

Information re Co-operation.

"Enquirer" writes: "In view of the discussion now going on in the 'Farmer's Advocate' on the subject of co-operation, in addition to the instances that have been described, there are no doubt others in various sections of the country, particulars of which would be helpful if published by you." We will be pleased to have readers who have personal knowledge of cases of successful co-operation, either in the carrying on of farm operations, such as threshing, spraying, etc., or the procuring of supplies, or the disposal of the products of the farm, to report the same to us. In the case of unsuccessful attempts, it would be almost equally valuable to know the reasons why.

HORSES.

Licensing Mongrel Stallions.

The horse-breeding industry is one that now enjoys a wave of prosperity, to such an extent that nearly everything in the form of a horse can be reared at a profit. Every old, crippled mare that can bear up a horse is bred to something, often the cheapest mongrel that comes along. While present prices are likely to prevail for some years to come, what are we to expect of the entire stock if present conditions are allowed to exist?

While some farmers can be excused for breeding old, crippled mares, there is no excuse for patronizing the mongrel stallion, when so many good ones are available in the country. Many farmers make up their mind to use better horses in the future than they have in the past, but being poor judges and slack business men, before they have definitely decided on what line of breeding they will pursue, or what horse they will use, along comes a man with a scrub, and like the bookseller and the implement agent, the only way to get rid of him is to do business.

The Jew and the shoddy peddler must obtain a license before they can go through the country to impose on the public with their inferior goods. Why shouldn't the man who parades the roads with a scrub stallion be compelled to pay a high license to dupe and blindfold the poor farmer with his inferior article, who has not sufficient tact about him to positively answer in the negative to the persuasive entreaties of such an invader?

In the two Townships of Artemesia and Euphrasia, in the County of Grey, where the writer is best acquainted, to his knowledge no less than twenty-seven unregistered stallions travelled or stood for service during the past season, all doing more or less business. Allowing each horse ten mares in the two townships, which is a fair average, means a total of 270 mares, or a lucrative business for three good ones. The average is 13 one-half mongrel stallions, and 135 mares in each township. Supposing the same average exists in every township, what does it mean? As there are about 400 south of the Parry Sound boundary, it means 5,400 mongrel stallions and 54,000 mares bred to same. Making an allowance of 50 per cent. off for mares that miss and colts that die, we are raising 27,000 colts annually from these horses, and at the same time compelling a number of good horses to stand idle in the stables of our breeders and importers.

No matter how low horses are in price, there is, at least, on an average, a difference of \$25 between the selling price of a well-bred horse and an inferior one. Twenty-five dollars on 27,000 horses means, in ten years, a difference of \$6,750,000. Is this not an item worthy of consideration?

A great many farmers denounce the scrub bull and refuse to use him, and at the same time patronize mongrel stallions. If it is necessary to select a good bull, is it not more important to discriminate among stallions?

To illustrate the results of breeding to good and inferior horses, the writer is acquainted with two brothers, each owning a mare of superior breeding. The elder bred his mare to a \$10 horse, and advised the younger to do the same. The younger thought that \$10 was too much to pay, so patronized a \$5 horse. The younger brother purchased the older one's colt, and raised both under similar conditions. These horses, at maturity, were sold together on the market, and although the better one was a little used up, still he was good enough to sell for exactly three times as much as the mongrel-bred one. The mother of this mongrel-bred one, on a former occasion, was bred to a good stallion, when she raised a carriage horse that sold in the City of Toronto for \$900.

