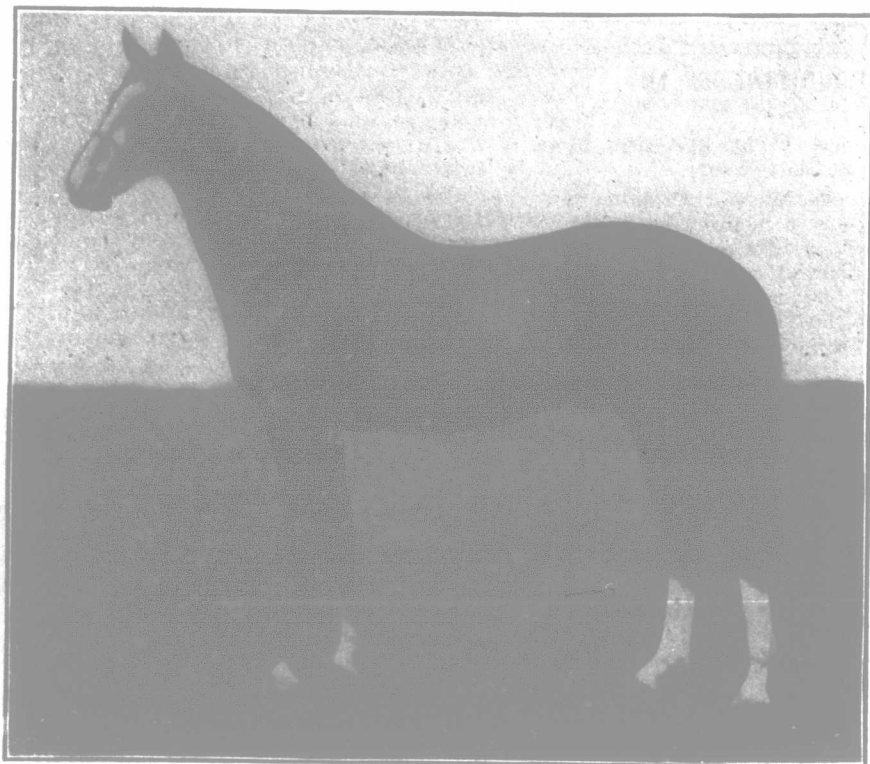




Gallinule



Wildflower.

best he has ever owned, and the fact of him having bred her as well, is very gratifying. To own such a mare is enough almost for an ordinary mortal, but his luck did not end here. At the insignificant sum of 300 gs., he picked up, as a yearling, at Doncaster, Spearmint, the Derby winner of 1906. Laveno is the principal sire at Eyrefield. He is a massive, dark-bay horse, by Bend Or, out of Napoli, and was a good race-horse in his day. Galvani is so far the best of his stock that have run, and the fact of Laveno being chosen as a mate for Pretty Polly, points to continued success in the future. Admirable Critchton had only just come out of training, but he has the making of a valuable sire, both as regards turf performances and breeding, being by Isinglass, out of Admiration (dam of Pretty Polly). Gallinaria, with a very promising foal by Flying Fox, and Admiration, with a full brother to Pretty Polly at foot, having posed for their portraits, a move is made to another paddock. On entering the gate, two mares wander leisurely across to see who the intruders are. The big chestnut, who dwarfs her companion, is an animal whose name is world-famous. It is the great Pretty Polly herself, "Queen of the Turf," and possibly the greatest mare the world has ever known. The story of her career would take up too much space to recount in detail, but we cannot pass on without dwelling on some of the principal events. The British Dominion two-year-old stakes at Sandown was chosen for the debut of this remarkable filly. When the horses came in view, the people watching the race saw one animal with such a tremendous lead that they imagined there had been a breakaway or something of the kind. Such, however, was not the case. Pretty Polly had left her opponents literally standing still, and won in the hollowest manner. More races fell to her share, and, when she easily beat the best colt of the year, St. Amant, at Doncaster, all eyes were turned to the wonderful daughter of Gallinule. Many said she had done her best, and that, like some of Gallinule's previous stock, would not train on. However, as a three-year-old, she gave the lie direct to her detractors, and won the 1,000-gs. Oaks, St. Leger and other races without an effort. She unfortunately suffered defeat by a 66-to-1 outsider in the Prix du Conseil Municipal, Paris, the rough Channel passage having undoubtedly affected her. Pretty Polly came out in wonderful form as a four-year-old. She started by taking the Free Handicap at Newmarket, and then gave a brilliant display at Epsom, in the Coronation Cup. Only two opposed her, but these were Causis, the best horse in France at the time, and Zinfandel, who won many great races. Pretty Polly was in the rear for part of the race, but as they entered the straight she shot up to Zinfandel, who collapsed without an effort, and went on to win by three lengths, in the wonderful time of 2 minutes 33½ seconds, which is a record for the Epsom course of 1½ miles. Major Loder's wonderful mare, who possessed the sweetest of tempers, always won her races in the same irreproachable style. It was not the fact that she won them, but the manner in which she did it, that impressed the public. While the other horses were putting every ounce into the struggle, she would lob along as though it were an exercise canter, and when her jockey let her out, she would win anyhow. After the great race just referred to, she beat Hackler's Pride, the winner of two Cambridgeshires, and Batchelor's Button, another

great horse, in different races. Her last appearance was rather sorrowful. It was in the Ascot Gold Cup of 1906. Polly was not herself by a long way, but she made a gallant fight over the severe course, only to find Batchelor's Button her master by a length at the finish. In all, she won 22 races, value of £37,295, and was second twice.

