

## STOCK.

## Breeding Heavy Mares.

We all know that a great many splendid draft mares will not have foals this spring, simply because they were not bred last year. We have no doubt many owners of such mares are undecided whether or not to breed them during the present season. The decision will largely be governed by the hopefulness or lack of it in the individual men.

It is well to remember before deciding not to breed, that it takes five years from the time of service till a mature horse is obtained. There is no doubt in our minds but that long before five years have gone round, good horse stock will be in lively demand. The number of old, superannuated nags that have been destroyed during the past winter is enormous, which will to some extent make an opening for better animals. [In Toronto, not to go further from home, hundreds of horses have been fed to hogs, or ground up into fertilizers, since last autumn, many of which would have brought from \$15 to \$30 five years ago.] The street life of a draft horse is short, therefore the necessity of a constant supply of fresh blood, to keep up to the demand. We would not advocate breeding inferior mares, nor using nondescript sires, as that is unwise at any time. Unsound or ill-shaped mares should be sold off the farm if possible, or put to work which will pay their keep, without raising a foal to fill the same undesirable position as their dam in the horse-world.

Farmers who own sound, shapely draft mares, need have no hesitation in breeding them to first-class stallions of the same breed. Remember that the best is none too good, and it is economical to use such, even though the service fee is a little high. To those who can muster faith in the demand for good horses, which is sure to come, a splendid opportunity is now on hand to purchase a few good draft mares from men who have them and have lost heart, and want money rather than mares.

Good draft horses even to-day will sell at a price that will buy nearly as many necessities of life as the price of the same stamp of horse would purchase some year ago. Undoubtedly coach, park, and saddle horses, when of the right stamp and well trained, will sell more satisfactorily than any other sort just now; but when we compare the necessary expense and risk in bringing each of these classes up to saleable condition, the difference in profit does not seem so much in favor of the lighter sort. One writer puts it in this way: "Out of a dozen attempts by the general farmer to prepare for market a high-priced light horse, more failures than successes may be expected, while four out of five attempts to rear a saleable draft horse at a paying figure will be successful. A half-dozen colts of the draft type will probably net the farmer, at maturity, more money than the same number of the light type."

Without discussing this proposition, this much is certain: that the finer bred colts demand an extra amount of handling, breaking, training, and fitting, which the average farmer is not in a position to undertake; besides, a slight mishap or defect is a much more serious matter in the case of a fancy horse.

We notice that in an address by Alexander Galbraith, Secretary of the American Clydesdale Association, to a Wisconsin Farmers' Institute, he mentions that draft geldings sold in Chicago a few weeks ago as high as \$200 at auction, when common and undersized ones were going as low as \$50. In that Western country we hear of \$150 to \$200 being paid for good, smooth, 1,600 or 1,700-pound horses of proper age and conformation. Mr. Galbraith also says that he "firmly believes that before there is time to raise any more horses old enough to work, we will experience such a revival in the general demand that farmers will wonder why they could have been foolish enough to leave off breeding merely because prices had temporarily become low."

We can also take a lesson from the present feeling across the Atlantic. At the recent annual meeting of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland, attention was drawn to new features in the outlook for breeders there. One element in the horse trade of the year, fraught with influence on Clydesdales, was the growth of foreign importations, which during the three years ending 31st December, 1894, numbered about 10,000 head. The majority of these were of a lighter type than the Clydesdale, but the abnormally cheap price at which they reached the British market produced a glut among that sort of horse stock. The Society learns from this fact that their efforts must be directed toward producing the heavier type of horse, suitable for the demands of the street traffic, which advice is, without a doubt, just as applicable on this side the Atlantic as the other.

Of course, in the case of men with light breeding mares, and whose inclinations do not run in the heavy-horse groove, these observations do not apply, and by them an entirely different course must be pursued, but which does not come within the scope of this article.

The death occurred recently, in London, Eng., of Gen. F. G. Ravenhill, R. A., Inspector of Remounts for the British Army (under the new system which came in force in 1887), also a member of the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding. He was very familiar with the resources of nearly all portions of the Empire as regards horse breeding of the hunter or saddle type.

