

Single Ownership or Syndicate?

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I would much prefer in all cases single ownership of stallions, or any other male animal, to ownership by syndicates. It is much easier for the seller to deal with one purchaser than to deal with half a dozen or more, all of whom may have different opinions as to the style or quality of the male desirable for their district. Also, it seems to me that it must be very much more satisfactory for the man who intends to put a female to a male, to have to deal with only one owner. Still, on the other hand, it is necessary to consider the requirements of the country and its facilities.

Are farmers in this country, as a rule, in a position to become individual owners of very valuable entire animals? If not, what is the best method for them to adopt in order to become the breeders and owners of the same?

I must say that during my ten years' experience in this country as a breeder and importer, I have been led to believe that the farmers of Canada are not, as a class, financially strong enough to become individual owners of first-class horse stock, though there are exceptions. In this idea, however, I may be entirely wrong, as owing to the decline of prices in every branch of farming products, since 1890, farmers have not felt much like investing in horses, because prices since that time have not been very remunerative. Unfortunately for the farmers of Canada, there are practically no wealthy land-owners distributed throughout the country who can afford to pay special attention to the keeping up of studs, herds, etc., of high-class pedigree stock during times of depression. Your question, then, comes very appropriately at a time when business is commencing to improve. "What are the advantages or otherwise of the syndicate system?"

In answer to this question, I would point out most emphatically, that it is utterly impossible for breeders or importers of stock to continue to do a credit business. Such a course, as you are well aware, will sooner or later be the ruin of anyone, and has within your memory been a source of most grave difficulty to the breeders and importers of Canada. Yet the bulk of enquiries which are received daily by them contain the clause, "What are your terms?" showing that our farmers still look to the credit system.

Now, if the credit system is an impossibility, and if farmers cannot afford individually to buy, the only alternative system that I can see is the one of syndicating stallions; and if properly carried out by honest parties on both sides, there appears to me no reason why it should not be a success and give satisfaction to all persons concerned.

In districts where there is no one farmer rich enough to purchase a horse, there may be several farmers who combined together can raise enough cash to purchase a stallion which will greatly improve the breed in that district. Possibly, also, the larger the syndicate and the more powerful, the more uniform will be the breed of horse in that section, also the better the quality.

As an instance, let me quote the case of a bull which was bought some years ago by an Agricultural Society, to go to their section of Ontario. That bull was used on everybody's cow, no matter whether the patrons lived one or twenty miles away. The district soon became famous for its breed of cattle. To-day, pretty nearly every other farmer in that district owns a bull of some breed, of some or no quality, and drovers practically pass the district by. So it is far better for a community to be widely interested in one good horse (if it cannot afford to keep more than one) than for a dozen persons in that same community to be travelling a dozen different breeds or qualities of horse, when there are not more than enough mares for one.

Unfortunately, there is no good without its attendant evils, and though the principle of syndicating horses is right where the strong individuals (financially) do not exist, there are many frauds practiced on the public. Let me quote one case which came to my knowledge. I mention this case because it does appear to me that it is one of the slickest instances of syndicate work which was ever put through in Canada. Two men in a buggy arrived at the village of H— one night, driving a lame trotter, and leading behind the rig a Coach stallion. Having supped, slept, and breakfasted, they enquired for the local veterinary, wishing to consult him about the driver, which had got injured on the road. Soon after being summoned, the "vet." appeared, was taken out to the stable, and being somewhat of a sport, he recognized a little speed in his patient, and requested to be driven around town. After a short, quick drive, they re-alighted at the hotel, and on further examination the case was pronounced to be disease of the navicular bone, the owners being advised to stay over a few days whilst the horse was being treated. Nothing loath, but pretending reluctance, they complied with the request. The Coach horse, of course, needed exercise, and was taken out daily before the assembled and admiring crowd of villagers and farmers. In the meanwhile the principal storekeeper was interviewed and convinced what a splendid thing for the farmers it would be to have a good horse located in that district, and was half persuaded to put a few shares into a syndicate (for the good of the country) if the farmers agreed to purchase the horse. Shortly the funds of the two adventurers were exhausted. Then, first, the "vet.," and afterwards the hotel-keeper, were persuaded to take shares (there was no possibility of their getting cash for services rendered) in lieu of the expenses incurred for medical

