

The Kind of Horses That Sell.

BY M. T. G. IN THE BREEDERS' GAZETTE.

There is an active demand for stylish, good-looking road horses; they outsell the draft horses, and the question is how to produce them. In this our farmers are being grossly misled with foolish talk about George Wilkes. He was a great trotter and founded a great trotting family, but it is not a roadster family, and a large proportion of even its fastest representatives are hideous in appearance. Great sums are paid for members of this family ugly enough in looks to scare a man and unsound at that; they are from trotting-bred, speed-producing dams and looks, soundness and roadster qualities are all sacrificed for a gambling machine. Who is there in this country with funds to buy a fashionable Wilkes stallion, and who has mares suitable to breed to him? Axtell himself would be a curse to us with his curby hocks. You will not find in the market where fine road horses are sold horses of the conformation of Maud S, higher behind than forward. Buyers of road horses fight shy of that conformation, for it is a maxim that a road horse should be highest at the withers. They do not want them with the almost universal trade mark of the Hambletonian family, a curb. * * * The meanest lookers and the hardest to sell that I have ever had on my farm were standard-bred. When the market buyer comes along for road horses he will not give you a penny for standard blood, in fact he does not care how the horse was produced if you have what he wants. He wants an upheaved, showy, handsome animal of good color, with good feet, broad, flat, clean legs, good hocks, good knees, no wire cuts, a neat head with good eye and ear, a clean throat latch, a neck of good length, not of the ewe fashion, so common in the Wilkes tribe, but set on right side up, running into deep shoulders high on the withers, good length of body well ribbed up, stout coupling and good disposition, with gait to warrant some prospect of speed with the education of ordinary road driving. That is what he wants. To produce this animal with the greatest certainty, breed a mare with these characteristics to a stallion also possessing them. Simple, is it not? Like many another abstruse problem it is simple enough when stripped of humbug. If the mare and stallion had each a sire and dam of the same pattern the less chance of a failure, and here comes in the value of a pedigree. But pedigree based upon the 2:30 or standard scheme may lead to the production of the most unsaleable brute on earth. If you have a suitable mare select the best looking, that is, the handsomest trotting stallion, of fine style and action, within reach. It must be remembered that standard is based upon speed and speed alone, and as a consequence the standard to-day includes an enormous percentage of unsound, misshapen animals. [While this article appears in an American paper, and is written by an American horseman, it is equally applicable to Manitoba. While a horse like Axtell proves a bonanza to the fortunate producer, there is not much doubt that he is an actual curse to the section in which he stands, from the fact that the great majority of his foals will be of little use for any purpose, and only a very small percentage will be fast enough for a gambling machine.—ED.]

In mating geese the gander should always be of a different strain from the goose.

Negligences.

BY MR. R. GIBSON

The old adage reads "Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves." How many of us take every precaution when looking after the big matters of our profession? We make arrangements to put in a large acreage of grain and do it well, or buy car loads of steers for grazing purposes, or lay out plans for dairying on a large scale. We are keen at a bargain, buy close and market well. Still are we doing our best? Are not many of us neglecting the pence and only looking after the pounds? I will call your attention to a few of the "negligences."

PERFORMING LABOR OUT OF SEASON.

We all know how difficult it is to make headway when work is pressing us. Let us get a week behind hand in the spring, how long does it take to recover? If those roots are not hoed at the right time it will take three times as long to do it. The same with corn, or working our summer fallow, or commencing our haying so late that we not only loose in quality of the hay, but also let the fall wheat be ready for the reaper before the hay crop is saved. Then the barley and oats are ripe before the wheat is in the barn. Most of us know how it is.

Again, after finishing our harvest, do we well clean, oil and pack away

OUR MACHINERY.