The writer is well acquainted with another man who purchased a mare in foal to an inferior \$6 horse. After she foaled she was bred to a \$10 horse. She missed that year, and was again bred to the same \$10 horse, when she got in foal. The result was: Both colts were sold in the

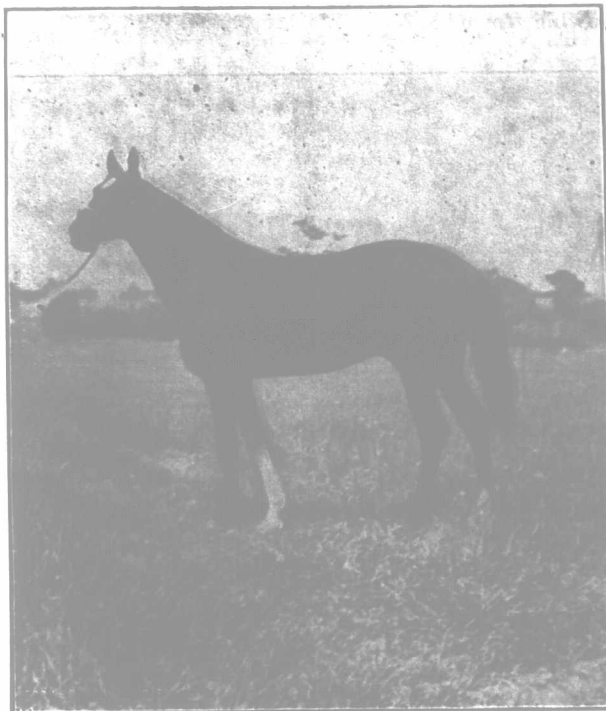
same month, at the respective ages of four and two years, the first one for \$135, and the second one for \$150. The purchaser of the latter, within one month, refused a straight-cash offer of \$175.

Hundreds of similar cases could be cited; still people continue to breed this class, although it is a waste of time and money, when good ones are available. The purer bred the stallion, the more impressive he will be, and the more likely are his colts to be what we are breeding for. Herein lies the advantage of the pure-bred over the grade.

If the above twenty-seven stallions were gelded, it would be impossible to select from them one first-class gelding; some might rank as second-class, and the balance would have to be graded down until it would be impossible to class them.

This class of stock is of no benefit to anyone, but rather an injury to everyone connected with the business. It is very discouraging for the men with good horses to compete against these that are sometimes run as low as one dollar. In one case the writer knows of a single-leap service being obtained for 60 cents.

There are unregistered individuals travelling better than some that are registered, still in the eyes of the practical breeder they must be classed as mongrels. As the value of our future horses depends largely upon the stallions used this spring, what are we to expect if we and our Federal authorities are satisfied with the present condition of affairs? What can our new Government at Toronto do



Abayan Kohellan 211.

A pure-bred chestnut Arab stallion. Imported and owned by Mr. B. A. Harvey and Captain Cameron, Cobourg, Ont. (See Gossip, page 618.)

this session that will be more appreciated by breeders and dealers, than to remedy the matter by imposing an annual license of \$200 and upwards on every stallion not eligible for registration in some one of the different studbooks? Some say, why not tax every horse? This would be detrimental to the business. The man who purchases a good horse has expenses enough without being burdened with license fees. Besides, the service fee would have to be raised \$2, or more, which would discourage rather than encourage breeding. It would prevent good ones from coming into certain districts. It is the mongrels we want to cut out, and not to burden the men who have or are willing to invest large sums and take great risks.

This being a subject worthy the careful attention of all, let every reader of the 'Farmer's Advocate' canvass his M. P. P., and insist on his doing all in his power to debar the mongrel stallion.

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Working Stallions.

The contention advanced some time ago in these columns that it would be to the interest of draft-horse breeding to give the stallions considerable work between seasons, is meeting with very general endorsement, and the idea is being largely circulated by other agricultural and local newspapers. Why draft stallions should be kept in a box and be approached as if they were wild beasts or specimens in the Zoo, is more than most of us can explain. Clydesdale and Shire stallions are kept for the purpose of begetting horses to do heavy work in the collar, yet these same sires are seldom used for this purpose, nor perform the work that is expected of their sons and daughters. The instinct for work is an hereditary trait, and should be intensified by

using the sires to the plow, wagon, and other implements. Not only so, but the keeping of stallions in idleness from generation to generation must necessarily result in physical weakness and soft, flabby condition. In no other class of live stock is such an unnatural practice followed as the keeping of sires to produce characteristics in their offspring that are not cultivated and developed in themselves. Would anyone expect to get fast trotters, high actors or speedy runners from stallions that had never been required to prove their possession of these characteristics by actual performance? With draft-horse breeding the situation is even worse, for the dams of most of our stallions are mares that are seldom put to work. Fine appearance and show bloom are all very well to have, but the first and most important characteristic of the draft horse is ability to work and to keep at it, and if the breeding stock do not prove themselves capable of this, how can we expect to get it in a large degree in the offspring?

