

3. It would be sure to enhance the price of service.

4. It is a direct interference in affairs that are of a domestic nature, and concern only the individual.

There are other reasons, but let these suffice. I would ask my brother farmers to ponder well on the subject, and speak before it is too late. A law once enacted is usually very hard to repeal. I ask you: Are you competent to judge and select your sires for your mares, or are you not? If not, then have some official take you in hand and tell you what to breed from. For my part, I believe I can best judge for myself, and need no supervision.

HALDIMAND FARMER.

### Wintering Stallions.

Everyone who has had much to do with horses must know that they are excessively intelligent and sensitive, and that they have most retentive memories, says a correspondent of an English journal. They never forget localities, and they resent injuries after years of absence from those who have been guilty of them. "The Druid," in his charming reminiscences, gives several examples of this. There was Don Jon, the winner of the St. Leger in 1838, and because "Bill" Scott hit him rather hard in one of his races, he became furious whenever he heard his voice. Jack Spigott was the same with regard to Scott also, and, for some reason or other, The Princess, the Oaks winner of 1841, took a violent dislike to John Scott, her trainer. Years afterwards, when he went to see her in the paddock at Brethly, she flew at him and chased him out of the enclosure. With such animals ruminating, as they must do, over the past, they may not be always treated naturally when leaving the excitement of the race-course or the show-yard for the monotony of the loose box. The stallion's life is much that of a recluse, if he does not travel. He is led out for exercise once a day, or, if particularly bad-tempered, that change in the day's doings is often dispensed with. In most cases it is the same box year after year, the same man to look after him, no change in the routine, and, as a rule, the stallion, under such treatment, becomes cunning and very dangerous. In other cases he shows age much before his time, and is as ancient-looking at 17 as others are at 27.

Many owners of stallions of all kinds and degrees have considered all this, and various have been the ideas promulgated. Hackney stallions are frequently driven during the winter months; Shires, in some few instances, are given light carting work, and hunting sires are often hacked to cover, and sometimes even ridden to hounds. Foco, winner of the Great Metropolitan in 1864, was hunted generally twice a week in Berkshire during the time he was there as a sire, and, to quote one in more recent years, Savoy, a most successful hunting sire in Staffordshire, was hunted regularly every winter, and travelled in the spring and summer. A remarkable case, again, is that of First Lord, by Stockwell, out of Vlie, by Zuider Zee. He had run pretty well in the Derby, and was a winner of other races, until fate brought him into North Devon as a hunting sire. There he belonged to a publican at Bideford, and this practical owner had him broken to harness. As he got older he was sent to a moorland farm every winter, and there employed to draw out mangels and turnips for the bullocks, being fed at the time mostly on mangels and hay. The latter end of February he returned to his own quarters, was given plenty of oats, bran and linseed for six weeks, and was then fit for the season. It was asserted that he was the surest getter of any horse in the county. There was another there at the same time called Half-and-Half, by Armagnac, and his winter days were passed by carrying a lady with the Devon and Somerset staghounds. He got some extraordinarily good hunters, and was in better repute than First Lord.

The custom of riding stallions has become a more ordinary practice of late years. The Duke of Portland's Carbine was so managed before His Grace purchased him from Australia, and it was continued after his arrival in this country. This would be always easy enough if the horse was ridden from the time he was taken out of training, but even under different circumstances the practice can always be adopted. A gentleman residing in Sussex kept two Thoroughbred hunting stallions and an Arab, and having some difficulties with his men, applied to the War Office for a cavalry pensioner or a reserve man. He was provided with an ex-corporal of the 9th Lancers, who described himself as an able horseman, and that he did not care much what he rode. Interviewed by his new master the night before he commenced his duties, he was told that he would have to exercise the three stallions early in the morning, the owner meaning, of course, to have them led out; but the trooper mistook that view, and thought he meant ordinary riding. One was an old horse, 17 or 18 years old, and had not had a saddle on him for at least 11 years. The corporal recommended the operation, and acknowledged afterwards that he had a very rough seat on both

the Thoroughbreds, but as he had apparently conquered their objections in the first ride, nothing was said, and they were henceforth regularly ridden.

