

salvation upon such matters as these, but I do hope when the piping times of peace return, that Canadian lovers of the light horse will turn to the English Thoroughbred stallion for the best means to fill the bill with quality-like, hunter-like riding stock, of an outline which can only be described as "breedy," i.e. bloodlike. You can't get away from the outline of a gentlemanly type of horse—can you? It is one of those things you can recognize but cannot explain. A bloodlike horse is like a natural gentleman: there's a way with both of them you can't put into mere words—is there not?

England.

G. T. BURROWS.

### Fitting Stallions for the Season.

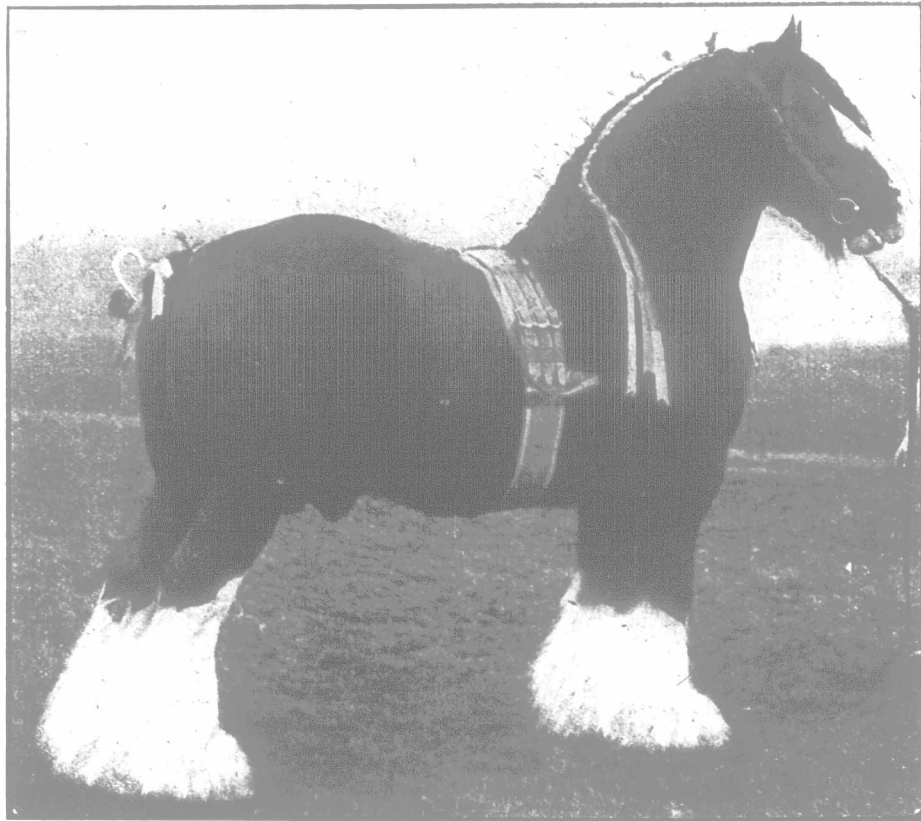
The failure of mares to breed, or the production of weak foals by some that reproduce, is not always the fault of the mares. The strength and vigor of the foal when born is dependent in no slight degree upon the vigor and constitution of the parents at the time of copulation and conception, and not due entirely to the manner in which the mare has been fed and used during pregnancy, nor to her health during that term. In order that a stallion may give satisfactory results in the stud as regards, not only the number of foals he may sire, but also the strength and vigor of the same and their likelihood to live and make useful and valuable animals, he must be in good health and vigorous during the stud season. Unfortunately many sires spend about nine months each year in comparative or complete idleness. The too common practice after the season ceases is to remove the stallion's shoes, turn him into a box stall (often a small one) and allow him to remain there without exercise other than that he can voluntarily take in the stall, the extent of which of course depends largely upon the size of the stall. During this period he receives little or no attention other than supplying him with food and drink. This continues until within a week or two of the commencement of the next season. The owner has no work or driving for him to do between seasons, has probably neither time nor inclination to exercise him simply because he should have it, and either has no suitable paddock or lot into which he could turn him for a few hours daily, or is afraid to do so in fear that he might injure himself in some way. The writer has in mind a highly-bred stallion, of excellent individuality and extreme speed, that was used in this way for many years. This sire was bred to many excellent mares of his class. He was on a route yearly during May and June, and by reason of his individuality, breeding and general characteristics was largely patronized, and, while he has sired a few high-class animals the percentage of "good ones" has been much less than the breeding and quality of sire and dams should warrant. A sire that goes practically without exercise during several months of the year cannot have the necessary muscular, respiratory and nervous power and energy that is necessary in order that he may do himself justice in the stud. The writer has in mind another horse-breeding establishment where a number of stallions are kept in the stud. The number is so great that it would not be possible to give each desirable exercise in either harness, saddle or in hand without considerable expense; hence no attempt is made to do it, but the owner has several paddocks of an acre or over, each well fenced, and each stallion is turned into a paddock for a few hours every day that is not extremely rough and stormy. He gallops around and has a good time generally, and it is very seldom that an accident occurs. In this way the constitutional vigor is kept up, and the percentage of foals is greater, and the percentage of weak ones among those produced much less than in the case cited where no exercise is allowed for several months.

