

'A fairer person lost not Heaven; he seemed  
For dignity composed and high exploit:  
But all was false and hollow; though his  
tongue  
Dropped manna, and could make the worse ap-  
pear  
The better reason, to perplex and dash  
Maturest counsels.

'Deep on his front engraven  
Deliberation sat and public care.'

'With Atlantean shoulders fit to bear  
The weight of mightiest monarchies.'

I am simply throwing these quotations at you, and you can fit them yourselves. But it was very clear to me that the Milton whom Mr. White instances as an unrecognized genius among purse-proud pigmies, got the experience of life needed in picturing the high parliament of Pandemonium in watching the parliament of his own day. And the parliament of his day was no different from the parliament of our day. Perhaps if Mr. Broder were to take a day off some time between the hay and the harvest, and read the second book of Paradise Lost, he might find that even poets can do a little in the way of sizing up parliamentary situations.

But now to get down to the meat of the matter, the net result of my little experience with parliament was to make me feel that the weakness of representative government is not due to our representatives so much as it is to ourselves. Most of us seem to have a fool notion that our political activities should be confined entirely to election time. We support our members or fight them, as the case may be, during the few weeks before election, and then we leave them severely alone. This is all wrong. Our representatives need our support at all times. My impression of the average member of parliament is that he is big enough a man to feel that when the election is over, no matter which party elected him he is the representative of all the people in his constituency, and I think that we should all try to meet him in that same spirit, no matter whether we voted for him or not. He is our representative, and is entitled to know what attitude we expect him to assume on any public question. If that were not true, representative government would be a complete farce. It would mean that only one party is represented by members of parliament after election, and that would be an intolerable situation. Our members represent all of us, and between elections we should all do what we can to enable them to represent us truly. At the present time the Naval question and the Bank Act are commanding a great deal of attention, and if you want your member to reflect your views on the floor of the House, you should take the trouble to acquaint him with what you are really thinking. From what I know of members of parliament I have no hesitation in saying that they would be glad to get an honest expression of opinion from one of their constituents, whether he is an opponent or not. When they are in Ottawa and are being distracted by all the forces that special privilege employs to attain its ends, it is impossible for them to keep in touch with their constituents, and know what you are thinking in the country. To make representative government what it should be, you must play your part, you must let your member know what you are thinking about public questions, and that will help him to serve you properly. Just think that over. At different times I have appealed to the readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" to write to their representatives, giving their views of banking legislation. While in Ottawa I was assured that many had responded to the suggestion, and that their letters account for the activity of many members of parliament in advocating reforms. The Bank Act is still under consideration, and if you have not yet told your member what you think about it, you owe it to yourself and to him to drop him a line about it at once. In conclusion, my chief impression of parliament was that great things could be accomplished if the people who send representatives there would only take the trouble to write a post card once in a while to tell their members how they wish to be represented on important questions.

## HORSES.

Commence the colt's education as soon after birth as possible.

The farmer who breeds the heavy-draft horse never has to lead his horse around looking for a buyer. His market comes to his own stable.

In the breeding of pure-bred horses never be satisfied until you have the best. If other breeders are beating you in the show-ring or in sales due to a higher class of animal, introduce some of the blood of their winners into your stud at the earliest opportunity.

When taking the heavy mare to the stallion—driving often four or five miles and perhaps more—do not expect her to road at ten miles an hour. She is not accustomed to such speed and it is always advisable to keep her condition just as near normal as possible immediately before and a short time after breeding.

A writer in an American contemporary speaking of bringing a colt into usefulness says, "they used to call it breaking; that is allowing the colt to have its own free-will without touch of hand or halter, until he was three years old, and then breaking him in by brute force. That's barbarous. Later they called it 'training' which is better; but we prefer the term 'educate.'"

A good horseman should not confine himself entirely to one breed and one alone. While he may be primarily interested in only one breed and may breed only one on his farm or in his stud he can always learn something by paying close attention to other breeds, such as attending exhibitions while other classes are in the ring and observing the strong points in good individuals of all breeds when occasion permits. Points are emphatically brought out by comparison.

When resting the horses during the spring-work always turn their heads towards the breeze. They will cool off much more quickly and will be more benefitted by the short respite. While they are standing hold the collars off their shoulders for a few minutes and at the same time give each shoulder a good rubbing with the hand. This removes sweaty grease and dirt, cools and helps toughen the shoulders and is a great aid in the prevention of scalding.

While little or no authentic investigation has been done in comparing the percentage of foals from mares losing in flesh at time of service as against those gaining in flesh at this time it is reasonable to expect that the mare which is run down and daily getting thinner and weaker is not as likely to get with foal as one gaining in flesh (if not too fat) and strong and vigorous in every way. Very often mares in the height of spring work do not conceive. They are taken to the nearest horse at night, after a long hard day in the field and their vitality is at a comparatively low ebb. Is there any wonder they do not get with foal? It is alright to take the mare to the horse at night but she should not be in an overtired condition and should not be rapidly losing in flesh at the time. It would be better to wait until after seeding, or the great rush whatever it may be, and allow the mare to gain up on grass, with a little grain as well. Grass is the best feed for the mare at breeding-time as well as at foaling-time. Less trouble in getting mares with foal would likely be experienced if more attention were paid to this point.

