

# HORSES.

The American Hackney Horse Society, at its last annual meeting, decided to hold a show for Hackneys exclusively. The matter has been taken up with the directors of the Madison Square Horse Show in New York, with a view to securing a day during that event devoted entirely to the exhibition of this breed. The result of the negotiations is not yet known.

Some 1,200 Clydesdales were imported to Canada in 1909, and there will be about as many this year. Percherons and Belgians show an increase in importations. Hackneys are not so heavy; a good many of our importers are afraid to bring out Hackneys now, as a large percentage of those imported last year would not record in Canada. The same condition obtains, we understand, in the United States. Our book requires that a Hackney stallion must have three crosses of registered sires; the English book admits stallions with only one or two crosses on inspected dams. A joint committee of three Canadians and three Americans has been negotiating with the English Hackney Society for a year or so now, trying to get the English Society not to encourage the exportation of short-pedigreed horses, and also to record in the English book Canadian and American-bred Hackneys that are descended from English stock. This would make Canadian and American Hackneys eligible for competition at the Olympia Horse Show. The joint committee, however, is not making much headway in its efforts, about the only thing accomplished to date being the provision of classes at the Olympia in which American and Canadian-bred horses can exhibit.

## The Cost of Horse Power on the Farm.

### THIRD-PRIZE ESSAY.

Our horses are kept in most of the year, except about one month in summer, in June and July, when we use them only odd days cultivating the corn, beans and roots, most of our time being taken up hoeing, etc. In winter we seldom use the team. They are not hitched up more than once a week, on an average, and, of course, they are fed differently than if they were working. The winter feeding commences about the 10th of November, and lasts until the 10th of March. At this time they are generally used more or less until seeding commences.

In the table submitted below I have not allowed for depreciation in the value of the horse, or for risk. The custom here with farmers who do not raise their own work horses is to buy at three years old, usually paying about \$200 for a pretty good one, and working it for two or three years and selling. In this way, we do not have old, useless horses on hand, and can mostly sell for more than the price paid, as the horse has reached maturity.

Our winter ration consists of:

4 lbs. oats, at 34c. bush., for 120 days.....	\$ 4.80
1½ lbs. bran, at \$20 per ton—120 days.....	1.80
7 lbs. clover hay, \$10 per ton—120 days.....	4.20
20 lbs. straw, at \$4 per ton—120 days.....	4.80
15 lbs. silage, at \$3 per ton—120 days.....	2.70

Total for winter feeding period..... \$18.30

Ration for working period:

12 lbs. oats, at 34c. bush., for 215 days.....	\$25.80
2 lbs. bran, at \$20 per ton—215 days.....	4.30
20 lbs. clover hay, \$10 per ton—215 days.....	21.50
On pasture 30 days.....	2.00
Hay while on pasture.....	1.05
Oats while on pasture.....	1.80
One ton straw for bedding.....	4.00

Total cost of feed for working period..... \$60.45

Sum total feed for one year.....	\$ 78.75
Cost of attention, winter.....	4.50
Cost of attention, working period.....	12.00
Cost of shoeing, working period.....	2.00
Cost of shoeing, winter.....	.70
Interest on investment, \$200 at 5%.....	10.00
Interest and depreciation of harness.....	3.50

Total cost..... \$111.45

The 20 pounds straw allowed in the winter ration is not all eaten up; enough is left for bedding.

On a 150-acre farm, at least three good horses are required, requiring an investment of \$600 and an expense of \$334.35 for upkeep. Horse-power looks expensive when we get down to figures.

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A set of Staghorn Carvers is yours for sending in only three new yearly subscriptions to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." Look up this and our other premiums on page 2071 of this issue.

## A Misleading Record.

Since the establishment of the Canadian National Records, pedigree registration in Canada has been placed upon a most satisfactory basis, and with but a single exception, so far as we know, there is now only one record in Canada for each breed of live stock. Our old friend the proprietor of the Goderich Studbook, which used to record crosses of Clydesdales and Shires, has ceased to do business. The one exception referred to, as still in business, is the Canadian Horse Register, established by the late King Dodds, and maintained in connection with the Canadian Sportsman, which he edited, and in the files of which all the records are contained. We are not aware that the proprietor of this Register ever claimed that it was a record for pure-bred animals only. We believe the avowed object was to keep a record of the breeding of grade horses with trotting blood in their veins, the progeny of which would eventually be qualified for standard registration, with a minimum of trouble. Disinterested persons have been so unkind as to say that the real object was to make money for the proprietor of the record. The trouble is that many horse-owners do not understand the nature of this record. Many uninformed men assume that registration in this register signifies that a horse is pure-bred. Such is not necessarily the case. So far as we have learned, there is no fixed standard for registration in this record. Furthermore, by countenancing the mixing up of pacing-bred and trotting-bred stock, it leads to confusion, and indefinitely postpones the day when the progeny will be eligible for standard registration in the regular way.

