

After scrutinizing the young stock and noting their good qualities, a visit to the yards and pens of the brood sows was rather disappointing. The sows did not show anywhere near the amount of quality exhibited by the young stock. They were narrow, somewhat rough, with long, narrow heads, poorly-arched backs, narrow loins and rumps, and light hams; and, while a little thin, they lacked the conformation and scale that breeders desire in their brood sows. Anyone searching for a brood sow would, upon looking over the young stock, have been able to select several sows of very desirable conformation, and would have expected nothing but high-class offspring from them when mated with the right kind of boars; but if a discriminating buyer had seen the dams of the sows, it is more than probable that he would not buy the young stock at any price. If he did, the results could not be expected to be as satisfactory as anticipated, before the young sows' mothers were seen. A sow from such stock cannot be used as a breeder with certainty as to the type of the offspring, and this class of young stock, while consisting of good individuals, is undesirable for breeding purposes. A certain amount of reversion is liable to be shown in every generation, and too much care cannot be exercised in selecting the breeding stock. In buying, always make it a point to see the kind of stock that the animal has descended from. In pure-bred stock, the pedigree serves to acquaint the buyer with the kind of stock from which the animal comes, but in grades it is absolutely necessary to know something of the breeding and conformation of the sires, dams and grandparents, while a personal knowledge of the individual ancestors is also preferable with pedigreed stock. Too much information cannot be had about the blood lines of the animals being purchased for breeding purposes, and the foregoing is a good illustration of how easily a person may be deceived in purchasing without a knowledge of the conformation and breeding of the ancestors.

Cows that Give Milk.

A commendable feature in the prize list of the Royal Show of England is that cows and heifers three years old and over in all the breeds competing must be in milk, this rule applying not only to those commonly called dairy breeds, but also to those generally regarded as beef breeds. The competition in the Shorthorn classes being numerically much stronger than those of other breeds, a separate class is given to Dairy Shorthorns, and the Scottish Farmer, in its report, says, "there was no more useful and interesting section at Norwich, and magnificent dairy cattle were there seen."

THE FARM

Fall Preparation and Early Seeding.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Your article on dry-weather crops, in this week's issue contains sound advice, and is an epitome on the principles of good farming. You ask your readers to give you any of their experiences with this season's crops, that may be of use to others in the future. I should like to say, first of all, that since the year 1861, up to the present, we have had a drouth in the growing season every ten years; that is to say, the years 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 were dry years, with short crops. It is also interesting to note that in each instance the following season was favorable, and crops good. We do not trust to memory, but have the written records before us. We have taken a deeper interest than usual in studying crop conditions this year, and we have been more impressed than ever by the fact that "good farming always pays best." Providence favors the up-to-date and up-to-time farmer every year. I note that, on soil in good heart, properly prepared, and sown early, crops are making a brave showing, while crops under the opposite conditions have long been hanging out signals of distress, and are slowly dying for want of moisture.

In this locality, weather conditions were good up to the middle of May, after which the day temperature rose abnormally high, and evaporation was very great. Plants with a poor root system, in a shallow and ill-prepared seed-bed, could not meet the demand made by the fierce heat for moisture, and the result was, as we see, a stunted and sickly growth, while crops sown early or under proper conditions were prepared to meet adverse conditions, and have at present every appearance of giving an average yield.

We do not lose sight of the fact that there are many farms whose soil is of such a nature that no skill or forethought could produce a full crop in a season like this. To the owners of these we extend our sympathy, and we would cheer them by the hope of a better crop next season. It is plain to all that fall-sown crops—wheat, rye, clover and grasses—suffer least from drouth, as

they make most of their growth in moist, cool weather. Farmers, therefore, with such soils, should aim to have a large portion of these crops. Then, with the hoe-crops, by manuring the preceding crop, or putting manure on in the fall, and sowing the crop at the earliest date, and so getting the advantage of the cool nights and early showers, there is less risk of failure. With us, fall-prepared root ground always gives the best results. We cannot do, by any human process, what the winter and spring frosts accomplish without cost or labor. Why not, then, take advantage of their generous help? It is becoming a common practice here to plant potatoes late, say the last week in June. We think this a mistake,

peas for field crops. I never saw peas better podded. Unfortunately, the blackbirds found them, and came in such numbers that they practically consumed them all. I had hoped to encourage the growth of these to combat noxious weeds, as they ripen before the weeds. Where the pea-bug is not prevalent, early-maturing varieties are much the best yielders, as, where sown early, they bloom before the hot weather sets in.