To give stallions the desired amount of exercise, a pony has been often brought into use for the man to ride and lead the stallion; but, although this has answered remarkably well with some horses of mannerly dispositions, it has not been altogether successful in regard to others that have shown an inclination to savage the man or the pony, or both. Such a plan adopted in the season for travelling Shires has answered admirably in many cases, and the horse has become so fond of the pony as to be fretful if separated at all, the small animal being always accommodated with a stall next to the stallion. Companionship in various forms has been recommended by stallion owners. The late Mr. Mytton, who had the successful sire "Flash in the Pan" for many years, insisted on his being turned out in a straw-yard every winter with the young bullocks and any old mares in foal, or such like, that would not hurt him, and he lived to a fairly good old age under this treatment. The companions, though, can be admitted without such undue risks, and a stallion will be wondrously fond of almost any sort of animal. Lanercost had a large dog, a cross between a sheep dog and a retriever, as his friend, and he was a bit of a guardian as well. When the horse took his racing circuits, they were inseparable, and Lanercost would not feed unless his canine attendant was with him. When this dog was lost, another of the same kind was procured, and in stud days Lanercost always had his dog with him. Vol-tigern's fondness was for a white cat, and to the day of his death he had one that used generally to sit on his back. Another frequent companion chosen is a goat. The late Mr. Forest Tod, in considering the excitable disposition of Satiety,

in all their stages of growth and maturity from a want of sympathy with their characters and natural requirements. A senseless lad may spoil a Thoroughbred two-year-old by one act of cruelty that has been unnoticed by the trainer or head lad, and a Shire may be rendered a savage because some ruffian has struck him unjustly. Then, there is the monotony of stable management, the hours of idleness in the limited-sized box, or, worse still, the small stall and the continual feeding on artificial food. Even the crack sire, worth thousands, with his box so arranged that he cannot hurt himself, looks a prisoner between four high walls; and does that sort of existence prolong his life or make him more prolific? It does not do to take the risks in regard to animals of so much value such as were advocated by the late Mr. Mytton, but there might be some modifications in that direction. There should be the summer residence and the winter for all stallions, if possible, and for those of very great value; special attention ought to be paid to the comfort of both. It might be that finer horses would be bred under better thought-out systems. There are more bad-tempered horses than there should be, and more stable vices, such as wind-sucking and crib-biting. Horses, as a rule, do not live out their natural terms of life, and there is less pleasure in keeping them if they are not regarded as sensible, intelligent animals, imbued with extraordinary powers of memory and of affection, if they are not eradicated by abuse or mismanagement.

### Examining Horses for Soundness.

Some excerpts from a bulletin issued by Purdue University on the above subject, will be found interesting. They are:

Generally a balky horse is one that refuses to work. Some will work single only. Others will

