

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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A TWENTIETH-CENTURY WORD BOOK.

Among the books required for reference in every home is a good dictionary. We have long wished to include such a volume in our list of premiums for those who secure for us new subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate," but have found it difficult to combine comprehensiveness and general merit with a price that would bring it within the attainment of all. Patient inquiry, however, has at last brought to light Chambers' Twentieth Century Dictionary, embracing pronunciation, explanations, etymology, compound phrases, technical terms used in the arts and sciences, abbreviations, forms of address, vocabulary of Scripture names, common Christian names, phrases from Latin, Greek and modern foreign languages, and other information, accompanied by many illustrations that readers generally will appreciate. In fact, it is almost an encyclopedia. Although compact and convenient in form, and well printed, the volume contains over 1,200 pages. The fact that it is issued by the old publishing house of W. & R. Chambers, Limited, London and Edinburgh, and edited by the distinguished scholar, Rev. Thos. Davidson, who previously prepared two other dictionaries that won a high place in the esteem of students, constitutes sufficient assurance of the excellence of the present volume, which is regarded as the best of the three. The Journal of Education pronounces it a miracle of scholarship and cheapness. Dr. Robertson-Nicoll, of the British Weekly, declares it will supersede all other inexpensive dictionaries; and the Musson Book Co., of Toronto, commend it as a most complete and up-to-date book in every respect, unequalled by any other at the price. This splendid volume we are in a position to offer to our readers for obtaining two new yearly subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," and believe that very general advantage will be taken of so favorable an opportunity.

HORSES.

PERCHERON HORSES.

History shows that 75 years ago the Percheron in France was a 'bus horse, weighing from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds, according to the official statement. The increase in size during the past three-quarters of a century to the present scale is traceable, as in all other draft breeds, to the requirements of modern civilization, and the insistent demand for horses nearly up to a ton weight, which is really a greater weight than is necessary for ordinary draft work, and is really attained by comparatively few in any of the draft breeds, except when unduly loaded with fat.

"It is probably beyond question," says the author of "The Horse Book," recently issued, "that French draft horses were imported into Canada about the beginning of the nineteenth century, probably earlier, but the first authentic history we have of an imported horse making a great mark in the stud is of the McNitt horse, or European, landed at Montreal about the year 1816. There is some dispute about the weight of this stallion. He was a gray, and, as he was a fast trotter, and begot Alexander's Norman, which founded an unimportant strain of trotters, it is unlikely that he was at all large. It is history, also, that Alexander's Norman was never intended to be used as a getter of trotters. He was more or less of the draft type, as draft type went in those far-back days, and it cannot be said that his blood has been of material benefit to the trotter as a breed." It is, however, freely admitted, in the history of the American trotting and pacing breeds, that some of the most noted strains of that class of horses owe their origin in no small degree to French-Canadian blood.



A Typical Percheron Stallion.

Percherons were imported into New Jersey in 1839 and later, but it was with the importation in 1851, of the stallion Louis Napoleon, into Ohio, that the importation and breeding of Percheron horses in the United States had its inception as a business. The famous stallion, Louis Napoleon, weighed about 1,600 pounds at his best, and, after his purchase by the Dillons, of Illinois, began the movement which has resulted in thousands of Percherons being imported to that country, many of them of a very superior class, and from the very first the Percheron has been the favorite drafter of the American people. There are probably three times as many Percherons in that country to-day as there are of any other one breed. "The technical charges," says the authority previously quoted, "which have been made against the Percheron are chiefly that his bone is light, his pasterns short, and his rump sloping. The popular verdict is that, whatever the size of his bone or the length or angle of his pasterns, his grades last longer on the streets of the cities than those of any other breed, and the American people have declared in favor of the draft horse which can get up and go; and, gauging the matter by the demands of the market, the Percheron best fills this and all other bills." Another point in their favor is their gray color. While all colors are to be found in the breed, grays were for a half a century or more the most popular. Then came a craze for blacks; but there never was any good reason for this, and there is no sense in the prejudice against gray as a color in horses, as a good horse is never a bad color, and many of the best and most useful, and long-

lived, horses in all classes have been grays. The breed has, however, in the United States, stayed quite largely gray, fortunately, and the gray stallion is now coming back into his own. Dealers in Chicago and elsewhere say they will pay as high, sometimes, as \$20 in the hundred more for gray geldings than for other colors, which supplies a good reason why farmers should strive to breed grays.

The Percherons have never had a fair chance to prove their claim to favor in Canada, the best class of stallions not having been introduced here, unless some of the recent importations may measure up to that standard. But, even with the mediocre sires that have been brought here, many excellent grades, suitable for draft and general purposes, have been raised, and Percheron stallions have nicked especially well with the average light mares of the country, producing an exceptionally useful class of farmers' horses.

HACKNEYS GROWING IN POPULARITY.

The Secretary of the Canadian Hackney Association writes: "I have just been looking through the 1907 Studbook, Vol. XXIV., of the English Hackney Horse Society, and find that, amongst its 2,045 members, are to be found the names of His Majesty the King and other notables, as well as the small tenant-farmer, who raises probably one or two horses of the breed a year, and about 100 lady members, and 519 life-members. That this breed of horses must be very popular all over the world for getting carriage horses, is proven by the number that are exported every year to the United States, Canada, Argentina, Africa, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chili, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland.

"Conditions for entry in this Volume are that stallions foaled after 1880 must have registered sire and registered dam.

"It is very gratifying to know that the Canadian Hackney Society has increased its members this year by nearly 50 per cent., and that many new breeding establishments are starting both in this country and in the United States, and a large number of old stables are adding this breed to their establishments, crossing with the Thoroughbred and Standard-bred of good conformation, thereby getting fast, bold, high-going and good-tempered carriage horses. It is strange that the farmer cannot see the benefit of registering his animals, no matter what breed; but, from the

very much larger number of registrations made this year, it is evident they are gradually becoming more accustomed to taking a little trouble to keep a record of the animal they breed. The secretary will always be pleased to supply entry forms, and give an extended pedigree of any registered animal."

ADVANTAGES OF TWO-HORSE CULTIVATOR.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

"Interested," on page 777, asked for discussion on two-horse corn cultivator. This implement will be found one of the most useful on the farm, not only for corn. It can be used for cultivating potatoes, roots, or any vegetable that is planted in rows; it is also a bean harvester. It is a very useful cultivator for preparing the soil for a grain crop in springtime. The frame is adjustable, and one section can be added, if necessary, to make it wide or narrow, as desired. I have always found one row well done is very much better than two rows half done. The advantage the two-horse cultivator has over the one is that seven acres can be done in one day, as against five acres with the one horse. It also means a man is fit for considerable work after the horses are tired, as against a tired man and horse. The two-horse cultivator can be used in corn until it is four to five feet high; bending the tops of the corn will do no harm.

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