

need more communism and less individualism in our horse breeding. We need to work to the end that whole communities and not single individuals in each community will be producing horses fairly uniform in type and excellence. That result can be attained only where breeders come together for the improving of the breed in their district, where they organize with the definite object of securing the service of the best stallion available, and where they all adhere to one line of breeding for a number of years.

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Under our present system, or lack of system, in horse breeding it is surprising that results are secured as uniformly excellent as they are. A stallion owner starts out on the road this season and every Tom, Dick and Harry in the neighborhood breeds what mares he has. Next year something else comes along, owned probably by a "good head," and this stallion picks up pretty nearly everything the other one foaled the year before. And so it goes on. This year it's a low set, thick-bodied horse, short on quality and long on size; next season it's a "quality" horse, and the next a combination of the two. A bunch of colts grows up that represent several different lines of breeding. And the same folly perpetuated with the generation of females that come from such breeding as this leaves the district about as it was so far as uniformity in kind and type is concerned.

On the other hand if a neighborhood of farmers, most of whom were interested in draft horse breeding, could be induced to believe that the interests of each individual, and, in a large measure, his success, was wrapped up in the interest and success of the whole district, it would make a mighty difference in the way they set about breeding up their stock. There would be less of this jumping from one stallion to another; the same horse would be used for several years in succession, and by the time fillies from him reached breeding age another sire could be secured, and there would be in the district a sufficient number of mares of one distinct line of breeding to produce a fairly uniform annual foal crop.

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Our agricultural societies could, with advantage, give more attention than they do to the improvement of the horses in the districts in which they are organized. We do not know whether or not this kind of work is provided for under the act by which they operate, but if it is not it is time it were. Our agricultural societies, it seems to us, have been humdrumming along long enough. Offering prizes for the best horses and other live stock and farm products raised in a district is all well and good, but if a more direct means of getting at the desired result is to be found those means should be followed. Organized effort for more system in breeding uniformity into horses, not simply recognizing merit when it is produced, is a leaf we can safely borrow from the Scotchman's book of success in breeding Clydesdales. There is a larger work for agricultural societies in this country than some of the people concerned with the management of these organizations have ever dreamed of. The South Qu'Appelle society seems to be starting into a field of enlarged activity in which there is an area extensive enough to satisfy the largest ambitions of those who sometimes paw the air and talk loudly and long about agricultural educational work. Working along such lines as these is actually doing things. Theory is reduced to a minimum.

EQUITANT.

The Imperial Hunter Stud Book

John W. Brant, secretary Canadian National Records office, Ottawa, writes as follows in reference to "Scotland Yet's" criticism in THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, of May 18, of the Records Board in recognizing the Imperial Hunter Stud Book:

The Imperial Hunter Stud Book was placed on the list of recognized foreign records, which means that any stallion or mare recorded in it was entitled to enter Canada free of duty. The information to hand, contained in volume 6 of the

Imperial Hunter Stud Book showed that it had been established in 1901, and that it numbered among its life and annual subscribers many prominent people, among whom may be mentioned the Earl of Minto, Sir R. P. Cooper, Lord Howard de Walden, the Duchess of Hamilton and Earl Stanhope.

Representations were made to the National Records Committee jointly by the secretaries of the English Hackney Horse Society, the English Shire Horse Association, the Polo and Riding Pony Society, and the Hunter's Improvement Society, that the Imperial Hunter Stud Book could not be on our recognized list. It is sufficient to say that on these representations the Imperial Hunter Stud Book was immediately struck off.

Number of Mares in a Season

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I would be obliged if you would answer the following questions in your paper:

How many times should a mare be bred before one is reasonably certain that it will be impossible to get her in foal?

What number of mares could a Percheron stallion, between five and six years of age, be bred to in one season, and with good results? Could he be bred to three per day while he is on the roads?

Man.

SUBSCRIBER.

If mares are healthy they should conceive. If they are not they may be got in foal by repeated mating, but there is a strong probability they will not. If a mare does not conceive after being several times bred, and the stallion is known to be producing conception in a high percentage of the mares he is bred to, it is reasonable to assume that disease or abnormalities exist in the genital organs of the female. We would consider some of the past history of the mare. If she were an indifferent breeder, missing getting with foal every two years or so, and we were the owner of the stallion, we would consider her sufficiently "tried" after breeding twice, or, at most, three times. Such a mare should be examined by a veterinarian, and the trouble, if curable, remedied.

A horse of this age, in fact, any mature stallion, should be limited to two covers daily; three perhaps at a pinch, but never more. The object being to beget foals it is as well to be conservative and have the stallion do more "getting" and less "covering." A stallion may easily be pushed beyond this limit and foal a large percentage of the mares he goes to, but the practice is dangerous if one has in mind the maintenance of the powers of the horse.

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The way to get a good, fast walking team is to not overload and not trot them.

