

bunch go in advance of the cripples and crones, that have to be kept jogging behind, for all must be kept in sight, against the possibility of scattering of stray groups by the wolves or coyotes.

Sheep gather their food quickly. By eleven, occasional groups are seeking the airy knolls to rest and ruminate. But we were lucky enough to get all that was coming to us in sights and experiences! Things became suddenly mixed at one end of the flock. A vicious coyote is in the midst, snapping and biting in all directions, and the poor, panicky ewes are spreading away from him, but his day is short. The collies are diffident to go to the center, but the quiet greyhound is in the midst without hesitation. A few fierce yelps and sudden turnovers, another scar or two for the greyhound, with the collies in at the death on the word of the shepherd, and it is all over with the coyote, and there is another skin for the shepherd's rug. A couple of hours more rumination and rest for the ewes, and a square meal from the shepherd's hamper for us, and the flock are again in motion and busy, and the second half of the circle for the camp is begun. We swung around to the right in the morning, and are circling back to the left, towards the head of the coulee, for evening, having covered not less than six or seven miles. The sheep get very busy with the close of the afternoon. The head ones need no urging. The crones and cripples have gone as far, but have probably not got as much; but they are all of one flock, and must march with the bunch. The sun has already dropped when the black goat and strong ones are trotting down the coulee for camp; the collies are busy at the sides and rear of the flock; the greyhound, in the rear, is still more sedate. The area narrows, the bunch whitens as the night darkens; they are all ahead of us on the down-grade. The latch of the corral clacks into its niche. There is still an occasional unhappy sheep call, and the day is done.

Selecting and Buying a Draft Stallion.

With the present demand for good draft geldings and the good prices paid for them, there is sure to be an increased demand for draft stallions this spring. Many of these will no doubt go into the hands of men who have had little or no experience in the stallion business. Trusting that a few hints along the lines of buying and selecting may be beneficial to some of this class of buyers, it is not my intention to champion any of the draft breeds, but leave this question to the men who invest their money. Before going into the stallion business, it is very important that a man satisfy himself as to the needs of his locality. If Clydes have been bred in the locality and there are a number of good Clyde mares and little or no other draft blood, then, by all means, buy a Clydesdale. If, however, Shires have been used to any extent and there are well-bred Shire mares available, then I think it wise to invest in a Shire stallion, as the success of a district in horse-breeding depends greatly upon the persistence of the farmers along one line or breed of horses.

Though the Clydesdales and Shires resemble each other very much, and, no doubt, crossing between the two breeds would give very good results, yet I think it wise, under present conditions, to keep to the one breed or the other. Having decided on the breed of horse most suitable to your wants and of your locality, the next important thing is to fix in your mind your ideal horse—that is, the horse most suitable to produce the best results from the class of mares that are likely to be bred. A horse that is successful at the head of some studs of pure-bred mares or a great prize winner is not always the best horse to go to the country to cross on all classes of mares, or, say, the average farmer's mares. Thus, it is necessary when buying a stallion to travel a district, to take into consideration the class of mares likely to be bred. In the years of depression of the horse trade, a great many of our best mares were sold off the farms (they being the only ones that would sell), leaving such as were not salable in the hands of the farmers: thus we find to-day a great many undersized, light-boned, and very often coupled with this long backs, poor across kidneys and short-ribbed. Along with those qualities frequently goes a nervous disposition. I do not mean to say that

this is the case all over the country, or that there are no good mares left in the hands of farmers; but there certainly are more of this class than any other in many localities: thus it is quite evident that good big stallions are needed, having good sound feet, with good strong, hard, flinty bone, with well-muscled arms, good strong, well-muscled shoulders, well shaped to fit to the collar; back short, broad across the loins; ribs well sprung and of good length to give a good dinner-basket and plenty of room for digestive organs; chest deep and broad, with legs well set under. Coupled with these qualities will generally be found a good temper. Make sure that you get the above qualities and as many of the qualities that go to make your horse attractive as you can; but, by no means sacrifice qualities of strength and endurance for beauty. To be useful, a draft horse must be a good walker—must have a free, open stride, making free use of all the joints of his legs.

The best place to buy a horse is at a breeder's or importer's stable. Do not be induced to buy a horse that may be sent to your nearest town by some peddler (if I may be permitted to use the term), as the class of horses this class of men deal in in the above-named way do not appear as good in company as they do alone, and you will also have to pay the expense of sending the horse, the expense of two or three men for a week, or sometimes weeks in caring for the horse and soliciting buyers for him, or trying to work up a company or syndicate. I do not say that no good horses are sold in this way; but, in a great majority of cases, this class of horses does not give satisfaction, and a man can always do better at a breeder's or importer's stable. I would say, go to some reliable stable,

The Management of Brood Mares.

