

their remarkable and universal success is undoubtedly their own inherent valuable attributes possessing, as they undeniably do, a combination of the perfections of the ovine species, which is absolutely unique, and places them above all other breeds as the sheep of the present day. Remarkable alike for their fecundity, hardihood, and early maturity, they are light consumers, with wonderful powers of assimilation, and readily adapt themselves to almost all varieties of soil or country, the rich humid pastures of Ireland, or the bleak Highlands of Scotland. Their fleeces average, from an ordinary flock,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of wool, commanding the highest price in the market of any British breeds, while wethers at fourteen months old will yield a carcase of the finest mutton, weighing from eighty to one hundred pounds, free of offal, although show-wethers at eighteen months will frequently attain to 200 pounds and ewes 180 pounds of carcase. The greatest spirit and determination is evinced by the leading flock-masters to maintain the high standard of their sheep. Rams having been hired for the season at sums varying from 40 to 250 guineas, and purchased at as much as 500 guineas. Ewes from the most noted flocks have realized 37 guineas each; and when it is remembered that these high prices are given by men who breed for profit and not for fancy only, and whose selections are backed by sound judgment and experience, it is an indisputable criterion that no means are being spared to make the Shropshire the most profitable, popular, and perfect of all breeds of sheep.

For the CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

### How We Breed and Train Our Trotters Without Professional Aid.

(FIRST PAPER.)

This paper is not being written so much for he who for years has made a study of how to breed a standard trotter or road horse as it is for the farmer who has not given the matter much thought. Besides it would be putting on just a little too much bush for such a "small canoe" as the writer were he to pose as an educator to those who have made the study their work for years. So to make myself quite clear, I am writing, as I say, to the farmer and non-professional breeder, and if I succeed in giving him a pointer for good on the way, then I shall be amply paid.

Well, brother farmer, one thing I have to say to you is that you must not expect to gather figs from thorns. When you undertake to breed for a trotter you must do so, with all conditions in your favor from the start. Much time is lost and many disappointments occur in not taking this into consideration.

You may have a likely looking mare of strong blood lines, leading to thoroughbred sires and dam close up, and you may decide in consequence of this if you mate her with a trotting-bred stallion you are on the right track. Such is not the result of experience, as taken from the records. If your mare is of strong trotting instinct, and the desire to trot on her part is hereditary, mate her to a stallion charged through his blood lines with the same desire, and the result of such mating, gauged by the records, will be satisfactory. Says *Saxton*: "That old axiom so familiar to breeders, and by all intelligent ones accepted as truthful, that like begets like, or the likeness of some ancestor, applies to the breeding of the trotter as it does to the breeding of the Clyd. or the thoroughbred. The more of the property you are after in the colt you purpose breeding that you can find in the breeding of the sire and the dam the greater will be your chance of getting a colt full of the qualities you are seeking. You

cannot gather figs from a haw bush or grapes from a turnip top."

Farmer, the work of establishing a family of horses, known as the American Standard-bred Trotter, has been going on for years, and the more advanced of the tribe have, or nearly so, attained that point when like begets like, or if the likeness of some ancestor, that ancestor is a trotter, and it is well that all the farmers should know this, for the production of all domestic animal kind is part of our work; and in case any of us should think after enquiry that there is a dollar for us in the breeding of the Standard Trotter, it is our duty as farmers to know just where to hitch on in the work of breeding them, so that we may not, through ignorance, lose any time threshing out beaten straw when we decide to do it.

In order, then, to define just what constitutes a trotting-bred horse, I will herein give you the rules adopted by the censors of the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, to control admission to the Stud book:

First—Any stallion that has himself a record of two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30) or better, provided that any of his get has a record of 2:35 or better, or provided his sire or his dam is already a standard animal.

Second—Any mare or gelding that has a record of 2:30 or better.

Third—Any horse that is the sire of two animals with records of 2:30 or better.

Fourth—Any horse that is the sire of one animal with a record of 2:30 or better, provided that he has either of the following additional qualifications: (1) A record himself of 2:35 or better. (2) Is the sire of two other animals with records of 2:35 or better. (3) Has a sire or dam that is already a standard animal.

Fifth—Any mare that has produced an animal with a record of 2:30 or better.

Sixth—The progeny of a standard horse when out of a standard mare.

Seventh—The female progeny of a standard horse when out of a mare by a standard horse.

Eighth—The female progeny of a standard horse when out of a mare whose dam is a standard mare.

