

essed of a show ring reputation or aristocratic lineage. It would not be a bad idea to inject some new blood into the directorate, on it for years have been veterans of the show and sales ring, men who have done a great work, importing and breeding the very best, on whom Time has begun to lay his hand, and whose interest in the breed has not died out, albeit that is the sum total of their connection with the breed. New blood must be brought in or the society will be the abode of senility in place of virility, but in doing so moderation must be observed, for the accumulated wisdom of the older men will be needed to mingle with the progressive ideas of those of a younger generation.

An Epoch in Agricultural Education in Manitoba.

After years of efforts and advocacy of agricultural education the farmers of Manitoba had on the night of November 6 the pleasure of having opened up before them a vista which revealed opportunities for their sons wider than ever existed in the province before.

Agricultural education is not a matter of attendance on a prescribed course at some college, but commences with the cultivation of the farm boy's powers of observation, when he investigates Nature's wonders of soil, light and air for himself. He goes further when to the stores of knowledge derived from observation, he draws upon the illimitable resources to be found in books on farming and agricultural periodicals; thus delighted and absorbed he unconsciously imbibes the facts derived from the hard work in many fields of conscientious investigators, maybe in other climes and by men of alien tongues. Many a man has under the evening lamp thus added to his mental store, and if advised wisely has not confined his reading to technical works but has partaken of general culture by a perusal of the poets and standard authors. Yet for all the mere bookworm who knows how and does not apply his knowledge is but a sorry spectacle, often he is left stranded on the sands of time, his education of such a nature as to cause him to be an object of derision by others more successful.

The agricultural college properly instituted and run can be a power for good, or if not so planned it can be a mere vent for cash derived from taxes or natural resources. The agitation for an agricultural college in Manitoba dates back to the nineties, when the voice of one or two was heard crying in the wilderness, and as a result the government then in power made an appropriation of \$10,000, which we believe was never used, other matters, deemed more important by the powers that were, resulted in the shelving of this great idea.

Nineteen hundred and one saw the renaissance; the writer fresh from the lecturer's rostrum of the Agricultural College of the University of Wisconsin became associated with George H. Greig, then editor of this paper, and after several conversations convinced him that for Manitoba farmers a course approximating the Short Course of that university was the kind needed, straightway the campaign began anew. Information regarding agricultural colleges and courses was disseminated in the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, resolutions were adopted by the live stock associations of the province and things seemed auspicious, save for the ill-timed opposition of a contemporary, which claimed the farmers were not mentally able to benefit by an agricultural college; it met the fate of all such attempts to hinder the car of progress, and the government seized of the need, appointed a board of investigation which travelled far and wide and inspected many institutions, and gathered a lot of useful data. A year or two elapsed and it appeared as if interest was waning, and again the FARMER'S ADVOCATE took up the cudgels then wielded by a man now the principal of the college. Less than twenty four months ago a site was selected, on which, of course, there was room for honest disagreement, plans were prepared, a bill passed the House, and the ground was broken, and the magnificent pile of buildings termed the Manitoba Agricultural College is the result. The election of an advisory board put matters on a safe basis, men with practical knowledge of agriculture and undoubted scholarship comprise the board and they selected to take the helm of the new craft, the present principal W. G. Black, B.S.A., late of the editorial staff of this paper, whose practical knowledge of agriculture and college conditions helped the board immeasurably. Since then additions have been made to the

college staff from time to time, which have been noted in these columns, suffice it to say that other colleges may have more culture if measured by the standard of those to whom the B.A. is ultima thule of a liberal education, other institutions may possess men of stellar rank such as Babcock, Henry, Cyril Hopkins, Bailey, Snyder, Farrington, et al, yet we have no hesitation in saying that we believe at the present time the Manitoba Agricultural College has the strongest, numbers considered, all round agricultural faculty in Canada.

An Injustice to Western Horse Importers.

In last week's issue p. 1712 reference was made to a peculiar state of things existing at the port of Montreal; since the paragraph referred to was penned we have had conversation with other importers from whom we gather that the person responsible for the hold-up is sponsored by the railway companies. This enterprising individual



CHAMPION HEAVY DRAFT MARE, VICTORIA SHOW 1906
Owned by F. B. Pemberton & Co.