## Our Scottish Letter.

This cannot but be a Clydesdale letter. The great Spring Show, at Glasgow, of stallions of the breed is over, and the public are able to form their own opinions on the present state of horse-breeding in Scotland. One very gratifying feature in connection with the show is the number of pedigreed Clydesdale horses which have this year been bought for service in England, and there is also some indication of a revival in the export trade. One horse was purchased for exportation to Australia, and arrangements were made for several horses travelling in England. Clydesdale stallions will, during the coming season, be found in Hants, Essex, Kent, Sussex, Lancaster, Yorkshire, and Durham, as well as in the three Border Counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmoreland. More English buyers have been seen at Scottish sales within the past few weeks than has been the case for many years; and whether English Shire horse breeders like it or not, it is pretty clear that there are many engaged in supplying horses for the English towns, who believe that nothing beats the Clydesdale stallion for producing good geldings. Unless the Clydesdale men are able to show good grounds for this belief, they need not imagine that English horse-breeders are likely to patronize their breed, and a little more enlightened patriotism would convince them that it is their wisdom to keep the value of the Clydesdale as the sire of commercial stock very prominently before the public.

The show of stallions was marked by some novel features. Undoubtedly the most notable circumstance was the success of horses got by Sir Everard 5353. This splendid big horse was bred by Mrs. Lamont, Killellan Toward, Argyllshire, and was got by Top Gallant 1850, out of a mare by a son of Prince of Wales 673, and behind that of very old Clydesdale descent. He was purchased by Mr. William Taylor, Park Mains, Renfrew, from his breeder, when about eighteen months old; and when three, four and five years old, was awarded the premium of the Glasgow Agricultural Society at the Spring Show. He was subsequently, for two seasons, in Kintyre, and thereafter in Central Banffshire and Dumbartonshire, and during the ensuing season he will stand at home. In 1893 his son, The Summit 9442, was awarded the Glasgow premium, and was first in his class throughout the season. Last year another of his sons, Baron's Pride 9122, was champion stallion at the H. & A.'s Show, and last week two of his sons, Sir Morell Mackenzie 9416 and Royal Exchange 10000, were awarded the Glasgow senior and junior premiums. When he was awarded the premium in 1888, Mr. Taylor paid the forfeit, and sent his horse into Kirkcudbright. When there, Sir Everard produced Sir Morell Mackenzie, whose breeder was Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie, one of the most successful exhibitors and breeders of Ayrshire cattle and Clydesdale horses. In the following year, when in the Glasgow district, he produced The Summit and Barron's Pride; and in his first season in Kintyre he produced Royal Exchange. Thus, wherever located, Sir Everard has been successful in producing stock of the highest order of merit. The Summit is owned by the heirs of the late Mr. Robt. Spittal, Kenmuir, Tollcross, who bred him. Baron's Pride is owned by Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, and was bred by Messrs. R. & J. Finlay, Springhill, Baillieston. Royal Exchange was bred by Mr. Robert Clark, Skerobin, Campbeltown, and is owned by Mr. W. Clark, Netherlee, Cathcart. The aged horse, Sir Morell Mackenzie, was purchased at the recent Eastfield sale for 220 gs. He stands 17.3, is proportionately built on short legs, and altogether is a grand example of a big cart-horse. His dam is a good breeding mare, got by Duchal 2737. Amongst her other progeny are the two gets of Macgregor 1487, the big, handsome stallion Macandrew 9940, and the unbeaten yearling filly of 1894, May Queen, now owned by Mr. William Graham, of Edengrove, Penrith.

The competitions at the Scottish Stallion Show are divided into two sections: the first confined to horses which are unshired, and the winners in which must accept the premium of the Glasgow Agricultural Society, and travel in the district on terms stipulated by the Society; and the second open to horses already shired, as well as all others that may compete. In this second section there are three classes, viz., for two-year-olds, three-year-olds, and aged horses. In addition, there is a competition for the Cawdor Challenge Cup presented by the Clydesdale Horse Society for the best registered Clydesdale exhibited. In the confined section, as already indicated, the premiums were won by the two sons of Sir Everard already referred to, but they had stronger competition to face in the open section, and did not succeed in winning there. In the aged class the winner was Mr. Alexander Scott's Prince of Fortune 9826, from the Berryards stud, Greenock, a wonderfully compact, well-coupled horse, but not so big as the three or four horses beaten by him. He was bred by the late Mr. John Ralston, Milmain, Stranraer, and was got by Prince Fortunatus 8136, a very successful breeding horse, which died when two years old, out of a Darnley mare. The second horse was Mr. Peter Crawford's big, powerful-looking horse, Goldfinder 6897, whose sire was Lord Lyneloch 4539, which won at Chicago on one occasion. Goldfinder, as a two-year-old, was first and cup winner at Aberdeen; and as a four-year-old, he was first at the H. & A. S., Stirling, in 1891.

