

A small but select band of pure-bred mares had been collected from various sources. Each and every one of them seemed very good at the time of purchase, but when the dozen or so were assembled at Cap Rouge, it was felt that they were not by any means as uniform as they might have been. In colour they ranged from a light bay to a pure black, with intermediate shades of dark bay, brown and brown-black. In weight, they went from under 1,100 to over 1,400 pounds. With a couple of exceptions, though, the conformation was such as denoted strength and made one feel that they would last, that they would be able to do lots of work for a long time.

There were a few important characteristics, however, that every one kept for breeding had: they were gritty, they would pull all day at a barn without baulking; they never looked tired or drawn up after a hard day's work, and they were hearty feeders.

It was thought that this was certainly a good foundation to work upon, as it seemed less difficult to breed for size and conformation than for courage and endurance.

In 1915, when Albert was about two years old, he served, amongst others, Black Princess, —693—, a black mare weighing over 1,400 pounds and Brunette Coulombe, —1324—, a dark brown mare weighing less than 1,100 pounds. The following spring, two black fillies were born: Delphine de Cap Rouge, —1670—, from the first mentioned, Dianora de Cap Rouge, —1673—, from the other. Though there was such a difference in the weight of the dams, Delphine and Dianora respectively weighed 130 and 125 at birth, 565 and 600 at six months, 765 and 795 at twelve months, 1,075 and 1,125 at two years, 1,175 and 1,215 at three years.

This was certainly very encouraging, as it showed Albert's prepotency, which probably came through his dam, for the two fillies, out of mares quite unlike in conformation and in size, also somewhat different in colour, looked very much alike, were practically of the same weight and were both jet black.

Six other of his fillies, dropped from 1917 to 1919 inclusive, also show that he turns them out quite uniform and that he will no doubt be one of the main factors in regenerating the breed.

BREEDING PROBLEMS.

Line breeding.

Though Albert throws very good stock, he might be lost any day and provision is made to continue, through his male offspring, the work which he has so well started of regenerating the breed. Sébastienne—1249—, a typical black mare weighing about 1,250 pounds, was bred to him and dropped on October 20, 1916, a black colt, Daniel de Cap Rouge—1672—which weighed 1,265 pounds at three years, which is 110 more than his sire at the same age. This stallion is for use on his own paternal half sisters, and his fillies will only have 50 per cent of the blood of Albert or no more than their sire has himself. It is intended, if possible, to continue this line breeding with a son, by Albert, either of Brunette Coulombe—1324—or of Princesse—907—, as they have both thrown exceedingly good fillies to his service. In doing so, there will still only be 50 per cent of his blood, whilst blood of different mares will tentatively be brought in.

In-breeding.

If, later on, it is found out that the blood of some of these mares "mixes" better with Albert than that of others, then it can be concentrated by in-breeding. For instance, if the Albert and Brunette combination proved to be one that practically each time gave nearly what was looked for, a Brunette filly would be bred back to her sire, or Brunette herself could be covered by her son sired by Albert. In each case, the progeny would have 75 per cent of the blood of Albert instead of 50 per cent when line breeding.