Ninth—Any mare that has a record of 2:35 or better, and whose sire or dam is a standard animal.

It will be well, then, for every farmer who purposes breeding a trotter to cut out the above rules of admission and pin them in his hat, for though they are very simple, they will be found very necessary as a guide in the matter of breeding up. All standard-bred stallions that are registered have numbers; mares have not. Stallions may be registered in the non-standard class, but they also are without numbers. I mention this as a guide when mating your mare with a trotting-bred stallion. Unless he has a number he is no aid to you in breeding up; so that your colt may be registered in the standard list if your mare is by a standard-bred sire, and you have stunted her to a standard-bred stallion, then the progeny, if a female, is eligible for registration, and you are ready by the next cross to produce a colt eligible for registration, by rule 6, the highest rule in breeding.

The most sought after sires to-day are the Wilkes, the Almonds, Electioneers, Kentucky Princes, Metwoods, Dictator, Harold, Princeps, and Sultan—all, or nearly so, descendants of Hambletonian 10 and Mambrino. Kentucky Prince, a sensitive sire, is by Clark Chief 89, he by Mambrino Chief 11. Kentucky Chief's dam was Kentucky Queen, by Morgan Eagle, son of hale Green Mountain Morgan. I mention the breeding of Kentucky Prince more particularly to show that true greatness from all conditions rise, and if the trotter, like the man, bred as he may be, acts well his

part, there all the honor lies. Still the very large share of turf celebrities and illustrious sires of winners are direct descendants of but a very few families, and when you turn to the tabulated pedigree of some star of the trotting turf you will find Hambletonian 10, Mambrino Chief 11, American Star, Abdallah, and Pilot jr. 12, multiplied into greatness by in-and-in breeding the sensational trotter, whose pedigree you are conning is the result.

107 Sons of Hambletonian 10 were in turn sires of sons and daughters who made themselves standard through the performance of their get. 41 of his sons trotted in 2:30 or better, and 44 of his daughters also produced speed. His chosen son, upon whom he evidently cast his mantle of greatness, was George Wilkes 519. At the close of 1888, 59 of his get had recently ranged between 2:15 $\frac{1}{4}$  and 2:30 as trotters, with 6 additional ones with pacing records better than 2:30. 29 of his sons bred in and were in turn the sires of trotters with records of 2:30 or better. 11 of his daughters have also produced trotters with marks inside the charmed circle. George Wilkes 519 was foaled in 1856. He had a record of 2:22 $\frac{1}{4}$  he died in 1882, and when 26 years of age; had but two to his credit in the 30-list when he died. I mention this to show that it does not follow because a young stallion may not have a number of performances to his credit, if his breeding and individual excellence are all right, that with opportunity he may not have later on, and that the farmer who purposes breeding for a trotter may after all be on the right track as much when paying \$15 to \$20 for a young well-bred horse as if he paid \$100 to \$500 for the service of one whose greatness is in every one's mouth as a producer of speed or performer, but who, as I say, is really no better bred than the young and cheaper stallion who has yet his spurs to win. *Breeda to the best, and we are told that is none too good*, all of which is true, but from a farmer's standpoint the most expensive sire is not always the best for him, while under peculiar circumstances it may be for the professional breeder who finds it necessary, when he is aiming to cater to public taste, to do so, if he wishes to keep in the swim.

The farmer who owns a mare of trotting descent, and has decided to multiply that property by stinting her to trotting-bred stallions, can find suitably bred ones in almost any section of the country, and at figures well within reach; stallions many of them sufficiently well-bred to warrant the possibility of some day being quoted as sensational sires.

The great George Wilkes was once thought a failure as a sire. Pilot jr. 12 could hardly get a mare, still daughters of the same Pilot 12 to-day are the *creme de la creme* of speed producers: the famous Maud S. being out of Miss Russell, she by Pilot jr. 12, and his sire again was a Canadian pacing stallion. Truly greatness from all conditions rise, and is chained to no particular spot.

It was my intention in this letter to let you know just how we managed our young trotting-bred colts, but shall have to let it lay over for my next, this one already being too long. However, let me say in conclusion for this time: I am a strong advocate of reciprocity amongst farmers—a reciprocity of experience, one with another, such as we have an opportunity to experience through the columns of this journal. We should make known to each other more than we do our failures and successes. My mistake, if made known, may suggest success in your case, and your experience save me from error.

I have always claimed that the farmer does more work for a dollar than does any other white man, and I really do not know why he should. Sometimes I think that if we knew each other better than we do