

EDITORIAL.

Our Frontispiece—Breeding Hunters.

The production of high-class saddle or hunter horses is conceded to be one of the profitable lines of horse breeding. Following the fashion of Great Britain of late years, there has been in Canada and the United States a distinct demand for riding-horses, coming largely at first from the numerous Hunt Clubs which have sprung into existence, the membership of which is not by any means confined to the sterner sex, indicating the growth of a form of outdoor recreation which has much to commend it, and which, we take it, has played an important part in sustaining the stamina of the well-to-do classes of Britain; and though in some respects a good deal of what we have seen in America may be but an imitation of the much-beloved and time-honored Old Country sport, it possesses the old merit still. However much the craze for bicycling may prevail, it must ever seem in the eyes of our "fine old English gentleman" a species of modern degeneracy.

Since 1888, England has had a Hunters' Improvement Society, premiums being offered for stallions, on condition of their being placed at the disposal of farmers at moderate fees. The Royal Agricultural Society and the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding continued the premium system on a larger scale, and Her Majesty authorized that the money formerly given as Queen's Plates on the turf should go to the direct encouragement of horse breeding, a principle that might well serve as an example in this country. Very beneficial results have accrued from the system above referred to in England. To begin with, the best material at the disposal of many farmer there were clean-legged, cart mares of the light type, and though a considerable change has been wrought out in that respect, still the subject of hunter brood mares is one of very great importance in England, and is well worth our consideration on this side the Atlantic. Vinton & Co.'s popular live stock annual contains an interesting compendium on this topic, from which we gather a few of the more important points expressed by British authorities:—

"Major H. F. Hunt would avoid cart blood as much as possible, a speedy pace being a *sine qua non* in the hunter of the day, along with quality and staying power for long distances. Hunter brood mares cannot have too much quality (*i. e.*, breeding), provided sufficient strength and bone go with it. The difficulty in securing blood hunters is to get the big weights. He does not favor Hackney blood in a hunter, because of their trotting action, though he had seen some grand hunters from Cleveland mares and Thoroughbred sires. His idea is a long mare, not exceeding 16 hands high, with not less than two crosses of Thoroughbred blood in her, possessing sloping shoulders, strong back and loins, deep back ribs, head neatly set on, perfectly sound, especially in wind, and with as much strength and bone as possible. The gift of jumping is transmitted from parent to progeny, hence he would breed from horses that have distinguished themselves on the hunting-field or between the flags."

"Capt. W. H. Fyfe would also discard the cart mares and select those capable of carrying 14 to 15 stone to hounds, and having the greatest number of Thoroughbred crosses. She should be up to weight herself, though sometimes a little low, well-bred mare may prove a better brood mare than the other sorts."

"Sir Richard D. Green Prince thinks the chief number of successes among hunter brood mares come from young, untried mares of sound constitution, roomy, with good limbs, deep of body, good in shoulder and clean about the neck and head, with temper to match. Such are good mothers and rear strong foals, generally larger than them, selves. He is not an advocate of big mares, in the sense of length of limb or height at the wither, for breeding hunters. The little, low mare often excels her larger sister, if she has the requisites specified. Blood you must have to a certain extent on both sides, untainted by Hackney or Leicestershire; and if crossed with the Arab (and a good cross, too), it should be on the dam's side for choice, because, for one of many reasons, you are not so likely to lose in the size of your horse or in its bone. I know of many Thoroughbred mares of sufficient calibre to breed hunters, but which fail to breed race-horses, and their produce could certainly be well utilized for cavalry purposes."

"Mr. Albert Brassey, M. F. H., favored the half-bred mare that has been hunted and known to be a good stayer."

"Mr. R. J. Mann preferred a short-legged, blood mare, and had no liking for cart mares or one or two crosses from cart mares, Cleveland Bays or harness animals, as they are apt to 'throw back' to the dam. He is for the stout little Thoroughbred mare."

