

and towns, form a majority of a certain social class which dominates the whole student community and visits upon the timid minority indignities in which only the snob and worthless rich are small enough in disposition to indulge. With our Western provinces things are not the same. We have not class distinctions, the people of our towns never attempt to raise social distinctions based upon the circumstance of choice of business or professions so long as the work is honorable and the people of the country do not by timid subserviency invite such distinctions. In fact, it appears to the ordinary observer as though every young man and woman of the farm in the West is envied by those whose business keeps them residents of the commercial centers.

So long as such social conditions prevail, the associations of one profession with another will not work any harm or reflect any discredit through false conceptions of the dignity of work. Rather, in a country such as ours, where the reward is so emphatically to the man who works with his hands, and the increase of whose lands in values is so rapid there is a danger of the association of students of different sciences and arts resulting in a disparagement of the "learned professions." Complete autonomy, nevertheless, should characterize the arrangement of the courses of study and the details of management.

As a matter of fact, however, the battle is to the strong. Where a faculty is composed of strong personalities, where each college receives funds sufficient to carry out the teaching undertaken, where absolute impartiality exists in the governing body of the university and province there is little danger of one profession suffering by contact with another. And whenever there is a sign of dissatisfaction among students with the course they have chosen it may be regarded as a need of more enthusiasm and strength in the staff of that particular college. Saskatchewan is doing well to consider carefully before making a final choice, Alberta will probably come face to face with the same problem, both provinces are so situated that they are comparatively free from the aggravating circumstances with which other provincial and state universities have to contend.

## HORSE

The Alberta horse breeders will try the experiment of judging horses in the evening in an enclosed ring at next spring's stallion show.

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At the Manitoba winter fair and stallion show at Brandon, there will be no classes for mares and fillies. A new class is provided this year for draft stallions, any breed, that stood for service in Manitoba during the season of 1908.

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A beautiful picture on heavy paper of that greatest of all Clydesdale horses, Baron's Pride, may be had by getting a new subscriber to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. There has been a big run on these pictures, and we are hearing from a lot of delighted people who have got them by sending the new names. It is a picture that commands attention on any wall. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE can be recommended to horse lovers on the ground that it exceeds all other Canadian papers in the publication of matter pertaining to the horse.

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The directory of breeders of pure-bred stock issued by the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, gives the total number of pure-bred horses in Canada as follows:—Clydesdales, 2,457; Percherons, 284; Shires, 54; Suffolk Punches, 18; Belgian drafts, 26; French drafts, 28; Hackneys, 248; Thoroughbreds, 64; standard breds, 171; French and German coach, 7; French-Canadians, 110; Ponies, 70. As an approximation, the directory serves a certain purpose, but its figures are by no means accurate.

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There should be no doubt of the value of new, warm blood in improving the war and saddle horse stock of the country. New supplies of Thoroughbred breeding horses have not been coming into the west in very large numbers of late years, in fact, it has been a case of one now and again, hence all the more attention should attach to the sale of Kentucky Bloodstock at Carberry on the 17th inst.

### Show Ring Practices

A correspondent to the *English Live-Stock Journal* has the following pertinent remarks regarding objectionable usages and practices in the show-ring:

Looking back at past shows, one is struck by the ever-increasing abuse of sawdust, covering the backs of Shire horses with sawdust, or, to be more correct, paper dust. How often at the ring-side is the question asked, "Why is it used?" and never an intelligent reply! Some folk answer, "Oh! it catches the judge's eye." Possibly it does, much in the same way as it catches the onlookers' eyes when the horses are trotting past, or if one happens to be on the lee side on a windy day. Then one exhibitor will say, "Others do it, so we must." This indeed, is unanswerable, because of its absurdity. Next we hear, "It makes them look bigger." That being so, it is only one step on to add some binding material to the dust; call in the aid of an expert modeller, who, with a trowel and a few other tools will be able to make some noble specimens out of frameworks.

These are some reasons given for the coating of dust, but I have yet to discover the reason, if any exists, for those weird stripes and tufts of soap and dust which are perpetrated on the bodies and limbs of the unfortunate quadrupeds. Are they intended for decorations? If so, then prehistoric man had better art training. There is not another breed of horses shown that it is thought necessary to disfigure in this way. Why then, should Shires need to be hidden under this papier-mache covering?

In the early days of the Shire Show it was practically restricted to yearlings and two-year-olds, and only appeared over their loins. The reason given—viz., the prevention of chills—was altogether acceptable, considering the bleak weather we get sometimes in February; but now it is used on all ages and in all weathers, and many are really encased in it from head to foot. A more absurd sight to a lover of horses than a large class of Shires as now shown would be difficult to imagine.

Surely the time has come for some exhibitor to lead the way by exhibiting his horses as nature made them; it would be more pleasing to the eye and less dangerous to that organ.