On the stock farm, where the only revenue derived from a mare consists in the production of a foal, it is necessary for the owner to use his best effort toward getting every one of his mares in foal each year; then, after getting them in foal, the risk of accidents tending to produce abortion should be carefully considered, and all the seemingly minor details of every-day management and feeding should be attended to with the utmost care and attention. As regards the ordinary causes of abortion (exclusive of contagious diseases, such as influenza, pneumonia, etc.), cases are frequently produced by the following causes:

1. Slipping on icy spots and either falling or producing a strain.
2. Fighting with other horses and getting kicked in the abdomen.
3. Getting pinched in box-stall doors while entering stall (this is where the doors swing out).
4. Getting into deep snowdrifts or muck holes, thereby producing strains.
5. Mares, in searching for a place to rub, or, as it seems to be with some of them, from pure curiosity, will get into all kinds of traps, such as between wind-mill towers, or try to get through some opening that is about half wide enough, and I have seen them get into a feeding pen for sucking colts, where they had to get on their knees to crawl under. Of course, when they come to get out, they usually get excited and try to jump over the top, get hung up, and and abortion follows.

6. Another cause is abuse from attendants. Some mares are very stubborn and aggravating about going into the barn at night, and have to be driven in from the yard by force; then, after getting them into the barn, it is still harder to run them into their stalls; finally, when they do go into the right stall, it is a very natural thing to strike them over the rump with a halter, board, or anything that comes handy, just as they jump through the door. I once saw this done, causing the mare to fall. This took place while letting them in from the yards at evening, and the mare lost her foal that night. Of course, there are many other causes that produce abortion, and the foregoing are simply examples of a few of the minor accidents that have come under my notice, and might happen at almost any time.

The remedy for this class of accidents is prevention. If there is ice in the yard, and there is too much of it to be chopped up, ashes or manure may be spread over it and then wet down, so that it will adhere and freeze to the ice underneath. Mares that are mean should not be allowed to run with others, and it may be necessary to let them have a small yard by themselves. Box-stall doors should always be fastened open before the mares are let in for the night, and it is wonderful how soon each one will learn her place and seldom make a mistake or

get into the wrong stall.

I prefer earth floors in the stalls and alleyways, as the danger of slipping is less than on a plank floor, especially in winter, when their feet, on very cold days, become balled up with snow and ice, sometimes elevating them from the ground three or four inches, and it often seems advisable to knock the balls out of their feet before they are let into the stable. The approaches to the stable door should be arranged so there will be no sill to step over, as a mare will sometimes get just a slight toe-hold with one hind foot in going over a sill, and slip off just when the most weight comes on the foot, thereby causing her either to knuckle at the fetlock or causing abnormal extension of the hock and general concussion. As regards diet, we should be careful to see that the food is of the best and that no smutty corn or rusty oats are fed. It is also rather dangerous to allow pregnant mares free access to straw stacks, as is done in the West. Flax straw is particularly harmful, as is any food which acts as a purgative.

It will pay the brood-mare owner to try his mares often in the breeding season, and the plan adopted by most breeding farms of any size is to try all of the mares twice a week—for example, say Wednesday and Saturday, which should be known as "trial days" and on these days each mare is caught and tried. This is kept up until



AUTOMOBILING—AN IGNOMINIOUS JOURNEY HOME.

A correspondent writes:—"Two gentlemen and a lady were enjoying a spin in a motor car, when, without any warning, the works refused to act. The occupants of the car got out and stood considering for awhile, and as the advice of a passing mechanical engineer was of no avail, they decided to get a regiment of boys to push the vehicle home—a distance of four miles. Recruits were readily obtained, but they could not even move the car. At length a happy thought struck one of the automobilists. Why not hire a horse at a builder's, close by? Accordingly, a very heavy cart horse was obtained and attached to the motor, with a small boy on his back. Of course every passing Jehu had his joke at the expense of the luckless passengers, and the little urchins in the street practised their wit on the unusual spectacle. The youngsters on the horse enjoyed the experience hugely, but the unlucky 'motists' looked as if they found the situation anything but humorous."—The Graphic.

where you can make comparisons, and, if not satisfied, visit several stables and take a little time to make your selection. Don't be hurried into buying by the appearance on the scene of some other prospective buyer, unless you have thoroughly satisfied yourself with horse and price, for, if the other fellow gets the horse, you don't pay for him, and there are others as good. It will always pay a man to buy for cash. Many breeders will sell on credit, but will allow a large discount for cash, so any reliable man, if he has not the money in hand, can get it at a lower rate of interest where he is known than in a strange place.

Halton Co., Ont.

M. E. D.

Best in Canada.

The William Weld Co., Limited:

DEAR SIRS,—I have been a subscriber to your paper for a number of years, and must say that I consider it the best agricultural paper printed in Canada to-day. You are making rapid progress along practical hints in tilling the soil as well as useful information in care and management of stock. This is what we farmers want. Wishing you every success with your paper, I remain,

Yours truly,
Ontario Co., Ont.

JOHN R. LINTON.