

His bone is excellent and his quality of the first order, making him in all a noble son deserving of such a sire as the illustrious Macgregor (1487). Pride of Eastfield [819] (7113) suffered no dishonor in being second to MacClaskie, for it was only a mere matter of opinion, not of faults and merits, that placed them as they were. Truly he satisfies Bobbie Burns when he says of auld mare Maggie, "And set weel down a shapely shank as e'er tread yird," for more excellent legs, sweeter pasterns and better feet have rarely met the eye, and would have satisfied in every respect the most particular of canny Scotchmen. Prince of Gourrock [624] followed them closely, he securing the very highly commended ribbon. He is owned by Mr. John Davidson of Ashburn, and is the get of Gallant Boy, imp., [303] (4387). He is a colt of much promise, having a well rounded, deep body, with heavily muscled quarter and good bone. Belford [518], a horse of well knit and muscled frame, owned by John Roach, Toronto, Ont., and MacLaurin (1041) (7020), a get of Macgregor's (1487) and owned by Graham Bros., were also in this class. MacLaurin is an even, square traveller, and has many qualities to commend for use in any stud.

The excitement ran high when the sweepstakes competitors—MacBean, St. Gatien and MacClaskie entered the ring, and it found vent in the clapping of hands and vociferous cheering when MacBean was made the recipient of the highest honors in the power of the society to bestow. MacBean, though a horse of medium size, has his qualities so happily blended, and appeared to such advantage, that it would be a queer freak in human nature, if he could not find an abiding place in the breast of all horse lovers. Quality shone from his velvety hide, from his neat and trim form, and profuse feathering of silky hair. St. Gatien, the invincible of last year, cast in a heavier mould, even taking his maturity into consideration, is stronger framed and fully heavier muscled.

The judge, Mr. A. B. McLaren, of Oakgrove Farm, Blandinsville, Ill., deserves all possible praise for the rigidity of his decisions, for never did he swerve from honoring the animal that came nearest the model he had in his mind. Though a number differed from some of the awards, yet it could be easily seen that he had an ideal constantly before him, and on this based his decision.

Trimming the Feet of Bulls.

We republish this article from Vol. I of the JOURNAL at the urgent request of one who has taken the JOURNAL since its inception, but has waylaid this particular number.

"The most common method of performing this operation is by first casting the animal and then proceeding to trim the hoof with saw and knife as may be desired. This method is now much discarded by advanced breeders owing to its cumbersome nature. It is liable to the further objection that it is apt to render a timid animal nervous for a long time after, inasmuch that he will show shyness on the approach of men.

"The Messrs. J. & W. Watt, the Shorthorn breeders, of Salem, have kindly described for us in detail the method now most commonly adopted by advanced cattlemen, which we here subjoin:

"The fore feet seldom require trimming. When, however, this is required, one end of an inch rope is securely fastened around the leg just above the hoof, the other end being passed over the back. This is drawn tightly till the foot is raised sufficiently, and held securely by a party on the opposite side. The other man then saws the hoof as desired with a fine tenor saw, taking off a thin slice more from the outside of the hoof and paring the inner part with a knife.

"In trimming the hind feet the animal requires to be placed in a stall just about his own length, and made to stand near the lining on the opposite side from the foot which is to be trimmed. A chain is then loosely

fastened around the outer post to which this lining is nailed, of sufficient height, which varies from say 1½ to 2½ ft. A hole may be required to be made in the lining to allow the chain to go around the upright. One end of a stiff round pole is then run between the chain and upright, the other end of the pole, which passes behind the animal, lying on the ground. One man draws up the head of the animal to the inner end of the stall, by operating on the ring in the nose; a second stands at the outer end of the pole; a third causes the animal to lift the leg desired over the pole, when the second man quickly lifts it up and holds it comfortably high, getting help if needed. The third man then proceeds to trim the hoof, cutting the toes square off at first, then proceeding as in the case of the front hoof described above, always taking care to keep shy of the quick. When the pole is first raised, the animal struggles for only a short time, leaning off to the adjoining wall. When the other hoof is trimmed, place the animal against the opposite wall, reversing the chain and pole. The advantages of keeping the hoofs well trimmed are too well known to call for further comment here."

Horse Breeding in Manitoba.

(From our own correspondent.)

The oldest settlers on the Portage plains were the first to attempt the raising of any horseflesh superior in quality to the shagginappie, which in a great measure raised itself. By a cross upon these natives, some good useful beasts were raised. But as a general impression prevailed that such beasts could hardly be killed either by exposure or hard usage, and this popular faith was usually acted upon, the native cross never attained the excellence it might have reached. Most of the really good horses in Manitoba down to the present time have been bred in Ontario, but it is only within the last four or five years that breeding from first-rate sires became an object of keen interest to practical farmers.

