

Stock Department.

The Suffolk Horse "Bounce."

The accompanying illustration represents the imported Suffolk Punch Stallion "Bounce," winner of the diploma as the best agricultural horse at the last Provincial Exhibition, and owned by M. H. Cochrane, Esq., of Compton, Quebec, by whom he was imported from England last summer. This noble animal belongs to a class of horses that deserves more attention from Canadian breeders, being well adapted alike to the field and the road. Having thoroughly inspected "Bounce" as to build and action, we cannot speak too highly of his symmetry, life, and gracefulness. He is a creature of good substance, weighing some 1,700 lbs., yet remarkably quick in motion, stepping as light and free as a carriage horse. His frame is close and compact; he stands on short, clean legs, is of uncommonly stylish appearance, and evidently possesses great constitutional vigour. He cannot fail to leave his mark in the sections where he may travel, and may be confidently commended as a good model of what an agricultural horse ought to be. We congratulate his owner on the possession of so valuable an animal, and hope he may have before him a long and useful career.

The following account of this horse has been furnished by his proprietor: "The Suffolk Punch entire horse named 'Bounce' was bred by Henry E. Surtees Esq., M.P., of Dane End, Herts: got by the noted horse 'Honest Tom,' winner of the silver cup at Itching in 1854, and a number of other first prizes, and considered one of the best Suffolk horses in the kingdom. His dam, 'Bragg,' was a good Suffolk mare, and won the silver cup at Itching for best mare and foal, open to all comers, in 1864. 'Bounce' gained the silver cup at Hertford in 1866, open to all England, was highly commended at the Royal Agricultural Show, Bury St. Edmunds, and is pronounced by all horse men a perfect type of an agricultural horse."

Stock and Crops.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

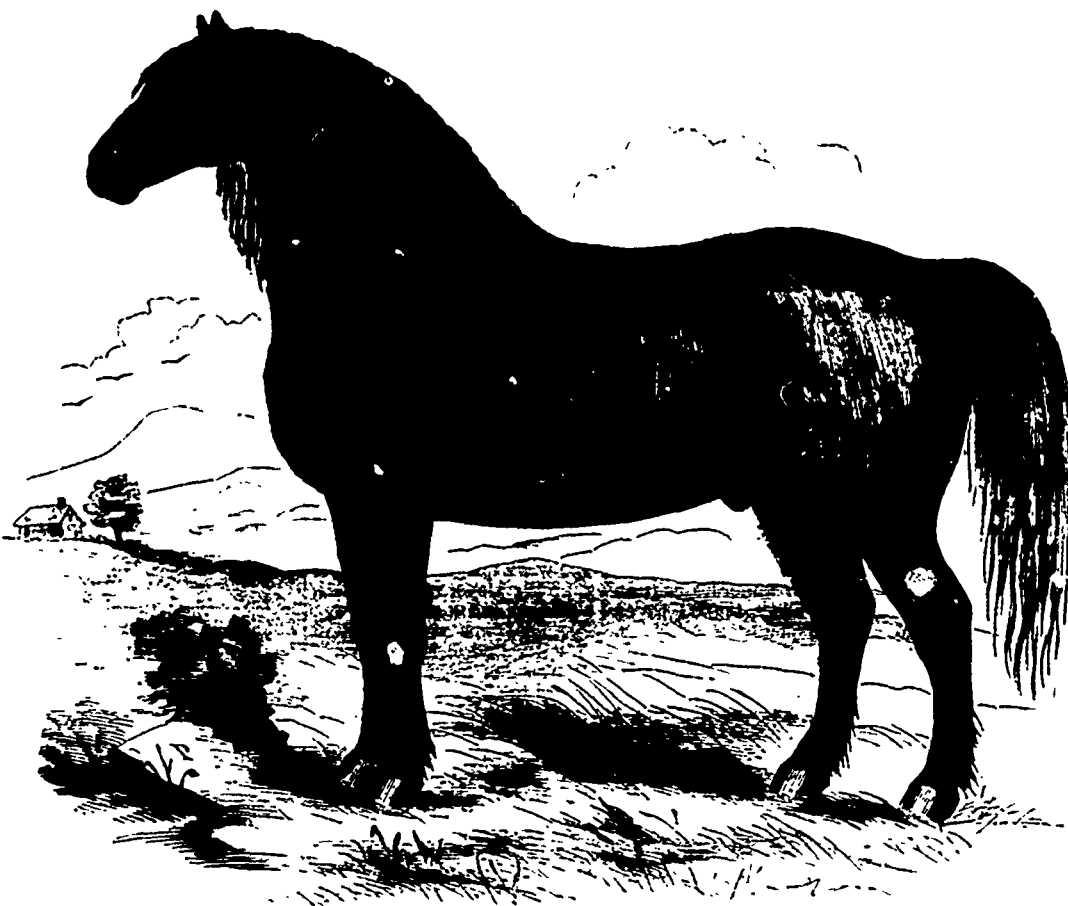
SIR,—That a large number of Canadian farmers are not enjoying that measure of material prosperity to which their unwearied industry and frugal habits would seem to entitle them, few will deny. Many enlightened persons, while deploring this state of things, attribute it chiefly to the exhaustion of the soil by incessant cropping, without an adequate supply of manure. Doubtless this is the root of the evil, and

