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Judging Clydesdales.

Mr. Barrie, Balmedie, told the students attending the farmers' class at the Aberdeen and North of Scotland College of Agriculture the other day how to judge Clydesdales. He pointed out to them that the first thing in examining a horse was to see him move—walking and trotting—which should be done in a straight line, because in doing so one would see at once whether he was true in his movements or faulty. In his movements a horse should go straight in front and keep his hocks well together. One should keep a very sharp lookout for lameness or stringhalt. After seeing the horse move he should be examined. To begin with, a stallion should look like a male, and a female should look like a female, and a male like a male, because a male with feminine character, or a female with male character, were not to be trusted as true breeders. Nowhere would one discriminate better as to character than in the head. A horse should have a nice head, a lengthy neck, slightly arched, a sloping shoulder, and a good forearm. In a male there should be plenty of muscle, and in a female quality. There should be a nice clean ankle joint, a nicely set pastern, a good foot, and nice silky hair in the back of the leg. He should be thick round his heart, and have good, barrelly ribs and back. His hind quarters should be lengthy and wide, with a nice hock joint, which was a very important consideration in a horse. A narrow hock was very objectionable, because it was very often apt to get soft and "boggy." Sometimes they might get a hock too much set, which might suggest a possible curb. Some people thought a horse could not be too wide in front, but that was a great mistake. It was just as great a mistake for a horse to be too wide set in his fore legs as to be wide in his hocks. It was all the greater objection for a horse to be too wide in his shoulder if he was a stallion, because he generally got worse when he went to stud. There was one thing he would like to impress upon the pony men, and that was that it often happened that a farmer seldom looked at a young colt's foot until it went to the smithy. That was a great mistake. A farmer should start with the foal at four months old and see that his heels were kept down, which could easily be done with a rasp, because there was a danger of a horse growing his inside quarter of his foot both in front and behind rather than his outside quarter. The result was that a great deal of pressure was thrown on his outside quarter, with the possible chance of his throwing a side-bone. Then, by keeping down the inside of his hoof, it had the effect of keeping his hocks together, because at an early age the bones were soft, and the farmer could thus do a great deal in moulding the character of the horse. This was a very important point, because it was essential that a cart horse should have proper legs and feet.—*Scottish Farmer.*

Terms of Service Fees.

A reader says: "My mare lost her foal by abortion, the stallion fee is fifteen dollars, \$1.50 down, balance when mare proved with foal. So far I have not paid balance and would like to know if I must pay it now."

This question brings up a problem that confronts most stallion owners every year and frequently is the cause of considerable bickering. In most cases where a mare aborts, the stallion owner hesitates to enforce the terms of the contract as printed upon his season bills for the reason that the owner of the mare has no tangible evidence to show for the money he would spend in service fees, and in many other cases terms are not printed upon season bills and there is no definite understanding what the service fee is to be or when it is to be paid.

In the stallion business, as in all others, the man who prints the terms by which he is prepared to stand his horse for service and then strictly enforces them, always has the best success and the largest patronage, provided his horse is not at fault.

Different kinds of contracts or agreements may be entered into in breeding a mare. The most commonly used terms are these; to insure a foal—dollars, season mares—dollars payable at end of season; single leap—dollars payable at time of service.

Naturally when a mare is bred the stallion owner should know which of these agreements the owner of the mare wishes to be bound by and should enquire before service, then should enforce the terms as far as in his power. If the first named contract is accepted, the mare owner

is entitled to return her the full season until she gives evidence of being "set". The stallion owner has nothing more to do with this mare then until she proves to be in foal. If he has been so generous as to guarantee a foal to walk and trot he must wait till the foal does so, or if his terms read a foal nine days old he must wait until that time when he is entitled to the full amount stated in his agreement whether or not the foal dies at ten days of age. When the contract calls for a live foal the fee is larger than for an insured mare, generally five dollars more but in a case of this kind the stallion owner assumes much of the risk that naturally should be borne by the owner of the mare.

Strictly speaking the stallion owner discharges his full duty when he breeds the mare. An insured mare may be returned until with foal and about January 1st if the stallion owner or his agent decide she is in foal he can demand payment. Later if she proves not in foal the owner of the mare may claim a rebate or another year's service. An insured mare is seldom charged for unless in foal although the stallion owner might be justified in demanding pay. This is the most popular kind of arrangement because the stallion owner has little risk if the horse is sure and the mare owner is satisfied having his mare in foal. The understanding should be plain though, as to whether or not the mare must be in foal before payment for actually the stallion owner discharges his responsibility by breeding the mare for the season.

As every one knows the terms of arrangement are frequently violated if the mare loses her foal, the stallion owners often offering the service of his horse at a reduced price or free, although he is under no obligation to do so.

The third class of agreement needs no explanation but the stallion owner should be paid at time of service. In every case the understanding should be definite and later no matter what unforeseen condition might arise the terms of the agreement should be adhered to.

In the case of our enquirer we cannot tell whether or not he is liable without knowing what terms he bred his mare upon.

A Spring Medicine for Horses.

Many requests are made for a spring medicine for horses, to aid them in shedding the winter coat of hair and to tone up the system generally, a result shown by more life in the animal and more natural condition of the excretions, urine and feces. Prof. Alexander gives the following formula as useful: Mix together equal parts of powdered gentian root, ginger root, wood charcoal, flowers of sulphur and saltpeter. Give a tablespoonful twice daily in the food.

