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against such mis-judgment in the horse-breeding industry.

While I have no objection to the desirable type of Shire horse, yet, when we know that Clydesdales have, to a much larger degree, obtained a firm foothold in this country, with the further fact that, as a breed, their quality of limbs, pasterns and feet are superior to the general run of Shires, would it not be to the advantage of our breeders to endeavor largely to confine their attention to the encouragement of the Clydesdale strain? One fact we should emphasize, that, as there seems to be no chance of encouraging the blending of these two breeds, with the ultimate hope of amalgamation, farmers should decide to make their choice of breed and stick to it, in order that, ultimately, they may have animals eligible to either the Clydesdale or else the Shire books of record. This result they will never accomplish by continually changing from the one to the other, and it is on this account, and because of the fact that to-day Clydesdales in this country are the much more prominent of the two breeds, that I would emphasize the desirability of encouraging their use.

To venture an opinion as to what breed of horses will beget the largest percentage of stock, is something I am not prepared to do. We cannot, however, emphasize the fact too forcibly that, in successful breeding, the handling and treatment of our breeding stock begins some time before conception, and that any irrational treatment of our females during the pregnant period, either in feeding or work and exercise, is inimical to the best development of the young.

Not only is it important that our brood mares be properly nourished, that they be in good healthy, vigorous condition at mating time, but, considering the fact that too many of our sires are kept in comparatively close quarters, without sufficient exercise, during winter, it is doubly a matter of importance that these sires should, for months, be given, daily, miles of exercise before the mating period commences, which, along with proper and judicious feeding, would fit them that we might reasonably expect that they would be in the healthy, vigorous and life-like condition which would enable them, if they are not given too much service, to transmit those desirable characteristics to their offspring. The fact that altogether too many of our sires are given from six to eight services per day, and bred to from one hundred to one hundred and seventy-five females during the breeding season of May, June and July, with the recurring services which such treatment entails, is certainly fatal to the vigorous life of the offspring. If our sires were properly fed and exercised, and confined to the service of from seventy-five to eighty mares during the breeding season, we would hear less complaint of mortality and sickness among foals than we do at the present day.

Huron Co., Ont.

Farmers' Horses.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It is not at all probable that Canadian farmers can be induced to combine and raise any one breed of horses. Our country is so large and our farmers' interests and needs so varied, it is not to be expected they will ever adopt such a method, notwithstanding the advantages accruing to any country or section thereof when it becomes famous for a product of any kind. However, there is nothing to prevent certain counties or groups of counties forming themselves into societies for the purpose of breeding any class of horses they decide upon as being the most profitable for their particular needs. In such cases they could reasonably look forward to the day when buyers of certain types or classes would know exactly where to look for them.

So far as farmers breeding horses suitable for the farm is concerned, I would not advocate such a plan. Of course, there are more horses used by the farmers of Canada than by all other classes combined, yet is it not a fact that a farmer can get his work done—and fairly satisfactorily, too—by the use of almost any kind of animal, from a roadster of decent size to a mammoth drafter? Also, he can get a lot of work from the breeding mares and the three-year-olds while they are fitting for market. These, and the occasional unsalable ones which will appear at times with the best breeders, should meet his requirements. Farmers nowadays have very little teaming to do, and they are not in need of many high-priced teams. Therefore, it is a farmer's interest to breed what he considers will command the most profit for him when they are sold in the market. He sells very few good horses to the farmers. They are seldom (and should seldom be) purchasers of horseflesh; they should aim to raise what they need. Some want Clydes or Shires, some drafters of some other breed. Let them have them. Others want roadsters, and although the profits from these seldom justify their wants, let them have their choice.