One strong reason for the disinclination to horsebreeding was the conviction, pretty general among farmers, that nothing very much better than a shagginappie could be raised here. This idea originated in the "grasshopper years." Farmers got impoverished, and for a time fairly paralyzed by that visitation. They could not afford to buy grain to feed to horses, which in turn got as poor as their masters. Wretched housing and bad ventilation, combined with mean feeding to make it nearly impossible for a mare to get comfortably over the period of maternity and to raise a decent colt. Scrub treatment produces a scrub, and though animals that nothing would kill, did occasionally raise a decent colt, it does not require a long stretch of retrospective vision to prove that as far as appearance went the popular disbelief in colt-raising was well founded. The colts of that period had a curious blend of blood in their veins. A big head, spindle legs, narrow chests, and flat ribs, might be found in one combination, where grade Clyde and a mongrel between Hambletonian and native, presented to the student of atavism curious and interesting problems.

This old feeling against colt-raising was not entirely groundless. Bad accommodation can be improved; defective skill can be made more perfect; but in a country where almost the only feed for four months is hay and oats, and the temperature ranging now and then pretty low, it requires special skill and judgment to turn out first-rate colts. The present feeling is all the other way. Every aspiring young man wants a team of showy young mares, and the finer they are, the greater is the risk of failure at one point or another. But this risk, though obvious to older stagers, has not hindered the importation within the last year or two of scores of car loads of mares from Ontario, generally in foal to good horses there. Some of these were bought for cash, others traded for the oxen or

useful old plugs with which the pioneer had started, and there is all the time a big trade for the dealers, mostly local men, who take notes for the balance, which the dealer may be unable to pay down. In this credit trade there is not so much "scalping" done as by the dealers over the line, who sometimes get chattel mortgages over all he owns as security for the poor homesteader's first fancy team.

It was the new men from the east who began the late confidence in colt-raising. Calf Mountain, Nelson, Pilot Mound, Stonewall, Carberry, Portage, each had capable settlers ten years ago who began at once to try breeding. Even & Lawrence's splendid Clyde at Ruttanville, and McCaig's "Black Duke" Percheron, at Carberry, were choice horses, not since surpassed, and Trick at Calf Mountain, was an early and successful breeder. The Mollons at Stonewall, and I. E. Smith, of Brandon, may be worthily coupled as examples of importers who did good service in recent years. But the country is too new and work too scattered, consequently good horses are over-traveled and under-paid, and a host of culls from the east and south have found business, and even taken prizes, for want of better shift.

The general purpose sire is at the present time far too common in Manitoba. There are draft horses of different breeds, with reliable pedigrees, whose record has been satisfactory, and there are even cases of sires with mixed blood, which have left many good colts behind them; but there is a decided feeling among practical men that the time has arrived for making a special effort to introduce a considerably increased number of pure-blooded horses. There is less inclination for fancy blood now than five years ago. For one thing the spread of branch railroads has made it less necessary to have a team that could run home 30 or 40 miles after delivering a load of wheat at the elevator. Besides, the attempt to breed from a plain country mare and a Hambletonian has produced too many monstrosities, and the draft horse is the popular figure at present. To encourage first-rate horses the province must get out of the old rut of \$25 prizes for the best stallion. In the home of the Clydes a bonus of £50 to £100 is paid by the farmers' club of his district besides the ordinary fees for service, and it is not the surest way to tempt valuable importations to offer a £5 prize here for a horse that could get a £75 bonus at home. There are some capital Clyde mares in the country, but the idea of raising choice stallion colts within the country is rather premature. It is not every good farmer even in Scotland that can breed stallions, and the average Manitoba farmer will find it most profitable to aim at a good blocky, well-graded Clyde as the reward of his breeding enterprise. In this connexion it ought to be mentioned that the Messrs. Beith, of Bowmanville, have recently started in Winnipeg a sale stable for pedigreed Clydesdales.

But though everything has not been done in the best way, or produced the best results, the number of promising colts has been a marked feature of every country fair, all over the province. Take the county of Dennis for example, a settlement six years old, which last fall had fairs at Virden and Oak Lake. There were 200 entries at Virden, and not much fewer at Oak Lake in the horse class alone. The rapid increase in the number of neat mares from 1,100 lbs. to 1,300 lbs. within the last two years is strong testimony that the farmers of that very live county have full faith in colt-raising, as the most promising and profitable of all forms of stock-raising. The rapid increase in the cultivated area keeps up the demand for horses, and though their zeal may not always be tempered