

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
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NORMAL SCHOOLS AND AGRICULTURE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have read some of your editorials on schools and rural education with profound interest. It occurs to me that you are working along lines that are nationally sane. You are doing your utmost to rouse the farmer not only to the value of education, but also to the fact that his education, to be of much use to himself, must be practical.

You will do well to give some attention to our Normal Schools. They are to fix the type of teacher, and, as you know, the teacher makes the school. The greatest asset Ontario has to-day consists chiefly of the farmers' sons and daughters. They will be our leaders in the future. They, too, will be our teachers, and these teachers are to be trained in our seven Normal Schools. Let me ask you if you ever thought of the composition of our Normal-school staffs? How do their qualifications bear on the great industry of agriculture? Take the six new men now selected by the Hon. Dr. Pyne, Minister of Education, and look as to the centers from which they are taken. Every man of the six, except Moshier, of Lambton, is taken from a city school. Are they farmers' sons? I do not know. Are they in touch with agriculture or the agricultural class in any one point? Sir, this is a grave question, and I ask you to look into it and see what it means to our thousands of rural teachers who will attend these Normal Schools. Comment from me is not called for.

Fortunately for our great rural schools—the basis of our prosperity—we have R. H. Cowley as Continuation Inspector. He is fully alive to the situation and needs of our rural schools. If he receives the support he needs from the Minister, he will do a great work among the people. He knows the conditions, but, to make his work more effective, it is desirable that our Normal-school masters be in touch with the people, so as to

understand them; so as to find out their point of view and meet it; so as to adapt the training they give to fit the needs of a rural community. I believe that we ought to find the best material for Normal-school masters among our rural-school inspectors? Why not? R. STOTHERS,
Ottawa.

HORSES.

INSPECTORS' REPORT ON HORSE-BREEDING IN ONTARIO.

The printed report of the special investigation on horse-breeding in Ontario by inspectors appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, prepared by the Live-stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture for the Province, has been issued, and, we presume, may be secured by those interested free of expense on application. This inspection, it will be remembered, was instituted last year, and two inspectors appointed for each of eight districts into which the Province was divided for the purpose, made a somewhat hurried official examination of the majority of the stallions in service, made inquiry as to the number and type of mares in each district, and held meetings of horse-breeders in each county for discussion of the problems for the improvement of the horse stock of the Province, on which the inspectors were instructed to report. Owing to the fact that no official chairman of the Commission was appointed, the report is somewhat disjointed, giving only the opinions and conclusions of each group of inspectors and their recommendations, but no final summing up or concerted conclusion of the Commission. It is noticeable that there is considerable difference of opinion in the special reports of the inspectors for the several districts as to how far the Government would be justified in imposing compulsory requirements on owners of stallions and mares in the effort to advance the industry of horse-breeding, the principal points on which the sentiments of these men to be sought being stallion inspection, registration and license, and of a lien on mares to secure payment of the service fee.

A cursory reading of the special reports of the several groups of inspectors would seem to give the impression that the majority of the people interested favor, at least, inspection and registration, if not the more stringent measures of license and a lien; but in reading these presentations, it should be borne in mind that the inspectors themselves were probably, as a rule, imbued with the idea that most of these requirements, if not all, were desirable in the interest of the industry, and being leaders in the discussion of these questions in the meetings held, would logically have considerable influence in the direction of the opinion pronounced in general. Two or three of the sections of the inspectorate, in their special reports, take the precaution to say that, while the preliminary inspection covered by this report may be valuable to the Department in further efforts to advance the interests of horse-breeding, they would advise caution in interfering with the rights of individual owners in one branch of live-stock raising more than in others, further than to provide a penalty for deception and misrepresentation calculated to mislead those uninformed as to the true meaning of pure breeding and of pedigree records and of hereditary unsoundness.

Statistics were collected in each division, which, though not complete, give an approximate idea of the number of stallions, registered and grade, and of mares bred at the time of the inquiry, but they are not even totalled up in the report for the Province as a whole. This, however, we have done, with the following result, from which horse-men and our readers generally will see that there are doubtless at least 1,000 grade stallions in use in the Province, to which have been bred in the season approximately 45,505 mares. Registered stallions, 1,833; grades, 977; mares bred to registered stallions, 123,514; mares bred to grade stallions, 45,505.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER.

THE CLYDESDALE RULES ALTERED.

