

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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most cases once a month or thereabouts, the manure being loaded direct on wagon or sleigh and drawn to the fields. Most of the men who are trying it incline to endorse the opinion that young cattle will make better gains loose than tied.

A most noticeable and encouraging feature in the barns visited was the scrupulous regard for light, as evidenced by numerous large windows along the tops of walls. In many cases these were hinged so that they might be swung back when desired to air the stable.

Another noteworthy idea seen in nearly every stable was a manure gutter, fashioned by having a straight drop from the platform and a plain, gently-graded slope of two or three inches to the passageway behind. This is easier to clean than the old-fashioned square gutter, and no trouble with slipping is experienced. The plain-slope gutter has been recommended for years in "The Farmer's Advocate," but we were surprised to note how completely it had superseded the other in the district visited.

All kinds of wall material—wood, cement-concrete, stone, and large hollow brick, or combination thereof—were in evidence. Those using the large bricks, well plastered on the inside, spoke very highly of them from the standpoint of dryness. One man expressed the opinion, in which he is doubtless correct, that concrete blocks, laid with cement mortar, would make a stronger wall than brick. Whether it would prove as good a non-conductor of heat, is open to question, though it would doubtless be better than solid concrete.

Where the water supply has been introduced into the stables, individual drinking basins had the preference, but not a few of the men were of opinion that cattle were the better for getting out of doors for airing and exercise, instead of standing the whole winter indoors.

Everywhere we encountered a marked revival of interest in the subject of stable construction, the points uppermost in consideration being con-

venience of arrangement for feeding and general care, and ventilation, but much more definite results have been accomplished in the former direction. The need for the latter is admitted, particularly if dryness is to be secured, but how to secure it is the problem about which many are not yet clear. Details of our tour will be found in the Farm Department of this issue.

HORSES.

Live-stock Research.

THE WISCONSIN STALLION LAW.

In the midst of the discussion of the problems connected with our horse interests and of the proposed stallion license and inspection act, it may be opportune to consider what others are thinking and doing. In a bulletin, just to hand, on "The Horse-breeding Industry of Wisconsin," by A. S. Alexander, V. S., Agricultural College, Wisconsin, we have a candid resume of the present status of the horse-breeding industry in that State, a statement of the laws pertaining to horse-breeding in Wisconsin, an outline of the author's views of the effectiveness and utility of the existing legislation, and a suggestive discussion of propositions looking toward the improvement of the present law, and of ways and means for the improvement of the industry in general. Conditions in Ontario are not so dissimilar from those in Wisconsin but that we may receive assistance from a consideration of the proposals submitted. Dr. Alexander is one of the eminent veterinarians of the United States, and his opinions and conclusions are worthy of thoughtful study.

The Wisconsin law provides (1) that all stallions standing for service in the State must be enrolled in the State Department of Horse-breeding, and that certificates of such enrollment must be issued to the owners from said Department; (2) that, before obtaining such license certificates, the owners shall make oath that their stallions are free from hereditary or contagious unsoundness or disease, or present a certificate of soundness signed by a duly-qualified veterinarian, together with the pedigree or other necessary papers relating to breeding and ownership; (3) that the officers of the Department shall accept such animals as pure-bred whose pedigrees bear the signature of the president and secretary of a government-recognized and approved studbook; (4) that owners of stallions shall have placed in certain conspicuous places posters bearing copies of the certificate issued to them by the department; (5) that the license certificates shall be of a certain specified form for (a) pure-bred, (b) grade, (c) cross-bred stallions; (6) that a fee of \$2.00 shall be paid by the owner of the stallion to defray expenses of his enrollment, etc.; (7) that violation of the act shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding fifty dollars. Another subsection provides that the stallion owner shall have a lien on the colt to the amount of the service fee.

The author of the bulletin believes that the law has been of decided benefit to the horse-breeding industry of the State in that (1) it has aroused interest and stimulated discussion in the farming community in connection with the horse-breeding business; (2) it has assisted in the eradication of erroneous beliefs, and called attention to the importance and necessity of study; (3) it has drawn attention to the importance of soundness, not only in the sires, but in the brood mares as well; (4) it has led to a greater knowledge of the character of pedigree registry, and has assisted in establishing the correctness of pedigree certificates; (5) it has caused discussion relative to the value of pure blood, to the unwisdom of indiscriminate and mixed breeding, and to the fallacy of using horses of poor individual quality and merit; and (6) it has instituted a sure if slow educational mechanism, inevitably working toward the patronage of a better class of sires, thus driving the scrub stallions out of the country, and of the adoption of more intelligent methods and of a more discriminating system in breeding practice.

