

The Horse.

HORSES OF ENGLAND.

Crosses — Spanish — Eastern — Thoroughbreds.

When Caesar invaded Britain in the year 55 B. C. the cavalry horses which he brought with him were crossed with the native breeds which he found on the island; thus new blood, consisting of strains from every quarter from which Roman remounts were procured, "when Rome was empress of the world," was infused into the native breed. Five hundred years later, 419 A. D., the great black horse from the valleys of the Rhine and Elbe was introduced by the Saxons and Jutes.

The next authentic record we have of anything relating to the horse in England was in the reign of Athelstan, about 925 A. D., when a law was passed prohibiting the export of horses, except for presents. Even at this early time English horses must have been highly valued, or a law prohibiting export would not have been passed. This excellence was probably produced in part by judicious breeding, but also by the admixture of blood from so many different countries. England was at that time a mixing ground for horses, to the same extent that it was a land of union between various races and tribes of men, uniting various races of men has produced the English speaking nations of the world, and uniting various races of horses has produced the English horse. Can any better recommendation of judicious mixing of blood be required?

In the reign of Edward III, about the middle of the fourteenth century, it is recorded that fifty Spanish horses, which were probably jennets, were brought to England. These Spanish jennets were small, active horses; a cross of the Arabian and Barb. More of these were imported about 1382. At this time, the tendency was to breed light horses; the increasing demand, however, for heavier horses capable of carrying the heavy arms, (both offensive and defensive) of the period, soon put a stop to this practice, and heavier animals were bred. The Crusaders probably introduced fresh strains from the East, although some authorities think that very little Oriental blood was brought to England by them.

The next record of importation was of heavy horses. King John, who reigned from 1199 to 1216, brought into the country, at one time, one hundred Flemish stallions. This was perhaps the largest single importation of horses ever brought to England. They were introduced in order to increase the size and strength of the native breed which seem again to have become too small for service in war.

During the reign of Richard III, about 1483, the system of post-horses was introduced; (1) this again created a demand for lighter, or at least quicker horses than the ordinary English native had become. The tendency in France at this time was in the same direction, the heavy war chargers of Charlemagne were being re-

(1) The "post-horse" was ridden by the traveller. No stages, or "machines," as they were called, were in vogue for nearly 200 years after Richard III.

placed by the lighter and more active Percheron.

Henry VII, who succeeded Richard III, ascending the throne in 1485, prohibited the export of stallions, but allowed mares to be taken from the country; many of these went to France where their blood was mingled with the Norman. Again we see exportation partly prohibited, probably, as in the previous case, on account of the superiority of British horses which the sovereigns of England wished to retain.

When James I, who had an inordinate fondness for racing, came to the throne in 1603, he found that English horses were too slow to suit him, so he gave 500 guineas, a large sum for the time, for an Arab stallion which had been procured from Constantinople by a Mr. Markham, and which has since been known as Markham's Arabian. This horse was not a success either for speed or as a sire, so James bought another Eastern horse, known as Slace's White Turk, which proved to be a great factor for increasing speed and stamina in the English racer. Charles I who succeeded James I continued to breed light horses until there was danger of the heavier animals becoming extinct.

This breeding of racers by James I was the foundation of the race horse of England. Charles II continued in the same line by importing Barbs and Turkish stallions. Henry VIII also imported hot-blooded (1) horses from Turkey, Naples and Spain; and in 1523 he passed an act prohibiting the grazing of entire horses over two years old and under fifteen hands, on the commons. This act also caused the poorer animals in the forests and waste places to be killed off every year. The aim of the law was to prevent poor animals from breeding. Here was an instance of artificial selection worthy of note by modern breeders of live stock.

During the reign of Elizabeth, from 1558 to 1603, the introduction of carriages created a demand, as in France, for a lighter and quicker horse than the typical charger of the time. Gunpowder was also invented during this period; this caused lighter armor to be worn, and hence more active cavalry horses were desired. The Persian horse, which is a descendent of the Arabian, was brought in at this time, and by the infusion of this blood, an excellent type was produced.

Charles II who reigned from 1660 to 1685 imported, for breeding purposes, fifty hot-blooded mares, Barbs, Turks and Arabs, known afterwards as the Royal Mares. During the reign of William III who lived from 1650 to 1702, the first of three horses to which all modern thoroughbreds trace, namely Byerly Turk, was imported. The other two are the Darley Arabian and the Godolphin Arabian. The Godolphin Arabian was, however, wrongly named, as he was in reality a Barb imported from France to England. He was a small horse, only 15 hands high.

All thoroughbreds must trace back in the male line directly to one of these three stallions mentioned above. In fact it is impossible to find one that does not combine the blood of all three.

The Straddling Turk, another famous stallion was brought to England during the reign of James I. The Darley Arabian was imported during the reign of Queen Anne. From this small bay stallion the very best horses have descended. He was the sire of many of the

(1) What an epithet!—Ed.

most noted horses of the turf; among them are Monica, Aleppo, Almanzor and Flying Childers. Flying Childers, Eclipse, Herod, and Matchem were the greatest sons of the three original hot-blooded stallions.