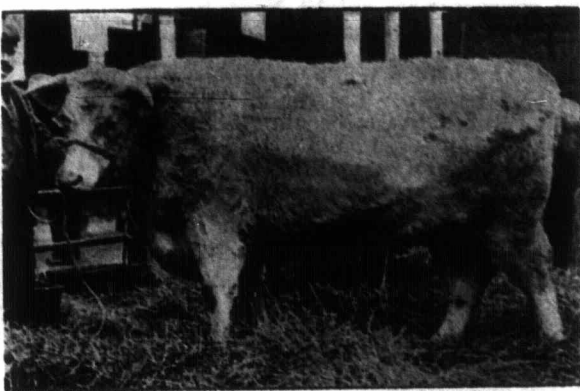
attendance, board, etc. The storekeeper on being told that the two principal horsemen of the village were in favor of the syndicate, and being ignorant of the fact that their advocacy had practically cost them nothing, took some shares, but paid cash. One or two prominent farmers received two shares for one share paid up. After this the deal went through like a shot. The horse was sold for ten times what he cost, and when I explained to the local vet. how nicely he had been fooled and made a stool pigeon of, he for the first time in his life admitted that he was not as smart a man as he had always supposed himself to be.

However, my letter is long enough already, and I will close it with a caution to your readers: If you cannot afford as individuals to own a horse yourselves, enter into a syndicate by all means, but be very careful with whom you are dealing, no matter which end of the bargain he or they may be advocating.

HORSE BREEDER.

Tuberculosis at the P. E. I. Farmers and Dairymen's Convention.

At the above-named meeting of representative Prince Edward Island farmers and stockmen, held at Marshfield, Jan. 18th and 19th, and ably presided over by Mr. Walter Simpson (a condensed report of which appeared in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of Feb. 15th), each of the addresses received due attention in clever debates which followed their delivery, but that of Dr. Robertson, who spoke on the subject of cattle diseases, drew more rebellious shots than all the others combined. Points were made against the Doctor by F. G. Boyer, Senator D. Ferguson, J. A. McDonald, Hubbard, F. Turner, and others. This was owing to his having devoted the greater part of his address to giving alarmist views of the danger of cattle contracting tuberculosis and infecting human beings. He glorified the late Congress of Tuberculosis fads at Berlin, and labored hard to persuade the convention to adopt a resolution demanding compulsory legislation for applying the tuberculin test to every cow in the Dominion. It was brought out by the discussion that while cattle owners are subject to loss in their herds by innum-



SHORTHORN STEER, KELEMANJARO.
Winner of first prize and breed cup at Smithfield, 1899.
PROPERTY OF MR. JAS. BRUCE, INVERKUMHOMERY,
ABERDEENSHIRE.

erable diseases, accidents, and deaths, of which the disease called tuberculosis is the least frequent, yet the Doctor forgot to say a word of any but the one. And his critics complained that he failed to give them any hints as to the best methods for preventing disease. Authorities of the latest date have given ample proof that the disease is not communicated from beast to man, nor from man to beast. It was affirmed that if strychnine were as abundantly and universally distributed in dwelling houses and stables by all and every living creature, from reptiles, mice, rats, and all the way up to man, as is the germs of tuberculosis, then no criminal could be convicted of poisoning with strychnine. And they demanded that the Doctor give a full life-history of the tubercle germ, which he failed to do, that being still a mystery. The "Poleaxe" treatment was jeered at, and numerous instances cited when it was proved that tubercle-infected cattle had under wholesome conditions recovered and outlived the attack. The unreliability of the test was asserted, and the tremendously oppressive power the proposed compulsory measure would place in the hands of a not always trustworthy profession was urged. It was asked if it might not be turned into a political lever or a bribery trick. It was hinted that the heads of veterinary colleges encouraged the tuberculosis scare with the accompanying test as a means for providing work for their numerous graduates. Nor was the fact forgotten that the medical profession find the tuberculin test a dangerous and at times fatal experiment with their human patients, and have discarded its use in their practice.

The Berlin Tuberculin Congress, which was lauded by the Doctor, was condemned by one of the speakers because no cattle breeders were allowed to take a share in its proceedings. It was claimed that a man who had made cattle and their welfare his constant life study and business, and had made that business a notable success, was as surely entitled to the term scientific expert as any man attending that conference. Yet they were excluded.

The Doctor is a vigorous, even eloquent, speaker, and an old political war horse, being a former member of Parliament, but his replies were not effective.

P. E. I., Jan. 27.
REPORTER.

British Pedigree Stock Sales, 1899.

The following tables, giving the highest prices realized in 1898 and 1899, extracted from a sale record which I have published in the *Farmer and Stock Breeder's Annual*, will doubtless be of interest to your many readers who don't see the English publication, which in addition to these summarized tables, has a complete record of every sale of importance chronicled therein which has taken place during the past year, and from whence can be obtained the names of those breeders whose produce realized the prices which are given in the following summaries, in the compiling of which no sales transacted privately have been included. The sales of the breeds in which Canadians are interested only are given in full.

