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July 20, 1910

It is a remarkable fact that while horse prices for the past ten years or more have increased annually, and horse breeding has become one of the most profitable branches of live stock, farmers are actually giving less attention to horse raising than they did when horses were so cheap, that as a friend of ours once remarked, there was only five cents difference between selling a horse and giving him away, and the man who gave his horse away got the nickel." We were in an Eastern district a few weeks ago, a district that was formerly famed for the excellence of its grade drafters, a place where a few years ago every farmer had a mare or two and several stallions travelled daily up and down the concessions. Now there is hardly a farmer with a mare. The old mares have died off, the young mares were sold because prices were good, fewer stallions go the routes, and generally speaking, the horse-breeding industry is dead. This condition may not be general, but it prevails in a number of places where formerly horse-breeding was largely followed, and indicates the probability of the East being unable to supply us with working horses in the next few years in as large numbers as had been the case in the past. It offers a cue to Western breeders also. Horses are certain to keep at near their present price level for some years to come, and it is worth remembering too that they can be produced profitably at prices reduced fifty or seventy-five per cent. from present values. Horse raising offers to-day the largest possibilities of any branch of animal industry.

EQUITANT.

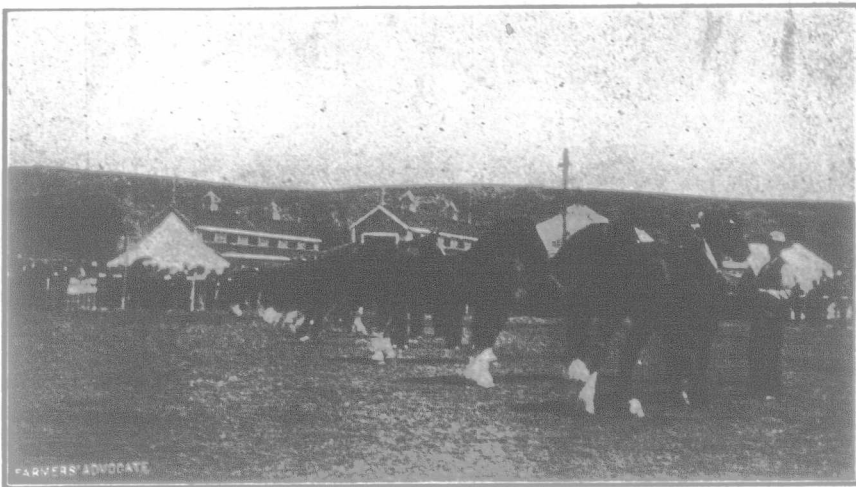
Secretary of Clydesdale Society Replies to Mr. Brant

Editor THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Under this heading, there appears in your issue of June 15 and 22, an undated letter from John W. Brant, secretary National Records Office, Ottawa. Although undated, this letter indicates that it was written after May 12th. The fact is important, in view of the enclosed letter of mine to Mr. Brant, dated April 14th, receipt of which Mr. Brant has never acknowledged; but the letter has not been returned to me, and I therefore conclude that Mr. Brant received it. The letter press copy of it was read at a largely attended meeting of the council of this society on May 4th, and its contents were confirmed by the council, and its despatch approved by them. I was instructed to await developments before taking further action. These developments have now taken place, and I have to ask you to be good enough to publish this letter to you, and my said letter to Mr. Brant, in your first issue after receipt.

Regarding Mr. Brant's accusations against myself, I have to point out: (1) I joined with the secretaries of the societies named by Mr. Brant, in requesting that the "Imperial Hunter Stud-book," and other "studbooks," so-called, issuing from the same quarter should not be recognized. If my name was not included with the others, that was not my fault. The fact that the said book has been struck off the list at Ottawa is proof that "there was urgent necessity for some overhauling of the details of registration in the National Live-stock Records Office at Ottawa." (2) In the matter of "Braidlie Prince" and "Sir Henry," it is as untrue as any statement can well be, "that these two horses are almost identical in color and markings, but are described differently in the Scottish Studbook." See my letter to Mr. Brant of 14th April, and remember that Mr. Brant had that letter in his possession when he wrote the sentence I have now quoted (that is, unless the post office authorities lost the letter).

(3) I did issue a certificate for a horse called Gallant Gray (15092), got by Sir Henry (13200), and that certificate is strictly correct. If buyers from Canada will buy horses got by Sir Henry (13200), I have no option but to certify them, as the horse is in this country, and never yet, so far as I have heard, has been out of it; and the horse which was passed as Sir Henry (13200) in Canada, was not Sir Henry (13200), but Braidlie Prince (12871). I do not certify pedigrees as eligible to record in Canada, and the certificates Mr. Brant quotes all prove that, and they prove nothing else. I am the servant of the council of this society, not of Mr. Brant or the society over which Mr. Brant presides, and I have nothing to do with their decisions, except to report



FOUR YEAR CLYDESDALE STALLION CLASS AT CALGARY. The horses stand as placed—Main Spring, Orpheus and Royal Blacon

them to my council, to respect them when they are right, and to ignore them when they are wrong.

