

**The Agricultural Situation in B. C.**

The condition of live-stock association affairs in B. C. is not in the flourishing condition that makes for advancement, either commercially or educationally. Internecine strife rages between officialdom and the association, and, as a consequence, the ship of agricultural progress is yet anchored in the pool of stagnation.

The association claims the right to elect its own secretary, to which it is undoubtedly entitled, whether that person is persona grata with the officials of the Provincial and Federal Departments of Agriculture or not, and objects strenuously to being penalized for exercising their undoubted prerogative, by the withholding of all aid, in the way of official recognition, without which it is hard to get reduced rates or passes from the railroads for association purposes, and also the withholding of all financial aid by the Federal Department of Agriculture.

As the association is made up of men who have borne the heat and burden of days gone by, when it cost more to bring pure-bred stock to B. C. than it does now, these men are entitled to some consideration, and should not be subject to the whims and caprices of officialdom.

A Vancouver daily recently advised editorially the abolition of the Deputy Ministership of Agriculture, along with that of another department, a move which would be a distinct backward step. As the agricultural portfolio is held by the Finance Minister, an energetic, tactful, capable deputy is an essential to agricultural progress, and to the Minister. The Agricultural Department is manned on a large enough scale to get results. Besides a deputy minister, there are two veterinarians doing public health work, a freight-rates commissioner, a fruit inspector, a horticultural board of four or five members; about twenty-three farmers' institutes, and about the same number of local shows, also receive aid from the Government, so that it would be unfair to charge the Government with neglect of the profession of agriculture. What faults need remedying will be found to exist in the way that the resources furnished are applied. The Department could well afford to lop off the local shows, which are little more than a sort of charitable distribution of public funds, and of tolls levied on the local merchants.

The following improvements are suggested: First, the abolition of the strife existing between

the live-stock association and officials, so that the progress of agriculture (which ranks above the dignity of officials or associations) will not be hindered. Secondly, the abolition of all the local shows, the efforts of the Provincial Department of Agriculture being concentrated on fewer shows, say four or five, one or two in the upper country, the New Westminster and Victoria shows (which two have already demonstrated their right to live and receive aid), in place of the numbers now existing. Courses in live-stock judging should be offered, as is now done in Ontario, Manitoba and the N.-W. T. We are pleased to note that the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society of New Westminster has seen the need and will endeavor to meet the want next March (although refused aid by the Dominion Department of Agriculture). There is room and need for a week or more of such courses, to be given also in the upper country and on Vancouver Island. In addition, a first-class horticulturist should be secured by the Provincial Department, one with both scientific and practical training, to give lectures and demonstrations in the horticultural branches, such as planting, grafting (not the political meaning), the handling of fungous diseases by spraying, etc. Such a man can be secured from the Agricultural College at Guelph.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture could well afford to arrange for a fruit experiment station on a small scale in the Okanagan, the results of the tests at Agassiz being of comparatively little value to the upper country, owing to the difference in climatic and soil conditions; and, as an additional reason, the Okanagan is the premier fruit district of B. C. The same principles need to be observed in civil service circles as obtain in commercial life: If men or officials are able to demonstrate their usefulness and suitability to the work set before them, retain them; if not, let them go, despite the old maxim, "There is (not always) strength in numbers!"

"Because heaven is in us  
To bud and unfold,  
We are all the younger  
For growing old."