On leaving Eyrefield Lodge, there is time for just a peep at the Attgavan Lodge stud, where the late Mr. Wm. Pallin resided, till his death left a big gap in the ranks of Irish breeders. Here we find Red Prince II., one of the grandest types of a weight-carrying Thoroughbred sire living, and a well-bred one to boot, being by Kendal, out of Empress (winner of the Grand National at the Dublin Show). He has often carried high honors, and his stock have done well. Sir Hugo, by Wisdom, out of Manœuvre, calls to mind the sensational Derby of 1892, in which he, as a despised outsider, won from the great La Fleche; but, beyond this, his record is not a very brilliant one. A powerful young stallion completes the Athgarvan sires. This is The Gull, by Gallinule, out of Meddlesome; he was a very high-priced yearling, but broke down in training, a fact which, however, will not prejudice his stud career, for many breeders would be only too glad to use him on the score of looks alone, as he is a particularly fine, upstanding horse, with immense bone and perfect symmetry.

On the way to the Tully stud, which lies on the other side of the Curragh from Eyrefield, a brief halt is made at Knocknagarm, where Speed stands. This horse has rapidly sprung into notice through the medium of his son Velocity, considered by many to be the best horse in training to-day. Speed is a very powerful brown son of Hampton, and, although in comparative obscurity during the early part of his career, his services are now being sought after by breeders. There is possibly no man in racing circles who has a more profound knowledge of all branches of blood stock breeding than Col. Hall Walker. The practical value of the methods he adopts has been amply demonstrated by the achievements of the horses which he has bred. This popular owner's check jacket has been very much to the fore on the race-course recently, and amongst the good horses who have carried it to victory, may be mentioned Colonia, Cherry Lass, Black Arrow, Polar Star and White Eagle. When quite completed, Col. Hall Walker's stud farm, at Tulley, in Kildare, will be one of the finest in the country. No expense is being spared in its equipment; the buildings are eminently adapted to the purpose for which they are required, and in the extensive paddocks there is a luxuriant growth of that rich herbage for which Ireland is so famous. The principal sire at Tulley is Count Schomberg, a brown son of Aughrim and Clonavon, who was a great race-horse both on the flat and over hurdles, and looks like making as big a hit as a sire. Black Arrow is perhaps the best he has given us at present, and that this colt was a snasher, there was no doubt. The Count, though not a large horse, is beautifully balanced, and stands on grand limbs. There is another stallion at this stud, Friary, a gray horse, who won some useful races over a country, and is siring stock that can jump. The Colonel's mares are all of the choicest breeding, but we must only touch briefly with them here. Merry Gal was a good winner in her day, and has bred a great colt in White Eagle. Sandblast is the dam of Colonia and

Cherry Lass, who has filled out into a promising young matron, and has a foal at foot by Count Schomberg. The dam of Black Arrow, Black Cherry, has a full sister to that celebrity by her side, and there are many more of more than passing interest, would space permit. A very high honor has recently fallen to this stud, in the fact that H. M. the King has leased a number of the best yearlings for their racing careers. We had not time to see all the yearlings, but what came under our notice were particularly promising, well-grown colts and fillies, the chestnut son of Pioneer and "Go On," a full brother to Polar Star, standing very prominently.

This concluded a most enjoyable ramble through the homes of some of the greatest Thoroughbreds of to-day, and as we return to Kildare to prepare for the homeward journey, the important part played by the "distressful country" in horse-breeding strikes one most forcibly.

WHY LICENSE GRADES?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Regarding the licensing of stallions, as one of the questions discussed at the Winter Fair, it seems very peculiar to talk of stallions being licensed to do business, the way it is proposed to do it, which is as follows: That only pure-bred and registered stallions should be allowed to stand for service, except (a) that, owing to one-third of the stallions in the Province being found by inspectors to be unregistered, that for three years grade stallions known to be good sires, and, on inspection, found to be of good conformation and free from hereditary unsoundness, should be granted a license, to be known as Class 2. Now, I would like to ask, where is the benefit? It is no improvement to horse-breeding to license a registered stallion, and let the grade stallions do business. To put a license on these grades will not make the stock any better nor help horsemen in any way. If any man has enterprise enough to put from \$1,500 to \$2,500 in a horse, and has to pay stands, groom, shoeing, and feed him for the 8 or 9 months in the year during which he earns nothing, and put up with all the losses that occur in slipping of foals and mares dying, I think that is drain enough on the horseman, without having to pay a license. These horses cannot be travelled at a fee less than \$12 to \$15, and to get more than this for insurance is nearly out of the question. I would say, cut out the grade stallions, put on inspectors at import points, inspect all stallions imported, charge the importer a fee, and give only to each sound horse a certificate to that effect, the Government to send some qualified veterinarians around to inspect, or some competent judge, grant all sound stallions a certificate to that effect, and provide a fine for any stallion that is doing business without a copy of the certificate printed along with the advertising bills, and every owner of stallions to post bills of said horse or horses that he may have for service. This is the only way of improving the horse-breeding of Ontario by a license. Also, any Canadian-bred stallion should be inspected by a qualified veterinarian, and given a certificate if sound. I think one certificate will be enough if he is sound and of good conformation when inspected. If grades are allowed to do business, paying a license will not make the offspring any better, and in this section of the country the scrub stallions only get the