

spraying their crops with either the Burgundy or Bordeaux mixtures, which have proved so effective in preventing the ravages of the noxious fungus. Haymaking was much delayed until a lot of the grass became overripe and past the most profitable stage for cutting. In brief spells of better weather, a good amount of mowing has been accomplished, and in many places the unsettled atmospheric conditions have led many farmers to consider the advisability of converting the grass, not into hay, but into ensilage. This plan does not find general popularity in Ireland, though, during such a season as this, the conviction must be borne home on many minds that good ensilage is much to be preferred to badly-saved hay. Turnips were very late in being sown, but are coming on well, the destructive fly not hampering their growth. Cereal crops are also putting on the inches, but in many fields might look a good deal more flourishing. "EMERALD ISLE."

Dublin, July 8th, 1907.

HORSES.

THE PROBLEM OF THE HORSE INDUSTRY.

III.

In order to improve various classes of live stock, what might be termed a crusade has been carried on in the past. Something similar is needed now in order to improve the classes of horses bred and start people breeding along correct lines, and to a definite type. To begin with, local associations might be encouraged by Government aid. From these, upwards, comes more widely-representative associations. True, some sections and townships have associations, but generally they are not carried on in a way that is productive of the best results. The Dominion and Provincial Associations are good and necessary, but, until they are backed up, the other smaller associations, beginning with the small district clubs, and from these clubs upwards, they will be like a heavy building that has a shaky foundation. Where the local organizations are alive and working, the people have usually a definite aim, and work upwards towards it. They know the kind of horse they want, and go out to buy that kind. Thus, the syndicate or horse-trader with the poor horse at an extortionate price cannot do business in such places. A premium is thus placed on the good animal, and the scrubs and grades find their proper place as geldings.

STALLION ENROLLMENT BENEFICIAL.

The enrollment of stallions standing for service has proved beneficial in our own Western Provinces, and in some States of the Union. In the Canadian West, all owners of stallions must send to the Department of Agriculture of their respective Provinces, if the horse be a pure-bred, a copy of the Certificate of Registration, and an application for enrollment. If the copy is found to be correct, and issued by a Register recognized by either the Ottawa or the Washington Departments of Agriculture, the horse is duly enrolled as a pure-bred, and a certificate of such enrollment is sent to the owner, a copy of which must be on every route bill, and a bill must be posted on the inside, as well as outside, of the stable door, wherever the horse stands for service. Certificates issued by the Canadian Horse Register, of Toronto; the Ontario Draft, Coach and Roadster Horse Association, of St. Thomas; the late Dominion Draft-horse Association, of Goderich; and Percheron certificate signed by S. D. Thompson, of Chicago, are not accepted as pure-breds unless they are first accepted by a recognized Book and registered therein. Copies of certificates from these Books have been received by the Alberta and Saskatchewan Departments within the last year. The horse-owners in almost every case declared that they supposed their animals to be pure-bred, and the certificates all right. In Manitoba, an owner make take a statutory declaration that his horse is sound, and he will be enrolled as such. If this is not done, the copy of enrollment states that this has not been done, and, therefore, cannot be enrolled as a sound horse. Grades and cross-breeds are also enrolled, each on form for themselves.

From time to time bogus pedigrees are met with, a few transfers refused in lieu of regular certificates, and other shady work brought to light. Accurate data are obtained as to the breeds most common, and also the proportion of grades to pure-breds used. Usually there are from three to four grades for every two pure-breds.

In Wisconsin, in addition to making application for enrollment and sending in a copy of the certificate of registration, if the horse be a pure-bred, the owner must either take oath that his horse is sound and free from hereditary diseases or have a veterinary surgeon examine him. This law has had the effect of retiring many horses that would otherwise be used and passed as sound or with a "nothing-to-hurt" trouble, for there is seldom a disease that the owner or groom cannot satisfactorily account for. Otherwise, the work-

ing of the law in Wisconsin is similar to the laws in our own West. In all of these States, these laws, though not perfect, and though their intent and purpose have often been evaded, yet they have given a great stimulus to horse-breeding, and placed it upon a safer basis.