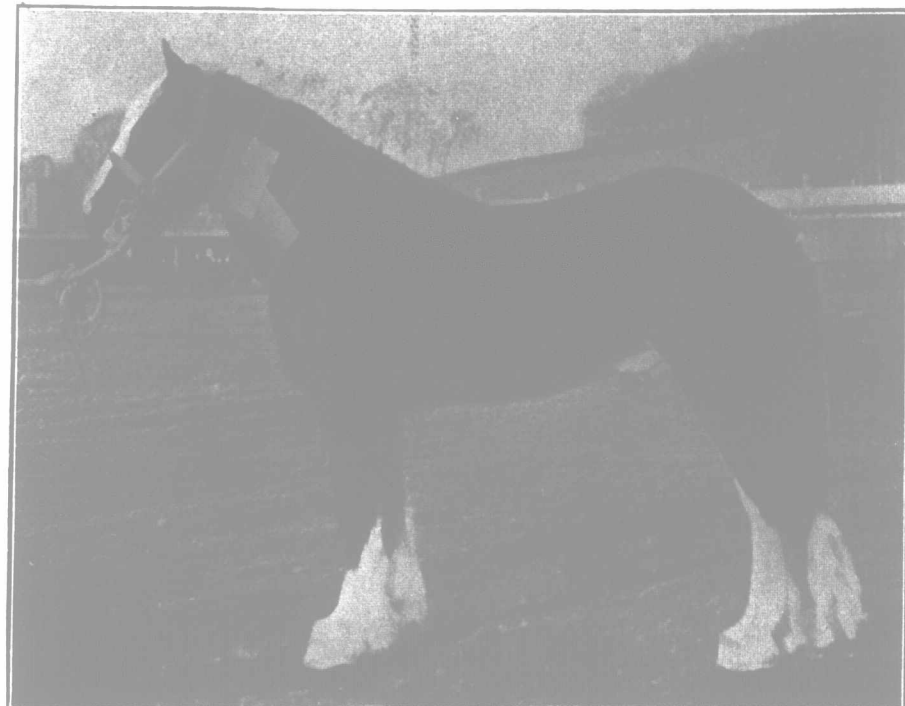
For myself, I always could get more satisfactory farm work from a well-bred carriage or coach horse, about one-quarter to one-half Thorough-

bred, and possessing good strong bone. These have staying properties hard to excel. There is also a pleasure in pulling the reins over such, when well broken, which cannot be got from the heavy breeds. This kind will work for you even though they are thin and tired, but the heavy loafers will not—they simply quit.

Yet, I would say that a farmer is wise who procures a mare of whatever breed suits him, his soil, distance from market, and, in his opinion, most in demand, guaranteeing him a market for surplus animals. This mare should be bred to the most suitable stallion, even if it costs a few dollars extra and a little inconvenience. It is wisdom to breed every year, too, no matter what the price of horses may be, for by the time the colt is three years old, markets may take many turns.

The worst feature of our horse-breeding is that men want to raise a heavy-draft team, a general-purpose team, and a fly roadster, all from the same mare, and in trying to do so, all manner of crossing and mixing is resorted to, with the final result we have a lot of mongrels or scrubs, not belonging to any class, nor suited to any purpose. In addition to their uselessness, they are an eyecore and a burden to the man who raised them. If such a course is pursued, we will never be known as producers worthy the name of such. We should decide as to the class and type we want, and stick to that only.

Wentworth Co., Ont.



Oyama (13118).

Clydesdale stallion; bay; foaled May, 1904; sire Baronson (10981). Winner of first prize in two-year-old class and the 50-guineas Cawdor Cup for stallion any age, Scottish Stallion Show, Glasgow, 1906.

LIVE STOCK.

Care of the Cow and Calf.

