

known breeding; such, in fact, as are for obvious reasons manifestly unfit for breeding purposes.

It is pertinently remarked that if unsoundness is considered sufficient cause to retire stallions from the stud, unsoundness in mares is even as great an evil. Many of the misfits in breeding are due, and due solely, to the use of old, diseased, broken-down, unsound mares. Common sense, however, rather than legal action, should have sufficient weight with breeders to induce them to refrain from using such for breeding purposes. With the improvement of the stallions, it is suggested that stallion owners could do much to improve the system of breeding by refusing to allow their horses to serve such mares, and, further, by counselling farmers to breed their mares only to stallions of similar type and breeding. This seems like thrusting upon the stallion owner the duty of public-spiritedness, but the author believes it would be to his advantage.

A summary of other of the writer's deductions may be given in his own words. He believes in the "Institution of a plan for expert veterinary inspection for public-service stallions at appointed times and places, by inspectors duly authorized and acting under the supervision of the Department of Horse-breeding, such inspection to be known as State Veterinary Inspection." No local veterinarian should be appointed to act in his own district, since there would be less temptation to deception and more inducement to careful work when strangers performed the examination in any particular district. There is further advocated the "Institution of a plan for the examination and certification of sound, pure-bred stallions by the Department of Horse-breeding on voluntary request of owner, as to purity of breeding, individual excellence, breed type, character, quality, disposition, suitability and utility, horses admitted to this class after rigid inspection to be known as 'State Approved Stallions.'" This last suggestion puts a decided premium on the pure-bred horse of standard quality and conformation, and should be an inducement to stallion-ers to own horses such as would qualify for this class.

The bulletin closes with a strong injunction to horse-breeders to patronize the better type of horses and to improve their system of breeding. The paying of an additional five or ten dollars in service fee may mean fifty or one hundred dollars or more in the price of the grown-up colt. He advocates the organization of local horse-breeding associations as a stimulus to the industry, as an aid to enforcing the law, and as a factor in developing public opinion. The weight of influence of such an organization, if the best breeders were interested, would develop the spirit of co-operation and should do much to improve the methods followed and the type of horses bred in any one district. And further, if a certain district encouraged the breeding of a particular type of horses, the value and quality of the horses of that district should be much improved, and a reputation gained that should make for the greater salability of the horses produced in that district. Our breeders in Ontario lack a spirit of co-operation in their work. There is food for thought in these suggestions. BRUCE.

**The Enrollment of Stallions and Its Effects.**

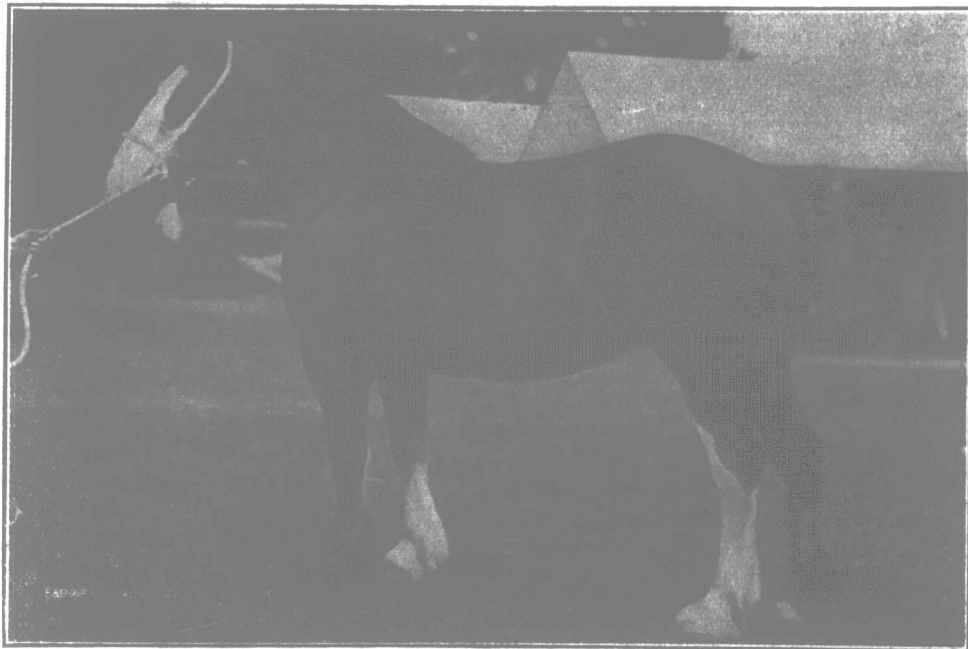
When the Horse-breeders' Ordinance of the Northwest Territories was passed, speculation was rife as to its effects, it being a radical move, compared with any existing legislation. For some time associations interested in horse-breeding had urged the passing of such a bill, on the grounds that the use of unsound stallions, and the misrepresentations made to farmers using stallions, was prejudicial to the horse-breeding industry and to the country.

