

organs of smell on our finger-tips we shall get some conception of this peculiar sense. We should then get ideas of objects in very different terms to what we actually do get them—we should refer to "square smells," "pointed smells," "round smells," etc. It is just such fundamental differences which render it hard for us to understand the insect mind, and which render much of the older work, done before these facts were known, of little value.

(To be continued.)

THE HORSE.

Percherons as Army Horses.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The exports of horses and mules have at last passed the million mark. The official figures given by the Department of Foreign and Domestic Commerce U.S.A. show that during the twenty-seven months ending December 1, 1916, 1,029,961 head of horses and mules, valued at a total of \$216,941,912, were actually exported from the United States, most of these going directly to the European war territory. Purchases are still continuing at a heavy rate.

The firm of Ellsworth and McNair have sold more than 70,000 head of horses annually for the last two years and no one is better informed on horse values than Harry McNair of that firm. In discussing the war trade recently he estimated that the average prices for the different classes of horses actually accruing to the farmers, or, in other words, the price which the farmers realized for the horses on the farm, were substantially as follows: cavalry horses, \$115 per head; French artillery horses, \$140 per head; British artillery horses, \$165 per head; draft horses, weighing over 1,650 pounds, about \$215 to \$240 per head. In other words, light weight horses, ranging around 1,000 to 1,100 pounds, have brought farmers \$115 each, but one cross of draft horse blood on the same mare that was used to produce this light cavalry horse would have produced a horse ranging from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds in weight, depending upon the conditions under which said half-blood drafter came to maturity. Those that were not well fed out would naturally be lighter in weight at maturity, while those that received an abundance of feed, permitting of full development, would range from 1,400 to 1,500 pounds, so that the first cross of draft blood raised the value from \$115 to \$140, or \$165 per head. The selection of half-blood Percheron mares, weighing from 1,350 to 1,500 pounds, for breeding to another Percheron stallion of first class type and conformation will result, as long experience has abundantly shown, in horses of good draft type and conformation weighing from \$1,600 to 1,800 pounds at maturity, if they are allowed plenty of feed for full development, and these horses have brought prices ranging in excess of \$200 on the farms. In other words, one cross of Percheron blood increases the value of the progeny from light-weight mares from \$35 to \$50, and a second cross on the half-blood mares will increase the value from \$35 to \$50 more, so that the first two crosses of Percheron sires on ordinary light-weight mares will increase the value of the progeny resulting from \$70 to \$100 per head. This is not theory, but has been proved over and over again in the sales of horses occurring during the past two years.

The farmer who has been obliged to sell his horses at \$115 per head, while his neighbors using the same kind of mares, but who bred to Percheron stallions, have sold their surplus at prices ranging from \$140, \$165 up to \$225 per head, sees in a financial way the direct contrast in the value of light horses as compared with the value of horses carrying one-half or three-quarters of Percheron blood. This has done more to increase the demand for Percheron stallions than anything that has occurred in the past fifteen years.

In the judgment of the most experienced market men, fully seventy-five per cent of the horses sold abroad for artillery and transport work have been grade Percherons produced by crossing Percheron stallions on the common light mares in this country. How well these horses have met the foreign demand is attested in the leading editorial of the Live Stock Journal of London, November 17th, 1916, from which I quote the following:

"In the meantime the Percheron type has made many friends in England. The breed, mostly represented it is true, by 'grade' horses as yet, is firmly established in the hearts and minds of the responsible officers of the British army, for go where one will in army circles he hears nothing but praise for a horse that has proved his sterling worth in artillery. East and west, north and south the story is the same; the half-bred Percheron has filled many wants and has proved himself a gentleman of a horse, as well as a willing and never failing worker. We shall have a further opportunity of stating how pleased army men are with the type, but for the moment our chief concern lies in stating the facts of the case in connection with the recent importation of two pure bred Percheron stallions and some brood mares."

It is the intention of their owners to use these horses in producing reliable artillery horses from Shire and Clydesdale mares, but they will also breed true to type using the several Percheron mares accompanying the stallions, and so lay the foundation for an English Percheron Stud Book. Let it be added that this desire to try out the Percheron in England is not an idle whim or passing fancy. It is a thorough determination, brought about as the result of sincere conviction on the part of army authorities, that the half-bred Percheron fills the bill best of the many types bought for us the world over since the outbreak of the war."

