

risks. The farmers' clubs would not buy from us, because they could not get our apples at the current price in our district, and we had to sell to a middleman. Later I received word from a couple of these clubs that their apples cost them from one to two dollars a barrel more than they would have cost if they had bought from us. If they had been willing to meet us half way we could have divided the middleman's profit. But these organizations do not want to divide. They want the whole of the middleman's profit, and the result is that both lose money, while the middleman waxes fat. It is all nonsense to scold at the middlemen when we are simply betrayed into their clutches by our own greed. Unless we are willing to take their risks and do their work, we may as well keep quiet. I shall be mightily interested to see how the Grange and the Grain Growers deal with this difficulty.

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The great advantage of co-operation is that it requires less capital in the production and handling of commodities. When capital is allowed to come into transaction of business, it must get its profits even though both producer and consumer are robbed. The capital engaged in business appears to be entirely different from the capital engaged in farming. Time and again I have been told by farmers owning farms worth from five thousand dollars up that when estimating their profits for the year, they did not count on getting interest on the capital invested in their farms. They seem to regard that capital simply as something that puts them in a position to earn good incomes by their own work. In business it is different. The business man must not only make a good salary himself, but he must get at least interest if not profits on the capital invested. This difference is probably due to the fact that in many cases the capital represented by the value of the farm is largely due to the growth of the price of the land (unearned increment), and that this capital is not risked in any way by the farmer's business. Even if his crops should fail, owing to the season, the value of the land is not impaired. His capital is still there as safe as ever. But if the business man has a bad year his capital is likely to be impaired, and it always stands the risk of being wiped out. For that reason he must be always on the lookout for interest and profits on his capital, so that it may be at his service at all times. The great value of co-operation lies in the fact that the business of production and marketing is done with little or no capital of the kind that must have interest. By acting together people do away with the need for this risked capital which they find so burdensome. It is because all business at the present time is conducted by the employment of risked capital that prices are constantly being forced up. Furthermore, the mergers and trusts, are organized so as to do away with the risks of capital in competitive business, but when the risks have been done away with by organization of this kind, the advantage gained does not go to the public. In order to safeguard their capital, financiers organize so as to acquire monopolies, and, when the monopoly is secured, they abuse their power, and secure profits that would be impossible in markets that are not controlled. Farming is about the only business in which the capital employed is secure, and for that reason it can be conducted rationally and sanely. In the business world capital is constantly taking wild chances for big profits, or grabbing for monopoly and still bigger profits, with the result that the business world has made itself a burden to the community. If we can extend co-operation into the transaction of the world's business, both producers and consumers can be served to the advantage of both without the destructive turmoil of the business world as at present conducted. Battered fortunes made from profits that should have never been exacted will become impossible, and the cost of living will become normal. But before co-operation can make progress, the people who are co-operating must learn to set fair prices and deal without too much regard to the markets that are established by profit-taking capital.

THE HORSE.

The Stallion Act.

At the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair of 1912 a very interesting discussion took place following a paper on stallion enrolment, and, at the close of this discussion, the large number present unanimously voted to have stallion inspection made compulsory, and also to have the stallions so inspected, graded according to breeding and conformation. Stallion enrolment has been the subject of many addresses, and many articles during the year which has passed since that time. At the Winter Fair, which recently closed in Guelph, one of the largest meetings of the entire exhibition listened to an address by Dr. F. C. Grenside on the same subject. The enrolment board have from experience seen where the

Act can be made stronger and thus better suited to accomplish what it set out to do, namely, eliminate the scrub stallion. Similar legislation is in effect at the present time, as pointed out by Dr. Grenside, in upwards of two dozen States in the American Union and in all the Provinces of Canada with the exception of Quebec. This need not necessarily be taken as proof of the value of the Act as passed in Ontario. The

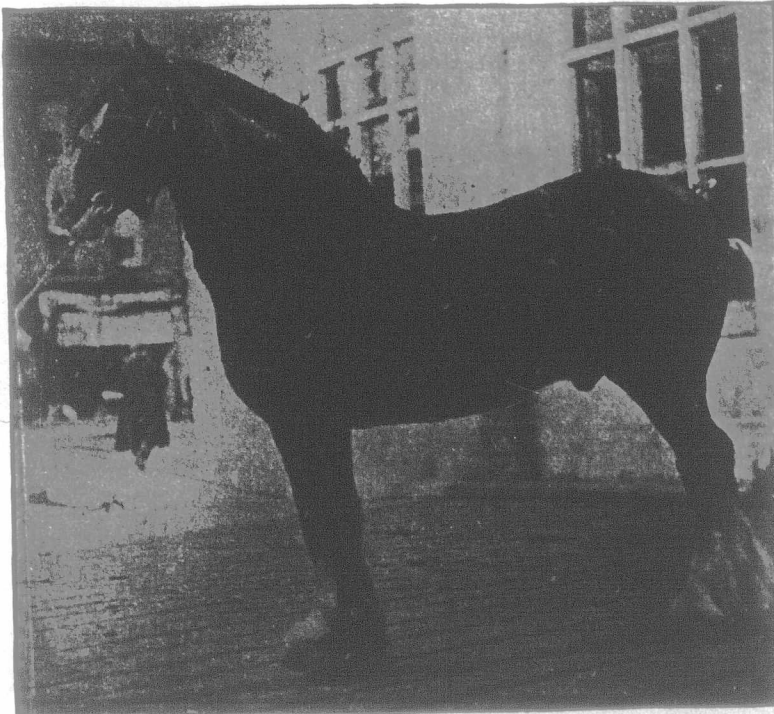
safe method was to let the stock breeders handle their own business, and so improve conditions that the scrub sire of any kind would not be used. We quite agree with this man that the stockmen of the country would get the most out of stock breeding by going ahead and improving their stock, and by showing the value of the really good sire, succeed in getting them to use nothing else but the best and thus drive poor breeding stock out of the country. or, at least, in the case of the horses to the collar or in case of other animals to the butcher's block. But it would take many years in some sections of the country to drive out the scrub stallion by this means, and the horse business of the country was and is being injured by certain inferior sires travelling at a low fee and being used by many rather indifferent horsemen. Were these stallions not available it might be that fewer horses would be bred, but it would certainly result in a more universal use of the high-class sire.