The Arab Horse.

There is a good deal of misconception regarding the true "Son of the Desert" in Canada and the United States, chiefly because very few people on this continent have ever seen or had anything to do with an Arab bred in Arabia, or whose progenitors were high-caste animals from that country. It is customary to call any horse that comes from Eastern countries, such as Morocco, Tangiers, Algeria, etc., an "Arabian." This is a misnomer, as these horses are Barbs, very different to the Arab, and very inferior to him. The best Arabs are bred in Negd, a district of Arabia, where the Bedouins have for generations bred them with the greatest care. No mares are allowed to leave the country, and although an occasional one is smuggled out, it is a very rare occurrence.

India is the chief market for the Arab horse and pony, some 2,000 being brought from Arabia to Bombay by Arab dealers each year, where they find a ready sale as officers' chargers, polo ponies, etc., some of the best, which give promise of making a name for themselves on the turf, fetching \$1,000 to \$1,500 apiece; the average price, however, of a green Arab pony, which looks promising for polo, at one of the dealer's stalls, is about \$300. The Arabs apply the general term "Kuhailan" to their pure-bred horses, in a manner somewhat similar to our use of the word "Thoroughbred." The parent trunk "Kuhailan" has produced four great branches (Saklavi, U'Baiyan, Hamdani and Hadban) and they and it (Kuhailan) are known in Arabic as Al Kamsa (the five).

Esa bin Curtis, one of the largest importers of Arabs into Bombay, always maintained that the best Arabs did not, as a rule, exceed 14.1 to 14.2 hands in height, and this is the opinion of most judges of Arabs, who also maintain that the larger horses, 15.1 hands and over, have foreign blood in their veins. This applies to Arab horses bred in Arabia, as we know that when bred in England, climate, feeding, etc., tells its tale, and the horse grows bigger than he does in Arabia. The Arab cannot compete on the race-course with the English Thoroughbred, although he is undoubtedly the origin of that animal. He is not bred for speed over a short distance, but for endurance, courage, docility and ability to subsist upon poor food and stand rough usage. The Arab is a most pleasant horse to ride or drive, being free from timidity, impetuosity, sidgetiness, jibbing and other vices, and when used as a sire to English or other mares, transmits these qualities and his sound constitution in a very marked degree.

The principal colors of the true Arab are bay, brown, chestnut and gray. A piebald or skewbald Arab is absolutely unknown, and the same may be said of dun and cream. There is a curious idea in Canada that an Arab is a "spotted" horse! Such an Arab was never foaled. One of the most characteristic physical points about the true Arab is the beautiful way he carries his tail: It is set on very high, and its muscles are particularly well developed. The hair of the mane and tail is never coarse, and the dealers have a saying that they can pass a high-caste Arab horse's tail through a finger ring. He has a handsome, intelligent, well-set-on head, broad forehead, large kind eyes, well-carried ears, lean and wide jaw. His shoulders are well sloped, good legs, strong and sloping pasterns, and feet like iron; his loins are very powerful. No horse can compare with him for soundness of barrel or levelness of croup.

In India he is used for all sorts of purposes, from carrying a lady on her morning ride to carrying a man of 200 pounds through a long hot-weather day, "pigsticking," when he has to gallop at full speed over the roughest and most treacherous ground, to allow his rider to spear the wild boar, and face the furious rush of that animal when he charges. And to whatever use he is put, he comports himself as a thorough gentleman.

"BEDOUIN."