A law compelling owners to have all stallions used for service inspected and enrolled, if up to a certain set standard, would be a step along the right lines. Certificates bearing the Dominion seal only should be recognized. When there is no register open for the breed in this country; then, certificates from Books recognized by the U. S. Department of Agriculture might be accepted. This would lessen the bogus-pedigree trade. Each horse might be examined by two men—a veterinarian and breeder or expert in breeding, and in the particular breed—who would see that the horse answered the description given in the pedigree certificate. Horses with hereditary unsoundnesses should be disqualified, also those which, by reason of age, were physically unfit to use in the stud; likewise, horses of bad conformations and of a type that would be a detriment rather than a help to the breed. The pure-breds might be divided into three classes, while grades and cross-breeds would go in a fourth grade. In class No. 1 would go horses of each breed that were sound, and of superior quality, correct action, normal size and true type. Class No. 2 would take in all horses which, though sound and excellent in many respects, were lacking in some particular point or points that would debar them from coming into the short leet in No. 1 company. Class 3 would be made up of all the rest of the pure-breds considered fit for service, but not good enough to be classed in either of the foregoing classes—horses that were of fairly good conformation and quality, but plain and faulty, it might be, in symmetry, size or action—in short, the cheap, dear horse so common. In class 4 would come the best of the grades and cross-breeds, all being classified as grades, or having the word "grade" in large print at the top of the certificate. Cross-breeds are nothing more or less than grades, and generally of the worst sort when used in the stud.

A full description of the classification should be on each certificate of enrollment sent out, and this should be printed on each route bill above the certificate of enrollment and class of the particular horse in question. Only the horse's own cut should be allowed on his route bill, and the words, "a pure-bred" or "a grade," of class 1 or 4, as the case may be, should go in large, black type immediately below the cut. In the case of the grades, only the sire's name, and not the sire's full pedigree, should be given; or, if the horse be a high-grade, dam's sire, etc., far enough back to give the animal's true breeding. Route bills should be posted on the doors, both inside and out, of all buildings where stallions stand for service. Every printer of route bills should forward a couple of copies of the bills gotten out for each horse to the Department where the enrollment was done. Model bills might be gotten out by the Department for printers to follow.

The Government might well, for a time, aid clubs or local societies by giving a premium to those clubs who guaranteed a certain number of mares to procure a pure-bred horse, classified not lower than No. 2, at a certain fixed rate of service fee. This premium system has proven very beneficial in Britain, and within the last couple of years has been worked very successfully in the Province of Alberta. It enables societies to obtain good horses at a fair service fee and a minimum amount of trouble. It protects horse-owners at the same time, and discourages the use of cheap, scrub sires. It raises the standard of the horses in the district by enabling the breeders to stick to one breed, and get a new horse of the same breed when required.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL SYNDICATING.

Of course, a howl long and loud would arise about personal liberty and freedom to trade, etc., and a deal more hot air from parties like the silversmiths of old. However, a closer look at the question shows that many are now being injured to benefit the few, which is not according to the best-known laws, either British or Roman. A law compelling syndicators of horses, that are not breeders, to take them back and return the full amount of money paid, together with any notes or liens he may hold upon the horse, would be step number one. Where it can be proven that the horse was known before to be a non-breeder, or had been syndicated and taken back before for that reason, the syndicator should not only be compelled to take back the horse and restore the money, etc., paid, but also be liable for all expenses, interest on the money, and the loss of the season, to the purchaser. Strict regulations are necessary to set the industry on a proper working basis, and to keep the Province in the van. The other eight look to us for foundation stock to begin with, and new blood to renew their studs periodically, but unless a right-about-face in methods is taken soon, this monopoly must soon pass. Get busy; legislators, horsemen, breeders; in fact, everybody. Raise the standard; be far-

sighted enough to see into the future, and calculate the great loss in the coming years that would result from a shortsighted policy of to-day.