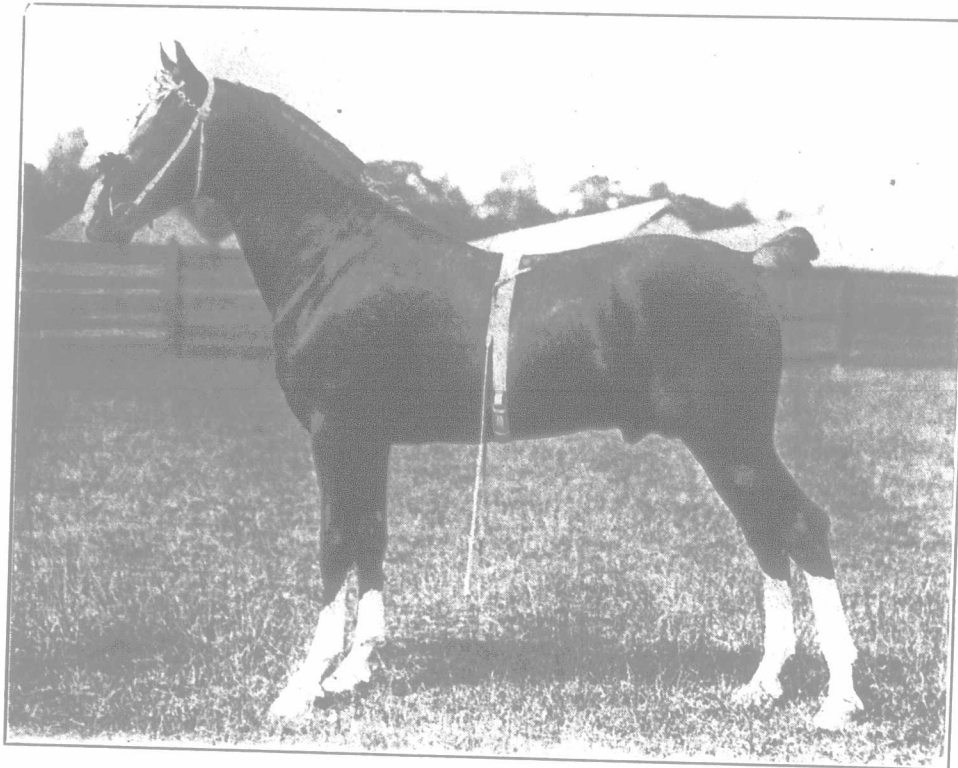
On one acre of our mangel crop we sowed 300 pounds salt, and cultivated it in before sowing. This has given a splendid stand. On two other acres, sown on spring-plowed sod, the same kind of seed never germinated. The land was worked over again and sown to Swede turnips. These germinated, but the heat destroyed them. Had this land been fall prepared, and treated as the other acre, it would have given as good results. We have worked it up again, and should the drouth break before August 10th, we will sow to Aberdeens. We have known them to do well sown on that date.

FOYSTON BROS.
Simcoe Co., Ont.

After-harvest Cultivation.

Harvest time has rolled around once more, the fields are fast whitening, and many of them have already been harvested. As soon as one crop is off the land, the grower must set to work to prepare his land for another. On fields that have not been seeded to grass or clover, no time should be lost in getting stubble land cultivated. All that is necessary for this early after-harvest tillage is a very light cultivation, but all the land should be stirred and worked. A few years ago this work was done with the small two-furrowed gang plow. This plowing was done about three inches deep, and was followed by harrowing the soil down to pulverize it. It is now necessary to cover more ground in a day, and, as a deep cultivation is not needed, it being only necessary that all the top soil be pulverized, disk harrowing or cultivating have taken the place of shallow plowing for the early autumn cultivation of stubble ground. This cultivating or disking should be done immediately after the crop is off, and is better followed by a stroke of the harrow.

