

EDITORIAL.

Our Illustration.

We are pleased to present to our readers, in this issue, an admirable portrait of a representative of the grand old Thoroughbred type of horses. The stallion, Amsterdam, illustrated on the first page, is the present head of Arm Valley Stock Farm Stud, the property of C. F. Thomas, Regina, Assa., N. W. T. This horse is of rich breeding, his sire being Holmby (by Lord Clifden, out of Hannah—both winners of the great St. Ledger), out of Hampton Court by Cambuscan, out of Attraction—own sister to Silverhair, dam of Silvio, winner of the English Derby and St. Ledger. Amsterdam is a beautiful bay in color, and stands 15.3 hands high, while the illustration shows him to be well-proportioned and stoutly built. At the Territorial Exhibition of 1895 he captured second premium in the aged stallion class.

Regarding his progenitors, it may be mentioned that Cambuscan was sold for a very high figure to the Austrian Government, and is the sire of Kin-cram, claimed to be the best mare ever bred in Germany. Her race record is almost unparalleled, as she won 33 races in her own country, also the English Goodwood, and was never beaten. Silvio was sold to the French Government for \$25,000. Kingston was a stout horse of great endurance, being a winner of many long-distance cups. The names of Birdcatcher (Irish) and Touchstone occupy a prominent place in the pedigrees of many of the best English "blood" horses.

Amsterdam was never broken to run, having been purchased when a yearling, at Newmarket, by Mr. John Grout, the celebrated horse breeder, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, because of his desirable pedigree, beautiful color and conformation. He remained in this stud until the owner's death. He was bred by Mr. J. Denchfield. Mr. Thomas purchased him in 1888, as a four-year-old, from Mr. E. Tattersall. He is a desirable representative of a desirable breed, peculiarly suited to get saddle and driving stock, with snappy action and great staying powers. This horse having headed Mr. Thomas' stud for over seven years, we understand that his owner is disposed to part with him, so that he may enter another district where such a valuable sire is needed.

Notes on the Embargo.

Our Scottish correspondent, in another column, writes approvingly of the proposal to make the embargo against foreign feeding stock permanent. This accomplished, we believe the next step would be to place restrictions upon foreign dressed meat sold in Great Britain. In proof, we notice that Mr. Mildmay, M. P. for Totnes, has been asked to include in his bill for the marking of foreign meat, that shops should be licensed and set specially apart for the sale of such meat. Whatever is accomplished in regard to the Canadian dressed meat trade as proposed by Prof. Robertson, we do well to see that the facilities for sending over our finished beeves *alive* for slaughter at British ports should be preserved intact, and, if possible, improved. Notwithstanding the perfection and magnitude of United States dressed meat enterprises, some of the same persons as are engaged in them continue to export live cattle, which they surely would not do if the former completely "filled the bill."

We might add that a strong movement is now on foot in Great Britain against making the embargo against Canadian cattle permanent. In the light of this fact, the suggestion to abolish the cattle quarantine between Canada and the United States will not at present be pressed.

Fire at the Ontario Agricultural College.

The destruction by fire of the chemical laboratory at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, in March, is a matter of general regret, causing serious interruption of work, particularly in that connected with the third year work for the university examinations in May. The annual reports having been completed, very few records of experimental work were lost, we are glad to know. Prof. Shuttleworth, head of that department, writes us that owing to the presence of mind exercised by the students, and their activity, very few books were lost except the library of Mr. Harcourt, Assistant Chemist. Most of the chemicals were saved. Very fortunately, Mr. Zavitz, the Experimentalist, who formerly occupied part of this building, had just moved into his fine new quarters. A temporary working-room has been fitted up for students and station analytical work, which will answer fairly well for a few months, by which time a new building will doubtless make its appearance, affording this very important department ample accommodation of the most approved character. It is supposed the fire began in the garret, but the direct origin is not yet known.

"Canada's Glory."