No better evidence can be asked, coming as it does

from men who have for all their lifetime been familiar with other breeds, and who were in some degree, at least, hostile to Percherons. The adaptability of the breed, the fact that Percheron stallions invariably beget good salable horses from either large or small mares, and the all around enduring and everlasting qualities of the breed have made it the most popular one in America, a popularity which is now increasing by leaps and bounds.

Still further testimony to the high estimate placed on the grade Percherons that have been shipped abroad is shown in an article which appeared in the Live Stock Journal of London, England, on December 23, 1916.

Despite all contention to the contrary, the horse is a most important factor in contributing to the success of civilized nations, whether that success be sought for in peace or in war, and it should be our effort in America to produce the most efficient power-unit that can possibly be produced in horse flesh, to the end that our own farm and city work may be more economically and satisfactorily accomplished and the income accruing from the sale of our surplus horses to foreign nations be materially increased.

WAYNE DINSMORE,
Sec'y Percheron Society of America.

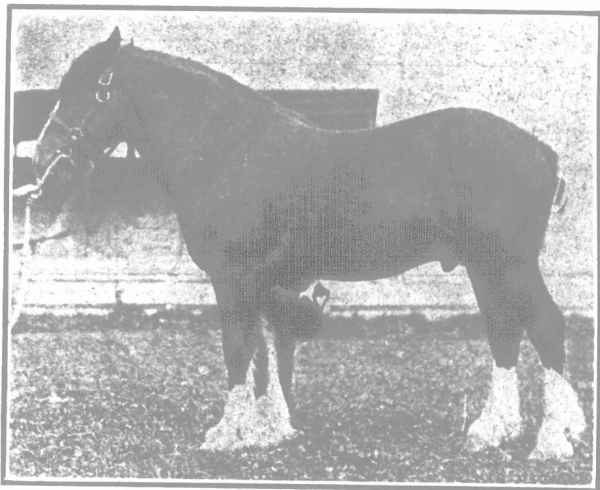
Percherons in England.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The first pure-bred Percherons ever imported into England were two stallions and twelve mares bought in France, and which were divided in a sporting little function at Market Harboro on Jan. 17th, Lord Lonsdale and Henry Overman selecting them alternately. The sporting Earl waived first choice to the sporting farmer, and Overman went for weight and his lordship for quality. Overman's lot were topped by an eight-year-old, heavily-in-foal mare standing on short legs, and boasting size and great bone and a fine, crisp action. She was champion mare at the Paris show when she was four years old. Lord Lonsdale's best mare was a four-year-old, not quite so big or so heavy, but full of quality.

Both gentlemen are going to breed Percherons pure, and we will no doubt have a new stud book and a new society. About half a dozen other gentlemen in the country are growing keen and enquiring in France for mares.

ALBION.



Spencer of the Briars.

R. Ness' champion stallion at the Canada Central last fall.

LIVE STOCK.

Wintering Hogs on Steamed Hay.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The way in which the readers of your columns are contributing to the success (especially in recent issues) of your paper, is certainly fine. While "The Advocate" has always been unsurpassed as a farm journal, the discussions and suggestions appearing this winter have raised its standard remarkably. If anything is an indication of the ascendancy of the agricultural profession it is the fact that farmers are beginning to use their pens to spread abroad the ideas which hitherto diffidence has kept locked from the world, not only on matters relating to their profession but also on questions upon which rests the destiny of the nation.

A short time ago I was surprised to hear a farmer say that in his neighborhood nearly all the farmers had sold their brood sows at the approach of winter on account of the scarcity of grain, and on making further inquiries I found that in this part of the country such a condition is quite prevalent. In view of the indications of a tremendous demands for hogs next summer, this is regrettable, as by following a plan which I understand has been tried successfully by several of the older farmers, brood sows may be wintered well and inexpensively.

A small quantity of clover hay is cut fine and packed in a water-tight box. A couple of handfuls of chop or bran are preferably mixed with the chopped hay, and boiling water is added until the whole mixture is moist. The cover is then placed tightly on the box and the whole thing left to steam for a few days. At the end of that time it will have become a good mash, which, if fed regularly, and a few handfuls at a time, will keep the brood sow in a thriving condition at a minimum cost. As almost every farmer has an abundance of good clover hay this year, I do not see why a similar

mixture could not be fed profitably to growing pigs. One of the oldest and most successful farmers I know has followed this method of wintering hogs for many years and highly recommends it where grain is as scarce and expensive as it is now, especially. With the prices of bran and shorts where they are it certainly should be doubly profitable this year. Moreover I believe that any trouble and expense that it costs the farmer to winter his hogs will be amply repaid next summer, as, providing the war continues, and the general consensus of opinion seems to be that it will, there is no reason why the price of hogs should not soar high above the twelve-cent mark, around which it has been hovering for some time.