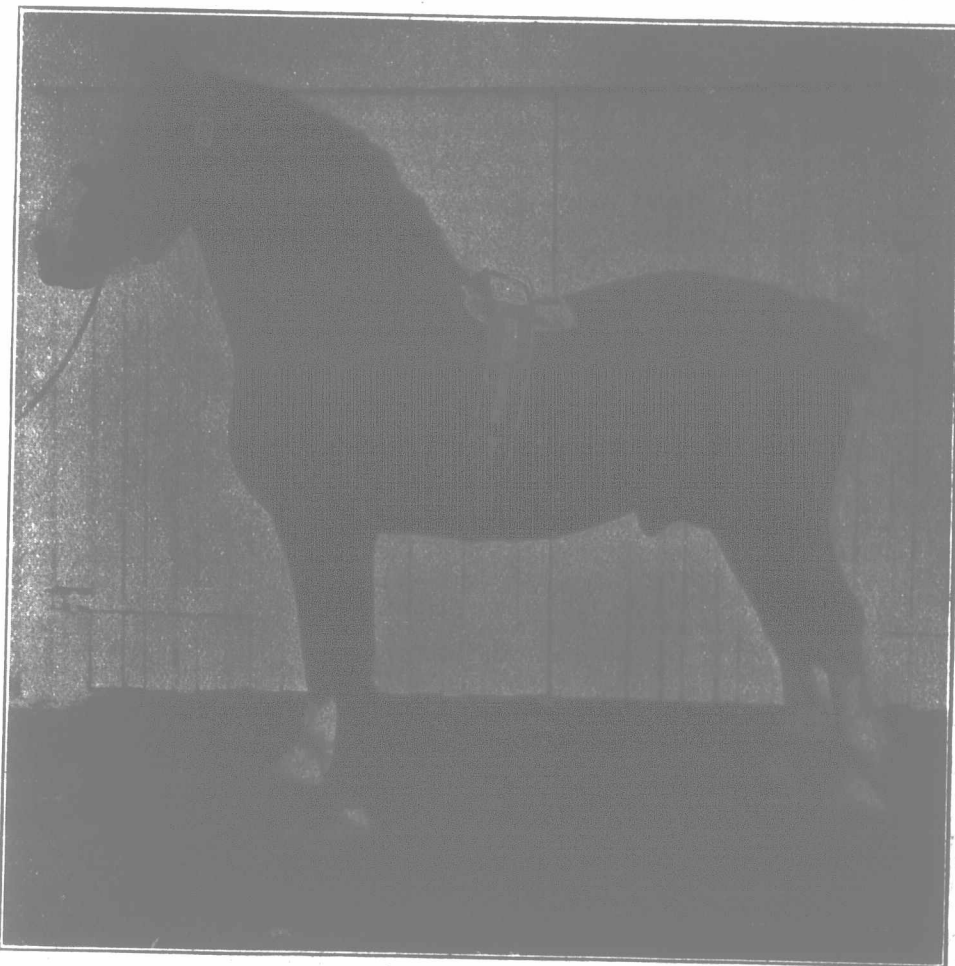
work only when harnessed with another horse. At public sales a horse is sold to work well double, but works a little green when worked singly, or vice versa. When this remark is made from the auctioneer's stand, one should always be on his guard and see that the animal is young enough to be unbroken. It is not generally from fear, but from stubbornness or determination to have his own way that he will not work. He is a very dangerous animal if he rears and plunges, as he may fall over backward, plunge forward sideways, sometimes throwing himself down. Animals that stand persistently, even with the fearful beating or whipping that is sometimes given, are the least dangerous. The balky horse should not be purchased at any price.

There are some horses that are so vicious and so dangerous that one should use the utmost care and caution in going about them. If they be

ticklish or shy, they are not as bad as those that bite and kick. If they cannot succeed in kicking or biting, they may strike with their front feet or attempt to squeeze one against the sides of the wall. While being groomed they may bite the halter strap. Some try to lie down, strike, and in many ways show their dislike of being curried.

Some horses may be perfectly tractable when being handled, but when approached with harness or saddle they begin to rear, plunge, kick, squeeze or bite. Others refuse to take the bit even after they are harnessed. Some will try to swell themselves up when the girth is fastened; others will object to the placing of the crupper. Again, we find horses that will object to being placed in shafts or being mounted.

The feet should receive special attention, not altogether from the disease point of view, but they should be taken up, one after the other, in order to be sure that they will permit shoeing.



Acme (10485)

Rated the 16th best breeding Clydesdale stallion in Scotland in 1905. First-prize and champion, Western Fair, London, 1906. Imported and owned by O. Sorby, Guelph, Ont.

though of a goat for him, and it quieted him immensely, the two, during the winter months, occupying a large loose box, with a yard to walk in and out of.

The most reasonable treatment for a stallion in the off season would be to give him a two- or three-acre paddock, well fenced, and a comfortable shed in one corner closed in on all sides, bar a very wide doorway; a thatched roof, if possible; and to be well away—a mile or two—from the breeding stud or stable. With a goat as a companion, time would pass away pleasantly. There would be no necessity to irritate the stallion by putting his tackle on or leading him out. He would exercise himself and be happy. The feeding should be changed, also, from quantities of hay and corn to a good share of roots in variety—carrots, mangels, swedes and kohlrabi. Horses like a difference of food as much as humans, and their whims and fancies should be all attended to. Numbers of horses are spoiled