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Issued

Each Week

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paying superior prices for good breeding steck? The demand and prices for heavy horses has been increasing. The average farmer, however, is slow to possess himself of brood mares suitable for the purpose of breeding the best class of draught horses. This lack of enterprise on the part of the farmer is very noticeable to any one who is in the heavy horse business as I am. Both of the mares referred to were bought by the writer and sold at a profit an hour after arriving home. One of them has changed hands again

at a profit. Had either cf the mares mentioned been geldings they would have brought nearly as much money. MARKET UNLIMITED

Heavy horses are likely for many years to command good prices. They may not always sell as high as they have been during the past year but the Western Canadian demand alone will absorb thousands of horses during the next decade. Nothing but off ears in Western crops can stop the demands. When a good crop does come the extra demand will make up for the slack period preceding.

Many hemesteaders cannot buy horses until they have "proved up." They can then raise money on their land to procure suitable teams. Ten

thousand homesteads were taken up in Alberta by April of this year. It takes four horses to make a western team. Thousands of oxen are still in use on the prairie. Nobody will drive exen for anything but breaking when they can afford horses. Thousands of horses will be needed to supply these new settlers.

When we consider that all the broken land in Alberta and Saskatchewan in the spring of 1910 was not of greater area than the road allowances of the two provinces we can form some idea of

the extent of country still requiring some kind of power to break the sod for the ever increasing number of settlers. Gasoline and steam tractors will help with plewing and teaming when the land and roads are dry but they are not suited to the every day use of the farmer as is the horse. LARGER HORSES IN DEMAND

FARMAND DAIRY

RURAL HOME

FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 16, 1911.

WHY I BREED HEAVY HORSES-VIEWS OF AN ONTARIO FARMER

The Demand for Heavy Horses is Unlimited-Good Breeding Stock is a Better Investment than Land-

Suggestions for Improving the Status of Horse Breeding in Ontario -Some Profits.

two year old Canadian bred stallion sold for

\$420, at an auction sale held recently in a

prosperous township. This was surely a re-

munerative figure. His dam in good condition,

weighing about 1,500 pounds, guaranteed good

to work, and sound, sold for only \$260. She

was seven years old and was supposed to be in

foal. Her team mate, registered, four years old,

sound, and heavy in foal, sold for \$245. There

was a big crowd at the sale and not 10 per cent.

of those present owned a pure bred bread mare

I have been wondering ever since that sale why

heavy brood mares are not in greater

demand. Is it lack of courage, judg-

ment, enterprise or a combination of

all three, that prevents farmers from

R. M. Holtby, Ontario Co., Ont.

Teamsters in our growing cities, contractors and even farmers, are using larger horses. This factor has made the demand for 1,500 lbs. and up cf horse power much in evidence. The 1,500 lb. horse is the only horse the market calls for at



## A Rule of Breeding Illustrated-"Like Begets Like."

Heavy draft horses are the market toppers today. To produce these high riced animals we must have breeding stock of proper conformation and whit to start with. The above illustration shows a mare and her get out produced from au undersized mare. Remember that "Like begets Like."

slack seasons of the year. Such a horse sells more readily at \$250 to \$300 than the 1,100 to 1,200 horse does at \$175.

It costs nearly as much to raise the little horse, whose cost for risk, feed and attendance at three years old is from \$125 to \$150, leaving a very small margin of profit, as it does a big one whose extra price is all profit. Filly feals from ordinary registered mares were selling readily last fall at from \$100 to \$140 (a car of 28 in our section at \$100 to \$125) while foals from good

sires and good mares will sell from \$150 to \$175. In one case that came under my observation \$200 was refused for a male foal. These prices should justify the purchase of a good mare and make up for any risk in the advanced price of \$50 to \$100 over the cost of the mother of the cheaper horse

Only \$1.00

a Year

No. 11

## MORE PROFITABLE THAN LAND

When ycu get a well bred draft brood mare that is a regular breeder she will bring in as much money each year as 50 acres of land that rents for three dollars an acre. The mare will earn her feed and produce a foal worth at least \$50 at weaning time and the service fee will be no more than the expenses for repairs on the 50 acre farm worth perhaps \$3,500. In other words meney invested in land brings in about four per cent. to five per cent. while money inve ted in good stock will make from 15 per cent.

to 30 per cent. It is better to be a tenant with good stock than a landlerd with poor stock.

In our district nearly all are breeding to heavy horses, though many mares are not heavy enough to produce drafters. Owing to the great demand for work horses many light mares were bred this year to draft sires. A market topper, however, is not often preduced by breeding of this kind.

The average farmer in my section is not raising one foal a year, many none. Occasionally one man will have from two to four foals each year. Many of the farmers have good mares. Too many, however are always ready to dispose of the best ones at what they think a high price and keep common blemished stuff with which they hope to breed high priced progeny.

If such a suicidal policy is not stopped we must ever draw from Scotland or go to the Western Provinces for cur best draft horses where they are always ready to pay the top price for the best.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

To improve the state of horse breeding I would say that we should use nothing but pure bred, sound sires and like the "Canny Scot," never sell our best mares. The use cf better sires could be hastened by legislation. It seems however that our legislators are always ready to appoint commissions but slow to act on their

reports whether from fear or from indecisicn let them answer. For the present to promote better horse breeding we must be content with educational methods.

Such a method of inducing farmers to keep better stock is very slow as the men you wish to reach do not take agricultural literature, attend institute meetings, live stock judging classes, farmers clubs, or any of these meetings intended for their instruction and benefit. For the present let us keep everlastingly at it, educating farmers