"Mr. J. B. Cookson says the best mare has at least two crosses of blood, free from hereditary unsoundness, and of good-sized bone. The produce of mares with, perhaps, not the best fore-hands,

when mated with Thoroughbred sires with lengthy neck and shoulders, as a rule follow the horse in that respect, and this he considers the most important point in hunter conformation. The half-bred mare has usually plenty of power behind, which will make up for any deficiency in that respect in the sire. She should not be less than 15 hands 3 inches high, and not over eight years old, when she begins her matron duties. He had never had success with light mares."

In order to bring before the eye of our readers what these authorities had in mind as they wrote, we reproduce from the publication above referred to, a portrait of two fine representative hunter brood mares: Scarlet, by Lambton, and Dorothy 319, by Fabius; first prize winners respectively in the heavy and light weight hunter brood mare classes at the Royal Show, Cambridge, last year. They were the property of Sir Gilbert Greenall, Bart., Walton Hall, Warrington, and in the engraving are supplemented by a pair of magnificent foals by Riddigore. Of the two, Scarlet (the white-faced mare) possesses the greater substance, being a typical weight carrier, "long and low," unusually short from knees and hocks to ground, with a very powerful back and quarters; possessing withal activity in a pre-eminent degree. Dorothy, though not showing such great weight-carrying power, is, nevertheless, a mare capable of standing a great deal of rough riding, having clean legs, and a clean, breezy-looking head and neck. In height they stand sixteen hands. In the Royal prize list a heavy weight is supposed to carry fifteen stone and upward, and the light weight between twelve and fifteen stone.

Frauds in the Sale of Fruit.

Among the Acts passed at the late session of the Ontario Legislature, was one for "The Prevention of Fraud in the Sale of Fruit." As originally introduced by Hon. Mr. Dryden, the Minister of Agriculture, every person packing fruit for sale in bulk was required to mark or brand the package "No. 1," or "No. 2," or "ungraded," with the name and P. O. address (including Province) of the packer (except when "ungraded") and the name of the variety. The character of the fruit required to be up to standard for the two grades was defined in the proposed Act, and a penalty of fine and costs was affixed for omitting to mark the packages as directed; but there was no provision for any system of inspection. That there was need for some stringent provision was evident to any one who observed the way in which a great many apples for export were packed last fall. Our readers will remember as the season went on the Old Country demand became quite brisk, and the Ontario crop being short, shippers were anxious for export stock, and the gangs of packers they sent into the orchards of the fruit growers were apparently more desirous to fill barrels than to secure high grade quality. The result was, as the writer knows from personal observation, in some cases, that all sorts and conditions of fruit were dumped in the barrels, apples being packed which we have no hesitation in saying should never have been permitted to leave Canada. From a dealer's standpoint, it was exceedingly short-sighted, and could not be otherwise than damaging to the reputation of Canadian apples, and ultimately injurious to the fruit grower.

However, as the Bill proceeded through the House, a great deal of opposition developed, through the lobby and otherwise, and before the third reading was reached, it was shorn of its provisions for grading and branding, and, it strikes us, is left in a condition to be of very little practical value in remedying the evil which we have pointed out.

However, it provides for a fine of not less than \$1, nor more than \$5, upon every person who, with intent to defraud, alters, obliterates, or defaces any packer's marks upon an article; counterfeits such marks, changes the fruit in a marked package, uses for fruit-packing a package formerly used by any other packer, or makes false marks as to weight, measure, grade, etc., of any fruit. The man who deceives his customers by putting the large or fine fruit (whether of large or small varieties) on the top of the package, so as to conceal defects or quality, would now do well to beware, as he is subject to a similar penalty to that specified above.

Persons receiving fruit in bulk for sale on commission shall, when requested in writing by the consigner, furnish, within one week after receiving the notice, or after disposing of the fruit (as may be requested), a written, detailed statement in regard to the sale or disposal of the same, giving the price or prices received therefor, and the names and addresses of the purchasers. It is also provided that a prosecution under this Act is no bar to other proceedings for the recovery of damages brought by any person injured or defrauded by the sale of fruit in violation of the provisions of this Act.

There are a few things which every farmer should keep a careful eye over: mortgages, debts, weeds, parasites in the shape of unprofitable stock, and all kinds of destructive insects and fungi.

