

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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Pointers.

This is Manitoba Farmers' Convention week. The "Advocate" wishes each association continued success.

The splendid interest taken in stock-judging at Neepawa and Brandon last week speaks well for the future of stock-raising in this country. Men who want more knowledge will get it.

Messrs. Grisdale, Clark, Ketchen and Spark make a strong team. Their efforts were appreciated last week by those who heard them. Visitors to Winnipeg this week will have the same report.

Several farmers showed up well in the good old game o' curlin' at the recent bonspiel, and why not? No class is more deserving of healthful recreation.

Sometimes it looks as though B. C. millmen had not decided what they would charge Manitoba and Territorial consumers this year for lumber. It is certain, however, that no one will be surprised at its cheapness.

New Westminster will have the first Fat-stock Show ever held in B. C. It will begin on March 8th, and continue for four days. The same town is moving for a Dominion Exhibition in 1905.

The latest suggestion in railway circles is said to be the establishment hereafter of a special winter rate of forty dollars from Eastern Canada to Manitoba and the Territories, so that "our downy friends" may have the pleasure of enjoying mild weather.

Delighted with the Weekly.

"I have just received the 5th issue of the 'Farmer's Advocate' and am delighted with the 'Advocate' as a weekly. It is a most interesting and profitable paper." J. J. RING.

Horses.

Glasgow Stallion Show.

We have just got over the Spring Stallion Show at Glasgow. It was held on February 3rd, and there was quite a fair turn-out of big, good horses. The trade in Clydesdales has been brisk, and there is a good demand at present, both at home and abroad. Since I last wrote a unique shipment of Clydesdales was made to Australia. A wealthy native of Ayrshire, in Victoria, sent home a commission to Mr. James Kilpatrick to purchase for him two stallions and three mares. The mares were to be in foal to the three famous horses, Hiawatha, Baron's Pride, and his son, Baron o' Buchlyvie. Mr. Kilpatrick executed his commission to good purpose. He sent the stallions, Yazawatee 10817 and Royal Title 11923. The mares were Lady White, a daughter of Hiawatha, and champion last year at Kilmarnock and Glasgow, in foal to Baron o' Buchlyvie; Donna Roma, a Macgregor mare, full sister to the great horse Drumflower, in foal to Baron's Pride, and Lady Horatio 14683, in foal to Hiawatha. A shipment of this kind should advance the Clydesdale interest under the Southern Cross. Canada has also been an active purchaser during the past month. In my last letter I mentioned the shipment made by Mr. Richardson, of Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont. Since then Mr. Tom Graham, of Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont., has sailed with ten stallions, nine for his own firm, and one as stud horse for Mr. Robt. Davies, Toronto. The last is a promising big horse, by the champion sire, Prince Thomas 10262, which was purchased at public auction for £950. The horses for Graham Bros. are all three-year-olds, and among them are several got by the champion, Baron's Pride 9122, and his noted son, Up-to-Time 10475, one of the most successful breeding horses of the day. One of these horses is own brother to the Cawdor Cup champion mare Lady Victoria; another is own brother to the winning yearling filly of last year, and a noted prize mare, named Scottish Grace. Others are by big, good breeding horses, winners of district premiums, and I expect Mr. Graham will have plenty demand for these horses.

Another Canadian shipper who sailed in the same week as Mr. Graham was Mr. T. H. Hassard, Millbrook, Ont. This was his third trip within twelve months. He had an equal number of horses, and nearly all of them were three-year-olds. Mr. Graham got all his horses from Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Kirkcudbright. Mr. Hassard bought three of his from Mr. Peter Crawford, Dargavel, Dumfries; two from Mr. Jas. Kilpatrick, Craigie Mains, Kilmarnock, and five from Mr. W. S. Park, Hatton, Bishopton. A great substantial horse in Mr. Hassard's shipment is the prize horse Gallant Robert 10347, a half-brother to the extraordinary champion horse, Hiawatha, whose stock yesterday were figuring to great advantage as big matured stallions. He has three-year-old horses by the champion Prince Thomas 10262; the famed Mains of Airies 10379; the H. & A. S. first-prize horse, Good Gift 10564; the Glasgow premium horse, Clan Chattan 10527, and that grand, big horse, Royal Carrick 10270, which also won the Glasgow premium and stood second at the H. & A. S. show at Inverness. After a shipment like this it will not surprise us to see Mr. Hassard back again in a few months. He has the kind of horses that Canada wants.