Native mares of England, mostly Cleveland Bays, had much to do in forming the racer; they gave size, while the Eastern blood gave endurance, nerve and speed.

The thoroughbred marks the last epoch in the development of British horses. Excepting the American trotter which, however, is made up largely of his blood, he is the most wonderful horse ever produced; far exceeding in size, strength, endurance and speed his hot-blooded ancestors of the desert. (1)

CHAS. S. MOORE, B. S. A.

Stanbridge East, Que.

Farmers' Clubs.

PORTNEUF COUNTY.

By Dr. W. GRIGNON.

(Continued.)

A great quantity of gas-lime and wood-ashes is used. There are some parishes that bought this year two carloads of salt, 5 of ashes, and ten of gas-lime. Ashes cost 17 cts. a bushel, and gas-lime, 40 cts. for three bushels. And yet, at Montreal, this lime can be drawn from the gas-works for nothing.

THE CREAMERIES AND CHEESE-RIES IN PORTNEUF.

Here, there are 12 creameries, 35 cheeseries, and 2 combined factories, of which one-third are syndicated. All of them are under the control of an inspector of syndicates, and it is a pleasure to observe that this inspection is signally advantageous.

ST. AUGUSTIN.

GAS-LIME.—This is lime that has served for the purification of gas for lighting. Dr. Larue, a former M. L. C., was the first to use this extensively. In order to induce the farmers to follow his example, he persuaded the C. P. R. to carry the lime from Quebec to St. Augustin, for a mere trifle. In 1885 or 1886, in the Legislative Council, Dr. Larue advised the use of gas-lime and ashes as manure, but it was a long time before he could get farmers to use them. At last, MM. Onésime and Alfred Cantin, hazarded the purchase of a few hogshead of lime and ashes, and to-day every one uses them. The universal opinion is that the lime, to be effective, must be spread on the ploughed surface in the fall.

M. Edmond Valin tried the following experiment: he spread lime on two previously ploughed ridges, and ashes on two others; the grain on the limed ridge was not so fine as the grain on the other, but the grass following in the rotation was equally good on both.

DRAINAGE.—The Revd. Curé Pilotte, the founder of the Farm-school of Ste-Anne de la Pocatière, was the first

(1) What would Mr. Huntington and Miss Dillon say to this?—Ed.

some 18 years ago, to try land-drainage. He drained the whole of the globe and that most successfully; consequently, his example was followed by his flock, notably by M. A. Couture, the Mayor, M. A. Raté, Frs. Couture, Ed. Valin, etc. M. Valin has 20 arpents drained.

We find here a winter creamery, and 1 cheesery, 3 silos, 10 dung-pits, and 90 dung-sheds among 100 farmers. Last season, the Club bought 150 bags of timothy and clover seed in due proportions. The usual corn sowing is the "Yellow Flint," for both silo and green-fodder.

THE HENHOUSE.—ITS RETURNS.—**POULTRY-FOOD.**—M. Ed. Valin, the Club's secretary, is an active, energetic young farmer. The secret of his success is contained in the words: I follow the market. His specialty is poultry. He has two incubators, one of which cost \$18.00, the other, \$75.00. The latter broods 300 eggs at once.

"I sell eggs and butter to customers whom I deceive neither as to the quality of the goods nor as to their punctual delivery. At present, (April 6th), I am selling my eggs at 18 cts. a dozen. For the last 3 years I have kept 150 hens, and this year I mean to have 300 which I shall keep as long as the market requires it. Not one of my hens has brought in less than a dollar a year, and their keep costs about 25 cts., though, as far as I can see, the sale of chickens pays for the keep of the hens. I feed on grain, meat, bone-meal, oyster-shells, cabbage, clover chaffed and scalded; still, after all the food the great thing is to get them to scratch and to keep them dry (it is worth while to hear M. Valin enlarge upon these two points). They have wood and coal-ashes to scabble among. Last year, I bought 3 old horses and 2 old cows, cheap, which I slaughtered as food for my poultry; (1) the bones I ground up in my mill for them; and I think this pays better than burning the carcasses of animals that die on the farm and have them scratched up again by dogs. Of course the hens have all the kitchen-waste. I keep regular accounts, for which I gained the greatest number of marks in the Merite agricole competition, and I fearlessly maintain that poultry is almost the most profitable department of the farm.

"Five days after setting, I make a candle-test (Je mire) of the eggs. If the eggs are fecund it is easy to tell, for one can see the head of the chick, but if sterile, the whole will seem a dull white. These latter I lay aside for subsequent cooking, and give them, mixed with bread-crumbs, to the chicks during their first month." M. Valin takes in 5 periodicals treating of poultry alone.

LES EOUREUILS.

"A small parish."—Only 43 farmers. Nearly 100 persons were present at the lecture. The Curé, M. Souldard, is an enthusiast about farming. No Club, but every one is anxious for one to be started. Some of the farmers belong to clubs in the neighborhood.

(To be continued)

(1) We should have thought, for a pack of hounds!—Ed.