STOCK

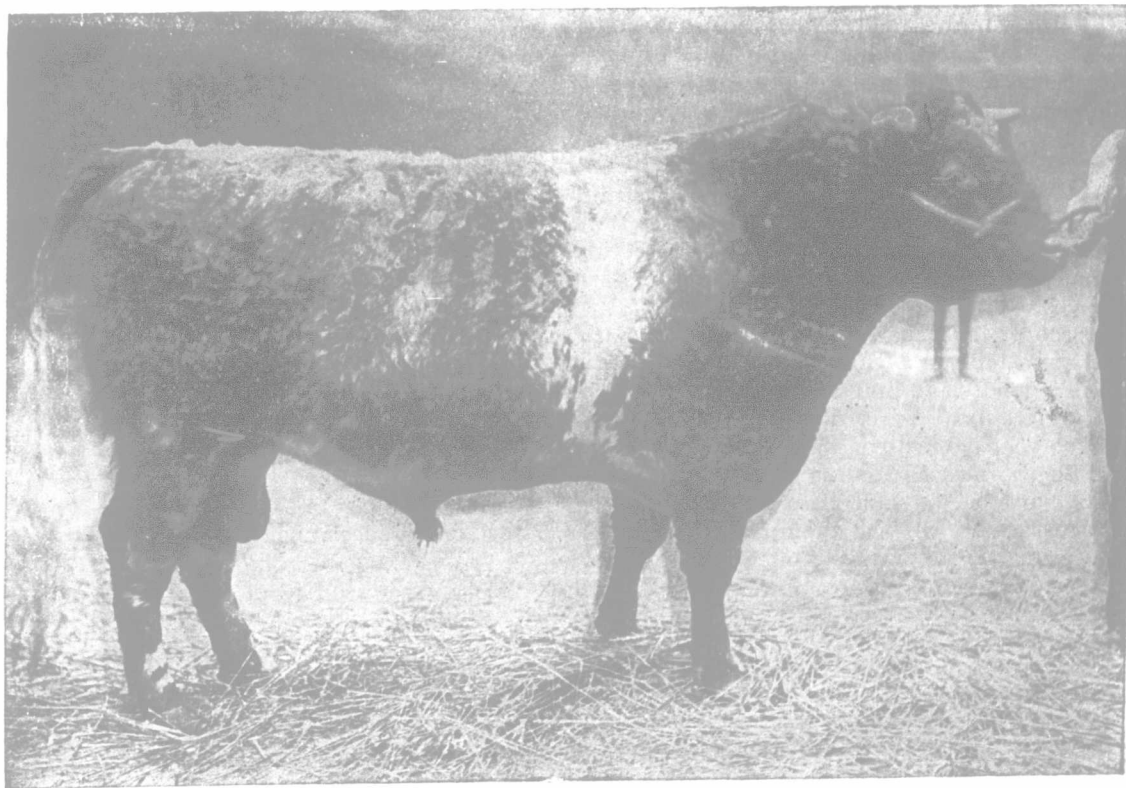
Notes From Ireland

The world-wide sense of sorrow and loss occasioned by the lamented death of His late Majesty King Edward VII. has found in no country a more spontaneous and sincere expression than in Ireland. A wonderful outburst of sympathy has gone forth from all warm Irish hearts to the royal family in their sudden and sad bereavement, and many even of those whose political views might bias their attitude, on such an occasion, have vied with each other in the eloquence of their heartfelt tributes to the supreme tact, unfailing sympathy and personal charm of our dead monarch. It is safe to say that no occupant of the throne ever enjoyed so much popularity or received so fully the love and esteem of the Irish people as King Edward did. His close identification with sport and farming, combined with his personal accomplishments of head and heart, gained for him a hold on the affections of the agriculturists of the Emerald Isle.

Many times did His Majesty honor Irish shows by sending high-class exhibits from his choicely-bred herds, and, when, shortly after coming to the throne, he competed at Cork show, he performed a kingly act in requesting the promoters of the event to accept as a donation to the funds of the society all the money, amounting to £17, won as prizes by the royal exhibits.

RIVAL BREEDS IN IRELAND

The recent spring show of the Royal Dublin Society was as notable a function as any of its predecessors, and an analysis of its features enables us to make a few deductions as to the progress of pedigree stock-breeding in the country, and also as to the ups-and-downs of the different varieties. Auction sales were introduced this year on a wider scale than usual, and special classes were set apart for animals intended for the auction ring. These far outnumbered in entry the open sections, and many, jealous of the dignity of the exhibition, have since been feeling that this departure is calculated to reduce the status of a national—indeed, international—exhibition to that of a commercial show and sale. Numerically, Shorthorns, with an entry of 496, were by far the strongest feature among the breeds, though there was a decrease of 77 on the previous year. They also realized, by a long way, the top price of the sales, viz., 330 gs., obtained by the Co. Wexford breeder, R. G. Wordsworth, for the second prize two-year-old bull, Orphan Stamp, while as much as 390 gs.



DAIRYMAN, SHORTHORN BULL, FIRST AT BIRMINGHAM RECENTLY