

of action, though new, were appreciated by the thousands of strangers before whom he was moving. Of course he received the first premium, which he had won the same season at the Michigan State Fair at Detroit and the Ohio State Fair at Dayton.

As to the success of this breed of horses in the trotting circuit, we find by the records that no less than 100 Morgan stallions have sired trotters with well earned records of 2.30 or less, and that such Morgan trotters number fully 200. We could name these 100 trotting sires and also their trotting sons and daughters. Would cheerfully do so, but for the room it would occupy in your valuable JOURNAL. In addition to this formidable array of fast ones, we find not less than 12 sires of fast trotters (standard) with records of 2.30 or less, that have Morgan mares for their dams. We have already mentioned their peculiar adaptability for stage teams, but would like to give the statement of an "old stager" by the name of Milo June, who, by-the-way, was considered one of the best judges of horses of his day. When asked to give his views respecting the Morgans as staggers he said, "I have spent the greater portion of my life in staging, formerly in Vermont, now in Missouri. I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the decided superiority of the Morgan horses for coach service, over any others that I have ever used. I have bought many horses, in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri, and though an occasionally good roadster may be found, they are not common. Many of the horses of these States have fine forms and good carriage, yet lack the high, free spirit, unflinching courage and iron constitution the Vermont Morgans so generally possess. Very many of the western horses are too large. Large horses may be the best for draft, but I have always found horses of medium size weighing, say 1,000 or 1,050 lbs., the most serviceable and enduring by far, when used before a coach."

In connection with this subject I can but give you a copy of a letter from a man well known both east and west as being one of the most successful stage owners in our country, and the great fortune which he secured by his own exertions sufficiently attest his practical wisdom and the soundness of his judgment. His large experience at the west gives peculiar value to his opinion with regard to horses adapted to that country. The letter from which we quote was written to D. C. Linsley, Esq., and dated Chicago, April 21st, 1856. He says: "Being a Vermonter, I have known Morgan horses as long as I have known any. I have resided in Chicago the last 17 years, during which time I have been largely engaged in the business of staging, which business affords constant employment for about 1,500 horses, and have thus had opportunities for observing and testing the capacity and endurance of horses. I have no hesitation in saying I consider the Morgan horses far superior to any other breed or blood I have ever known, for the road or farm. In fact I would prefer them over all others for any kind of service on the American continent. They are invariably good feeders, are easily kept, and will not only perform and do more service in a year, but will give more years of service than any other breed of horses I have ever known. Of the horses hitherto raised in the western States, and particularly west of the lakes (although much improved within a few years, and many fine horses may now be found among them), it is undeniably true that a Morgan horse from New England will outlast two horses raised in the west. It is also true that but few Morgan horses have as yet been brought from New England west of the lakes, and generally true that their services are very generally sought by intelligent breed-

ers throughout the country. Any number of inferior horses may be found in the west which are claimed to be of Morgan blood. This attempt to palm off counterfeits is the highest evidence of the value of the genuine blood. The ready and general objection in the west with those who are not familiar with the Morgans, is want of size, forgetting that their size should be judged by their weight and not by the length of their legs, and that the same bodies, upon large legs, would look much larger." Signed "M. O. Walker."

I could continue to adduce testimony of a similar character to almost any extent. In my next I may present their claims as war horses.

Windsor, Ont., April 8, 1886.

(To be continued)

Our Nova Scotia Letter.

THE SHORTHORN HERD BOOK QUESTION—IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE.

The question of elevating the standard of the Nova Scotian herd book was raised about the beginning of the present year by one of the breeders in the Province.

In the abstract such a proposal would commend itself to the judgment of all breeders, who desire to see the business of the breeder placed upon an enduring foundation. It would also deserve favorable consideration from those who desire to see the use of pure-bred males more general than it now is; and who can estimate the great advantage in prepotency which belongs to the animal with a good pedigree. However, there are some interests which should be considered before a proper decision can be reached in the matter. In the first place there are a number of herds which have been formed and grown up under the standard of our present herd book, in which their owners have invested a large amount of money, time and care. These represent an interest which should not be too cavalierly dealt with. The owners of these herds commenced at an early day when there was very little to encourage, and have fought through the hardest years discouraging indifference on the part of the class in whose interest they were working. Hence these pioneers deserve every consideration.