On the other hand it is a difficult matter for a government to pass and enforce a law stating just what kind of horses every farmer must use for stud purposes. Some horsemen regard it as encroaching upon their own private business, and for the reason that the Act, so far as it has gone, has done very little good in the way of eliminating the scrub horse, and realizing that to make the Act effective requires a very stringent law strictly enforced, they do not see how it can be worked out. If inspection is to be compulsory and the horses are to be graded this will be rather drastic action, but a halfway measure is worse than useless. The difficulty is going to be to get a number of really efficient inspectors to pass rightfully on the horses, and then get the necessary machinery to enforce the law. It will be no easy matter to grade horses 1, 2 or 3, even though a set of rules as to conformation and quality be worked out. What the judges or inspectors may consider a No. 3 horse might be called by other equally good inspectors a No. 2 horse, and vice versa. It will, no doubt, lead to no end of trouble, but properly attended to and properly enforced compulsory inspection and grading would, no doubt, in time put the scrub stallion out of business.

Stallion enrolment and inspection is still the live question, and, seeing that the government is going to take up the matter at the coming session of parliament and seeing also that they are willing and extremely anxious, as expressed by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture at the aforementioned meeting at Guelph, to get the opinions of all the horsemen in the province, we are throwing our columns open for discussion of stallion enrolment and inspection as it now affects the stallion owner and as it will affect him if compulsory inspection and grading becomes law. A thorough discussion of this important question at this time is in order, and now is the time to do the talking, when the Act is

likely to be amended. We do not care to get unfounded criticism, and we are not after the undue laudation of the enterprise. We want the facts and the opinions of the horsemen of the province.

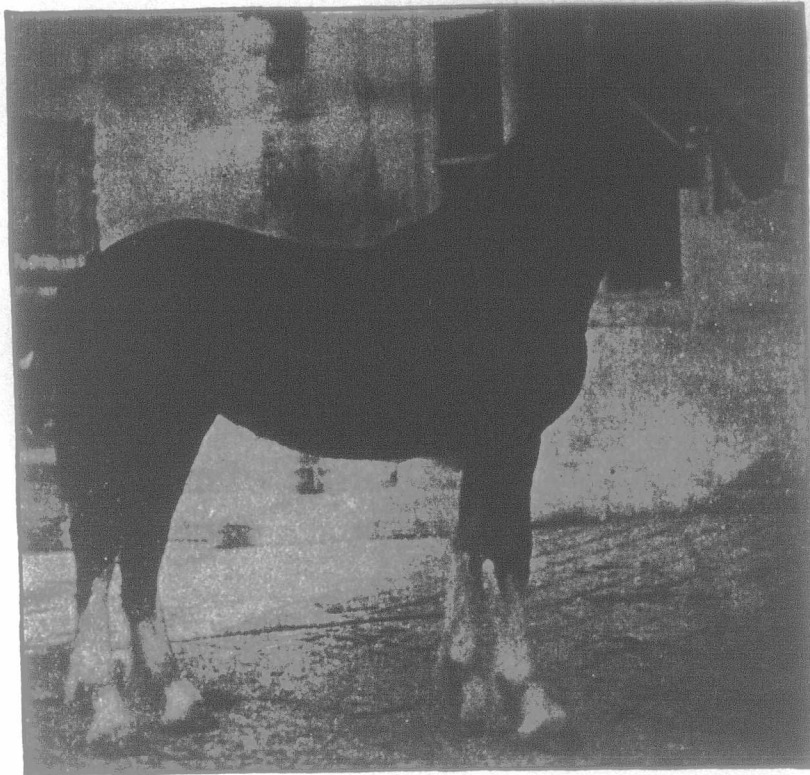
Buy a little bran for the in-foal mare. It will aid in keeping her healthy and vigorous. A little laxative food aids digestion.



Baron Ian.

Grand champion Clydesdale stallion, and winner of the Special Cup for the best horse at the Guelph Winter Fair. Exhibited by John Boag & Son, Queensville, Ont.

meeting at this year's show followed up what those present did at last year's meeting, again passing the resolution that compulsory inspection be made law, and that the stallions be graded 1, 2 and 3, according to breeding, soundness and conformation, and added a rider to the resolution stating that if the Government wishes to force inspection upon the stallion owners, they, meaning the Government, should foot the bill.



Princess Carruchan 2nd.

Champion Canadian-bred Clydesdale mare at Guelph Winter Fair. Bred and exhibited by W. F. Batty, Brooklyn, Ont.

It is evident and no one realizes better than the Board that the Act has not gone far enough, but it is a question just how far our Government can go in legislating good horses into the country. A well-known stockman, after the meeting, expressed to a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate" the belief that it was not right to legislate good stock of any kind into the country, and that the only real, reliable and