

Canada we have ample proof of an insufficient draft-horse breeding industry. About four years ago Ontario investigated the status of the industry and the people, regarding its improvement. The industry has taken on no new life; breeding stocks are not noticeably increasing in numbers or quality; improvement lags. Is there not a suggestion in the action of the British bodies for the Ontario and other Provincial powers? There are different lines of action, but the increase in the number and quality of mares, the eradication of the scrub stallion, the improvement of the general type of stallions now used, the improvement of the care of breeding stock, and the raising of more horses by farmers, are the things to be sought by the best means devisable.

Clydesdales in Canada.

By J. C. Snell.

While a few Clydesdale horses were imported from Great Britain to Canada previous to 1840, there were no pedigree records of the breed kept in either country until nearly forty years after that period, consequently the breeding of very few of the earliest importations could be definitely traced. The first edition of the first volume of the Clydesdale Studbook of Great Britain and Ireland, commonly called the Scottish Studbook, was published in 1878. The breeding of the horses recorded in that and some of the subsequent volumes was gathered largely from the memory and private records of breeders, and from route bills of horses that had travelled for service, which accounts for the very short pedigrees of many of the early entries.

Pedigree records of Clydesdales in Canada were first instituted in the office of the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario in Toronto in 1882, with the late Henry Wade as secretary and registrar. The Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada was organized in 1886, with David McCrae, of Guelph, as its first president, and Henry Wade as secretary. The first volume of the Canadian Clydesdale Studbook was published in 1886, and contained pedigree records of 320 stallions and 240 mares, a total of 563 in the book proper, and, in the Scottish appendix, 363 stallions and 124 mares, a total of 487, making a grand total of 1,050. Volume 17, published in 1909 (the volume now being issued yearly), contains entries of 849 stallions and 1,799 mares, a total of 2,648, while the grand total in the 17 volumes published figures up to 25,448, which gives some idea of the growing popularity of the breed in this country. It is but fair to state, however, that a considerable number of these are entries of Old Country sires which have not been imported, but whose pedigrees have been inserted in order to make the records complete in the Canadian Book.

The earliest recorded Clydesdale stallion imported to Canada was Gray Clyde, numbered 170 in the first volume of the Canadian Studbook. He was a gray horse, foaled, according to the record, about 1837, and imported in 1842; while, in the footnotes of a portrait of the horse, copied from a drawing appearing in Volume 6, his date of birth is given as 1839, and his importation as in 1841, by Archibald Ward, of Markham, Ont. He was travelled in 1843 and 1844 by Wm. Armstrong, in 1844 and 1845 by Richard Geddes; was awarded first prize at the first Provincial Fair, held at Toronto in 1846 (when seen by the writer of these notes, when a boy), followed in a parade by 17 young gray stallions of his get. Since there is no standard color for Clydesdales, it has always seemed to the writer unfortunate that a prejudice should be entertained against gray, as appears to be the case. The color may not account for it, but many of the best and longest-lived horses I have known have been grays or roans, and when we read that both the dams of the parents of that greatest of Clydesdale sires, Prince of Wales (673), were grays, it would appear to have a valid claim to being a good Clydesdale color. Grays look particularly stylish in street lorries in large cities, and bring higher prices than horses of other colors, other things being equal. In 1847, Gray Clyde was travelled by Jos. Bell, and was again awarded first prize at the Provincial Fair, held at Hamilton in that year. In 1848 he was travelled by the late Joseph Thompson, of Columbus, Ont., and was that year shown at the New York State Fair, held in Buffalo, and obtained the first prize and championship in his class. In 1849 he was again awarded first prize at the Provincial Fair, held in Kingston, and was sold in the fall of 1851 to Kilgour & Cushman, of Kentucky, but was not delivered until the following spring, and he died in October, 1852. Gray Clyde was high-spirited, and a very showy horse for one of his weight, and was lacking, as are too many yet, in depth of ribs. His legs were of a good kind, but had less spring of pastern than is now in vogue. The feathering of his fetlocks was less abundant than the present fad of fashion requires, and, but for the demands of fashion, one might conclude that he was no worse for that feature. Certainly, quantity in this commodity should give place to quality, as fine, silky hair is almost invariably associated with strong, sound, flinty bone, and the absence of a tendency to

grease or scratches. Gray Clyde nicked remarkably well with the light mares of the country at that time, the breeding of which was much mixed, the blood prevailing being that of Thoroughbred and French-Canadian sires, the get of which were hardy, active, strong for their size, of great endurance, and well adapted for the long haul of farm products to market, before the era of railways in this country.

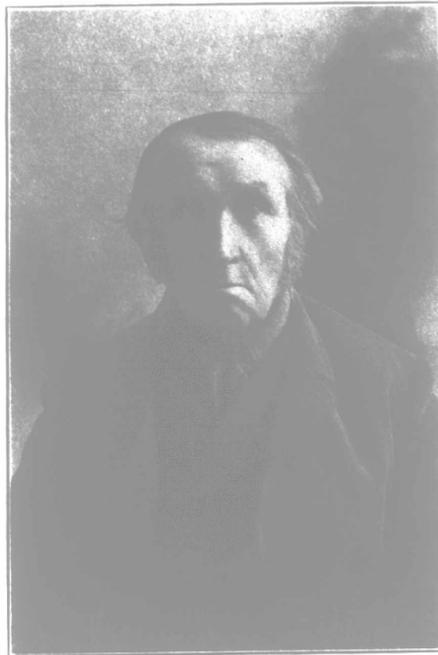
Mention of Joe Thompson recalls my first meeting with that born horseman, when, in the fifties, a bright, cheerful young man, he travelled through



David McCrae.