(4) The certificate for mare, "Alston" 21700, quoted by Mr. Brant, is also correct, but when request was made for it in this office by the Scots vendor and on behalf of the Canadian purchaser, he was told that the mare would not register in Canada. This was reported to the buyer by the vendor, and the buyer said he knew that, and would pay duty if it was demanded. The duplicate quoted by Mr. Brant was sent to him in ordinary course, so that he might know everything that was exported so far as such were known to us.

Mr. Brant's attempt to construe the words on the duplicate tabulated certificate, "To conform

Boards and is dated April 14th, 1910. It deals with the stand taken by the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain, with respect to the stallions Prince Henry (13200) and Braidlie Prince (12871), and offers such proofs as were deemed sufficient by the society to show that the stallion imported by Smith and Richardson, in 1906, was Braidlie Prince and not Sir Henry. Mr. MacNeilage then goes on to say:

"In all my thirty years' experience and observation of pedigree registration I have never known or heard of a resolution so discreditable to a public body as that of the board of directors of the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada, which you have now communicated. With the strictures you have made on the carelessness of our breeders and owners in the matter of descriptions I heartily agree, but I wish you would take some means of counselling your own importers to be careful, when they get their certificates, to see that they correspond with the animals. Many of them who come here know nothing about your rules, and have to be kept right in this office.

I have reserved my most serious comment until the close. Braidlie Prince (12871) was exported by Smith & Richardson, on 3rd of August, 1906, when two years old. Your regulations, which would have disqualified him for free import, were then unheard of. They did not come into force until 1st of June, 1907, after he had been some time on his first season. His first crop of foals did not appear until 1908, and by that time, so far as I understand from Mr. Peter Crawford, when he was able to attend to business, Smith & Richardson knew that the identity of the horse was in doubt. No interest whatever would suffer by putting the matter right. None of Braidlie Prince's colts would be disqualified; he would not himself be disqualified, and Sir Henry and he are by the same sire. It would be difficult, indeed, for your board to satisfy an impartial tribunal that their action in this matter is not a breach of the honorable traditions which have long held sway among breed societies throughout the world."

Working the Brood Mare

A larger, stronger, thriftier colt will generally be produced if the mare is not worked during the first four months of the colt's life. But many men cannot spare the mares this long from the harness. When the mare must be worked, there should be maintained as nearly natural conditions as possible for the colt. The mare should not work any for the first three weeks after foaling. When she is taken to work, the colt should never follow, wearing itself out running all over soft ground, and running many risks. The colt should be kept safely and securely at the barn, where he cannot injure himself.

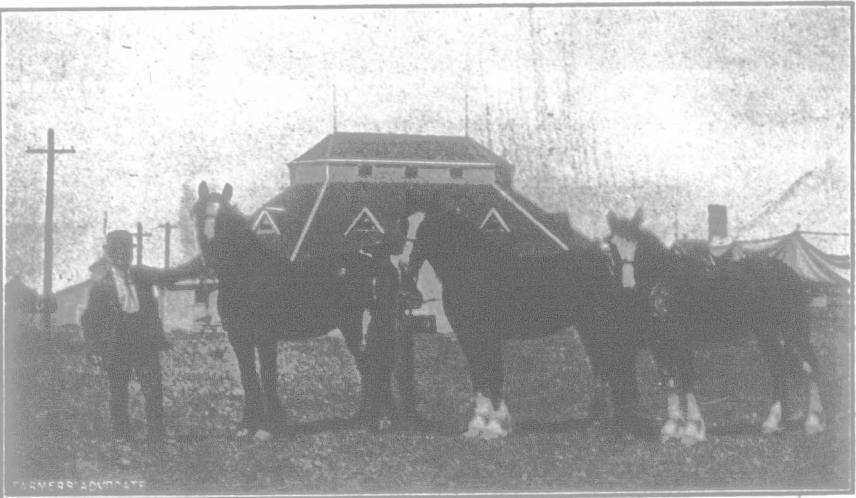
The mare should be brought to the barn to be suckled at first; at least every three hours, but later this period may be lengthened to the half days. Before being suckled, the mare should be thoroughly cooled for the colt's sake.

The little fellow must be taught to eat fresh-cured hay, crushed oats and bran, very early in life, that these may take the place of the natural nourishment denied the colt. These feeds must never be stale, nor even fed in excess.

With care, good colts are raised in this way, and their mothers' services not sacrificed. But it must be with care, for the tender first six months of a colt's life, make, or forever mar, what was intended to be, a useful horse.

* * *

Nets should be used on horses in fly time. Annoyance from these pests makes them hard to handle and also results in a loss of flesh. Do what you can to remove the annoyance.



BEN FINLAYSON'S THREE CLYDESDALE FEMALES: Marmite, first yearling and reserve champion; Salome, first in three-year-olds, and Peggy, second in mare class.

to Canadian regulations, etc., as equivalent to a certificate that an animal will register in Canada, is singularly disingenuous, in view of the actual certificate on that form. The Scottish Society never agreed "to issue these certificates as a guarantee of the eligibility of Scottish horses for the Canadian Book," and the Canadian authorities never, to my recollection, asked us to do so. Will Mr. Brant quote his authority for that statement? In view of it, the council here will now be asked to reconsider the issue of such duplicate certificates in tabulated form.

ARCH'D. MACNEILAGE, Secretary of Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

The letter referred to was written by Mr. MacNeilage to the secretary of the National Record