### Fit the Collar.

It is a crime often laid to the shoeing smiths that they fit the horse's foot to the shoe, rather than the shoe to the foot, but just as serious a crime and often more serious is frequently committed by the horse's owner with respect to the fitting of his collar. Always fit the collar to the shoulder, never the shoulder to the collar. It is a serious mistake to use one collar for two or three different horses with the same adjustment. The horse's shoulder bears the brunt of the work and the collar is the most important part of the harness. A collar which fits badly is a common cause of pain to the animal, sore shoulders and sore necks. It is impossible to estimate the loss to the horse's efficiency due to the results of ill-fitting collars. Every work-horse should have his own collar just as every man has his own shoes. The collar should fit close to the neck and should not be loose in some places and tight in others. If the collar is very stiff and does not conform to the shape of the horse's neck and shoulder it can often be remedied by placing it in water over night, after which it is put on the horse and drawn to the shape required by the hame straps, and the horse worked at light work through the day. This will cause the collar to become adjusted to all the peculiar inequalities of the shoulder and neck to which it is fitted. Do not work the horse in a collar too large for him. Perhaps more trouble comes from this than any other cause. See that the collar fits and always be sure to buckle the lower hame-strap as tight as the size of the horse's neck will permit. Hame-straps should always be adjusted top and bottom in accordance with the size and shape of the horse's neck. Very often sore shoulders may be remedied or prevented by the timely adjustment of these parts. The man who works a horse and does it properly, needs to apply himself to the work in hand, viz: caring for his horses.

## Breed the Pure-Bred.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate."

I was much amused at the replies which appeared in your valuable paper referring to my letter of March 13th., re the profit to the farmer in breeding re-mounts. Now, as I am an old farmer, a canny Scotchman, born in a Scotch settlement, township of west Gwillimbury, County of Simcoe, Ontario, the home of some of the best Thoroughbreds ever imported into Canada, as well as the "hot-bed" of the Clydesdale, with quite a sprinkling of Standard-breds and a few pretty good Hackneys, I think it would be best for me to declare myself clearly, so that my brother farmers may understand why I have taken up this subject.

At our recent Breeder's Association meeting in Toronto, this question came up referring to the breeding of re-mounts, and I wish to state emphatically I am opposed to cross-breeding. If the Thoroughbred is so valuable when crossed with cold-blooded mares, would he not be more valuable and profitable if bred pure? I might say right here it's not the race records, nor the ribbons won in the show-ring, that make the stallion most profitable to breed to—give me the stallion which is a producer.

Now let us review the past fifty years and consider the changes which have taken place with the Thoroughbred. At that time they possessed quality, stamina and endurance, but the public, with their great desire for speed, have been breeding a class of horses, with no other aim than a flash race, in doing so they have lost sight of quality and forfeited that great reputation which they once possessed. Now the good old Clydesdales, Shires, Percherons, Belgians, and Suffolks, are slowly trudging up the hill with their heavy load, and slowly improving in quality.

Mr. Ryan states in his letter—that the National Bureau did not start out to make any money on its work, and it's record is clear of commercialism. This sounds funny to an old farmer, and it is, because in my experience I have never come in contact with a company that was doing business for love or for its health. There was always an object in view, I wonder what is the object of the Bureau? They claim it is to improve the stock of the country. We know it is a fact that the farmer who breeds a few light horses disposes of his good mares for ready cash, and generally keeps the misfits or blemished ones for his own use, therefore, my experience has been with light stallions, the difficulty is to get good, sound mares to breed to them, and I believe the dam has as much to do with the production of good progeny as the sire.

Referring to Mr. Currie's letter, first, I wish to remind him, I did not, in my letter, suggest the crossing of the Thoroughbred with the Clydesdale, nor did I say the heavy horse was the only horse a farmer should breed. I said "the heavy horse was the most 'profitable' for the farmer to breed." I was informed yesterday that a man, near Bradford, refused \$350 for a Clydesdale filly. Now my advice to Mr. Currie is: sell your colt at \$175, at five years old you may be glad to get the \$75 without the hundred. I have many times done the same thing myself.

Mr. Currie asks me to compare the horse of fifty years ago with the average horse to-day; in Lake Simcoe County. I will ask him to compare the stallions to-day and those of fifty years ago. We had the old Harkaway blood, we had the Lapidus, Harper, Durock Messenger, Kerin's Messenger, Ramsay's Messenger, and numerous others, which had substance, superior bone, action and quality. But the Thoroughbred has depreciated in quality. You cannot grow oranges on an apple tree.

In conclusion I am surprised that in no letter yet has anyone attempted to show an average market price for the re-mount. I believe it would pay every farmer to breed a few light horses every year, but to improve the breed of our Canadian horses we should strive to breed nothing but colts eligible for full registration with the Canadian National Records. A fully registered colt of any breed is worth from \$25 to \$50, more money than a cold-blooded colt. What we want in Canada is the pure-bred, and I think it is to the interest of every farmer to raise nothing but the best, and if our government would encourage the importation of pure-bred mares, which could be sold to the farmer at cost, it would be a good thing. In five years from now we would be exporting instead of importing, and Canada would soon become famous for superior quality of pure-bred horses, including the pure-bred pony, Hackney, Welsh or Shetland. I do not believe the farmer can make any money breeding re-mounts.

York Co., Ont. J. GORDON McPHERSON.