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The Outlook in Horse Breeding.

The farmer who expects to breed horses in the future will no doubt ask what class of horses he should produce, and a study of the future demand for the different classes is highly advisable. In the opinion of Chas. McIntire, writing to the Ohio Farmer, there are three classes of horses that have a bright future before them. There are the draft, carriage and saddle classes. If proper types of these classes are produced, there is sure to be a good demand, and paying prices can be expected. But it will be well for the farmer to consider carefully which one of these classes he is best situated to produce. He should remember that there is a wonderful difference in the horsemanship required in producing and marketing the three named classes of horses. The general farmer, though he will seldom admit it, is not a horseman. Consequently, he should produce a horse that requires little expert horsemanship in the production and marketing. Every practical horse-breeder knows that a draft horse can be produced, fitted and marketed with less skill than can a carriage or saddle horse. This, together with the increasing demand for draft horses, is my reason for rating him first of all as the horse for the farmer to produce.

Draft horses are produced at a certainty. When the right kind of foundation stock is used in breeding, there are very few misfits. After the foal is two years old, it will pay its way by doing light farm work, and without injury to itself, if properly handled.

Blemishes and minor defects are not considered by draft-horse dealers to the extent that they are by dealers in other classes. The drafter goes onto the market or sells well at an early age, and now, when many farmers are feeding or fattening draft horses instead of cattle or other stock, the young, typical drafter does not even have to be fat in order to bring a big price. Draft brood mares make satisfactory farm teams, particularly if the colts are foaled in the fall, rather than spring. All things considered, the draft horse is undoubtedly the horse for the general farmer to produce who is raising horses to sell.

The carriage horse is a grand animal, and once secured, properly fitted and marketed, there is scarcely no end to the price which he will bring. But, unlike the draft horse, he is produced at an uncertainty, and, in order to be produced at a certainty, must have generations of uniform ancestors back of him. The mating of animals of uniform types has been found to be absolutely necessary, if matched teams are to be produced. This means that the successful breeding of carriage horses is a lifetime business; but if a young man is a natural horseman, loves the business, is willing to make it a study, and becomes an expert horseman (and none others will succeed in the breeding of carriage horses), there is a bright future before the carriage horse and the man who produces him. There is one qualification which is likely to be overlooked in the breeding of carriage horses, and that is size. Without size, success in the business is not assured. There are sure to be misfits in the breeding of carriage horses, but if these misfits have size enough and good disposition, they make grand farm teams and good users, and can be disposed of readily for this purpose. Size, however, must not be had at the sacrifice of quality. A 17-hand carriage horse is no longer wanted; 16 hands being a little too high, 15.2 hands is better. The breeder of carriage horses should not use a brood mare weighing less than 1,100 nor more than 1,200 pounds. The stallion should weigh from 1,150 to 1,300 pounds, and both sire and dam should be highly bred, sound, with size, action, color, substance, perfect disposition, and always of the approved type. The man who produces this type of horses fits them perfectly, builds up a market for them, and does an honest business, will be engaged in a well-paying business in the future.

People almost everywhere are learning to appreciate the saddle horse, and he is growing in popularity. If many city folk would take less medicine and more horseback rides on a gaited saddler, they would be far better off. Horseback riding is invigorating, health-giving, and fascinating. A famous Eastern physician has said that horseback-riding is the noblest form of exercise—almost ideal. "It keeps the body, the figure and the heart young. It teaches self-control, develops the will-power, strengthens the heart and all the organs. It promotes animation, improves the appetite, invigorates digestion. The green-apple complexion gives way to blooming cheeks; poise

and grace of carriage develops, and a new zest of life is felt. Are you thirty-five, and wish to appear twenty? Then, ride horseback. Do not say 'can't'—it means 'won't.'"

As horseback-riding is becoming rightly appreciated, it is up to the farmer or someone to produce the horse. It must be remembered, however, that the breeding and training of gaited saddlers is a difficult proposition, and only an occasional individual will make it a success. The farmer who could make money producing draft horses, might make a hopeless failure at producing saddlers. The plain-gaited or walk-trot-and-canter saddler is easily trained, but the people who are willing to pay the price want gaited saddlers that can go all of the five gaits and do it well. To train a horse to go all these gaits requires a great deal of effort and ability. But to the man able to produce him, the saddle horse assures a well-paying proposition, and must be classed among the profitable classes of horses to-day.

Now is an ideal time to begin the improvement of our horses, as outclassed horses can be readily disposed of at fairly satisfactory prices. Good stallions are to be found almost everywhere, and the horse-breeder of the future should aim higher than to simply produce a horse. He should give careful consideration to the class of horses he is to produce; should study himself and find out if he is really a horseman. He should study his farm and his market, and be careful not to make a mistake as to what class he is best qualified to produce.

STOCK

Should Cattle Feeding Increase.