It was noted in the bulletin that the legislation had thus far been somewhat tentative in character, and had been of such a nature that attention would be drawn to certain facts of breeding, and that such information might be given to breeders through the issuing of the stallion certificates that they might more intelligently pick and choose in the choice of the sires they used. The bulletin itself contains a complete catalogue of the stallions, by counties, in the State, together with a statement of the owner, breed, age, etc., of each, and thus furnishes some valuable information to the horse owners of the country. The facts above noted are not without suggestion to all concerned in horse-breeding in our own Province.

BRUCE.

We think your Christmas Number this year is much superior to any of your former editions, though we enjoy them all. The copy of Paul Wickson's painting we think is fine.

Halton Co., Ont.

CHAS. W. BUTTS.

Horse Notes.

In the course of a leaflet, recently issued by the Canadian Department of Agriculture, the following, among others, are emphasized as good points to look for in a horse:

If a horse is short-ribbed, he is light in his middle, and is nearly always a poor feeder. He has not the stomach to contain succulent food to serve him from one meal to another.

A light-centered horse seldom weighs well, and weight in a draft horse, if it comes from bone, sinew and muscle, goes a long way to determine his commercial value.

When a horse is well coupled together on top, and has a short back, he must have the length below from the point of the shoulder to the back of the thigh. When so built, he will stand the strain of drawing heavy loads much better than if he has a long, loose back.

The front feet and hocks are the parts of either a draft or a driving horse that come directly in contact with the hard work, and unless they are sound and good a horse's usefulness will be very much impaired, and his commercial value very much lessened.

Before using a stallion, get the groom to lead him away from you. Stand square behind him, and see that he picks up his feet and places them on the ground properly, travelling in both trot and walk clear and clean, not striking the ground first with the toe and then bringing down the heel.

The feet should be large and waxy in appearance. The sole of the hoof should be concave, the frog spongy, plump and elastic, because it acts as a buffer to take the concussion from acting too severely on the foot, pastern and fetlock. See that both sire and dam have sound feet, free from flatness, brittleness, and are not contracted.

A stallion whose feet are contracted and brittle, and whose hocks are puffy and fleshy-looking, should be avoided, as such hocks are generally associated with a coarseness throughout his whole conformation and a general lack of quality.

New York Stallion Law.

On complying with the provisions of this article, the owner of a stallion "shall have a lien on each mare served, together with the foal of such mare from such service, for the amount agreed on at the time of service; or, if no agreement was made, for the amount specified in the statement hereinafter required to be filed, if within fifteen months after such service he files a notice of such lien in the same manner and place as chattel mortgages are required by law to be filed. Such notice of lien shall be in writing, specifying the person against whom the claim is made, the amount of the same and a description of the property on which the lien is claimed, and such lien shall terminate at the end of eighteen months from the date of service, unless within that time an action is commenced for the enforcement thereof, as provided in the code of civil procedure for the foreclosure of a lien on chattels.

A person having the custody or control of a stallion and charging a fee for his services, shall, before advertising or offering such services to the public, file with the clerk of the county in which he resides or in which such stallion is kept for service, a written statement giving the name, age, description and pedigree, if known, and if not, stating that the same is unknown, of such stallion, and the terms and conditions on which he will serve. On filing such statement, the county clerk shall record the same in a book provided for that purpose and issue a certificate to such person that such statement has been so filed and recorded. The person having the custody and control of such stallion shall post a written or printed copy of such statement and certificate in a conspicuous place in each locality in which said stallion is kept for service."

Neglect or refusal to file and post such statement as required in this article, or false statement of the pedigree of such stallion, forfeits all fees for the services of such stallion, and renders the delinquent liable to a person deceived or defrauded thereby for the damages sustained.

Stallion Law of Montana.

Every owner or agent who may have the control of any stallion, who shall charge a fee for the service of such stallion, shall, before offering or advertising such services to the public for any fee, reward or compensation, file with the clerk of the county in which owner or owners or agents reside, or where such stallion shall be kept for service, a written statement, giving the name, age, pedigree and record if known, if not that the same is unknown, description, terms and conditions upon which such stallion will serve. Upon filing such statement, the county clerk shall issue a certificate or license to owner or owners or agents having custody and control of such stallion, that such a statement has been filed in his office; the owner or owners or agents of such stallion shall then post a written or printed notice of a copy of the statement so filed with the county clerk in a conspicuous place in each locality in which said stallion shall be kept for service.

Every owner or agent who shall proclaim or