We observe that Jas. A. Livingstone, the present editor of the Canadian Sportsman, is making vigorous efforts to secure registration of horses in the Canadian Horse Register.

As showing the confusion that results from this record being permitted to do business, we quote John W. Brant, Accountant of the National Live-stock Records: "The Provincial Departments of Agriculture in the Canadian West, where stallion-enrollment laws are in force, are receiving applications for the enrollment of stallions with certificates in the Canadian Horse Register. As the only Canadian certificates recognized as indicating pure breeding are the records kept at Ottawa, these Canadian Horse Register certificates, when received by the officers of the Agricultural Departments in the West, are invariably forwarded to Ottawa for examination. In not a single instance that has come under our observation has one of these horses been eligible for registration in either the American Trotting Register or the Canadian Standard-bred Record. Of course, the proprietors of the Canadian Horse Register do not claim that registration in their book qualifies for registration in the American Trotting Register, but innocent purchasers all over the country are buying these horses, supposing them to be Standard-bred."

It may be noted here that the basis of the American Standard-bred Record kept at Ottawa is the American Trotting Register, and its conditions of registration are similar, though the Canadian book will not yet admit performance as a qualification for registration. The difficulty in the way of doing so is that the Canadian National Records Office has no machinery or means for ascertaining and verifying official speed records.

Reverting to the main theme of our article, we

would add that, while trotting-horse men and farmers are at perfect liberty to pay for the registration of grade colts or fillies if they see fit to do so, they must not assume that the Canadian Horse Register has any official standing among pedigree records either at home or abroad. Its existence is misleading to uninformed men, and we believe the interests of Standard breeding would be served by closing it up.

## The General-purpose Horse.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The subject of the general-purpose horse and his place at the country show was again up for keen but short discussion at the Winter Fair. John Bright and J. M. Gardhouse handled the question, and, through their wide experiences as judges, were eminently qualified to do so. They analyzed the situation as it now is, and showed it to be as it has been for years; that is, at most shows there is a full classification for general-purpose horses, but there is no regulation or understanding as to the requirements of a horse for his particular class. The speakers pointed out that there was no end to the mixture in these classes, and that it was almost impossible to judge them with any satisfaction. Frequently a man would enter this class on the last minute, in preference to the agricultural or any other class, because he discovered there would be little competition. Messrs. Bright and Gardhouse, however, had no suggestions to offer for bettering the situation. Mention was made that the attempt to solve the matter by exacting a standard weight had proved of little value.

Dr. Grenside seemed to strike the nail on the head when he suggested that, before officers of the agricultural societies and judges could expect the average exhibitor to exhibit his horse intelligently in the right class, they ought to have a clear and definite understanding of the requirements of the class themselves, the qualifications necessary to place a horse in the class inserted in the prize list, and then there would be no excuse for the ignorance and misunderstanding that now exist. It is common observation that one year the expert judge will turn a horse out of this class, which the next year the second expert judge will probably award the prize. This need be no reflection on either judge, the difference in decision being in the difference in ideas of class, and one man's opinion may be worth as much as another's. This question, of course, has been discussed very often at meetings of horsemen, but it seems a regrettable fact that no satisfactory settlement has been made. At Guelph there should have been a representative body of horsemen, and there, it would seem, was an opportunity to turn out something that would serve as a guide in the matter.

The men at that meeting were told that the general-purpose horse was a valuable horse, and had a good market, but it would not be advisable to breed him at all extensively, for the reason that he was something of an uncertainty in breeding, and they might better breed a more suitable, a safer, and a more valuable horse. They were told, also, that the general-purpose horse was bred by mating representatives of some of the lighter breeds with those of the heavy breeds. Therefore, a general-purpose stallion has no breed, and has no place. This no one questions.

The general-purpose brood mare, however,



The Girl's Own Pony.