

HORSE

Work In-foal Mares.

Those new to mares in foal are often so anxious about them that they are not allowed to do any work for a month or two before foaling, and are treated as more or less of an invalid. If a mare is old or disabled, and only fit for a brood mare, let her have ease by all means, but when the in-foal mare is one of a team, long idleness before foaling disarranges the conditions of things to her disadvantage, and a long rest before foaling is quite unnecessary. If the mare is one that is driven or ridden give her a chance, and do not hurry or bustle her about during the last month or six weeks of her carrying the foal, but she can be used quietly all the same. If she is employed for harrowing or plowing, etc., on the land, avoid giving her jerky work. This may cause premature birth, but steady employment will do her no harm whatever—indeed, have an opposite tendency, particularly if she is kept on farms where many foals are bred. It is absolutely necessary that the mares should do much work previous to foaling. In such cases it is common for the mares to drop their foals when in the plow or harrows, or if brought in from work one evening she may have a foal by her side next morning, and as a rule matters go on quite satisfactorily.

We come to something quite different after the foal has arrived, for after foaling there must be complete idleness for a time. The mare must not be heated when the foal is very young, as her milk, when in that state, is bad for the foal. The foal is a frequent feeder, and the mare should be available for this practically constantly for the first month or six weeks at least. Have known them worked two or three days after foaling, but this is very unwise, as the foal is sure to get upset, and what is gained in work will be all lost in the unprogressive condition of the foal. As in all live stock, a good start is of immense advantage to a foal, and if put well on their legs during the first few weeks, they will be better prepared to bear the mother's absence for intervals later, particularly when the haying begins, which is work that all capable mares with foals are put to. To keep a mare away from a very young foal for a great length of time results in the foal sucking an excessive quantity of milk, then indigestion and other internal complaints are generated. That is one very bad result of the mother's absence. Another is that if the intervals between feeding



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are too long there is still the fact that the foal worries and frets beyond soothing when the mother is away, and this, too, has a bad effect.

FARM

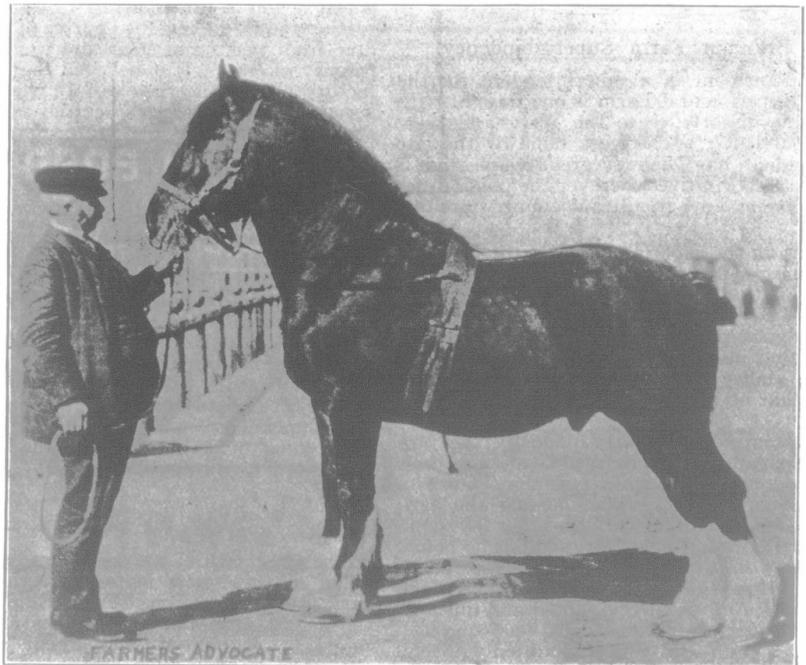
The Selection of Our Farm Seeds.

This is a question of paramount importance to the farmer; but how many farmers give it the consideration that is due? True, some look upon this question as not worthy of thought, thinking that if they sow the seed in a fairly well prepared soil their responsibility has ended; that one variety was as good as another, and if there was any difference it would be too slight to be worth while.