As the spring is the season when the majority of cows are expected to freshen, care should be taken that they are in good condition to meet the demands upon the system of advanced pregnancy and of parturition, and to bring them safely through this trying period. The idea that it is unsafe to have cows in good flesh at this time, owing to the danger from garget and milk fever, has ceased to be entertained by intelligent stockmen, who have learned by experience that most of the old-fashioned fads and theories have no foundation in fact. The cow, at calving, should be in the best of condition, and all the better if she has been dry for two or three months and fed liberally with nourishing foods, but for two or three weeks before the end of the term of gestation her rations should be of a laxative nature, such as roots and bran, in addition to good hay or other nutritious roughage, so that there may be no need of dosing to avoid constipation. Where a comfortable box stall can be given her for a few days before calving, this is the ideal treatment, the calf being left with her for a few days to take of her first milk, a little at a time, and as often as it will. Experience and observation has pretty well settled the question that the danger from milk fever is greatly lessened, if not entirely avoided, by only partially milking the cow for the first three or four days. This is nature's way when the cow and calf are left alone on the range, and milk fever is practically unknown under such conditions. The colostrum, or first milk of the cow at calving, is of entirely different composition from that of her milk a few days later. The purpose of the colostrum is to relax and move the bowels of the calf, and, left

alone, it will take only what it needs, and this supply in the udder does not oppress or pain the cow, as does an over-full udder of normal milk. Even if the udder be very large and somewhat caked at calving, there is little real danger from such condition, as it is not in a state of inflammation, and will usually become gradually softer and more pliable in the course of a week or two.

In the case of dairy cows, where the calves are to be raised by hand, it may not be practicable to give each cow a box stall in which to calve, and in that case the cow may calve where she is tied in her stall, as probably most cows in dairy herds do, but she should be well bedded, and an attendant should be on hand to let her loose when the calf is born, or place it near her head that she may lick it dry and make it comfortable, when it should receive its first nourishment direct from the teat, and then be placed in a pen or tied in a stall and given a little of its mother's milk three times a day, either by nursing or from the pail, the fingers being given it to suck until it learns to drink. Some people advocate starving the calf until it will drink without the finger, but this is cruel and unnatural, and is harmful to the calf, tending to cause indigestion and scouring, from gulping the milk instead of taking it slowly in small quantity at a time, as nature teaches, mixing the saliva of the mouth with the milk, an invaluable aid to digestion. Many a calf is ruined in the first week of its life by feeding too seldom and too much

at a time. A quart at a time three times a day is quite sufficient for the first week, and less than that the first two or three days. If possible, it should have its own mother's milk for the first two weeks, and that always fresh and warm. After the calf is three weeks old one-half its ration may be warm skim milk, and at a month old it may be given all skim milk, fed lukewarm. At this age it will have learned to eat a little clover hay, and if some whole oats are placed in its mouth after getting its milk, it will very soon learn to eat oats and bran from a trough, and if regularly fed twice a day at same hour, its quarters kept clean, and it is not overfed with milk, it will be likely to thrive without interruption. If, from any cause, diarrhoea develops, give at once a moderate dose of castor oil, and reduce the ration of milk for a day or two.

The cow, for the first few days after calving, should be fed in moderation, should have all the water she will drink, but not more than a pailful at a time, with the chill taken off, and should be given bran mash and other light food for the first week, after which the rations may be gradually increased.

While it is believed that partial milking for the first three days is the secret of safety from milk fever, it is wisdom to be provided with a bicycle pump, with a rubber tube and teat syphon attached, so that the air treatment may be administered if the symptoms of milk fever should appear. These are, withholding of milk, refusal to eat, quick breathing, stamping and crossing of the hind feet, and a swaying motion of the hind parts. In such case do not hesitate to fill each quarter of the udder with air, tying the teats with tape to prevent air escaping, massage the udder with the hands, and, if necessary, refill with air. This simple treatment almost invariably effects a cure within an hour or two, even in the worst cases, where the cow has fallen into a state of coma or unconsciousness. Dosing for milk fever is not only useless, but dangerous, as with this disease the throat is paralyzed, the cow cannot swallow, and medicine given is almost sure to enter the trachea and lungs, causing inflammation, and ending in the death of the patient. A multitude of cows have been killed in this way.

He Banks on the "Farmer's Advocate."

Please find enclosed \$1.50 for my subscription to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" for 1906. I am now sixteen, and have taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for four years, and would not be without it for twice its cost. I take "The Farmer's Advocate" in preference to other farm books, and never go astray.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

GEO. S. WICE.