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AND CANADIAN FARM AND HOME

Correspondence

The Clydesdale "Booming" in the West

Editor THE FARMING WORLD Editor THE FARMING WORDS: I have just arrived from the North-west Territories and find your issue of the first of April containing an ar-ticle, "Is the Clydesdale Doomed." I am also pleased to know your opin-ion of him.

I will just say that at the Calgary show there were good horses in all the classes, especially the heavy classes. There were exceptionally good Shires and good Percherons but good Shires and good Percherons but when it came to exhibiting for cham-pion draught hoors, any breed, only Clydes exhibited and a grand animal received the prize. Although there were several exhibited for it all were Clydes. Again, at Regina there were many exhibits in the draught classes, mostly Clydes, and good animals they

were. I agree with you when you say, "Don't mix breeds. A good Clyde or Shire meets all the requirements of a draught horse."

of a draught horse." I was pleased to see such fine speci-mens of Clydes and Shires as are raised in the Northwest and apparent-ly a "boom" is on as many good ani-mals have been taken in recently and the breeders are anxious to get only

J. STANDISH.

Walkerton, Ont. Judge at Calgary and Regina Show.

Prof. Day Deals with In-Breeding Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

Editor THE FAMING WORD: Would you kindly give me some information as to the evil effects of in-breeding? I often see it written against, and on the other hand we read that English actub breeders have had to practice it in order to build up purebred herds. A writer in the "Tribune Farmer" of New York advises breeding cows to their own offspring, sired by a pure-bred buil. Would it be advisable their sire, a registered sheep? What would be the result of breeding the same sheep?—A. B., Nova Scotia. Your correspondent has opened up a question which has prohably caused

Your correspondent has opened up a question which has probably caused more controversy, theorizing and speculation among those interested in the problems of stock breeding than any other one thing connected therewith. It is true that in-breeding has been practiced very widely in the improvement of many different class-es of live stock, and that it is still practiced more or less in many herds and flocks. Why? What is there in in-breeding to commend it to the breeder? In order to get at the bot-tom of this matter, let us theorize a little. little.

The egin with, then, every indivi-tion an interpret prosense qualities per-lar an interpret processing qualities per-taction is program in a greater or less de-gree. If we admit the truth of the foregoing statement, then we shall be forced to admit that every animal born into the world possesses certain qualities which it inherits from its sire, and others which it inherits from its dam. In other words, it it may resemble one paint tamb-more than the other, and some sires are noted for their prepotency, that is, their power to transmit their own likeness and qualities to their pro-geny i but the cases are rare where the influence of both parents cannot be seen in the progeny. Now, animals To begin with, then, every indivithat are related, possess a certain amount of the same blood, and it is reasonable, therefore, to assume that, in consequence of possessing blood which is common to both of them-mained the same that and the same the which are common to both of them-manisment of the same the same the non source. On the other hand, ani-mals which are nor related do not possess any blood which is common to both, and ren to solkely, there-fore, to nossess qualities which are common to both. common to both.

common to both. Let us suppose that two animals are mated which are closely related, and hence possess certain qualities in common. The progeny will in-herit these qualities possessed in common by its sire and dam, from both is presents and ensure the reserve. activity the size and dam, from boli its parents, and at may be reason-which are included at the source of the and dam must, of necessity, size and the repeated and this indi-vidual of the second generation is mated with another closely related individual, these qualities under con-sideration are again concentrated, the individual c' the third generation re-ceiving them from both parents. Thus each succeeding act of in-breed-ing tends to further concentrate the blood and accentuate the original qualities possessed in common by the n'st related pair of animals. If the explanations are clear up to this point, it is not difficult to under-stand why the early improvers of live stock resorted to in-breeding. It was difficult to find animals which ap-proached their idea, and when one would be the stock of the stock of the unalities which approaches the stabilish in their herds or flocks, they sought to vence that these qualities sought to perpetuate these qualities by repeatedly using the animal or animals which possessed them. In other words, they aimed to make de-sirable qualities prominent and permanent by resorting to in-breeding.

sirable qualities prominent and perma-nent by resorting to in-breeding. But there are two sides to this question. Suppose that among the qualities possessed in common by two individuals there exists a weakness of constitution, or some other undesir-able quality. This defect may not be whether the exists a weakness of the source of the state of the source defect will be made prominent and permanent along with other qualities, and disaster will be the result. It is this fact which makes in-breeding dangerous except in the hands of the most skill(d) breeders, and even in such hands it has frequently brought disaster when persisted in too long. In-breeding has played a valuable path bit num type and this of the performant active the same necessity the instance the same necessity.

thes just as effectively as good ones. There is not the same necessity for in-breeding at the present day that there was in the early days of live stock improvement, because good sires of desirable type are much more plentiful, and it is generally possible