The Horse Section is given first, and I have tabulated the highest prices realized at the sales included in my record by each separate age, and given for comparison the prices made for the same in the preceding year. The results disclosed are as follows for the breeds in the following order:

SHIRES.		
	Highest price 1898.	Highest price 1899.
Stallions.....	\$4,987 50	\$2,100 00
Three-year-old stallions.....	3,737 50	1,050 00
Two-year-old stallions.....	3,150 00	1,037 50
Yearling stallions.....	525 00	3,675 00
Colt foals.....	1,312 50	1,365 00
Brood mares.....	4,462 50	4,367 00
Four-year-old fillies.....	1,680 00	1,637 00
Three-year-old fillies.....	6,037 00	2,387 00
Two-year-old fillies.....	2,625 00	2,337 50
Yearling fillies.....	3,150 00	3,307 50
Filly foals.....	1,575 00	1,680 00
HACKNEYS.		
Stallions.....	5,250 00	3,150 00
Three-year-old stallions.....	385 00	5,775 00
Two-year-old stallions.....	1,391 00	2,535 00
Yearling stallions.....	1,076 00	1,785 00
Colt foals.....	210 00	210 00
Brood mares.....	3,281 00	2,787 50
Four-year-old mares.....	446 00	336 00
Three-year-old fillies.....	2,100 00	4,367 50
Two-year-old fillies.....	3,045 00	2,331 00
Yearling fillies.....	1,152 50	430 00
Filly foals.....		183 75
HARNESS HORSES, ETC.		
Geldings.....	1,305 00	4,836 00
Show mares.....		2,152 50
CLYDESDALES.		
Stallions.....		4,400 00
Three-year-old stallions.....		
Yearling stallions.....	446 00	436 00
Colt foals.....	472 50	367 50
Brood mares.....	635 00	1,735 50
Three-year-old fillies.....	582 75	2,100 00
Two-year-old fillies.....	340 00	525 00
Yearling fillies.....	525 00	735 00
Filly foals.....	496 75	577 50
SUFFOLKS.		
Stallions.....	493 00	393 75
Two-year-old stallion.....	131 00	682 50
PONIES (ALL BREDS).		
Stallions.....		367 00
Yearling stallions.....		220 48
Brood mares.....	1,365 00	1,102 50
Three-year-old fillies.....		525 00
Two-year-old fillies.....	131 00	315 00
POLO PONIES.		
Polo ponies.....	3,937 50	3,937 50

With respect to this breed, the top prices each year are the same, but the average for this sale, for in both years Messrs. Miller made the top price, which in 1898 was \$1,405.00 for thirty-one head, and in 1899, \$1,321.00 for thirty-four head.

The general results of these sales have been satisfactory, but the Shire horses have both made higher values and received the largest demand; in fact, for this class of horse the demand has been considerably in excess of former years, particularly for geldings, which have sold readily at higher prices.

The Cattle Section is given in exactly the same manner as the preceding section, starting with the

SHORTHORNS.		
	Highest price 1898.	Highest price 1899.
Bulls.....	\$1,076 00	\$1,890 00
Bull calves.....	1,732 50	1,601 00
Cows.....	2,152 50	813 75
Two-year-old heifers.....	735 00	682 00
Yearling heifers.....	577 50	1,102 50
Heifer calves.....	404 25	516 00
ABERDEEN-ANGUS.		
Bulls.....	378 00	397 50
Bull calves.....	147 00	225 72
Cows.....	603 75	561 75
Two-year-old heifers.....	525 00	425 24
Yearling heifers.....	325 48	456 72
Yearling calves.....	278 00	287 75
HEREFORDS.		
Two-year-old bulls.....	231 00	330 24
Yearling bulls.....	231 00	478 75
Cows.....	194 25	131 25
Two-year-old heifers.....	200 00	115 48
Yearling heifers.....	162 75	110 24
GALLOWAYS.		
Bulls.....	260 00	183 75
Yearling bulls.....	305 00	425 00
Cows.....	131 00	136 24
Three-year-old heifers.....		131 00
Two-year-old heifers.....	305 00	405 00
Yearling heifers.....	105 00	200 00
KUSSEX.		
Bulls.....	367 50	315 00
Yearling bulls.....	131 24	
Cows.....	273 00	446 00
DEVONS.		
Bulls.....	470 00	210 00
Yearling bulls.....	246 48	
Bull calves.....	194 24	47 00
Cows.....	194 24	236 24
Two-year-old heifers.....	265 00	157 50
SOUTH DEVONS.		
Bulls.....		194 48
Yearling bulls.....		213 50
Cows.....	147 00	199 00

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O. A. COATES.