It is probable that the experience of all stallion owners or of those whose observations have been directed in this line, will be much the same as the above. If this be the case it can readily be seen that in order to get the best results from sires it is necessary not to allow them at any time of the year to become constitutionally weak, either from want of exercise or the necessary food. Stallions in moderate condition have always proved more potent than those in either gross or low condition. The question then arises, "How are we going to prepare the stallions that have already stood in idleness the greater part of the time since last season to give satisfactory results the coming season?" The answer is, "Get to work with them as soon as possible."

In a few weeks they will go on the road for the season or stand at the owner's barn, as the case may be. Of course, the preparation must be somewhat gradual. Daily exercise should be commenced at once. The manner in which this should be given will depend upon the class of stallion, and the ideas or tastes of the groom. Heavy horses can be exercised on the halter, in a team at light work, or single at light work or on the road. The lighter classes of harness horses will probably be exercised in harness, or, if pre-

ferred, on a line beside another horse under saddle, Thoroughbreds under saddle or beside a saddle horse, or if educated to go in harness, can be driven. If this exercise can be given in doing something that has to be done of course the expense will be less, but exercise they must have in order to give them the necessary tone and power to give satisfactory service. A heavy stallion should be given a couple of hours light work, or six to eight miles walking exercise daily for the first few days, and the amount of work or exercise gradually increased until three or four times that amount is given. The lighter classes should be given about the same amount of work, but if simply exercise greater distances should be travelled. We consider that where work as driving is to be done that the stallions should do a reasonable amount of it during the interim between seasons, except possibly for a month or six weeks after the season ceases, when it is well to lessen the grain ration and proportionately lessen the amount of work.

In preparing horses that have been idle for months, of course, regular grooming is as necessary as exercise, and the food should be of good quality and easily digested and in proportion to the labor performed, and the grooms should always be careful to not allow them to become excessively fat. Violent changes of food, either as regards quantity or kind should be carefully avoided. Stallions that have been idle will no doubt have been given short grain rations, and the amount should be very gradually increased as exercise is increased. This precaution is wise in order to avoid digestive troubles. The food to be given does not differ in kind or quantity to



As Seen in England.

Danesfield Stonewall, winning aged Shire at the London Shire Show, 1915.

that which should be fed to horses being put into condition for any purpose. Hay and oats of good quality, a feed of bran and a little linseed meal a couple of times weekly, and a carrot or two daily gives the best results. The administration of drugs should be avoided. It is a mistaken idea that stallions should be given medicine in the spring, or in fact at any time unless they are ill. The administration of tonics, stock foods, etc., should be avoided. Under no circumstances should a healthy animal, be it stallion, mare or gelding, be given drugs of any nature. If any disease exists recourse should be had to drugs, but the drugs given should be those indicated by the existing disease. Medicines that tend to cause a horse to lay on flesh quickly, give a gloss to the coat, etc., are very dangerous, as they cause fatty degeneration and disintegration of tissue, and if continued for sufficient time to effect the purpose they permanently injure the constitution. Good food, good grooming, good general care and regular exercise are all that any healthy horse should be given to get him in condition.