Three Provinces in Canada, viz., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, have stallion-enrollment legislation on the statute books, more or less adequate for present-day requirements. In each of the three Provinces every stallion standing or travelling for public service must be enrolled with the respective Departments of Agriculture, the certificate of enrollment stating whether grade or cross-bred, and if pure-bred, of what breed. In addition, the owner (or owners) of pure-bred stallions make an affidavit, or present a veterinarian's certificate, as to the soundness of the particular stallion. The soundness clause applies only to pure-breds, the idea being to give sound pure-bred stallions the advantage over all other stallions, either unsound pure-breds or grades. All stallion advertising must contain a copy of the certificate of enrollment, and every stallion must be advertised. Further, in the Manitoba Act there is a provision for a lien on the foals. This applies only to the get of pure-bred stallions. The immediate effect of the passage of these acts was to insure farmers a square deal; a stallion was advertised for what he was, and the Departments checked the pedigrees, and were enabled to verify or dispute the authenticity of the same. The Government officials in charge of this work have stated that fraudulent pedigree certificates

have been detected, whereon erasures of birth dates and numbers have been noted, and in other cases typed or printed statements purporting to be pedigree certificates have been repudiated and shown to be utterly worthless. If all men were honest, there would be no need for laws. Such is the case with stallion enrollment. Up to date, enrollment in the various Provinces has proceeded apace, as will be seen from the following schedule:

Breed.	Saskatchewan.	Alberta.
Clydesdales .....	262	81
Percherons .....		
French Draft and Belgians	71	42
Shires .....	29	10
Hackneys .....	20	2
Standard-breds .....	17	10
Suffolks .....	9	3
Thoroughbreds .....	8	10
German Coach .....	3	
Cleveland Bay .....	2	1
French Coach .....	1	2
French-Canadian .....	1	1
Grades of all kinds .....	298	329
	714	491
Percentage pure-bred.....	60	35
License fee .....		\$2
Renewal—No provision made as yet.		
Data for Manitoba not obtainable.		

The accompanying table shows the immediate benefit of acts compelling enrollment of stallions, inasmuch as a sort of stallion census is obtained. The large percentage of mongrel stallions—Saskatchewan, 40; Alberta, 65—should be a stimulus to the horse-breeders' associations of the respective Provinces to plan some effective work along the line of horse-breeding education, with a view to showing the advantage bound to accrue from the abandonment of the use of mongrel stallions in favor of pure-bred horses. The re-



**Pyrene.**

♂-Clydesdale mare; bay; foaled 1900. Winner of the Cawdor Challenge Cup, at the Highland Society Show, 1906.

marks quoted below, of Deputy Minister George Harcourt, are worth considering. It seems to us that agricultural societies permitting stallions to travel or stand in their districts without being enrolled, are not living up to the spirit or letter of the Act under which they were started.