no reform can be thorough which does not begin here. Much, but nothing like enough, has been written upon the subject; for the truth, that it is dishonest as well as impolitic to withhold from the land an equivalent (in manure) for what is taken from it (in crops), cannot be too often or too strongly enforced. It is not, however, my intention to attempt an essay on Agricultural Chemistry; I merely wish to draw attention to the fact that a great change for the better might be effected by a more judicious use of the produce even now obtained. Now that the cultivation of wheat has ceased to be as remunerative as formerly, many who heretofore relied chiefly on it for support have, naturally, given more attention their stock, with the view of thereby making up the deficiency in their incomes. Some have increased the number of their cattle, some have directed their efforts towards improving the breed, while others have done both. Now, as regards number, it should be borne in mind

throws all its predecessors into the shade. At this season of the year, when the young animals are appearing, the farmer should himself take the reins of this department, and should hold them with a firm hand. He must not hesitate to say "no," even to the wife of his bosom, when solicited to keep an animal which he knows he cannot properly maintain. When he has decided upon the number to be reared, the young calves and pigs should have his special personal attention. He need not think it beneath his dignity to see carefully to their getting the right kind of food at the right times, and in sufficient quantity; he will find his account in it.

With respect to thorough-bred stock as a source of wealth, though there can be no question that a well-bred animal will give a far better return for the food it consumes than an ill-bred one, the aspiring farmer should well consider, before he invests a large sum in the purchase of superior stock, whether he

has the means of providing abundant food and good lodging for it. Without both, his investment will assuredly prove unremunerative. There is nothing supernatural about a Durham bull or an Ayrshire cow. Whatever may be their superiority, they are not "superior" to the pangs of hunger and "the persecutions of the sky;" nor do they carry a talisman which will enable them to lie in wet and filthy places with impunity. The excellence of the most valuable herds of the present day was not obtained by judicious crossing only. Liberal feeding—especially when the animals were young—in dry, warm, and otherwise comfortable quarters, has been largely instrumental in developing their good qualities; and we may



"BOUNCE,"—THE PROPERTY OF M. H. COCHRANE, ESQ. COMPTON, QUEBEC.

that cows, sheep and pigs, are incapable of deriving nourishment directly from earth, air or water—they are neither more nor less than the means or instruments by which vegetable products are converted into meat, milk, wool, &c.; that to accommodate and attend them are a trouble and expense; that there is a constant and certain waste from the body of every living animal; and that the smaller the number employed to convert vegetable into animal matter, the less will be the waste. In fact, the number of animals kept upon a farm should be strictly proportioned to its ability to feed every one of them fully; and it would be well for every farmer who contemplates increasing the number of his cattle, to try whether those he already possesses cannot be coaxed to swallow a little more of his produce. It is, however, very difficult for a farmer to carry his rule of "proportion" into "practice." Women and children seem to be possessed with an innate desire to raise every calf and pig that is born upon the farm, seeing—or imagining they see—some excellence in each which

be sure that poor feeding and exposure will cause them to degenerate very quickly.

The caution I have ventured to give with regard to increasing stock may be thought unnecessary. It is by no means unnecessary to many residents in the district from which I write. Our circumstances, and our conduct in them, are these:—Year after year our wheat crop is ravaged by "the fly." A yield of from five to ten bushels to the acre gives barely enough for home consumption, and leaves none to sell. But we must have something for the market, or how shall we pay for our boots and hats, our coats and shirts, our tea and sugar? We find that milk, butter, cheese, meat, maintain good prices, so we "guess we'll keep more cows." Instead of raising three calves per annum, we decide to raise six—upon the food of three; and we do certainly possess six heads, six tails, twenty-four legs, etc., etc.; but six calves? no, nor the equivalent of two decent ones. However, this is getting on bravely; we shall soon have a much larger stock, and need not fret about the failure of the