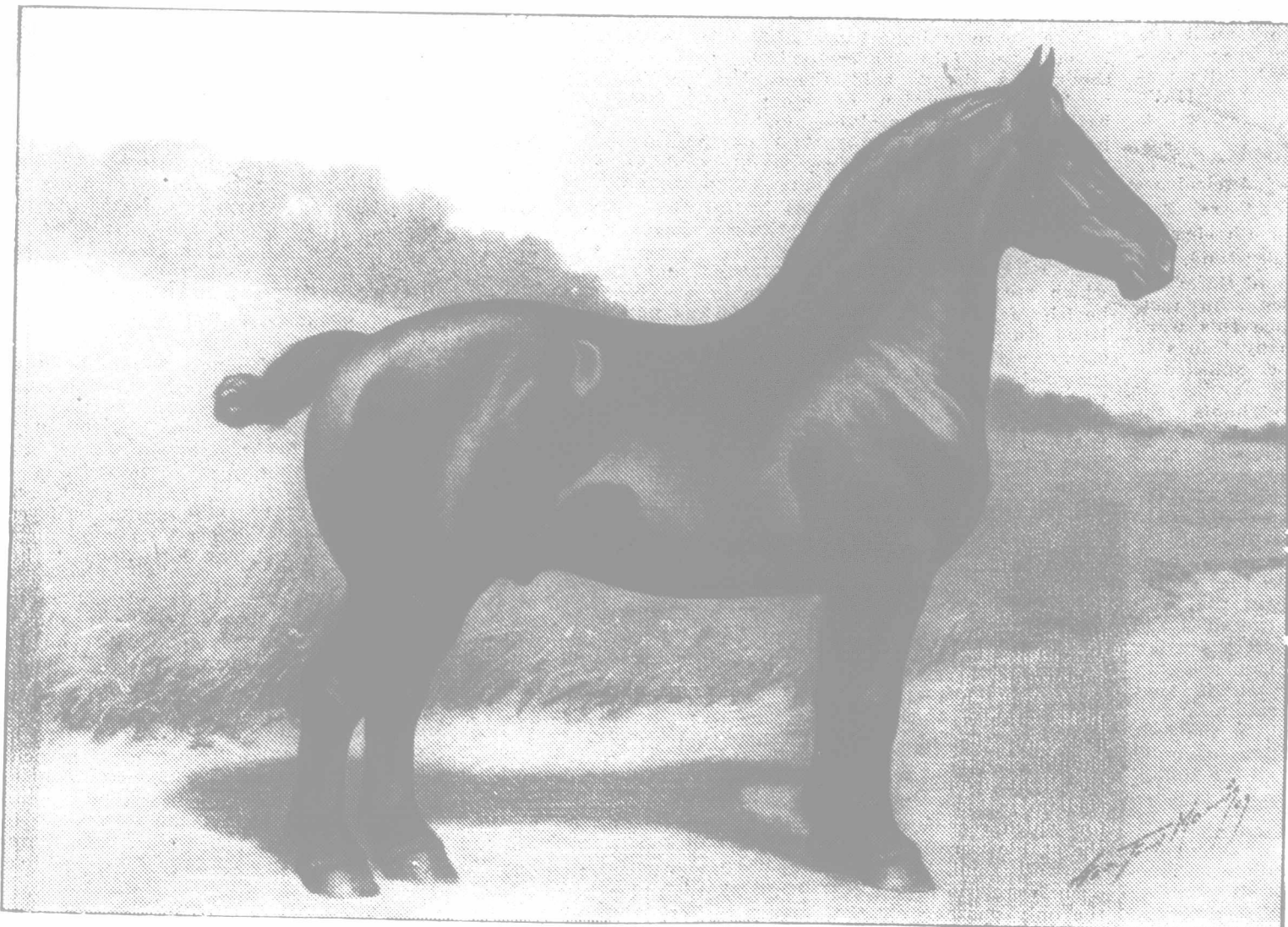
"I know that Love never is wasted,  
Nor Truth, nor the breath of a prayer;  
And the thought that goes forth as a blessing  
Must live as a Joy in the air."

**HORSES.**

**The Age at which Light Horses Should be Taught to Drive.**

The value of a harness horse depends to a great extent upon his manners, and his manners depend largely upon his education. The age at which he should be taught to drive is a matter of opinion. Some, apparently, think that he should not be handled any more than sufficient to halter break him (and sometimes not even that) until he reaches adulthood, or, at least, three or four years old, and is ready to be fitted for the market or go to work on the roads for his present owner. Under these conditions he is usually put to work without any preliminary education or fitting; he is large and strong, has spent a few years in idleness, and is unaccustomed to restraint. As a consequence, he is more or less self-willed and stubborn, is hard to handle, and the exertion of fighting for his own way and performing the functions of a road or carriage horse is much harder on him than it would be if he were prepared, both in training and muscular development, for the labors required. It also requires more strength, tact and skill on the part of the driver to handle a green, full-grown horse, than it does to handle a younger animal, and in the majority of cases a horse that has been broken in this way does not make as reliable, safe and pleasant a horse to drive as one that has been gradually educated when young. While we consider it very unwise to ask a colt to do much work until he is at least four years old, we think it advisable to teach him to drive while quite young. For racing purposes, where money is the main object, the racing of one, two or three year olds may, in a manner, be justified, but when we wish to develop a sound, strong, mature animal, he should not do much work of any kind under the ages mentioned. If we notice the career of racing animals, we will observe that a colt that distinguishes himself on the turf as a one or two year old, seldom continues to attract notice as a mature horse. Excessive continued physical exertion in an immature animal of any breed tends to weaken the constitution and prevent development, and while there are exceptions to this, the rule holds good in most cases. At the same time the gentle exertion necessary to educate a colt to go well in harness has a tendency to increase rather than impair his growth and muscular development, and at the same time educate him gradually, rather than break him quickly. We advocate the very early handling of a colt, especially one of the lighter breeds, whose future function will be to go in either light or heavy harness. He should be taught to lead when a few days, or, at the most, a few weeks old, and the more gentle handling he gets at this age the better. It teaches him early to not fear man, to yield to restraint and do as he is asked, and in after years he has no stubborn will to conquer. He should be taught to stand tied the first winter, and he should also get his first lessons in biting, or, in other words, "giving him a mouth." This can be done with little time or trouble by putting a nice light bridle with an ordinary snaffle bit on him, and leaving it on for a few hours each day, until he ceases fighting the bit. He may also be taught to lead by the bit, and to stand tied by it instead of by the halter. In addition, he should be taught to submit to having his feet handled and pared. The paring of his feet is, in most cases, necessary for his comfort and future usefulness, as well as for his education.

When the time arrives in the spring of his second year, when he is turned out to pasture, his education usually ceases until the following fall. As soon as he is taken to the stable for his second fall and winter his schooling should be continued. He has now reached sufficient age and development to be taught to drive, but he should not be asked to go in harness without further preparation. He should be given a nice, large box stall, or if the weather be not too cold and rough, a paddock. It is good practice now to use a dumb jockey on him a few hours each



**The Imported Percheron Stallion, Pink.**

Champion at the International, 1903; grand sweepstakes Minnesota State Fair, 1903; and first prize Iowa State Fair, 1903. The property of Dunham, Fletcher & Coleman, Wayne, Du Page County, Illinois.