Fall Shows and the New Agriculture and Arts Act.

In our issue for April 1st we indicated the substance of the Bill passed by the Ontario Legislature, consolidating and amending the old Agriculture and Arts Association Act. We might say that the new Bill will be printed in pamphlet form, for distribution by the Government, ere long, for the benefit of those interested.

As some of our readers are aware, the old Act prohibited horse-racing at district and township shows, under a penalty of a fine not exceeding \$50, or imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding thirty days. This was a dead letter, horse-racing, with its betting accompaniments, being systematically winked at all over the Province, and the effect, we are bound to say, was demoralizing upon these exhibitions.

The term "agricultural," as applied to some of our exhibitions, is coming to be very largely a misnomer, but if we have been reading the signs of the times aright, there is a growing sentiment of disapproval, among our foremost agriculturists, of the side-show and racing element. As the Provincial Minister of Agriculture introduced his new Bill, it contained the old provision, and hopes were entertained that a proper public sentiment would yet be awakened upon the subject. However, a decided and successful onset was made upon the Bill in the Legislature, and the old prohibitory clause against horse-racing was amended by the insertion of the following clause (with the old penalty attached):—"Other than trials of speed, under the control and regulations of the officers of the Society," which, it strikes us, is a rather elastic phrase, that in practice may mean almost anything in the shape of horse-racing, from the innocent-looking "farmers' trot" down to the most fully-fledged event of the modern turf, as heretofore.

We must commend the Legislature on tightening up the regulations regarding side-shows, acrobatic performances, etc., and gambling. The former may be entirely prevented, but gambling is now absolutely prohibited by the following clause:—

"The officers of any such association or society shall prevent all kinds of gambling and all games of chance at the place of holding the exhibition or fair, or within three hundred yards thereof, and any association or society permitting the same shall forfeit all claim to any Legislative grant during the year next ensuing."

We commend this clause to the attention of our readers, and trust it will be strictly enforced during the coming show season.

Agriculture and Arts Association.

At a meeting of the Agriculture and Arts Association, in Toronto, during the late horse show, the committee appointed to open tenders as to sale of property on the corner of Queen and Yonge streets, reported that the day before the tenders were to be opened a letter was received from the Attorney-General's office, stating that the sale must be stopped, so the tenders were returned unopened.

The Secretary was instructed to collect from Mr. P. Jamieson the balance of rent up to March 3rd, and as the Government has taken possession of the property on which he claims compensation, he must look to them now for consideration.

A letter was read from W. W. Ballantyne, President of the Ayrshire Breeders' Association, asking that the second volume of the Ayrshire Herd Book (lost in the fire) be re-printed, as so few of them were in circulation. The Herd Book Committee reported favorably on this, and tenders will be called for.

As announced in the May 1st ADVOCATE, it was decided to hold an Eastern Ontario dairy show in Gananoque during the fall, \$2,000 being appropriated for the purpose.

A resolution of thanks to the Minister of Militia, and local officers, was passed for the use of the new Armories during the horse show.

In the ADVOCATE for April 15th a number of considerations were presented, indicating how short-sighted is the Canadian policy still persisted in—though we have often protested against it—of selling potash, in the form of ashes, to the farmers and gardeners of the United States. In some form or other, either we or our children must restore this potash to the soil, and with the rapid development of fruit growing in Ontario and other provinces this becomes all the more imperative. One of the great needs of our orchards is potash, but still the "ash peddler" goes his rounds, trading the housewife a few bars of cheap, yellow soap for bushels and bushels of ashes—a species of short-sighted barter that has no redeeming feature. During the year ending June 30, 1894, Canada exported \$57,651 worth of potash and pearl ashes, and \$52,110 worth of unleached ashes, or a total of \$109,764, representing a vast quantity in bulk. It is not to be wondered at that our neighbor, the Rural New Yorker, should exclaim: "Why in the world Canada permits this wholesale drain is something that baffles the wisest!"

For making "rolled oats," the millers prefer a long, plump, thin-hulled oat, white in the grain.