We all know how much we have to pay for implements in the present day. Formerly, a wagon, sleigh, plow, harrow, scythe, cradle, axe, grindstone, and a log chain would be a good outfit. Now we must have drills, sulky plows, binders, springtooth harrows, chaffcutters, pulpers, mowing machines, hayloaders, tedders, horserakes, hayslings, &c., &c. After investing in a museum of this kind we are certainly "negligent" unless we provide a suitable building for their reception when not in use. I venture to say more machinery is rusted and rotted out than worn out. The life of a mowing machine is estimated at 1,000 acres, say 10 years cutting 100 acres, or 40 years cutting 25 acres each year. Will they do it if we are "negligent" with them?

Again, do we provide

A WORKSHOP

with tools kept in good order. I remember seeing one in York State made comfortable with stove, &c., &c. On the walls over the bench were pins, hooks, &c. Over each pin was painted in black a representation in full size of the tool that should hang there. Thus, having a place for everything, and everything was expected to be in its place, and a glance would indicate at once any missing tool.

Do we provide a supply of nuts, bolts, copper rivets and wire so as to repair any little breakage, instead of having to go to the shop, perhaps in the midst of harvest? If not, may I not say we are "negligent."

AS TO MANURE.

Do we make all we can? Could we not make a compost where all refuse could be thrown, the ashes from the furnace, the salt from the pork barrel, the bones from the house and the odd refuse that can be scraped up here and there? It is surprising how fast such a heap increases in size if once started, if there is once provided a dumping ground, as it were.

Again, are our buildings provided with eave troughs, or is the rain which falls on them

allowed to percolate through the manure heap in the barn-yard, and by so doing wash out the most valuable, because soluble, elements.

AS TO SEEDS.

Do we change often enough? Are we sufficiently careful to sow only perfectly clean and pure seeds, whether of wheat, oats, barley or clover; but few of us are aware of the vast number of deleterious seeds, usually found mixed in clover seed. If we do not examine such, carefully, before buying, we are certainly "negligent."

HOW ARE YOUR GATES AND FENCES?

Remember poor line fences make bad neighbors. Bad fences make breechy and unruly cattle and horses. Have we abolished bars and put gates in their places? Do we each year look carefully over our fences and see that they are all right? If not, need we feel surprised if we find our horses astray, or our cattle in the wheat? If these duties are overlooked must we not admit that we are "negligent."

Again, are we making the most of the food we are feeding our cattle, whether for beef or the dairy? Are we providing them with comfortable stalls? Are the buildings well battened, so as to keep out the cold and draughts? Do we provide a little soiling corn for summer feed for our cows when the pastures begin to burn and feed gets scarce? If we do not attend to these matters we are certainly "negligent."

I might ask, do we provide a good vegetable and fruit garden, or do we, as I am afraid is too often the case, leave it to be done when we have nothing else to do, or possibly expecting the women to "take hold"? If we fail in having a good garden we are certainly "negligent!"—"negligent" of providing our families with what it is our duty to provide; negligent of enabling our wives to supply our tables with a variety of food, and of our pecuniary interests as well as of our health.

Dominion Farmers' Council.

The Dominion Farmers' Council met July 19th. President Little in the chair.

The discussion touched upon the prospects of the crops generally, all the members speaking of the extraordinary crop of hay. Wheat was not expected to be over an average of twenty bushels per acre, but the sample would be exceptionally good. Oats had suffered much from blight and rust. Peas were good in some localities but many fields had been plowed up on account of the extreme wet weather. Apples were declared to be almost a total failure; there would hardly be enough for home consumption.

President Little had brought in samples of heads of two new varieties of wheat, viz., the Surprise and Canadian Velvet Chaff. The former had a large head and had a handsome appearance, but the straw was very coarse and affected with rust, and upon examination the grains were soft and quite uneven in size. The Canadian Velvet Chaff head was large and attractive; straw quite bright and free from rust, and stiff and quite fine; grain large, even and white.

Mr. McEwen spoke very highly of the Canadian Velvet Chaff wheat, the only variety he had grown, but he had compared it with other varieties grown with it on another farm and certainly gave the Velvet Chaff the preference. It was remarkably hardy, a strong grower, and all his neighbors were favorably impressed with its good qualities, and were anxious to obtain seed of this variety for this fall's sowing.