First of all let me say a word regarding the old-time habit of changing seed. I say habit, be-

merely to show that there is a wide difference between good and indifferent varieties. Take for instance, barley. The Mandscheuri variety has been proven to yield from ten to fifteen bushels of grain more per acre than the common six-rowed barley—the variety which is now so extensively grown over Ontario. Think for a moment, if you will, what an increase of ten bushels of barley per acre, or even five bushels, would mean in good hard cash, over the farms of our own fair Province. Therefore, it behooves us to read up reports of experiment stations and find out what are the leading varieties and to see that we grow them.

The ideal time to select our seed is in the field at harvest time, as at this point we can pick out the best part of the field, where the straw is the



THE TWO YEAR OLD SHIRE STALLION "SALWICK HERO" (imp) 23668.

1st at Winnipeg and 1st at Brandon, 1905; 1st and champion Provincial Spring Stallion Show, Brandon, 1906.

cause I believe it is a habit as I never met any man who could give a good sound reason for so doing, other than that his father had always changed seed, and that he thought it was a good practice. Of course, if you can exchange poor seed for good seed, do so by all means; but the old-time theory that the change of seed from one soil to another was a step in advancement has been exploded, and no scientific or practical man, who has given the subject due consideration, believes in it at the present day.

Let us see, for a moment, the good that can come from a change of seed. Firstly, it is a good thing for the seed man who has seed to sell; secondly, it is of material advantage to the party who changes to get the big end of the deal. But let us enumerate the disadvantages of the system. By changing seed we forfeit any advancement we have made in breeding up a strain of good seed. What breeder of pure-bred live stock would change his herd every three or four years? If he did, what advancement would he make? How much stock would he be able to sell at fancy prices? I venture to say there is no breeder of stock who would be so foolhardy. And yet it has been proven time and again that the same principles hold good in the breeding of grain as in animals. How is it that on the experiment plots at Guelph they obtain such phenomenal yields of some varieties of grain? How is it that they get sixty bushels of Dawson's Golden Chaff wheat on the experimental plots, whereas the average yield over Ontario is only 23 bushels? It is because the very best seed has been hand selected from a plot and sown, and the very best seed selected from this crop and sown again; and this process has been carried on for a number of years. Thus they have built up a high yielding strain. True, we cannot hope to get such yields over the farms of the West as they have on the experimental plots. But can we not by careful selection of our own seed year after year, build up a strain that will eclipse anything we have at present?

Then the question of what variety to sow confronts us, and it is not in the province of this article to say what are the best varieties, but

straightest and the grain plumpest, saving and threshing this part by itself, and selecting the best grain from it. But as we cannot do this for this year, we can select the very best seed from what we have, and the time to do this is right now, when every farmer has plenty of seed around, and is not rushed for time—not leaving it till the day before next seeding, and then running it through the mill at a rate which allows of only very imperfect cleaning.

Experimental station results show that large, plump seed gave seven bushels of grain more per acre than small plump seed and small, plump seed six and a half bushels more than shrunken seed. From this we can see the great importance of selecting large, plump seed, and that any extra time spent in obtaining this large seed is an investment that pays large dividends.

We cannot be too careful about sowing weed seeds with our grain. The busy farmer too often thinks it is not worth while to reclean seed because there are only a few weed seeds in it, and oftentimes does not even stop to examine if there are foul seeds present. The great error of such a policy is only too evident when we see the great struggle that is carried on year after year against weeds, a great many of which came on our own farms in just such a manner—insignificant at first, but, with their great powers of production soon spreading everywhere.

The question of buying seeds is a problem that practically all farmers have to face every year. Too often he is misled as to the value of the seed he purchases by the price affixed to it. Especially is this so in clover and grass seeds. The merchant probably has a sample of clover seed which he offers for \$5.00, and another which he offers for \$7.00 per bushel. The farmer, coming along to buy his seed, is frequently attracted by the \$5.00 sample. True, on taking a casual glance at the two samples, there does not seem to be much difference; the \$5.00 lot is probably a little lighter in color and contains a few seeds other than clover; so the purchaser, after considering it for a moment, takes the cheaper lot. Now, had that man examined those samples closely and tested them for vitality, he would likely have found the