

in 1822, had the round barrel, the short legs and heavy but long neck of Marshland Shales. The sire of the Charles Kent mare was a horse of individuality, and he came from a district which for over a century has been celebrated for trotters. Although his blood cannot be definitely traced, it is reasonable to infer that he was a direct descendant of Jenkinson's Fireaway, the grandson of Old Shales. Through breeding the daughter of imported Bellfounder to Abdallah, son of Mambrino, son of imported Messenger, a horse was produced who founded the great light harness family of America."

So much for the Bellfounder branch of the Fireaway family, but here is another branch heard from in an entirely different quarter. The following letter appeared in the *Turf, Field and Farm* of March 28th, 1884:—

"EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—Your article on the pedigree of the sire of the Charles Kent mare reminds me that the Bellfounders are not the only line of Fireaways on this continent. Long ago, before what is now Winnipeg was thought of as anything more than a Hudson's Bay trading post, in the Red River Valley, some of the prominent officers of the Hudson's Bay Company brought out several stallions from England, and among the best of these was a horse called Fireaway. The descendants of this last mentioned horse were all exceptionally good trotters (for that country), and invariably noted, not only for their admirable trotting action, but for their excellence as all-day roadsters. As the natives of that country know much more about furs than horse breeding, I was never inclined to believe their assertion that Fireaway was a thoroughbred horse, as none of his descendants that I have seen showed much quality. They were, however, finely turned blocks of horses, heavily muscled, and having excellent knee and neck action. Some of those that have been pointed out to me as showing in a marked degree the characteristics of the old horse stood full fifteen and a half hands high, were fine coated, and of a peculiar color that can be best described as a dark yellow, or light brown bay, with iron gray mane, tail and legs. The mane and tail were unusually heavy, and the legs, though invariably broad, clean and sinewy, were somewhat inclined to be hairy. I think I can safely assert that several of these horses raised in the Red River Valley, and having no trotting blood except that what they took from Fireaway, were able to show a 2:45 or 2:50 clip without anything like scientific handling. On the other side of the house these horses came of Cayuse and Indian pony strains. One of the best Fireaways I ever saw was at Edmonton, 900 miles northwest of Winnipeg."

"W. H. WILLIAMS."

It would certainly seem as though the Norfolk trotter had had something to do with founding trotting families on this side of the Atlantic.

The Hambletonians, the Tippos and the best trotters to be found in the North-West, are all rich in the blood of the Norfolk trotter.

For the information of the many who have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Isaac Morden, it may be added that he is one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Prince Edward County, and that he is a gentleman wholly incapable of anything even bordering on deception or misrepresentation. What he says of Tippo may be relied on as absolutely correct.

## Correspondence.

### A PLAN FOR PROMOTING THE HORSE-BREEDING INTEREST.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN BREEDER.

SIR,—Since you take the suggestions of a correspondent of the London *Field* upon the above subject in England, and modify them to apply to Canada, I may be pardoned if I go further and apply them to Mexico, but still, as you shall see, in the interests of Canada.

In the way of live stock Mexico is a most incongruous country. The native horse can be bought for a mere song and yet a good showy saddle-horse will sell at from \$500 to \$1,500, and stylish carriage horses realize figures that the Canadian breeder never dreams of getting.

The Mexican horse is of good height, generally somewhat over fifteen hands, but is light in bone and body, yet a very serviceable, wiry animal, and in many instances shows all the graceful points of its ancestor the Arab. They have the true blood and are very fast for short distances, and will stand any amount of slow travel; they are no good for farm or carriage purposes. From in-and-in breeding their strength has degenerated; still, their pluck remains. It is the custom to castrate the best colts in the herds for the master's or administrator's saddle, and if there should be a colt more weedy than the others and the chances against him standing castration, he is left entire, as they say "he will do for a stallion anyhow." As for exchanging stallions with another owner, the thought is generally far from their minds. So this in-and-in breeding has been going on ever since the time of the conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards. For all this indifference to selection and breeding, no one is a greater admirer of a fine horse than the Mexican, and he will pay almost any figure for an animal that pleases him. Since the introduction of railroads and the influx of foreigners into the country, larger, heavier horses are required. Wells, Fargo & Co., and other corporations and business men, have to import all their horses. The army is constantly in want of larger horses. Why cannot a Canadian company be formed to breed the horse and other stock required? Mexico has all the necessary "raw material" in the way of mares, pasture and climate. Suitable brood mares can be selected from the herds at about \$15 per head, the finest of grazing lands can be bought for less than a dollar an acre where the grass grows all the year round, not a cold day to stop the growth of the young animals, no hay need be cut for winter use, and if corn should be needed, three crops can be taken off the same land in a year. The climate is delightful and healthy, and there is abundance of fine running water. Canada has the wherewith for the completion of this splendidly paying enterprise in her home-bred stallions. I can honestly speak from my personal experience, that Canadian-bred animals do better in Mexico than those of any other country; they seem to suffer nothing from the long journey, arriving there in good condition and at once put on flesh and improve in all ways upon their Canadian appearance. They acclimate perfectly; I have taken animals of all kinds and breeds from here to Mexico in the height of summer and the depth of winter, and yet with all these sudden changes have never lost an animal from the effects of climate.