A very handsome, big, heavy horse, Lord Colm Edmund 9280, owned by Mrs. Simpson, St. Colmac, Bute, and got by Prince Gallant 6176, out of the dam of Lord Erskine 1744, was placed third. This horse, as a yearling, carried all before him at Kilmarnock, and was sold by his breeder, Mr. W. S. Park, for £1,300. He was followed on this occasion by the Glasgow premium horse, Sir Morell Mackenzie, and then came in order Mr. Riddell's black horse, Moneycorn, twice winner of the Glasgow premium, and Mr. Alexander Scott's Prince Uryben 9364. These are six grand, big horses, and the class altogether was a specially good one, exhibiting an abundance of strength, weight and quality. The three-year-old class was led by the almost unbeaten horse, Royal Gartly 9844, owned by Mr. Peter Crawford, Eastfield, Dumfries, and bred in the North of Scotland by Mr. Alex. MacG. Mennie, Brawlandknowes, Gartly. This is a horse with faultless hind legs and first-class action. He is shallow in the middle, and not too pleasing in front; but, according to the principles on which horses are judged in Scotland, very difficult to beat in a show-yard. Last year, at the H. & A.'s Show, he was beaten by the MacEachran 9792, and we rather think this the only occasion on which he has been beaten by a horse of his own age. Next to him, at Glasgow, was placed his old opponent, Prince of Brunstane 9077, a real good type of Clydesdale, bred by his owner, Mr. William Park, Brunstane, Portobello. This is a compact, well-ribbed colt, and had he the same action as Royal Gartly, many would prefer him. Third place went to the Glasgow premium horse, Royal Exchange, and then came a splendid big horse, Scottish Cavalier 9850, owned by Mr. James Kilpatrick, Craigie Mains, Kilmarnock, and a solid, big, handsome horse. He was got by Prince of Kyle 7155, so that the second and fourth prize horses in this class were got by the first and second Cawdor Cup winners. A good horse was placed fifth in King of the Roses 9927, owned by the Messrs. R. & J. McAlister, Bute; and the sixth was Rosario 9906, a well-bred horse, owned by Mr. Alexander MacRobbie, Aberdeen, which won first prize at the Royal Northern Show a week earlier. Many promising young colts were not mentioned in this class, some of them, as it seemed to us, quite as good as some of those wearing tickets. Altogether it was a satisfactory exhibition of young Clydesdales. The two-year-olds were a lot of strong colts; and the first, Royal Gallant, owned by Mr. W. S. Park, was got by Prince Gallant 6176. He is a well-colored, round-ribbed, sound-footed, compact horse, with good action. The second and third were got by Mr. Riddell's Gallant Prince. Competition for the Cawdor Cup was not at all exciting. The competitors were Prince of Fortune and Royal Gartly; and the latter won. The four horses whose names are now on the cup are: (1) Prince Alexander 8880, owned by Mr. William Renwick, Meadowfield, Corstorphine; (2) Prince of Kyle 7155, owned by Mr. James Kilpatrick, Craigie Mains, Kilmarnock; (3) Prince of Carruchan 8151, owned by Messrs. P. & W. Crawford, Dumfries; (4) Royal Gartly 9844, owned by Mr. Peter Crawford, Eastfield, Dumfries.

Clydesdale breeders still continue to run on a limited number of strains of blood, and some strong protests against this have recently been made. Reckoning up the number of horses bred, and which won prizes at the recent show, it appears that fifteen of them were got by Prince of Wales 673, six by Macgregor 1487, five by Sir Everard 5353, four by Darnley 222, and three by each of his sons, Castlereagh and Buxom Lad 7533. The following horses were represented by two gets each: Prince Gallant 6176, Prince Fortunatus 8136, Gallant Prince, Lord Erskine 1744, Prince of Albion 6178, Top Gallant 1850, Flashwood 3004, Prince Robert 7135, St. Lawrence 3220, Prince of Kyle 7155, Orlando 8082, and Rosemount 8953. The most notable sire of one prize winner is Mr. George Bean's Mount Royal 8065, the sire of the Cawdor Cup winner, Royal Gartly, and himself one of the short leet for the Glasgow premium. SCOTLAND YET.

## The Season in Manitoba.

The winter of '94 and '95 will long be remembered in the West as one of the most pleasant in the memory of the "oldest inhabitant." There was only a couple of weeks of really cold weather throughout the whole winter, and not one bad storm. The snowfall has been very light indeed, so that when spring opened there was little or no moisture in the ground. Seeding began in many places as early as April 1st. Heavy rains in the West would materially improve the crop prospects, and rain will be necessary to ensure the hay crop of the Eastern portion of the Province.

The natural pasture will supply an abundance of food during a portion of the year, although it is often inferior to that which is raised by cultivation. As long as dairymen depend upon grass pastures for their entire summer cattle feed, they will not make the most of their opportunities. Now is the time to prepare for a good supply during the next thirteen months. Should the coming season produce far more fodder than is required, hay can be sold or kept, and silage will not waste to any extent if held over another season.