There is quite a pronounced movement of opinion among a large number of English Hackney breeders that the breed should not sacrifice its characteristics of a riding horse to the craze of the harness market. This is in line with the contention of Mr. S. B. Carnley who has recently contributed to these columns.

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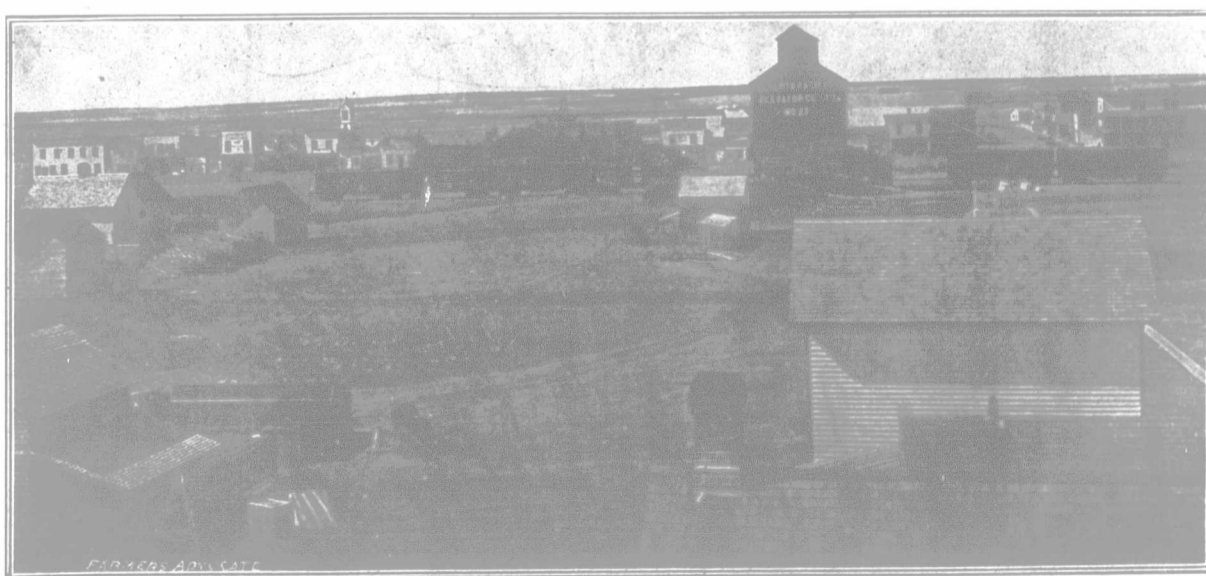
Slaughter, one of J. M. Seagram's entries, won the King's Plate at Toronto on the 19th. Mr. Dymont's Courtmartial, the favorite, ran second, three lengths behind, and Mr. Seagram's Harnuka third, but not a dangerous competitor. Wicklight, of the Kirkfield stables had little chance. The time was 2.11 1/4.

STOCK

Selecting a Sire.

The sire is more than half the herd, or stud, or flock, in breeding, since he imparts his excellences or his defects to the produce of all the females with which he is mated, while each female leaves the impress of her individuality only on her own progeny. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that special care and discrimination be used in the selection of a sire in breeding any class of stock, in order to a probability that satisfactory results may be secured. It should hardly be necessary in this day to insist that the nearest possible approach to uniformity of desirable qualities in the progeny the sire used should be pure-bred. He should also be individually of the most approved type in conformation and character of the breed to which he belongs, and should be selected for quality, rather than for excessive size. The novice in breeding is liable to fall into the error of looking for and regarding large size and great weight as a first requisite, and as of greater importance than quality of flesh and bone and hair. Experience and observation have taught that rarely is an extremely large or overgrown male animal a successful sire of progeny of uniform type and desirable quality. The overgrown horse or other animal is an anomaly, and is never a favorite with competent judges. Great size does not necessarily mean great strength or endurance in man or beast. Nature despises extremes as she does right angles. The king of the forest wild, for strength and prowess, is not the elephant or a behemoth, but a beast of medium size, with marked masculine characteristics, and with strength, courage and endurance, bound up in moderate superfluous. The happy medium in breeding exemplifies the law of "the survival of the fittest," not only in personality, but also in progeny.

In the history of the origin and improvement of the greatest Shorthorn breed of cattle, as recently reviewed in these columns, it will be remembered that the sires which played the most prominent part in that evolution were the medium sized but superior-quality animals, Hubback, Favorite and Comet in the early years, and Champion of England and his heirs in the Cruickshank contingent in their work of remodelling the breed in later times. Consider the history of Clydesdale breeding, and note that the most prepotent and potential sires in the record, Prince of Wales, Darnley, Macgregor and Baron's Pride, not one could be called a large horse, and some were under the average in size. Compactness, vigor of constitution, masculine character, soundness and cleanness of limbs, with sufficient quantity of best quality of bone, obliquity of shoulders and pasterns, and good feet, with medium size, are the requisites in a stud sire in the equine race, modified to suit the breed or class to which he belongs, while in times and its purposes must be studied, and selections made in accordance therewith. While other classes of stock the approved type for the no absolute rule can be fixed that will apply in all cases and under all circumstances, the breeder learns by observation and experience what is best for his purposes, and it is safe to advise the avoidance of extremes in crossing and in the selection of a sire, now that our types are so well fixed and generally approved.



CARSTAIRS, A GROWING ALBERTA TOWN, ON THE C. & E. RAILWAY.