The Stallion Show was a success. The exhibits, as a rule, were big horses, with plenty of weights and substance. The supreme honor of the show, the Society's 20-gs. cup, went to Mr. George Alston's Revelanta 11876, a son of Baron's Pride, and winner of numerous prizes during the past two years. He was bred by Mr. John W. Hannah, Girvan Mains, and his dam is a good breeding mare, by the famous £3,000 horse, Prince of Albion 6178. Besides Revelanta, sons of Baron's Pride were second and third in the same class of three-year-old horses. Mr. Clark's Baron's Best 11597, which sometimes beat him last year, was placed second, and Mr. Wm. McConnell's Baron's Crest 12024 was placed third. Baron's Best, in a class of three-year-olds, competing for the Glasgow district premium of £80, was placed first. In the class of horses four years old and upwards, Mr. A. B. Matthews, Newton-Stewart, was first, with the six-year-old horse, Labori 10791. This horse was first at Glasgow when a three-year-old. He is a son of the celebrated Hiawatha and although defeated by Revelanta in the open competition for the 20-gs. cup, he won the Brydon 100-gs. challenge trophy, for which Revelanta had not been entered. This is the first year in which this great prize has been competed for. It is presented by Mr. Robert Brydon, the President of the Clydesdale Horse Society, to encourage the breeding of big horses. No horse can win it, if three years old, unless at least 16.3 hands high, or if four years or upwards, unless 17 hands high, with width and depth in proportion. No horse can win it unless he is passed sound by a qualified

veterinary surgeon, and if four years old, he must be proved to have left fifty per cent. of the mares served by him in the previous year in foal. It is unfortunate that the first horse to win this trophy should have been beaten in an open competition by a three-year-old, yet the decision cannot be called in question. Second in the aged class to Labori, stood Mr. W. S. Park's fine level Clydesdale stallion, Royal Chattan 11489, one of the truest Clydesdale stallions we have. Mr. James Kilpatrick was third with Pearl Stone 11449, which won the three-year-old class a year ago. The aged Glasgow premium horse, Marconi 11817, owned by Mr. John Leckie, Inchwood, Winton of Campsie, and a son of Hiawatha, was fourth. The first-prize two-year-old, Mr. Marshall's Hiawatha "Godolphin," was also got by the same sire. Mr. John Kerr, Redhall, Wigton, Cumberland, showed two grand horses—full brothers—Lothian Again 11804 and Lord Lonsdale 11799. They were both placed in their classes, and hired for good districts. Their sire was the famous Cumberland breeding horse, Lord Lothian 5998. "SCOTLAND YET."

When Breaking the Colt.

When giving the first few lessons to the young colt which is being broken to harness, exercise great care in seeing that every strap, buckle and snap is secure, and also have nothing unduly loose or dangling, so as to frighten him. Select a sensible, fast-walking horse for his mate during these early lessons, and above all things do not show him by voice or action that you have not perfect control of yourself. A man who loses his self-control cannot expect to inspire confidence, or reasonably govern a spirited, unbroken horse.

Self-cleaning Mangers.

A self-cleaning manger for the horse stable may be made by having the bottom inclined towards the stall, and leaving a space of an inch at the bottom of the front. I have used this kind of manger for a number of years, and find that they keep perfectly clean without wasting any feed.

[Note.—This suggestion is quite ingenious, but we do not see the advantage of the projecting front. It utilizes room in the feed passage, and the angle projecting over the manger is a continual annoyance to the horses. We would prefer a straight front.—Ed.]

Stock.

Observations on Sheep-breeding.

As the result of an extended series of experiments, the following observations on sheep-breeding are made:

From the breeding records of 154 ewes, the normal period of gestation ranges from 144 to 150 days after the date of service, and more ewes will lamb 146 days after service than at any other time.

There is no appreciable difference in the period of gestation for male and female offspring in sheep.

There is an apparent relation between the duration of the period of gestation and the period required for maturity. Quick-maturing breeds appear to carry their young for shorter periods than those breeds requiring more time to mature.

Large lambs are on the average carried in utero for an appreciably longer period than small or medium lambs.

Lambs dropped before the one hundred and forty-fourth day and after the one hundred and forty-ninth day of pregnancy are lacking in strength and vitality at birth.

From the data presented it is apparent that twins are the normal increase for ewes of the mutton type.

One-year-old rams are not so prolific as those two or three years old. Ewes average a larger percentage of increase in lambs after they reach full maturity, at three years of age, until after they are six years old, when the rate of increase diminishes.

The amount of service required of the ram in breeding has an influence on the percentage of increase in offspring of the ewes that produce lambs. Ewes bred early in the season of mating to a single ram dropped a larger percentage of lambs than those near the latter end of the season.

Where there usually is a wide stretch of open water in Lake Michigan at this season of the year, there is now but a glare of ice, the lake having been frozen completely over. At points on the western side, immense icebergs have been piled up, reaching, it is said, to a depth of from forty feet under water to an equal height above.