

blood into his stud. What has been the result? I have the catalogues and prices for a number of years. Not one animal in those catalogued which had a Thoroughbred as parent or grandparent sold for a high price, most of them going for comparative trifles. As a contrast, some of the pure-bred Hackneys at those same sales sold for record prices."

Coming now to the third group, Mr. Macaulay admits at once that for certain purposes warm blood has much value. In horses of the draft type, however, it is worse than useless, and for stylish carriage horses it is also not needed, to say the least; but, on the other hand, the addition of Thoroughbred blood would unquestionably make the ordinary plugs, which constitute such a large proportion of the horses of the country, better than they are. It would give them more ambition, more grit, and a little more speed, but would not help them in any material manner otherwise. It would certainly not improve either their size or their action.

We have thus three divergent and conflicting lines of possible improvement of the horse-breeding of the country. In order to judge at all accurately of the value of the third line of breeding, it is important to compare it with the two other lines. Is it desirable, for instance, to encourage farmers to raise horses of racing blood, either pure-bred or half-bred, in preference to draft animals? We can leave the carriage horse out of consideration for the moment. I do not hesitate to say that it would be a fearful mistake to do anything that would encourage farmers to go in for racing blood, rather than for draft blood. For a country like Canada the draft type is the one that should be encouraged as the main type, beyond all question. The best proof of this is to be found in the number of horses imported into the country each year by horse dealers for breeding purposes. Last year, the number of Clydesdales imported was somewhere around 1,200, to say nothing of Shires, Percherons, Belgians, and other draft breeds. The Hackneys imported were, of course, fewer, but still a substantial number. I do not know the number of Thoroughbreds imported, but think that, outside those brought in by the National Breeding Bureau, of which more further on, are hardly worth counting. This shows what the intelligent farmers of the country think they need. It also shows what the horse-dealers think they need, and our farmers and horse-dealers certainly should know what pays best. If the raising of horses with hot blood in them paid as well as the raising of draft horses, then, unquestionably, the farmers and horse-dealers would import racing stock. This goes far, I think, to show that the intelligent, experienced men of the country are not in favor of the introduction on any large scale of Thoroughbred blood for the purpose of crossing with the ordinary stock of the country.

The horses of the Bureau in question are said to include some of the finest Thoroughbreds in existence, and they were brought in by people to whom I give credit for an honest desire to improve the stock of the country, according to their light. One of these horses was stationed with one of my neighbors in the County of Vaudreuil. I understand, however, that very few, if indeed any, of the farmers around there availed themselves of the opportunity, although the horse was right at their own doors. As a contrast, the demand among farmers for the Clydesdale horse, and even the Hackney, has been remarkable. The farmers want the draft type, and do not want the hot-blood type, as a rule, even when brought to their own doors. This judgment on the part of farmers is very significant, and in their view I myself thoroughly agree. Outside of supplying horses for military purposes, and for riding and fast roadsters, we have no need of hot blood. I have no objection whatever to its being introduced, and would rather see a cross of warm blood upon the ordinary stock of the country, than no improvement at all, but I would a thousand times rather see a cross of draft blood than of hot blood. This is a case of the good being the enemy of the best. Those who desire to raise carriage or riding horses can be trusted to secure such stallions as they desire, whether Hackney, Thoroughbred or Standard-bred.

The Hackneys are monopolizing more and more the trade in ordinary city carriage horses. Style and appearance are being taken into account in this connection more and more. The automobile is driving out the necessity for horses with extra speed, except for the race-track, and, to the extent that carriage horses are needed, the Hackney type is the one usually preferred. It is easily possible to overestimate the importance of warm blood in this country, and certainly its value is not to be compared in any way with the value which a greater infusion of draft blood would be.

But now let us consider the effect of racing upon type. Whether it be Thoroughbreds of Standard-breds, the one object in all races is, of course, to win. The type developed by the race-course is, naturally, a racing machine—a horse capable of covering a short distance with extreme speed, even

though he may not be able to carry an ordinary man comfortably for any long distance, or able to draw an ordinarily heavy carriage comfortably, to say nothing of being able to continue for long distances. This view is confirmed by several facts. In the first place, there is in England what is known as the "Hunters' Improvement Society," an organization with its own studbook, whose object is to encourage the breeding of hunters of more substance than the ordinary Thoroughbred. Then, too, what is being done in the United States is very suggestive. There were formerly, in Vermont and the New England States, great numbers of Morgan horses, which were very popular fifty years ago, and so long as they were able to hold their own on the race-track, they continued to be bred. They were noted for their endurance and other good qualities, but have in time been almost replaced by other families of Standard-bred horses, simply because the latter were able to win races more successfully. The Morgan horse became almost extinct, notwithstanding his great endurance and beauty. An attempt is now being made, under the auspices of the United States Government, to revive the Morgan horse because of those qualities. In like manner, the United States Government is starting the breeding of a special strain of carriage horse, which is being developed from the American Standard-bred animals, with the idea of breeding a type with more substance, more size, more beauty, and more action than the kind developed by the race-track. These three instances, it seems to me, show conclusively that the race course develops speed at the expense of more desirable qualities, and that, to encourage racing does not necessarily encourage the breeding even of the type of racing-horse that would be really valuable to the country. If racing developed an ideal type of horse, why should the U. S. Government find it necessary to establish



Not Worrying for Grass.

