Greatest and cheapest gains are made in fattening the horse when little or no exercise is given. This may be all right for the seller, but is not always in the best interests of the buyer, as great care must be taken in putting the animal to work.

The buyer should be fully decided as to what kind of animal he is going to purchase before he leaves in quest of it, and, having once decided upon the type and conformation, a deal should not be closed until the horse is found which fills all requirements.

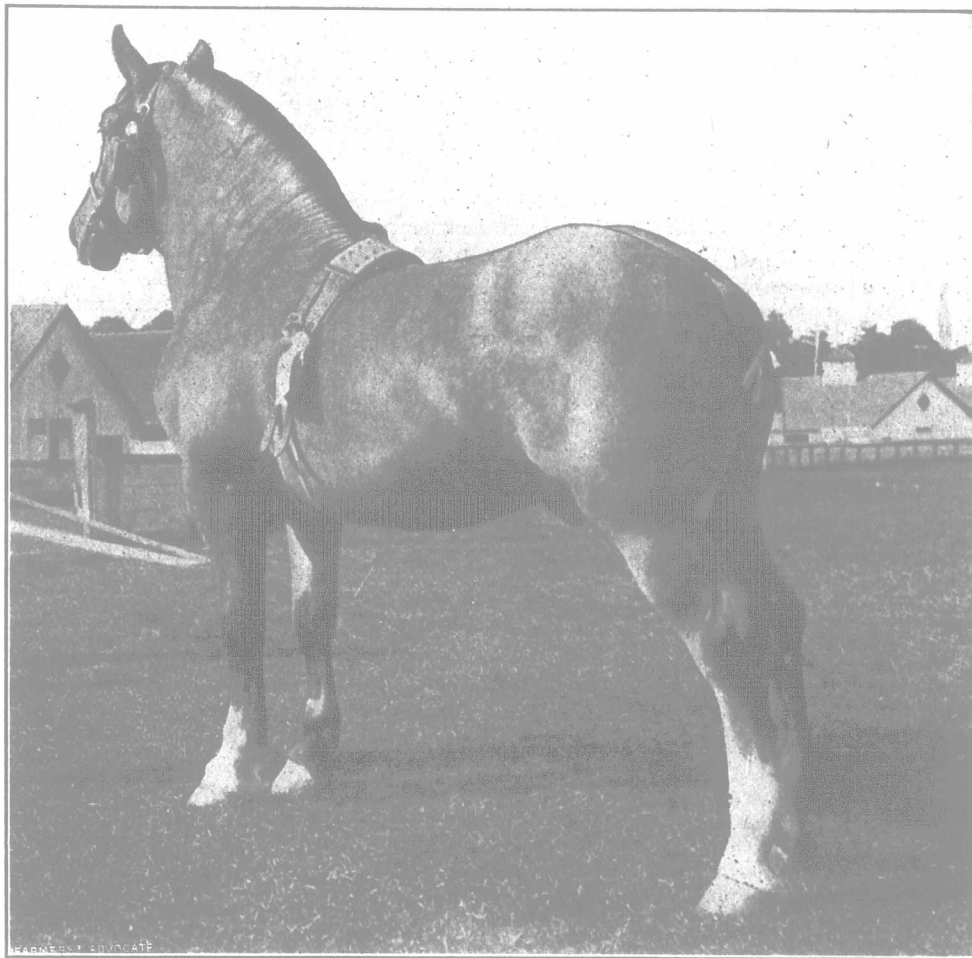
The hock is a very important part of the animal. It is impossible to get too strong a hock. Weak, defective hocks cause more draft horses to go wrong than many other defects combined. The hock should be broad, angular and clean-cut, and free from all appearance of fullness.

To get the highest price possible for a horse, it is necessary that someone fit him for sale. Farmers are in the best position to make the most profit out of this business, and the returns will usually justify the feeding of horses in preference to the other animals.

If the young colt has not been halter-broken, lose no time in doing it. The longer he is left loose, the greater will be his resistance when attempts are made to tie him. While it is often advisable to allow the colts to run loose in a box stall the first winter, it is always better that they be perfectly halter-broken, and, to do this, they should be securely tied for short intervals, so that they may become thoroughly accustomed to it.

Queensland, Australia, is sending to King George V., in commemoration of his accession to the throne, as a gift, a superb charger, "Brisbane." He stands 16 hands 1 inch high, bay in color, with black points; strong and symmetric in build, with splendid legs, handsome, intelligent head, shows beautiful action, and is docile in a marked degree. He was bred on property owned by the late Sir Joshua Bell, by M'Ilwraith Taylor, Pastoral Inspector of the Queensland National Bank, and his pedigree is given as by Darra-win, a grandson of the Melbourne Cup winner, Darriwell.