has been taking toll for some time and the novice, or the man distant from home as the Westerners are, have had to pay through the nose, without, up-to-date, any chance of redress. We do not think that the higher authorities of the transportation companies would authorize such methods if they knew such existed, but the fact remains that the matter is considered of sufficient importance for the Manitoba Horse Breeders Association to pass a resolution calling upon the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Department of Agriculture to use their united efforts to stop the abuse. Briefly, what generally happens is as follows: An importer arrives at Montreal and his horses are inspected before taking off the boat; presumably the inspection from the testimony furnished us is of a most perfunctory nature, the horses are landed, and in steps the quasi-official person with a gang of men to lead the horses to his stable. The charge for leading each horse to his barn is one dollar, and one dollar a day for stabling, oats extra, if one hour over a day another full day is charged for. Further he puts any stud grooms up at a one dollar a day house and bills the owners of the horses \$2 a day for the accommodation; the billing for all the leading, stabling, feeding and hotel is done through the railroad, who collect before the horses are permitted to be taken off the cars on arrival at home. If a complaint is made the Montreal man has a plausible excuse and the shipper gets no redress. It is reported that the C. P. R. has this person under contract, by which he is permitted to plunder the unwary shipper or the man at a distance; on one occasion he is even said to have rendered in his bill, an item for the government veterinary inspection. The horse importing industry is too valuable and important to be hampered by such pin-prick methods, or by the interference of such plundering autocrats. We opine that the Dominion Live Stock Commission can do some good work in moving to abolish this abuse, under present conditions it would seem that the time is ripe for an extension of the parental oversight now given cattle, sheep and swine importations to the horse importing interests.

The Political Sweet Joint.

Will the recent increases in Provincial subsidies from the now buoyant Dominion treasury have any effect in reducing Federal expenses? Will it result in any permanent betterment in the state of Provincial finances? Will it be wisely expended in behalf of the people or will it be

a bone to the political wolves, who will presently come back clamoring all the more insistently for another joint? What will be the effect on Provincial statesmen of the prospect of helping themselves out of a hole by joining other Provincial statesmen who have got into the same predicament in a demand for more money from the common pool? The system of Provincial subsidies is pernicious in principle and results. From the public standpoint, it can be at the best but a transfer of money from the right pocket to the left, with the disadvantage of doubling the chances of leaks through holes in the lining. As a matter of fact, we in Canada, with our Dominion, provincial, and municipal lawmakers, are open to the charge of being overgoverned, and the more funds we place at the disposal of each particular body, the more temptation there will be to recklessness of expense and to overlapping of legislative jurisdiction in order to find excuse for utilizing the wherewithal.

The one thing for which legislatures display unflinching ingenuity is dissipation of surplus funds. The value obtained is often a doubtful quantity, and the influence of the money is sometimes sinister enough, as witness the disgraceful election-trial revelations. We believe the increase of Provincial subsidies is a grave mistake which never should be repeated. If there is any Province in Canada face to face with the alternative of increased subsidy or direct taxation, then direct taxation is the thing. Not only is it the most economical way to raise money, but it will prove a forcible annual reminder to citizens of the amount of money they contribute for expenses of government, and thus, through the Parliamentary representatives they elect, would prove an effective check on extravagant governmental expenditure. That is why politicians dread it. That is why their constituents should welcome it.

HORSE

A French horse, Vissuto, has made a high jump over timbers of 10 feet 5 inches.

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The importers are all preparing for a busy season and lots of trade. New customers are cropping up in every direction. Clydes are the favorite choice.

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The danger to horses from over-feeding, over heated stables and lack of exercise at this time of year should be guarded against. Watch the condition of the horse and give exercise, fresh air and plenty of food. Too much of or the lack of either one is almost sure to bring sickness.

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A trial of strength between the Clydesdale breeders of the different provinces would be an interesting event. Our choice for highest honors is Saskatchewan, which with Doune Lodge (Bryce's), Craigie Mains (Mutch Bros'), and Hillcrest (Taber's), studs contain the cream of the Clydesdale breed in Canada.

Long vs. Short Stirrups.

In reply to the question, "Is there any hard-and-fast rule for correct riding; is the short stirrup absolutely incorrect; or, in other words, is the long stirrup the only correct method?" a writer in the *Rider and Driver* replies:

"In a recent issue of the *English Country Life* there are photographs of Mr. Buckmaster and the Nickalls Bros. Mr. Buckmaster uses the long stirrup, the Nickalls Bros. the short stirrup. The argument was advanced that by using the short stirrup it was more awkward and heavier for the horse.

"My impression is that the strength of the push upon the stirrups can in no case be greater than the weight of the rider's body. Therefore, how can the short stirrup be harder upon the animal, inasmuch as the weight must, in any case, be received from the center of the saddle? "The correct length of the men's stirrup is the one which allows the thigh to descend obliquely from the hip to the knee, and the leg to fall perpendicularly from the knee to the ankle (thus forming the piriths).

"The length of stirrup allows of the foot's position, when at rest—an oblique in contrary position to that of the thigh, consequently with the heel lower than the toes.