Feeding silage at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.  
(Photo by F. T. Shutt.)

these breeding stations? If we wish to get an infusion of hot blood into Canada, we do not necessarily wish the blood of animals of the extreme type developed by race-courses. The larger, stronger, more enduring animals would be far better for our purposes, even though they could not win races. I think, however, that the farmers and stock-breeders of the country may safely be left to select the kind of animals they really want.

I have no objection to racing as such, but, for the reasons given, I do not myself think that the encouraging of racing, by permitting betting, would have any beneficial effect whatever upon horse-breeding in Canada.

This year promises to break all records in horse shows and the horse business in Western Canada, so far as draft horses are concerned. The West received a large proportion of the fourteen hundred-odd Clydesdales exported from Scotland in 1909. Clydesdale men out there have been buying freely in the East and South. Of Percherons, there are more good ones on the prairies than ever before. Shires are increasing in numbers, and, in Alberta, Suffolk-Punch breeders have increased the numbers of this excellent British draft breed by substantial importations from the Old Land. The outlook in pure-bred drafters was never more promising. At the Brandon Winter Fair there appeared the largest rings of Clydesdales, Percherons and Shires ever seen at a Western Canadian exhibition—rings large in numbers, and of a particularly high standard of excellence.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Sheep for Western Farms.

Seeing peoples and places is a line of education which is most interesting and instructive. Seeing the Canadian West, with its Province-loyal inhabitants, their great faith in the country, and the results, as observed at their Winter Fair, and enjoying the free, hearty hospitality in their homes, was our means whereby first-hand and useful information was secured, and an estimate made as to future prospects. Going on towards the setting sun, for the most part, is monotonous and dreary. Were one so unfortunate as to be companionless, the day spent in the rough, rocky regions of our North lands would be nearly a blank in life. So little of humanity to be seen outside the train, and the continuous, apparently useless character of the district, causes one to wonder what Providence may have in future store for such desolation. All is soon forgotten when the hustling, rapidly-growing, bounding, hopeful City of Winnipeg is reached. Pressing onward towards Brandon, full variety of soils and conditions is sighted. Here we see, surrounded by grass-covered marsh land, or hay lands, a village-like group of well-built and neatly-painted stock buildings, near the track; while there, a mile or two away, is another, with half a dozen windmills on duty. Inquiry elicited the information that the first was a very extensive piggery, operated by a city boot-and-shoe dealer, and the other a collection of dairy-cattle barns.

Onward—grass lands, seemingly too level and waterlogged for cultivation, to the apparent extent of hundred of thousands of acres, were passed through. In imagination, the future picture conceived was a large section of very fertile land, with deep-cut waterways, similar to those seen in Essex and Kent Counties, in Western Ontario, with probably extensive tile-draining, and growing a wealth of crops, such as no present cultivated part of Manitoba now produces. That a great and profitable future lies before the now nearly useless area, is a certainty, judging by what we have seen accomplished in our Province, with somewhat similar conditions.

Higher levels brought us to fertile fields, and, after that, a run of lower flats of land ready for cropping, but with water standing in the furrows

for miles and miles, and no outlet in sight. Next, sand hills in plenty were passed before Carberry was reached, and that followed by the homestead stretch to Brandon, where large farms, comfortable-looking homes, and well-painted barns were in the foreground, as well as away in the distance.

Brandon entered, the bustle of the Fair was immediately apparent, with the horse interest outclassing all else. It is a horsey city, sure; and Clydesdales were many times more than all others. Numbers and quality joined hands, and made it a show of heavy horses, of which the Westerners were justly proud. The fact of a Western-reared two-year-old stallion, imported in dam, winning the championship, added greatly to their satisfaction. When, later, the press gave the information that the champion was sold at \$4,000, the successful and profitable breeding of Clydesdales in Manitoba was no longer in doubt.

Cattle, in goodly numbers, had fair to real-good entries. Aberdeen-Angus, shown by J. D. McGregor, President of the Board of Directors, were a credit to the exhibitor, and would be hard to beat in any show-ring. One of them carried off the championship.

Sheep two years ago were represented by six entries; in 1909, less than two dozen were in pens, with sixty to seventy this year. The classes were a pleasing surprise in their average good quality, though, for a fat-stock show, the condition of fleshing should have been a bit higher. Tail-ends were few in number.

The one fully-conditioned flock, shown by a young man who got both his training and flock foundation from one of our leading Ontario breeders, made a showing good enough for any company in all America. Some others were not be-