It affords us a great deal of satisfaction to announce the completion of our new and long-promised engraving of light horses. A premium picture representing eleven of the finest horses of this type in the Dominion is, we think, fittingly designated "Canada's Glory." Many have little conception of the magnitude of an undertaking of this sort, from the time the animals are photographed till the finished plate is ready for the pressman. For months our artists and engravers have been patiently engaged upon the group, and we believe the outcome will be appreciated by the horsemen of America as a companion piece to the now famous draught horse engraving, "Canada's Pride," which adorns the walls of so many thousand homes; though in general popularity, and as a work of art, the new production will doubtless in several respects eclipse the old.

Following is the list (scattered from Nova Scotia, in the East, to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, in the West) of the horses portrayed in the engraving, from which it also appears that the four great branches of the light horse family are represented, viz., Thoroughbreds, Hackneys, Coachers, and Standard-bred trotters:

"Jubilee Chief," Hackney; R. Beith & Co., Bowmanville, Ont.
 "Mikado," Thoroughbred; Robt. Davies, Toronto.
 "Marauder," Thoroughbred; Joseph Seagram, Waterloo, Ont.
 "Kilburn," Thoroughbred; J. G. Rutherford, M. P. P., Portage la Prairie, Man.
 "Wildmont," Standard-bred; Fares & Cochrane, Morden, Man.
 "Clonmore," Standard-bred; G. K. Foster, Danville, P. Q.
 "Althorpe Duchess," Hackney mare; H. N. Crossley, Lake Rosseau, Muskoka, Ont.
 "Knight of the Vale," Coach; Knittle Bros., Boissevain, Man.
 "Kilnwick Fireaway"; sold by Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont., to Nova Scotia Govt; now the property of R. Lloyd, Dartmouth, N. S.
 "Miss Baker," Hackney mare; owned by D. & O. Sorby, Guelph, Ont.; purchased from Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Hillhurst, P. Q.
 "Amsterdam," Thoroughbred; owned by Mr. C. F. Thomas, Regina, N. W. T.

Our friends whose breeding establishments are represented therein have exercised all due forbearance with the seemingly tardy progress of the work, though not a few of our readers and agents who have earned this beautiful premium by securing new readers for the *ADVOCATE* have been somewhat restive (as, indeed, we have ourselves); but, as in the play, let us hope "all's well that ends well." People who read the *ADVOCATE* do not ask for premiums with it as a sort of sugar-coating, for we have their own unsolicited testimony from all over the Continent, and even in Great Britain, that in practical value it is a premium in itself; but we do recognize the fact that the efforts of those who put forth special exertions to extend its circulation, influence, and benefit to their neighbors are fairly entitled to recognition. We take the ground that such a policy on our part, as well as in giving a paper of real value to the farmer and breeder, will commend itself to their good judgment, on which we rely with every confidence.

There are few farming districts, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, where any of our readers cannot now secure "Canada's Glory" by a very slight effort, and so beautify and elevate their homes, educating the popular taste for good horses.

We have no notion that the "great horseless age" of the magazine writer will displace the noble equine race that has outlived a thousand mundane changes and will be the intelligent companion and servant of man when countless motorcycle fads have run their day.

Lucern or Alfalfa Culture.

The forage crop, whether of a permanent or temporary character, is rapidly becoming an important factor in successful farming. So much land has been seeded down to clovers and grasses it is a wonder that lucern has not more rapidly increased than it has. In England the agricultural returns prove that within the last ten years the area under this crop has almost doubled, while in some of the Western States lucern is the chief forage crop grown. In the Province of Buenos Ayres, Argentina, nearly every stock-breeding estate has its field of lucern, the area varying from 10 to 40 acres. This is chiefly cut and stored as winter food for the bulls, rams, and other valuable stock. Bulletin No. 31 of the Agricultural Department at Washington claims that there is not a State in the Union from which the report has not gone out that lucern will, when properly treated,

become one of the best fodder plants. It is considered the best hay and soiling crop in the far West. In the Middle and Eastern States, which are more or less like the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, it promises to become a rival to the better known and more widely grown red clover.