Now, what are the objects of this light working of the soil in late summer, and why is it necessary? The two main objects of this cultivation are the conservation of soil moisture, which causes the soil to plow easier later on, and the sprouting of the weed seeds, so that they may be destroyed by subsequent cultivation. To check evaporation, and thus conserve soil moisture, only a light, fine mulch is necessary, and a couple of thorough diskings or cultivatings, followed by a stroke with the harrow, serves to put the soil in good condition for this purpose. This cultivated top soil, by holding moisture, places the land in a better condition for the deep fall plowing. The dry weather and hot, parching sun of the summer and early fall cause the ground to become very hard and dry, if no steps are taken to check the loss of moisture. All practical farmers know how difficult it is to do good work with the plow when the land is so hard as it often becomes when

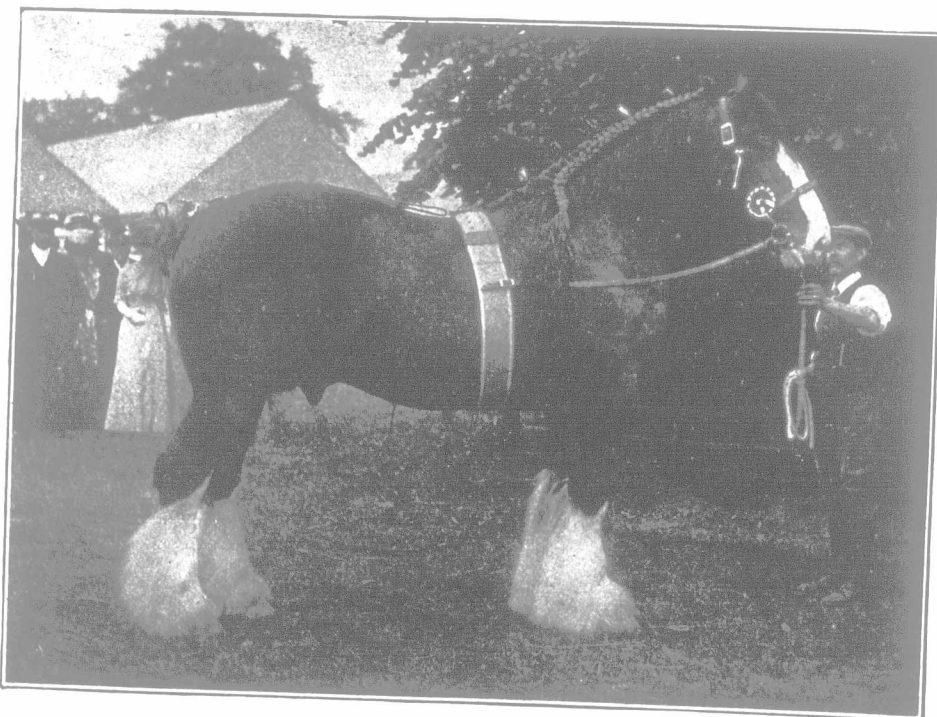


Woodhatch Viceroy.

Hackney stallion; two years old; chestnut. First in class and reserve champion. Royal Show, 1911. Sire Hopwood Viceroy.

especially in a season like the present. With seed weakened by repeated sprouting, and planted at such a late date, what chance can it have to produce a full crop or to fully mature its tubers, even should the drouth soon break? Then, seed taken from such a crop for next year's planting cannot but be low in vitality. True, early planting this season is showing signs of ripening, but the tubers are a fair size already, and the quality good. I notice, in our experimental plots, where we have five varieties under test, that planting the sets eighteen inches apart is showing good results. Every week since they showed above

ground they have been wheel-hoed. At present there is a fine dust mulch two inches deep, beneath which the soil is quite moist. The vines appear healthy, and give no sign of lack of moisture, though the growth is slow. The grain and corn under experiment are all vigorous and healthy—in fact, could not look better. The grain is drilled in rows a foot apart, and was wheel-hoed twice. We were testing two varieties of early



Warton Draughtsman.

Champion Shire stallion at the Royal Show, Norwich, 1911. Exhibited by the Duke of Devonshire.