What I have said regarding horses equally applies to cattle, hogs and other stock. The poorest bred beef meets with a ready sale on the haciendas near the large towns, and brings a higher price on foot per pound than the Canadian farmers with their hundred dollar an acre farms and well-bred animals, get for their dressed meat peddled out at

the local markets. Lard sells at wholesale in the City of Mexico at 21 cents per pound.

Should this prospect interest any of your readers I will gladly give them any information and assistance in my power.

Yours very truly,

B. N. E. FLETCHER.

Woodstock, Oct. 14th, 1885.

### CANADIANS IN DAKOTA.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN BREEDER.

Knowing that you take a very active interest in all matters pertaining to Canadian farmers and stockmen, wherever they may be, I take the liberty of sending you a few items of news concerning some few of the many Canadians located in this region.

About two years ago, John Carroll, of St. Catharines, Canada, was passing through this section of Dakota with a friend, when happening to remember that he was near the farm of Samuel S. Peck, with whom he was well acquainted, he decided to pay that gentleman a visit. Mr. Carroll at once became interested in the country and began to purchase land in this vicinity, and before long he was the possessor of about 4,000 acres lying in Township 114 and Ranges 50 and 51. He returned to Canada and immediately shipped 33 horses to this place and purchasing more here set them to work. He began ploughing on the 8th day of October, and before cold weather settled down he had turned almost 1,200 acres of soil. At the present time he has 2,800 acres under cultivation and during the harvest just closed he gathered of wheat alone, 1,600 acres, with 350 acres of oats and 100 of barley.

Mr. Carroll is now busy ploughing and threshing, the latter operation being likely to give employment to two powerful steam threshers for at least three weeks to come. His crop will foot up not less than 30,000 bushels of wheat, 16,000 bushels of oats, 4,000 bushels of barley, and 1,500 bushels of flax. He has built this season granaries having a capacity of 60,000 bushels, and it is his intention to hold his wheat till spring.

Prices are good here this season, hard wheat being in good demand at from 80c. to 90c. per bushel.

Mr. S. S. Peck, formerly of Minden, Ont., is located about five miles from Mr. Carroll's (Castlewood) and he too is making a thorough success of farming in Dakota.

Mr. Hugh Mathewson, formerly a well-known journalist in Toronto, has a fine farm near Henry, D.T., for which he has recently purchased some exceptionally fine sheep and cattle in the shape of Shropshire and Shorthorn grades.

W.  
Fargo, D.T., Oct. 15th.

The famous brood-mare Ivy Leaf, property of General W. G. Harding, died at the Belle Meade Stud, Nashville, Tenn., on September 17th, from colic. She was a chestnut, bred at Woodburn Farm, Kentucky, by the late R. A. Alexander, foaled 1867, and by imported Australian, dam Bay Flower, by Lexington, out of Bay Leaf, by imported Yorkshire. The following is a list of her produce:

- 1872—Missed to Enquirer.
- 1873—Ch. c. Bazar (Waddell), by Jack Malone.
- 1874—Lost foal by imp. Bonnie Scotland.
- 1875—B. c. Bramble, by imp. Bonnie Scotland.
- 1876—B. f. Bonnie Leaf, by imp. Bonnie Scotland.
- 1877—Ch. f. Bye-and-Bye, by imp. Bonnie Scotland.
- 1878—B. f. Bramaletta, by imp. Bonnie Scotland.
- 1879—Ch. f. (died), by imp. Bonnie Scotland.
- 1880—Lost foal by imp. Bonnie Scotland.
- 1881—Ch. f. Eclat, by Enquirer.
- 1882—Ch. c. Thistle, by imp. Great Tom.
- 1883—Ch. c. by imp. Great Tom.
- 1884—Ch. c. by Luke Blackburn.
- 1885—B. c. by Luke Blackburn.