In choosing either stallions or brood mares, outside of actual unsoundness, remarks Johnstone, in the "Horse Book," avoid long couplings, light ribs, weak loins, light flanks, narrowness of conformation, calf knees, sickle hocks, straight pasterns; and small, steep, flat, shelly or low-heeled or mulelike feet. Very light bone, also, should be left for someone else; likewise, crooked top lines, low backs, drooping rumps, ewe and short straight necks, sour or "fiddle" heads, sow ears, dish-faces, and small, piggy eyes. Sidebones, ring-bones, spavins and thoroughpins are most common unsoundnesses. Each is easily detected. A splint does not matter much in a young horse. The legs should be smooth and clean from the knees and hocks down to the coronet, and so to the hoof, which should be of fine texture, without ridges, cracks or breaks. If, in running your hand down the leg, you find a lump, look to it closely.



A Representative Percheron.

Origin of Percheron Horse.—III.

Translated from Geo. Trollet's new book, "The Percheron Horse."

We have explained in the preceding chapter that there exists two ways of cross-breeding to apply to a breed: The regeneration of the breed itself, and the regeneration by strange breeds. These two ways have their upholders and their detractors. The principal reason called against the regeneration by the breed itself is the fault of relationship. It is in reality the only serious wrong. This fact always strikes anyone who has studied breeds of horses. When a type has been remarked amongst others for his beauty, his quality, and the impeccability of his reproduction, look at his origin, and as far as you can track it back you will find nothing but relationship. This fact has been remarked for a long time by Percheron breeders, who, by consequence, never crossed their mares with other products. The difficulty seems great, since there are no Government breeding stables for this breed, as for the half-breeds and the Boulonnais horses; they manage in another way. There exists in the Perche two kinds of farms that are called, "of medium culture" and of "small culture." Big estates are unknown. The small culture, comprising the farms of less than a hundred acres, occupies two-thirds of the country. The medium culture, comprising estates of two hundred to five hundred acres, occupies the other third. We name "small farmers" the tenants of the small culture because they

occupy themselves mostly with agriculture; and "breeders" the proprietors of the medium culture, because they devote themselves to breeding. These two categories contribute each in their way to the production of horses: the small farmers only have mares; breeders only keep stallions. Each spring the farmers have all their mares stunted; those that remain unproductive for two or three years following are unmercifully sold in trade, where they are sought after because of their strength and bearing. The colts are born in March, April or May. From the beginning of that time, the breeder goes over the farms to choose the products of the best mares. The choice is very difficult to make, as there is little information, and how is one to recognize in the colt that is just born the qualities that will make it a good horse? It is at the birth, however, that the purchasers are most numerous. The colt is born in the stable, but is put in the pasture with its mother as soon as the weather permits. The mother does not stay inactive for that; she is used for work, and the colt only sees her at mid-day and in the evening. The mare is fed on green clover, so as to maintain the milk. At six months, the colt is weaned. The females are kept on the farm or sold to neighboring farmers who use them for their work. They will use them for breeding purposes when they have become adult. The male colts are delivered to the breeders. The latter puts them in lots of ten, or twelve and five or six, and they pass the winter either in the stable or in a pasture. The latter is preferable, on condition that there is a shed for them. The young animals need exercise, and life in the open air is very suitable to them. They are not strong enough to bear rain, and dry food is necessary for them. A pasture with a shed is adopted by the best breeders. Like all animals in formation, the young colts need substantial food. In former times, according to du Hays, they only had a thin mash of flour, barley and bran. Now they are given some hay (with reserve) and about five quarts of oats each day. Oats are indispensable to make a good horse. In spring, when on grass, one can diminish the portion, but to suppress it would be a mistake. It is at this time that the breeder passes; he sees the yearling colts at the same time as those that are just foaled, and he buys

the best, which are delivered to him in July, September or December. When the Percheron breeder has chosen the best produce, then comes the Beaucheron buyer, who buys the best of what there is left. The colt is then twenty to twenty-two months old; they increase his food, and put him to work in Beauce. If he improves, he is brought back in the Perche when he is four or five years old, where he is sold at a fair to be sent to Paris or abroad. Those which have been taken by the breeder are put in those immense pastures, where they have grass in abundance, plenty of water, and a daily portion of oats. Then they get bigger and thicker till the age of two, when they are prepared for shows. It is at these shows that the best of them are bought by Americans. They stay in their pastures till their shipment. The lightest are taken by the Government breeding stables. Those which are not sold stay in the pasture land. They will make the stallions of the next year if the breeders cannot keep from the eyes of the buyer those which he intends more particularly for breeding purposes, and it unfortunately happens too often. The habit is deplorable, and one could not criticize it too much. Tempted by the enormous prices offered them for their best horses, the breeders do not hesitate to part with the best specimens. Probably among those that are left, there are some that have not been appreciated, perhaps because they are a little younger than the others, perhaps because their growth has been delayed for some reason—shyness which keeps them from the manger when