A further stage was reached to-day (Friday, August 2nd) in bringing the Clydesdale Horse Associations of Canada and Great Britain into line with one another. A meeting of council of the Clydesdale Horse Society was called by the Vice-President, Mr. J. Ernest Kerr, and was held to-day under his presidency. Along with a good representation of the home society, there were present from the Canadian Society, Mr. John Bright, Myrtle, Vice-President, and Messrs. Wm. Smith, Columbus, and John A. Boag, Ravenshoe, directors, as well as Mr. William Graham, of Claremont. The meeting had a frank conference on the subject of the Canadian new rules, which came into force somewhat hurriedly, as we think, on 1st July. Mr. Smith and Mr. Bright explained the situation at length, and Mr. MacNeillage read the main parts of the correspondence between himself and Mr. Sangster on the subject, in particular a letter addressed by himself to Mr. Sangster on 20th

July, setting forth the difficulty of complying with the new regulation on such short notice, and without any warning. The editing committee had considered the question for an hour previous to the meeting of council, and had arrived at the conclusion that while it would be advisable to meet the requirements of the Canadian rules and number all exported fillies on exportation, they would prefer not to do so, as it would alter the plan and symmetry of the system which had been followed in the Clydesdale Studbook for thirty years. After hearing Mr. Bright and Mr. Smith, and understanding from them that the official answer of the Canadian association would be in the line of what they had said, the council unanimously adopted the recommendation of the editing committee, resolving to number all fillies exported after the date of meeting. The secretary indicated how he hoped to carry out this resolution without unduly modifying the system of registration in the Studbook.

Following on this resolution a large shipment of Clydesdales cleared for Canada, by both the Donaldson and the Allan line steamer this week, and another large shipment goes next week. Amongst this week's shippers are Messrs. Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont.; Graham & Renfrew, Bedford Park, Ont.; W. E. Butler, Ingersoll, Ont.; John S. Boag, Ravenshoe, Ont., as well as one or two smaller shippers. Among the horses shipped are several noted prizewinners, and I imagine several of them are intended for exhibition at Toronto. Next week's shipment will probably contain an increased number of the same class.

The council of the Clydesdale Horse Society hope the resolution at which they arrived to-day will strengthen the hands of the Clydesdale men in Canada, and be the means of increasing the demand for Clydesdales in all parts of the Dominion. I should say that after hearing the statements of Mr. Bright and Mr. Smith, the chief difficulty felt was in taking steps on an informal representation from a few members of an association. It would have been more satisfactory had an official statement of the position been received from the Secretary of the Association in Canada.

"SCOTLAND YET."

LAMENESS IN HORSES.

(Continued.)

The following practice is valuable for the detection of lameness: The horse should be quietly led out of the stable in halter or snaffle bridle; if he be a spirited animal, the latter should be used. The man who leads him should hold the rein at about eighteen inches from the mouth, and there must be no holding up the head with a tight rein to prevent "nodding." At the same time, the rein must not be too long, else the animal will turn round and kick the man. A piece of hard road should be selected, and the animal trotted on it immediately after being taken out, for the reason that a slight lameness may disappear if he be walked some distance. Some dealers will knock a horse about in the stall before taking him out, to remove such lameness. This practice should always be looked upon as suspicious. If the horse be frisky, he should be petted and cooled down, and very carefully led at a slow, easy jog, in order that the examiner may have a fair chance. The horse should be trotted straight away from and straight back towards the observer, and it may be necessary to do this repeatedly; but in most cases, where an animal's gait is such that the examiner is not quite able to decide whether or not he is going lame, it is safer to give lameness "the benefit of the doubt," and decide that he is not sound. It is possible a perfectly sound horse may have a peculiarity of gait that leads the examiner to suspect lameness, but such is rarely met with, and animals with such peculiarities are undesirable. Hence, where any well-grounded suspicion exists, it is better to take no chances. However, if the examiner cannot decide in a few trials whether or not lameness exists, and he wishes to have further tests, it is better to put the horse back in the stable and allow him to stand at rest for a few hours, as exercise has a tendency to lessen, and in some cases entirely remove, the lameness. After having stood at ease for some time, he may again be taken out, and if the action still be suspicious, he should be condemned. In cases of very slight lameness, especially in front, it may be necessary to put a man on the horse's back, as the weight may cause a manifestation of lameness that without it may not be quite evident. In most cases, however, this is not necessary, and if the animal be a spirited one it often defeats its own object.

In some cases lameness is manifested only after sharp work, and it is necessary to give the animal a few miles' sharp trot or gallop, tying him in a stall until he cools off. When taken out of the stable and trotted after such a test, lameness, if present, will be detectable. It is only when suspicion exists that such a test is necessary, as in cases of badly-formed hocks, splints near the knee, or some suspicious alteration of structure in any part of the limb, or in cases where there is "pointing" when at rest.

The gait alone is sometimes sufficient to determine the seat of lameness, and in some cases it is the only guide; but it is a good rule, and one that should never be neglected, to examine the whole limb while the animal is at rest. By the