But at the same time it would not be in the interests of the breeders themselves to remain uninterested in the great work of gradually raising the standard of breeding until it may stand as high here in Nova Scotia as in any part of the world.

In any business whatever, success must be sought at the top, where only it can be fully realized; and it would indeed be a foolish enterprise on the part of breeders to go on investing money in a class of animals which were not the very best attainable.

In Nova Scotia, with its magnificent grazing grounds, rich meadows and healthy maritime situation, affording a climate very similar to the native home of the Shorthorn, on the shores of the German ocean, we may expect to see this magnificent race of cattle maintain a degree of excellence as great as they show in any part of the world. And in consequence we should hope to see our breeders carefully examining the pedigree of their animals, and disposing of all that are at all inferior, and as rapidly as possible replacing them with those that are of faultless purity of breeding. Without this course it would not be of much profit to us, even to achieve great success in breeding and feeding, as our cattle would be excluded from the markets of all the countries in which the transactions in pure-bred stock are of importance. No matter how well we may succeed in developing the high qualities of the Shorthorn we could find no market in Great Britain, Canada or the United States,

for in all these countries it is fully decided that nothing which does not trace back to the original herds of the founders of the breed can be admitted to registration.

Under these circumstances, then, it seems clear that the proper course is to make no change which will effect the property of those who have invested in our present herds of Shorthorns; and at the same time to make as rapid progress as possible in substituting for any animals of defective pedigree those which are of pure lineage. The present herds are, in respect of many animals, of satisfactory purity of blood, and the animals which are defective, are still of great value to improve the herds of native cattle, with which our farms are for the most part stocked. Fortunately, just at this time, the action of the associations in Ontario has opened a course by which we may continue our present herd book, and at once enter upon the course of bringing our herds into line with the rest of the continent.

The rival herd books of Canada having been united in the Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book, it is to be hoped that all Nova Scotian breeders will at once avail themselves of its record, and will register therein all animals which are eligible, while the N. H. B. can be retained for the use of those who wish to use the blood of the Shorthorn without aiming at making a business of breeding and selling these cattle, and to whom animals of four or more crosses possess a practical value.

Even to those who may be called purists in this matter, and who would be disposed to insist that the proper course to be followed is to get back to the right track, that is, to absolute purity of blood at once, this proposal must surely commend itself, if it be fairly considered. The action of one or two breeders will determine that of the others, and there can be no doubt but that in a few years all those who aim at any prominence will have no animal in their possession below the standard of the Dominion herd book. In the registration of Jerseys we can find an analogous situation, as the several Provinces have their own herd books, while all higher class animals are in the American Jersey Cattle Club Register.

No inconvenience results from this; but on the other hand, while it inflicts no injury on owners of cattle registered in the Provincial herd books, it does confer a great advantage on all those who hold the higher class stock, by opening to them the finest markets on this continent. At present, then, it would seem entirely unnecessary to go to the trouble and expense of establishing a new herd book for Nova Scotia, to the injury of those owning cattle now registered in the N. S. H. B.

And furthermore, it would seem that even if this trouble were undertaken, it would be almost for naught, as certainly all who could do so would in preference resort to the Dominion herd book.

In a very short time we hope it may be possible for some of our breeders to go more fully into the work of importation and to draw supplies of breeding animals direct from those herds which have supplied the best blood to all the world. During the last four months this Province has gained some good specimens of stock, which has hitherto been wanting. In cattle some purchases have been made in Galloways and Herefords, which were imported, and being shipwrecked, were sold in Halifax. At same time a number of Shropshires of very good quality were secured. Nova Scotia now has representatives of nearly all the breeds of British cattle except the West Highland and Kerry. At present arrangements are being made for an importation of Polled Norfolk, and it is likely that