

Issued  
Each Week



# The CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD



Only \$1.00  
a Year

AGRICULTURE, THE KEystone OF CANADIAN PROSPERITY

Vol. XXVIII.

FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 22, 1908

No. 13

## Policy in Horse Breeding

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THE encouragement given to horse-breeding by the high prices and active demand for horses, is inducing many farmers to breed their mares more freely, and to consider the advantage of raising and selling marketable stock. Hitherto, many have been inclined to think only of their own work, and the needs thereof, rather than the possibility of deriving a permanent source of profit from this line of agricultural enterprise. But, as it becomes more and more of a business proposition, it follows that the principles of competition must obtain here, as in any other commercial undertaking; and he who produces the article demanded, can set his price, and control the trade. Indiscriminate breeding, and lack of judgment in mating mares, has been working havoc with our horse interests. In many cases where a man has had road mares as well as heavy draft mares, they have been bred to the same horse, this not infrequently belonging to neither class. Such a course, in many cases was determined by personal consideration for the owners of the sire, or because of a reduction in the fee. There is a growing consciousness that this state of affairs ought not to exist, as it can never result in anything else than, in the production of mongrels.

A knowledge of the principles of breeding, and an intuitive ability, whereby the results of particular matings are anticipated, are essential to the successful breeding of horses. The first step is to have in mind a definite type. This should agree with the types of horses that are bringing the best prices in the market. In Ontario there are at least four types that are receiving notice—the saddle type, the road type, the carriage type, and the draft type. Of all these the horse that would classify under the last group is probably the most profitable for the farmer to raise. The selection of a breed or type must always be a matter of individual taste and preference. The average farmer has neither the time nor ability, nor the opportunity to so train a light horse as to render him a saleable animal in his own class. Moreover, the draft colt develops into an animal more serviceable in farm work and is saleable and workable at an earlier age than one of the lighter breeds. Altogether he is a safer proposition to the man who is not a master in the art of breeding, feeding and fitting horses for sale-ring and market.

There is a bright prospect of success in raising carriage and saddle horses, as we have many good ones of this type, that we can select sires from to produce these horses. The road horse, if of the right kind, is saleable. It is, however, a difficult matter to find a sire that will produce his kind uniformly, and one may well hesitate unless having the use of a horse, with the character of whose progeny he is acquainted.

### SELECTING THE BREED

Having, then, one of the market classes in mind as a model, the next step is the selection of a sire. This must be largely a question of individual preference. It is always wise to take into account, the class of horses most generally raised in a particular district. If the farmers of any given section, would agree to stick to some special breed, secure suitable mares of that breed and use reasonable intelligence in selecting a sire,

It is desirable that persistence in breeding be emphasized. When once the line of operations has been struck there should be no swerving from that line. Nothing can be gained by rushing from one breed to another. If the heavy mares do not produce good foals by a certain mating, then try another stallion of the same class. It is better to gradually work up the standard by breeding the small, tidy mare of good quality to a horse considerably heavier than herself, but not of the extremely weighty sort. Abrupt matings are often disappointing; a loose, leggy, shabby horse is too frequently the result. By thus working a steady improvement there will be more stability of type and less probability of reversion to previous inferior types.

### THE LIGHTER HORSES

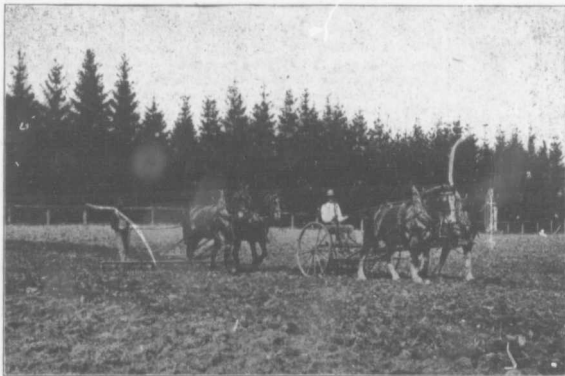
In selecting a horse to sire saddlers the thoroughbred may be most safely depended upon.

There is, however, a difference in thoroughbreds. A prepotent sire must himself show the conformation, temper, constitution, character and action that we are hoping to see reproduced in his progeny. If a man has one or more good mares that are not heavy enough to breed draft horses, and are not too coarse, the thoroughbred stallion is the only light sire from which he can expect to produce a saleable colt. The result of such breeding will in all probability make a heavyweight saddle or hunter. If he be deficient in quality for these classes he will make a useful farm horse, or, what is usually known as "the general purpose horse."

In the selection of a carriage sire we have a

great latitude of choice. The breeds of stallions commonly used are the Hackney, Standard bred, the Coach horse, and the Thoroughbred. Much, however, depends on the individual characteristics of the mare. When impure mares are bred to any of the first three named breeds care should be taken that the former have considerable hot blood as there is not sufficient prepotency in these sires to overcome the cold bloodedness of the dams. Hence, where this point is neglected the progeny is often a disappointment.

The thoroughbred sire is the only safe light horse to cross with a cold-blooded mare with the hope of producing a high-class light horse. The Hackney may be said to be the best ideal for the heavy harness horse. So long as the animal has fair conformation and style and possesses the extreme height of action with sufficient length of stride he will sell for a fancy price. The Hackney is practically the rich man's horse.



SEED-TIME ON THE COLLEGE FARM AT GUELPH.

A good seed bed goes a long way toward insuring a bountiful harvest. The soil should not be worked up too deeply. The best returns are secured from cultivating to the depth we intend to sow. The seed, when placed upon the firm soil below, is in the best possible position to obtain moisture, and thus to withstand the drought of summer.

that section in a few years would become famous for the class of horses adopted. Much higher prices would be obtainable than where only an isolated animal can be bought. Buyers would come to the section, and of course could afford to give much more per head where the required number of horses could be purchased in a small area than where a large tract of country had to be travelled to secure them. For instance, a very large percentage of the mares in Ontario that are adapted to produce heavy horses have one or more crosses of Clydesdale blood. Racially, the majority of the people favor the Clydesdale. He is a popular horse on the city market, and he adapts himself well, also, to the requirements of farm work. As a Province, we feel that we cannot do better than to confine ourselves largely to the development of our draft breed, and seek to win a reputation as breeders along this line.