### Educated by Buyers

"My experience as a horse-flesher," says E. Thorndyke, "is simply this:—I buy all my horses on the theory that the day you buy is the day you sell; that is, if you buy a first-class horse to put flesh on, you have a first-class horse when done, or you should have—if you do not overdo him with strong food. It does not require very much feed to make them in high condition, or to hold them in saleable shape until such times as a buyer comes along with a price sufficiently high to make it pay.

"One of the drawbacks in fleshing horses is that you start one to be finished March 1, but a buyer comes along and makes a bid, but his figures are too low to leave enough to pay for feed and to replace the horse. The result is you hold on. April comes, and a buyer bids you all you asked; but you need him badly for a few weeks, and horses are busy, so you decide you cannot spare him, and probably take less money later on in the season, when you can replace him in a few days.

"Suppose you buy a rough-coated fellow. A buyer comes along and says he would give lots of money for him only for his rough coat. You lose \$20.00 on him, and take that as an eye-opener, and will not get caught that way again. The same is true where horses' feet are too small, or where the bone is not sufficient for the body; also for those with poor sight, and a great many other defects. In fact, I got my experience from the men I sold to. They have to sell again, and, therefore, must buy right in order to be able to sell, and a buyer who comes to your locality regularly gets to know you are in the business, and will give you a pointer as to buying in future. Soon your eye becomes trained in regard to quality and prices. You must know what such horse would sell for if fleshed. You must get your profits or you will soon go out of the business. Frequently the experimenting stage does not last long.

"A four-year-old off suits me the best. You feed and work him for a year, and resell at five years, at which age he comes into saleable condi-

tion, both as regards coat and appearance in general.

"As to feeding, I use hay and oats mostly feeding light at the start and up to such time as the blood becomes right and the horse has a good covering of flesh. Then I increase the grain ration, and as flesh increases there seems to be more heat within, and a strong, well-proportioned horse will almost live on oats. Plenty of water at all times is necessary. This class of horses can be handled for \$25.00 per head. Heavy horses would cost \$40.00, or perhaps \$50.00, for fleshing. It requires more for feed, and something extra is needed for trouble and risk, as life is uncertain amongst animals.

"Now, as to finding the horse you want. Some day when you are driving along the road you will meet a horse that you consider would suit. You may not know the driver, but stop him, and tell him you like his horse. It will not make him vexed. Find out where he lives, take down the number of his lot and the township, and then when you want a horse you have some idea where to go."

### Suffolks Stand the Test

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Mr. Turner may have read our letter on the Suffolks with a "good deal of amusement," but evidently second thoughts caused him to answer it in a different strain. Perhaps he felt the responsibility of answering for the other breeders.

The reason why we wrote the letter was an article in your paper which said that the Suffolk is not a draft horse, while the Clyde is.

Mr. Turner says that our remarks on the breed of horses were "odious," perhaps so, the truth is not always pleasant.

Mr. Turner says that he did not know that any Suffolks were shown in Calgary, he must have a convenient memory, as we had the pleasure of showing him our three-year-old stallions, one of which was sold during the show for a very large cash price to Gleichen, where his owner says he has made many friends. Also we should have thought that as a director of the show Mr. Turner would have made himself familiar with the horse exhibits. As for him not hearing anything about them, we can only say that we showed our horses to hundreds of visitors, all of whom declared themselves delighted with them. "But there are none so deaf as those who won't hear." We saw Mr. Turner's horses judged and the remarks we heard were not complimentary to say the least of it.

Mr. Turner insinuates that our horse's girth of 7' 4" is not true, we can only say that hundreds of people saw them girthed, we readily take Mr. Turner's word of 7' 6" being the girth of the largest Clyde, the girths of aged winning Suffolks at home average over 8 feet; size and weight are not necessarily fat, and a good big one is better than a good little one. As to cost of keeping it is acknowledged in England that the Suffolk is the easiest of heavy horses to keep, he is also the longest lived horse and the toughest.

Mr. Turner states that soundness, conformation and true action are the essentials of a draft horse. exactly, we took it granted that they were the essentials of all horses, but further than this, we maintain that if the race horse is bred for speed, and the carriage horse for style and action, the draft horse is bred for weight.

We apologize if we took a liberty in measuring horses, we thought they were there for inspection and we asked permission of the men in charge. we should be pleased for the public to measure ours, with or without permission. The bone of our Suffolks measured 10, 10, and 11 inches respectively, below the knee and their legs are as clean as those of a thoroughbred. Mr. Turner says that a man who asks the weight of a horse shows no knowledge of one, perhaps he tells his customers this, when they ask their usual question, "how much does he weigh?" Mr. Turner says that Liverpool is the best market for the heavy geldings, exactly, but it is the best market for their light horses, however good in conformation. Perhaps Alberta is the best market for the light geldings.

Very respectfully,  
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