UNSIGNED.

BARBARIC CRUELTY UNPUNISHED.

A press despatch of July 12th stated that Montreal was indignant over the decision rendered in the Recorder's Court the previous afternoon by Recorder Dupuis, in which he allowed two men, proven to have beaten a team of horses until huge welts appeared on their backs, to escape any kind of punishment. "Recorder Dupuis astonished the officers present in the court by allowing both men their freedom, on the ground that the horses had not been unduly flogged, as blood had not been drawn. He remarked that when a man was sentenced to be flogged, the stipulation was 'until blood is drawn,' and that, similarly, when it was necessary to flog horses, the operation could be continued until blood is drawn. In the case of the accused that had not been done, and, therefore, he could not sentence them. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have decided to appeal the case, and will carry it to the higher courts."

This officer must be either a beast or a fool—or both. If callous to the sufferings of horses, he is a brute; if under the impression that cruelty consists in drawing blood, he is a fool. Presumably, their legs might be broken, or they might be starved to death, or tortured in endless ways with impunity, so long as no blood were drawn.

Some day, when the world is really civilized, men will be thrust into penitentiary for such conduct, and the rights of the animal kingdom as strongly insisted on as the rights of fellow men. But as yet we are dwelling in a comparatively cruel, benighted age, in which the general public accepts an ordinary amount of cruelty to animals as a matter of course, and only the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, aided, to be sure, by a few humane individuals, look after the interests of the brute creation. There are exceptions, however, and they are becoming more numerous as years go on, as the public learns that animals have nerves, the same as men and women.

The general run of teamsters have little idea of humane treatment beyond the commercial one. If a horse is suffering so severely that it cannot work without serious loss in condition, it is rested; seldom otherwise. Still we call ourselves a Christian people, and send out missionaries to the heathen. There is need for missionaries on our own streets, roads and farms—missionaries of the grand, noble gospel of kindness to animals. It is everybody's business to interfere with cruelty to the lower animals, as much as of defenceless women and of children. As for the judge, we should like to see him lose his job.

STALLION INSPECTION IN AUSTRALIA.

Ontario horsemen who are inclined to regard the proposal to adopt a system of stallion enrollment as a radical, revolutionary and unwarranted action, may be surprised to learn how widespread is the agitation for such a step. Several States of the American Union and three Provinces of Canada have such legislation in force, and away down in the antipodes the following circular letter relative to the inspection and examination of stallions has been forwarded to the various agricultural societies throughout the State of Victoria, over the signature of E. G. Dufus, Secretary for Agriculture:

"In accordance with the recommendations of the Horse Improvement Committee, and in pursuance of the policy of assisting the small breeder toward a more valuable result in horse-breeding operations, the Minister of Agriculture (the Hon. Geo. Swinburne) has decided to issue, free of cost, a 'Government Certificate of Soundness and Approval' to all stallions standing for public stud service which, on inspection and examination by one of the Government Veterinary Officers, are found free from hereditary unsoundness and defective conformation. The certificates will be given for all breeds—draft horses, light horses and ponies, and it is equally provided that blemishes or unsoundness, or defects of conformation the result of accident, external injury or overstrain and overwork, will not disqualify."

"The main advantage that is expected to accrue from the carrying out of this scheme is that the Government certificate will become the 'hall-mark' of soundness in stallions; and owners of mares will be aided in the choice of a sound sire and so be guaranteed that the progeny will not be depreciated in value by the inheritance of unsoundness. Conversely, a means will be afforded of avoiding constitutionally unsound and trashy sires."

"The proposal is to have the inspection conducted at parades held at some convenient center in the different district areas usually travelled by stallions, on some suitable date (whether show day or otherwise), prior to the commencement of the forthcoming season."