

HORSE

The Manitoba Jockey Club, Limited, has been reincorporated, with a capital stock of \$500,000. The incorporators are: R. J. Mackenzie, D. E. Sprague, Geo. F. Galt, Hugh Sutherland, William Whyte, John S. Hough, A. M. Nanton, Hon. Robert Rogers, E. L. Drewry, Geo. A. Carruthers, Judge David M. Walker, Capel Tilt, Dr. M. S. Inglis, Thos. W. Taylor, W. R. Allan.

New Trotting Record

The world's trotting record for two-year-olds was beaten by three seconds the other day at Lexington, Kentucky, when the two-year-old filly, Native Belle, trotted a mile in 2.07½, the best previous mark being 2.10½. Not only was the world's time for two-year-olds lowered, but the colt came within one second of equalling the fastest time ever made by a three-year-old. Native Belle is looked upon as a coming record breaker.

Get Weight But be Sure of Quality

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

"Handicaps of Horse Breeding," by Dr. A. G. Hopkins, in an issue some time ago, is much to the point. His reference to undersized stallions made up to weight by heavy feeding is well worth the serious study of men contemplating the breeding of draft horses. "What will he weigh?" is about the first question asked in this country of the owner of a Clydesdale or other draft type of horse. The fallacy of such a question is plainly apparent. Two hundred pounds added to a stallion through his bread basket may explain the meaning of the old saying that "much of the breed goes in at the mouth." It has one redeeming feature, perhaps: It may prove that he has the aptitude to lay on flesh, showing him to possess the right kind of constitution. Beyond this, however, it is useless, particularly to the owners of mares using him for breeding purposes. He is not likely to leave as many or as strong foals as though the two hundred pounds of superfluous avoirdupois were absent. I have often heard the remark: "How can you tell the size of a horse without knowing his weight?" If a man has not seen the animal he must have some way of finding out his size. A much safer and easier guide is to find out the height of the horse and formation generally. If he is seventeen to eighteen hands high on short legs, plenty of good hard flat bone, well muscled, with deep, well sprung, rounded ribs, you know he has size enough without enquiring about his weight. Some object to too much size. For drafters get all the size you can every time, but don't sacrifice quality or action in doing it. The Scotchman's advice that "A house is no good without a foundation" is sound; but the Englishman's reply that, "An engine is no good without a boiler" is equally sound.

Sask.

FRANK SHEPHERD.

Anti-Gambling Laws

"Race-track Gambling in the United States and Canada," is the title of a pungent article by W. B. Findlay, in the Presbyterian, of Toronto. A few years ago, New York State, by popular vote, amended the State constitution, the amendment prohibiting gambling on race-tracks anywhere in the State. The gambling interests being astute and influential, were not at all dismayed, but actually succeeded in having the amendment so worded that, instead of prohibiting race-track gambling, it actually legalized it. Then ensued the fight in which Governor Hughes stumped and canvassed the state, and, in spite of powerful moneyed interests, succeeded in carrying the Hart-Agnew amendment to the criminal code, which simply carries out the wishes of the people as expressed by vote. Pool-selling or book-making is now prohibited at any time or place in the state of New York.

Louisiana, for long the headquarters of a great lottery scheme, was a ground on which the race-track gambler flourished during the winter months. The situation became so scandalous that the Legislature was forced, in 1908, to pass an amendment so drastic that it wiped out the winter meets in New Orleans, and drove the race-track gamblers from the State.

The States of Missouri, Texas, California, New Jersey and Illinois have each passed stringent

legislation, prohibiting gambling in connection with horse-races, in spite of the great pressure brought to bear against such action by racing associations. The writer, in referring to the Chicago race-tracks, a paradise for gamblers, says that they "were cut up and sold for building lots, and the race-track gambler folded up his tents and started for Ontario."

Almost all the great States, with the exception of Maryland, Florida and Kentucky, have amended their codes in order to meet and successfully grapple with this great evil. In Canada racing is carried on on a large scale at Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Fort Erie, Windsor, Victoria and Vancouver. "The good people are provided with race-track gambling facilities from May till October of each year, and bookmakers can legally ply their trade. Canada, and especially Ontario, furnishes a refuge for the sharks and gamblers that have been driven out of so many of the great States across the border, and would rather hunt around for fresh pastures than quit their fiendish business. Is it not time for Canada to have her laws so amended as to hinder this worst of all dumping?"

Syndicate Horses

When living in Manitoba the writer remembers a certain firm bringing in a black Percheron stallion to sell to a syndicate of farmers. The farmers, however, were somewhat slow to take shares and the agent began to be anxious, but being, as our Scotch families would say, "a canny chiel," resolved to try a little trickery. He knew well the coarse, but true quotation:

"Fools rush where angels fear to tread," but he also knew that man, in one respect, at least, resembles a flock of sheep, where one leads the rest will follow. It was very plain to him that the "angels" (*i. e.*, the best known men) feared to take shares in this horse, and that in order to get the "fools" to rush he must procure a leader. This could not be done without expense, but it is a common business trick to "give a sprat to catch a whale."

He, therefore, offered one of the leading men in the district a share in the horse for nothing, and \$50 in cash, simply for the use of his name. To another he offered a share for his signature, and to a third he offered a share at half price for his name. (The writer was one of these three.) Although these three declined to accept the shares, the names of some prominent farmers were obtained, and then the work was easy. No sooner were these names seen than all timidity vanished, for, if the men whose names were shown thought enough of the horse to take shares, surely there was no question about the genuineness of the transaction.