Lucern or alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) has been cultivated as a forage plant for more than 400 years. It is a native of the central district of Western Asia, having been found in an apparently wild condition in the region to the south of the Caucasus, in parts of Beloochistan and Afghanistan. It made its way across Europe, thence to South America, and in 1820 it reached York State.

Description.—Lucern is an upright, branching, smooth perennial, one foot to three feet high. Its leaves are three-parted, each piece being broadest above the middle, rounded in outline and slightly toothed towards the apex. The purple flowers are in long, loose clusters which are scattered all over the plant. The ripe pods (*a b*) are twisted through two or three complete curves. The seeds (*c*) are kidney-shaped, yellowish-brown, and average about one-twelfth of an inch long by half as thick. It is a deep feeder, sending its tap-roots 10 or 12 feet down in loose and permeable soil, and has been recorded to have gone down to the depth of 50 and 66 feet. When the stems are cut or grazed off, the stalk dies down to the very base, and new buds spring up on the upper part or crown of the root and grow, forming new stems. This method of growth explains that alfalfa is injured by continuous close grazing. There is more danger of killing out lucern fields when sheep are pastured on them than by the pasturing of cattle, horses or hogs, as the latter do not graze as closely as do sheep, except at times of insufficient forage.

[Lucern—*a b*, seed pod; *c*, seed.]

This plant grows best in light and sandy, rich loam, underlaid by a loose and permeable subsoil. Good drainage is necessary, as the plants are readily killed by excess of water in the soil or on the surface.

In Preparing Land for the crop it should be thoroughly plowed and subsoiled. The best results from the crops are obtained after the second year, because it does not reach maturity until the third or fourth season; hence, the field selected should be one that can be kept in lucern for a number of years. The first cost of a deep and thorough preparation of the soil may seem large, but it must be remembered that the farmer expects to take two or three cuttings of the land each year from three to thirty years. The primary expense of preparation is, therefore, in a sense, spread over a series of years. After plowing, the field must be harrowed and rolled several times, or until the seed-bed is perfectly smooth and mellow.

Sowing the Seed.—In our climate lucern should be sown in the spring as soon as the ground is warm and there is no further danger from hard frost. The seed may be sown either broadcast or drilled. The latter is more economical of seed, and a better stand can be usually obtained. Jared G. Smith, the writer of the bulletin, recommends sowing from 20 to 25 pounds of seed per acre broadcast, or if drilled, from 15 to 20 pounds. (Successful growers of this crop in Western Ontario claim that from 12 to 15 pounds is quite sufficient, sown along with another crop—oats, for instance, at the rate of 1 bushels per acre, or a less amount of barley.) When a permanent hay meadow is desired, the larger amount of seed is the best, but when the crop is to be raised for seed a smaller amount will suffice. To get a good quality of hay the plants should be grown close enough together so that the stems will be small and not woody. The most even stand is to be had by drilling the seed and then harrowing the field lightly across the drills. Cover the seed very lightly; if sown broadcast a light harrow or a brush will be sufficient. It is wise to roll after sowing. On light sandy loams a nurse crop is not necessary, but on clayey, cloddy soils a light crop of wheat, oats or barley is beneficial. This practice is necessary when the field is liable to be very weedy. But it is really a waste of seed to sow alfalfa on foul land. If a rapid growth ensues, a crop of hay may be cut the first season. It should not, however, be cut too late in the autumn. In order to stand the winter well, the plants should be allowed to at least put out five leaves.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Morton, has asked Congress to establish the office of "Director-in-Chief" of scientific bureaus and investigations in the Department of Agriculture, to be filled by the President with a broadly-educated, scientific, and experienced man.