

## THE SHETLAND PONY.

(Continued from page 1952.)

is for them to grow taller, trimmer and of slightly less robust build, if judiciously fed. The well-bred, home-reared pony is likely to fill the eye of the American boy better than the imported.

There are several varieties of the Shetland ponies, due, in part, to the aspect of the locality in which they are bred, in part to the different tastes of the breeders; and probably in part to slight differences in the foundation stock of the several varieties. However, they are sufficiently uniform to be classed as a single breed.

The Shetland pony is not likely to lose his well-earned popularity. The pony can be made very useful, under proper supervision, in educating children to be courageous, self-reliant, kind to and thoughtful of the brute creation. The American farm boy is usually an expert horseman, due, without doubt, to his early familiarity with colts and horses on the farm. The city lad may acquire much of the same expertness by handling ponies. This four-legged associate is often a safer companion for a hot-headed youth than a two-legged one. The question as to whether there is profit in raising ponies sinks into insignificance beside the larger one—Is there profit to the country in rearing self-reliant, strong, humanized citizens?

Other things being equal, the smaller ponies sell for higher prices than the larger ones, and the piebald or spotted ones often for more than those of solid colors. In any case, the Shetland is seldom more than thirteen hands high—fifty-two inches—the smaller ones but six to seven hands high. However, a large majority of these ponies range from thirty-five to forty-five inches in height. When placed under conditions similar to those of larger horses in America, the tendency is for them to increase in size and become somewhat phlegmatic and less-enduring. The very fact that they are small and are pets results in their being fed too frequently and too liberally. In this country a hundred ponies are injured by overfeeding where one is injured by underfeeding. To keep ponies in trim form and lively, especially where they are used but little, the grain ration should be about one-half, and the hay ration one-fourth, of that fed to the employed roadster.

It is sometimes said that a pony can be bred and raised about as cheaply as a sheep. The raising of good ponies is a highly-specialized business; therefore, their breeding should not be begun hastily or ignorantly. Anybody can raise little horses at little expense, but they will have to be content with little prices. In pony breeding, something for a little or nothing is no more likely to be secured than in the production of other live stock. The same careful selection of foundation stock, the same judgment in mating and care as is taken in breeding the trotter or saddler, must be exercised if the animals most in demand at remunerative prices are secured.—[Roberts.]

## TRADE TOPIC.

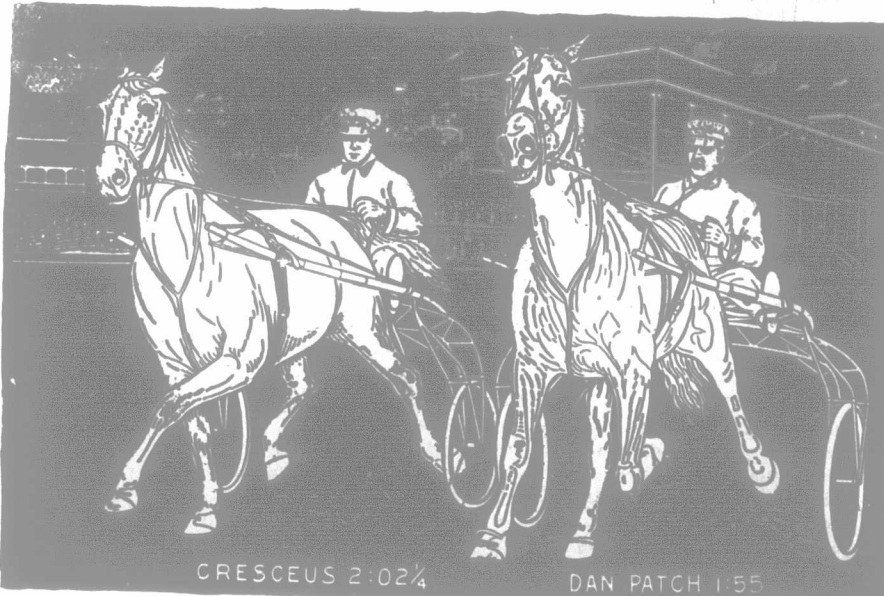
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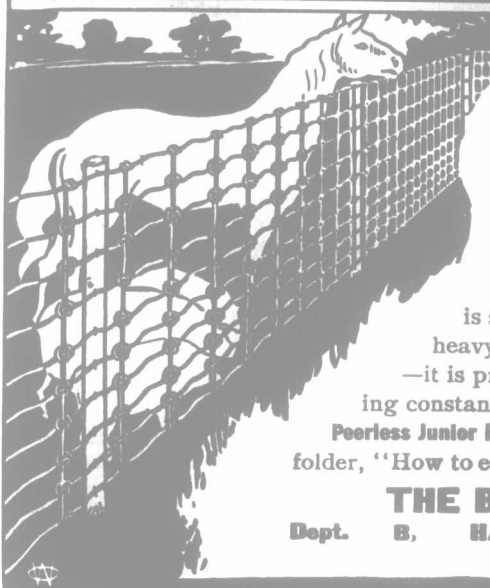
2nd, State how much live stock you own.

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