Twenty men formed the syndicate. Each

share was \$200. Therefore, the horse was valued at \$4,000. The writer is a veterinarian, and valued the horse at less than one-tenth of this sum, because both hind limbs were badly diseased, and so little did he think of the animal that he refused to accept, "free gratis and for nothing," the service of this horse to two of his mares.

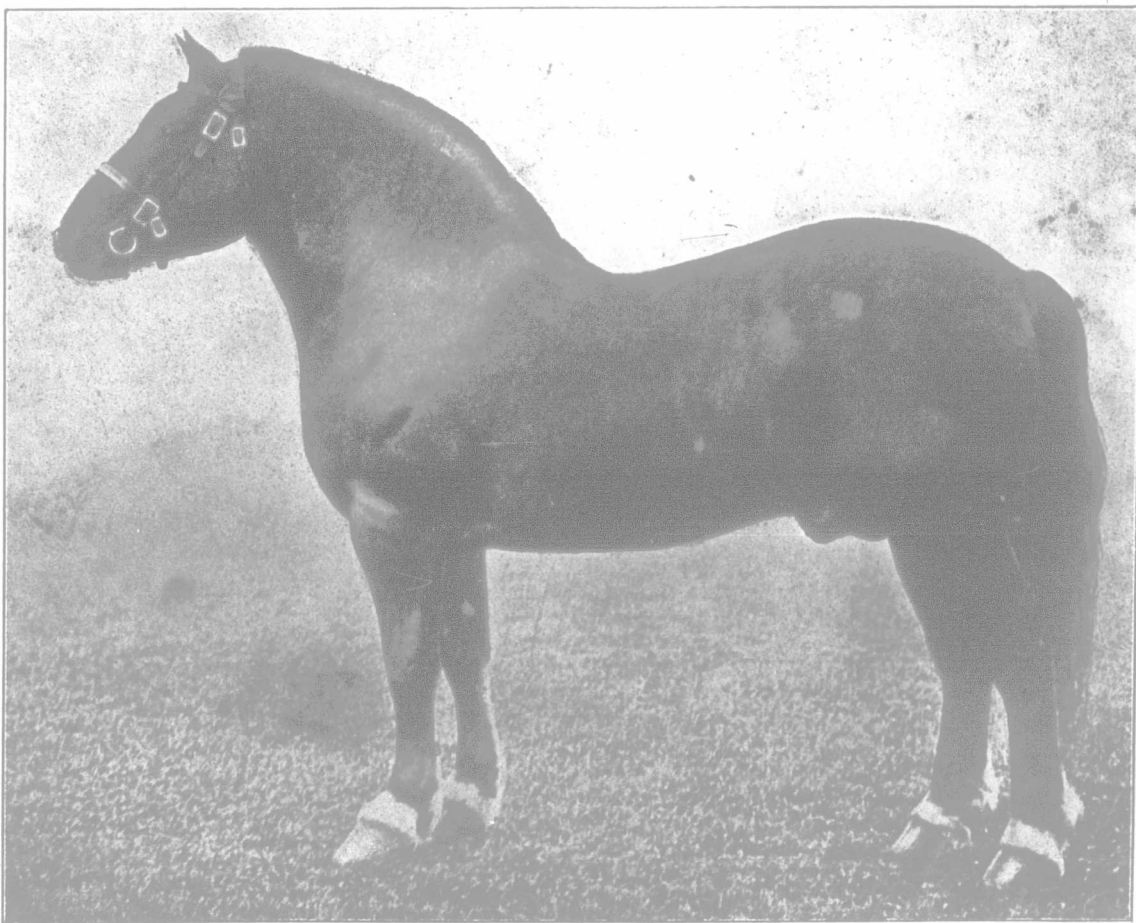
N. B.—The syndicate business is becoming played out, though it still flourishes in some remote quarters.

It is just as well, before adding your signature, to make sure that those shown to you are genuine. In the district where the writer is at present residing a horse was syndicated. Not one of the syndicate received any papers. Not one has accepted any responsibility. Not one has paid or received any cash. The horse has recently been sold by auction and realized less than his livery bill. One of the shareholders told the writer that *he is unable to write*, yet his "signature," as one of the syndicate, appears on the list! This is peculiar, to say the least. The firm supplying the horse threatened some time ago to take legal action, but this is as far as it has gone up to the present.

The writer was offered a very small "jack" for \$300, and laughingly declined to deal in jack rabbits, as he termed the undersized brute. This jack was afterwards syndicated in another district to twenty members at \$150 per share!

The leading Canadian papers within the past three years contained a very instructive case, and those subscribers who file the back numbers of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE can find full particulars in its pages. A horse was syndicated and shortly afterwards became sick. It was attended by a local veterinarian, who casually spoke of the horse's age as twelve years at least. This was stoutly contradicted by two shareholders who were present, because by the "papers" given when the horse was bought the animal was but seven. Shortly afterwards the horse died, and the veterinarian's words made so much impression that the syndicate decided to send the head to Winnipeg and obtain the opinion of some of the leading professionals there upon the question. The reply was that the horse's age was between twelve and fourteen, and was probably nearer fourteen than twelve. The shareholders then refused to pay for the horse, and the matter was taken into court, where the judge upheld the farmers on every point. He advised them not to pay one cent of what was owing, because the pedigree was that of a horse seven years old, and the horse they had received was thirteen or fourteen years old. Therefore, they had not received the horse they had bought.

J. FIELDING COTTRILL.



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