The practice of finishing range bred and range reared cattle in feed lots upon the grain farms is one that has often been commended not only by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE but also by a few thoroughly practical farmers who have tried the plan. In theory it is the best system of getting the full value out of the cattle, and the most rational way of marketing grain. In practice it is not very generally followed in Canada but is in wide vogue in the Republic. With us it has not become general very largely because of the fact that we have got into the habit of thinking that cattle must be stabled in winter in order to put on flesh, or to keep in order for fattening in early spring for the June markets. Within recent years this idea has been proved to be erroneous where natural shelter is available and so a large item in the first cost of putting in cattle for winter feeding is eliminated. The needlessness of stables has been demonstrated by negative and positive experiments. A few years ago car lots of range cattle were taken to Ontario in the fall for the purpose of stall feeding for the spring markets. The cattle were selected according to the orthodox rules and went into the stables in good health, but confinement was so evidently a foreign and disagreeable condition that they failed to make any gains notwithstanding the fact that they ate well. Simple shelter was apparently all that was required with no excitement and fattening food. Other experiments on a large scale by Manitoba feeders have given positive proof that western range cattle make a profitable use of rough grains and straw during winter with nothing more than the shelter of bluffs, ravines or a close board shed.

The question naturally arises whether or not more farmers should not put up a car load of steers this year to make use of a large amount of the coarse grains grown and of the unmarketable wheat that this season has produced. Nearly every one is able to give good reasons why he shouldn't, on account of the low prices which prevail for finished cattle in our markets, the labor involved in feeding, and the very narrow margin between cost and selling price; but in face of reasons and results of careful estimate that can be made on paper, in actual practice the man who feeds cattle carefully is conscious of being the better off afterwards, his farm maintains its fertility, his credit is unexcelled at the local banks and his establishment is the model of the community. Naturally most farmers would like to feel more certain of the methods that give best results and of the revenue that might be derived from the feeding of cattle. One of our great disadvantages in connection with the

practice and advancement of farming is that we have so little experimental work the results of which are available for guidance; there is room for an immense amount of work in this connection.

But in the meantime there is the assurance that cattle will make an economical use of coarse and unmarketable grains and for this season a larger proportion than usual of such grain to be converted into cash. Experiences and opinions upon the question of putting range cattle or even those raised under semi-range conditions would be interesting reading this fall and we hope to hear something more of the subject.

Milk and Meat in the Farmer's Cow.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The subject discussed in your last number under the title "A Few Problems in Cattle Breeding," touches one of the most important subjects concerned in the live stock industry of these provinces. The day is coming, and it is not very far distant (either, when the men who are engaged in the beef producing business will have to give more attention to the milking qualities of their herds. The days of ranching on a large scale in these Northwest provinces are drawing to a close. The range territory is being invaded. More and more every year by the grain growers and the field that at one time promised to become a great market for beef bulls, is gradually being narrowed. Mixed farming and cattle feeding in the future are going to become more general. Grain growing and live stock are going to blend into one industry just as they are combined in Ontario, in the great prairie States to our south, Kansas, Iowa and the rest. The great influx of immigrants is going to make ranching unprofitable and impracticable. Towns will spring up and cities grow out of some of the villages that now dot the plains. These communities will be filled with a purchasing population the principal and staple needs of which will be butter, milk and meat. Milking cows will be required to supply this necessity, but cows of a different type to that which now generally obtains, cows that will milk well during their lactation period and feed rapidly into beef when they go dry. Cows capable of producing stock that will make good butcher or export cattle. Cows that combine in the highest degree the milking with the beefing function, not the kind that are for beef or for milk alone.

The general tendency, we believe, at the present time among Shorthorn breeders, who are not blindly following the old show ring ideals of beef and nothing else, is toward a deeper milking type of cattle, and as the country develops, as the demand for dairy products become greater, as it assuredly will, farmers generally will give more attention to this phase of the live stock industry, they will keep records of some kind of the performance of their cows. Let them do this for but a single year, let them once awaken to the fact that one good milker is worth two or three inferior producers, and there will be a demand in this country for bulls from deep milking dams that will become greater in ever increasing ratio. The farmer when he finds he cannot secure such sires among the beef breeds, will turn naturally to the dairy breeds for his bulls, and it is right here the danger lies. It is easier to develop a heavy milking Shorthorn than it is to produce a deeply fleshed Holstein. It is easier because milk production is a natural characteristic in all breeds, while the tendency to lay on meats has been developed by breeding and selection. It is easier because on one hand all that is required is to bring into action a characteristic which has been more or less dormant, in the breed for something like half a century, while on the other, it would be necessary first of all to overcome to some extent a character which has been predominant in a herd for two thousand years, and then when this is accomplished to engraft upon that breed the tendency to produce meat, which for hundreds of years has been the one thing these cattle were bred particularly not to do.

We must stay with the beefing breeds but we must breed them not for beef alone. There are some old ideas which we must eradicate from our minds and methods. The old and too common way of allowing the calves to do the milking must cease if development is to be looked for in milk production. So long as it prevails no development can be made in the milking functions of any breed. Retrogression alone in that respect can be looked for. The calf milking system in pure bred Shorthorns is largely responsible for the fact that this breed of cattle on the whole, have nothing like the milking capacities now which they had a half a century ago. It is a system which if persisted in will result inevitably in the milkless cow. Deep milking cows are never produced by such methods as this. The heifer calf designed for a cow must be fed for flesh and not for fat. Cows milked by the calf from year to year go back in their milk producing capacity instead of improving. Heifers bred from such cows, sired by bulls that have come from such cows, and fed in such a manner as this in their calthood cannot be expected to be better milk producers than their dams, in fact they cannot be as good. It is contrary to all the laws of nature that they should, and to that fundamental law of heredity upon which the science of