

This is in line with the dictates of common sense and economy.—*N.-W. Farmer.*

The Horse.

THE FARM HORSE.

Besides raising horses for market, it might be wise for breeders to consider the right kind of horse to raise for the farmer. There are hundreds of thousands of horses used on the farms of this country, and this number must be renewed in part every year. The farmer is really the greatest factor in the horse factor to-day, and a little consideration of his needs is necessary. In the past, old, wornout, sore-footed car horses have gone to the farms, and because of their cheap price many farmers bought them. But there are no more car horses to pick up cheap, and farmers are looking for good, serviceable horses, peculiarly adapted to their work.

Strength is not the sole requisite in a farm horse. The true farmer's horse is one equally serviceable in pulling the plough and trotting to market with a light wagon. The light horse should thus be a medium between the draft and road horse, and may be of the light draft stock or of the heavier of the road types. The illustration is from that the road type. Courage, determination and quickness in taking hold of loads are very important qualities in this kind of horse. Animals weighing 1,100 pounds with this qualities, will often be more serviceable than the team that weighs hundreds of pounds more. A quick, steady walker is very essential. Did you ever stop to compute how many day's work you could save in ploughing with a quick walking team as compared with a slow one? (1) The team that gets over the ground rapidly saves time and money to the owner. A slow walker is poorer for farm work than a slow trotter to the sportman, and the time lost thereby is much greater.

Farm horses should have good lung and good feet and legs, in spite of the old idea that sore-footed horses would do for the farm. It is foolish to think that sore feet are not a very great disadvantage. The horse must be able to produce a yielding purchase in the soil, and sore-feet will reduce his pulling powers greatly. Inherited sore feet are worse than those acquired, for no

(1) True, but can a good furrow be drawn after horses walking more than, say, 2½ miles an hour? *Ed.*

amount of care will then cure them. The farmer who attempts to raised colts for his own use should be careful to select good breeders that would produce progeny of the desired type. Very often the farmer can raise his own horses better than some professional breeder, unless the latter gives special attention to the needs of the farmer.

Farming.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF STALLIONS

France has done and is doing more along this line than any other country. By a decree of Dec. 9th, 1860, subsidies or prizes of from 100 to 600 francs each, according to the breeding and quality, were authorized to be given to approved mares with colts by Government stallions. On May 5th, 1870, the department of agriculture appointed a director-general, eight inspectors, twenty-six sub-directors, ten superintendents and twenty-six veterinaries. The work of this department was so satisfactory that in 1874 the number of stallions owned by the Government throughout France was to be ordered increased 200 per year until they should number 2,500, and the appropriations necessary for prizes awarded to breeding animals should reach 1,500,000 francs par annum.

In this organization one central object has constantly been kept in view by the French Government; that is the encouragement of the people to adopt a higher standard of breeding. To accomplish this purpose the choicest stallions of the different breeds and types were introduced into each locality, and offered for use to the mare owners at a nominal fee for service. To further prevent the use of inferior animals a decree was issued in 1885 excluding from public service all stallions not authorized by the Government.

In 1887 the Government owned 2,460 stallions and exported 34,518 horses from France during the same year, showing that other countries appreciate French horses.

While an elaborate system of this kind might not be practicable for this country, still something might be done in the way of licensing and inspecting stallions used for service that would be very beneficial in improving the quality of the horses raised in Canada. One great drawback is the lack of uniformity and some definite standard to which to breed up to. There is too much changing about and lack of system in the methods adopted by our farmers in breeding horses — *Farming.*