First President of the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada.

the Counties of Peel and Halton the imported Cleveland Bay horse, Grand Exhibition, winner of first prize at the first International Exposition, at Paris, France, where he was purchased by a gentleman of Buffalo, N. Y., and soon after importation became totally blind. He was a remarkably handsome and well-proportioned horse, and left a lot of very desirable carriage and general-purpose progeny in the district in which he travelled. Thompson, for a man of moderate means, later on cut a very prominent figure as an importer of Clydesdale stallions, despite a number of serious reverses, he having several times lost on the sea



The late Joseph Thompson.

Photo taken at 80 years of age.

voyage his only horse, and returned with but a bridle and a blanket to show for his outlay, but his neighbors, admiring his courage and enterprising spirit, helped him out by subscribing to a fund to give him another chance to try his luck, and he succeeded in landing Netherby (126), in August, 1864, then a big, strong-boned, loosely-built bay colt, with a white spot on forehead, with very little pretensions of quality or style, and very far from the approved type of the present time, but he proved a remarkably successful sire of a class of colts that were in great demand,

and sold for very high prices, enabling his owner to wipe out his debt, and placing him financially on easy street. Gray Clyde's virility, or power of procreation, was extraordinary, an idea of which may be gathered from the statement of one claiming to have been cognizant of the facts, that in one year he was mated with 365 mares, and left 250 foals. Netherby proved a veritable gold mine to Joe Thompson, and set him soundly on his feet financially. The last time I remember seeing Joe in the show-ring was at the Dominion Exhibition at Ottawa in 1879, when, in the Senate Chamber in the Parliament Buildings, he received from the hand of Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise the gold medal for the champion heavy-draft stallion, a grand yearling Clydesdale colt, whose name I cannot now recall. A fellow feeling for Joe was entertained on that occasion by the writer, who, at the same time, received a similar token from the Royal hand, and, as neither of us had brought our dress suits, nor practiced the "goose step" essential to properly facing and retiring from the presence of Royalty, the ordeal was somewhat embarrassing. Thompson lived the life of a bachelor, and spent his last twenty years or more with William Smith, of Columbus, Ontario, where, with the many good horses imported and kept by that enterprising horseman, he was always at home, for he loved a good horse with all his heart, and talked horse as long as he had breath.

(To be continued.)

LIVE STOCK.

Alfalfa Hay vs. Bran.

Dairymen, to a large extent, consider bran an indispensable food, if high production is to be obtained and maintained in the herd. Those who have made a careful study of the subject are aware that protein is the constituent of the bran that makes it of value. Milk contains an approximate average per cent. of 3.5 of protein, which means, with a four-gallon cow, that about a pound and a half of protein appears in the milk each day. The process of milk secretion is accomplished by an extreme activity of the cells. Protein serves as a stimulant to cell activity, and, consequently, for these two reasons, high production in dairy cows is attained only by the use of rations rich in this constituent. But the high prices of bran have caused many men to seek an economic substitute for it. This has resulted in the use of cottonseed meal, oil meal, gluten meal, and various other by-products. Any man can readily tell which of these feeds is the most profitable for his use for dairying, if he obtains the per cent. of digestible protein in them. In this respect, some of these feeds as put on the market by different firms vary from time to time, though, if unmixed, they may be relied upon as being constant.

Only to a degree have farmers been able to supply this necessary protein from their fields. None of the grain crops are sufficiently rich in it. Of the hay crops, the clovers have been practically the only crops grown. Of late, alfalfa, which is essentially a clover, has been more and more coming into general use. It is about twice as rich in protein as the ordinary clovers, usually nearly equals or exceeds bran, containing, as it does, about 11 per cent., or higher, and may be compared with gluten feed or gluten meal, which runs from 18 to 25 per cent., oil meal, 29.3, and cottonseed meal at 37.2 per cent. Thus, from an acre, from three to five tons of a feed practically equal to bran is capable of production on a large percentage of farms. In actual tests made by J. H. Grisdale, Dominion Agriculturist, in which alfalfa was fed in trials against bran, this valuable hay gave results practically equal to those obtained with the bran in the way of milk production. While the experiment may not be considered conclusive, yet we may confidently expect a duplication of it to be corroborative in the results.

Such results necessarily demand that the hay be saved in good condition, which is more difficult with alfalfa than with the other clovers, since it has more delicate leaves, and the first cutting often comes in poor haying weather. But even if it is not saved in the most desirable condition, if it can be produced in moderately good shape it may still prove equal to from two-thirds to three-fourths the value of bran for dairy cattle, and should surely still appeal to the man who has been paying out for feed almost as much as he has been getting for his milk.

"The Farmer's Advocate" is the best agricultural paper in Canada, and is brimful of useful information from cover to cover.
Huron Co., Ont. ALEX. GRANT.