WHIP.

The horse business is still at a comparative standstill, and so far the army demand has made little difference to the enquiry for heavier horses. But it would be folly to allow the trade to stagnate altogether. Demand must arise again, and that before very long. Breeders should not curtail breeding operations, but should plan to produce the best possible colts, as there is going to be no place for the scrub.

### Practical Pointers in Selecting A Stallion.

If farmers would pay more attention to their draft stallions of whatever breed, and breed in line and feed for growth, bone and muscle, they would make as much or more on horses as any other kind of live stock. An important reason why the farmer should raise the draft horse is the fact that he is the easiest raised and the most natural animal for a farmer to produce. This is an industry that ought to be carried on to a greater or less extent on every well-managed farm. The draft horse in easy to raise, consumes large quantities of coarse and rough feed, is docile in temperament, and grows and puts on flesh rapidly. When he is partially grown he carries sufficient bone and muscle so that he can be put to work at an early age and earn his living. On reaching maturity he has earned his living, converted coarse feeds into horse flesh, and if he is the right type of horse he can be readily disposed of at a price which will yield a good profit to the producer. Besides the value of the colt the average farmer seldom stops to consider the value of a draft brood mare that works a large portion of the year, besides producing that valuable foal.

Farmers ought to strive to produce heavy horses, carrying as much weight as possible. For every 100 pounds above 1,600 pounds with right conformation adds \$20 to the value of the animal. This ought to be sufficient reason to convince the farmer that the heavy draft horse is the one that will yield him the largest net profit. There are some cases where the colt of a scrub mare of good character looks almost, if not quite, as perfect

in form and quality as his pure-bred sire. This fact demonstrates the prepotency of the sire, that power which a pure-bred animal, from a long line of pure-bred sires and dams, has of transmitting to his progeny his breed characteristics and individual character, traits and quality with a great degree of certainty. It is prepotency of breed that makes it possible for an Aberdeen-Angus or Galloway polled black bull to beget a large proportion of black, polled calves from different colored, horned "scrub" cows. It is this prepotency that enables the individual bull or stallion to transmit not only his breed characteristics but his individual excellence of form, propensity and character.

Prepotency of both breed and individual come only from a long line of ancestry in the breeding of the individual animal. The grade possesses prepotency only in the degree to which he has been bred pure. For this reason no matter how attractive may be the form, character, quality and disposition of a grade stallion, he is likely to lack both breed and individual prepotency. The progeny will, as a rule, favor the "scrub" more than the pure-bred side of his ancestry. Further, it should be borne in mind that true grading up can only be done by means of a pure-bred sire. The offspring of the grade with a grade female makes no advance in breeding.

In all of our pure breeds of horses, breed prepotency is a fixed character to greater or less degree, and, for that reason pure-bred sires should be used. Grade sires, on the contrary, lack both breed and individual prepotency, and should, therefore, not be used for breeding purposes. There are exceptions to this rule, as to others, but, generally speaking, the use of grade sires for breeding purposes has been found detrimental and is not practiced in any country that has originated and perfected a breed of pure-bred horses. It should be discontinued in Canada, and not until this is accomplished can we possibly succeed in producing horses of the highest type and quality.

In grading up native stock with pure-bred sires it is best to avoid extremes. If the mares are small do not mate them with a great big stallion. Nature abhors extremes. Rather choose a medium-sized, compactly built stallion for he will give better results. If one has small mares to begin with it will pay to hasten slowly and lay the first cross foundation securely in a uniform lot of fillies to which a larger horse may be bred and

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