Perth Co., Ont.

"PERTH."

An Afternoon by a Scottish Shepherd's Fireside.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

One winter afternoon between Christmas and New Year's Day Mrs. Elliot received a visitor, "Mr. Frank," the master's son, also a true son of the Border, who had come away from Edinburgh for a breath of his native air. His family at that time had a house in Edinburgh on account of the children who went to school and college there. Where could Frank be so happy as with Sandy and his wife in their home among the hills? They were his oldest friends, for Mrs. Elliot's were the kind arms that had received him on his first entrance into the world 17 years ago. At that time she was the mother of six fine lads of her own, but had a heart big enough to mother, if necessary, as many more. This fine relation between master and servant was and perhaps is still quite usual in Scotland. Mrs. Elliot's father and grandfather had herded on this same farm, but, as she said in a tone which showed it was Sandy's misfortune not his fault: "The guid man cam' frae the east. He was born in Teviotdale." This misfortune had been mitigated for Sandy by the early death of his father and the return of his mother to her native dale. When he grew up he became "young herd" to his wife's father whom he had in due course succeeded, and now his son John was young herd and would, no doubt, by and by succeed him. Not for a while though, for Sandy and his wife, though over 50 years of age, were strong and active; and looked as if they would hold on to their work for years to come. They had reached that rather pathetic time in the lives of married people when they are left together alone "just as they started," the young folk having gone into the world to make homes of their own. In the kitchen with her granny was John Elliot's oldest child, a little girl of four or five, whose beauty Frank commented upon, causing Mrs. Elliot to expostulate: "Dinna Master Frank, dinna. She kens she's bonnie," and to Ailie, "gang hame hinny and tell daddy to come and hae a crack wi' Mr. Frank when he comes hame frae the hill."

Truly, if Ailie was bonnie she came by her beauty by inheritance. Sandy himself was a fine man though past his first youth. His dark brown hair and beard showed a sprinkling of grey, his grey kindly eyes showed a humorous twinkle which you seldom found in Mrs. Elliot's dark ones. Both were straight and tall with that freedom of gesture and carriage that perfect health and the life among the hills gives women as well as the men.

The kitchen itself, which was reception and dining-room as well, deserves a word. Edward Carpenter has said very truly that as a rule a kitchen is the most artistic room in a house, simply, he explained, because everything in it is made for use not ornament. Have we not all felt this? This kitchen was a large, stone-paved room with a white hearthstone and bright steel fire irons and fender which shone in the light of a large peat fire. Nevermore shall we see such fireplaces, at least 3 to 4 feet wide and filled with glowing peats. At this moment an iron pot hung high above it in which was a chicken for Frank's tea, for he had had a railway journey and a long drive. From time to time Mrs. Elliot rose and heaped burning peats on the lid of the iron "oven pot" she called it. A more modern invention had been introduced and adorned one side of the fireplace, but in Mrs. Elliot's eyes it was good to hold kindling wood and to bring to a superior high polish. As a cooking utensil the pot her mother had used suited her best. As always the household fire was the chief centre of interest, but one other article of furniture, the pride of her life, must be noted. It was a "dresser" of scrubbed wood with a large plate rack on which were arranged rows of blue dishes of all sizes from the large meat platters, which she called "ashets" a corruption of the French *assiettes*, to small bread and butter plates on the top shelf near the ceiling or rather roof. Then there was a collection of bowls, glasses and little egg cups. No wonder Mrs. Elliot was proud of this display. Most of it had belonged to her mother, some to her grandmother, and the various accidents and narrow escapes that some of the collection had had! The difficulty of replacing articles with duplicates of an equally good quality—"But things are no as guid as they were lang syne."

Besides this celebrated piece of furniture there was a big settle where Sandy rested by a time when he came in tired, and from the ceiling, where were many books for its accommodation, hung dried mutton, hams, sides of bacon, numbers of hazel "nibbies" finished and in process of manufacture, and above the mantelpiece a gun, not of the newest pattern, which Sandy would explain: "The Earl gied to my guid father." The Scotch people have a pretty custom of calling their mothers-in-law and other relations of their husbands or wives guid mither, guid sister and so on.

At the back of the kitchen was a little bed-room where