"You will observe that no cross-bred stallions have been enrolled. Application for only a small number of these certificates have been made, but these could not be granted, as the applicants were unable to produce the pedigree certificates on both sides. During the year 1906 the number enrolled far exceeded that of previous years, as the list indicates, but the Department is under the impression that a large number of stallioners have not yet had their horses enrolled as the Ordinance requires. This is due partly to their ignorance regarding the law and to the thought which some entertain that the enrollment is not necessary. The enforcement of the Ordinance depends, to a large extent, upon the owners of pure-bred horses who are principally benefited, and to farmers in general. A number of stallion owners consider that the Ordinance does not go far enough in aiding them to secure their fees, and that the lien should be given on the mare instead of the foal."

In the Manitoba Act, the following are considered as hereditary unsoundnesses, and therefore should disqualify a stallion for breeding purposes, and do prevent the said stallion being considered as sound by the Department at the time of issuance of the enrollment certificate: Bone spavin, cataract, curb, navicular disease, periodic ophthalmia, sidebones, ringbone, roaring, thick wind or whistling, bog spavin or thoroughpin.

Manitoba's law is regarded as the most perfect, as was to be expected, seeing that the experience of the other Provinces was at hand, it being the last enacted. The strong features of the results of such acts are: The quality of the stallions used is improved, fraud is rendered difficult of accomplishment, the farmer is protected from the unscrupulous stallion owner or groom, and the breeder and owner of high-class sound stallions is aided in the accomplishment of a laudable work. A. G. H.

**Make Haste Slowly.**

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been reading with some interest the many letters in your paper for and against the licensing of stallions. I wish to say that I agree with the man from Ontario County whose letter was published Jan. 10th, and think if we are not to have any faith in the imported horse, we had better stop horse-raising. True, there is sometimes a bad imported horse and horses with manufactured pedigrees, but when our Government goes so far as to cut out our own poor horses, Ontario farmers are not going to Scotland to buy poor ones again.

However, I believe, and I think nearly everyone else does also, that registered stock is better to breed from than the unregistered. Then, let there be as many manufactured pedigrees as the most insane can imagine, and our stock has proven that registered sires have given by far the best results.

In the issue of Jan. 3rd, "Stallion Owner" thinks it is robbery to impose a license on stallions, and says all the good horses in Huron have been doing well enough, and that if the scrub horse is not allowed on the road his owner will stay at home and make more money by dropping his fee two dollars or more. However, Mr. Stallion Owner does not

know all of Ontario Province, or he would know if the scrub-stallion owner dropped his fee two or three dollars he would be out of business in a good many places, and Hastings County would be one. We have here 18 scrub stallions in one small township, fifteen of which you might use and have your mare insured in foal for two or three dollars, while the other three are very little more expensive.

Now, Mr. Stallion Owner, I would like to see you put your registered stallion, which has probably cost you fifteen hundred dollars, on the road in such a place as I have described, and pay four hundred a year for expenses, at least, and do well enough, as you say. From what I have seen of the horse

business, I think, Mr. Editor, the Government should prohibit the scrub horse from doing business; but not at once, for I think, to do the owner justice, he should have notice one year or probably two years ahead, to enable him to dispose of his horse or exchange him for a registered one, which would certainly be an improvement, even though there were a few bad registered horses on the market (which need not be used). Two years, also, would give those localities which have no registered stallion time to secure one, for there are many such places in old Ontario yet.

Then, in a few years, if the country demanded stallion inspection, I say have inspection; and, although some think the Government has no business to license stallions, I think the Government has as much business to license horses as it has to compel you to pay a certain price for your school teacher, and bonus iron corporations, and a great many other things which may or may not be right. However, I think the first and very necessary step to be taken is to wipe out such horses as have no line breeding.

HASTINGS COUNTY.

**1906 Christmas Number Far the Best.**

In regard to your Christmas number, I must say that, of the many good ones you have issued, the 1906 number, in my judgment, is away ahead of any of its predecessors. My worst wish for you is that your 1907 Christmas number may be equal to the 1906 one. It is certainly a drawing card in securing subscribers. Huron Co., Ont. WM. R. SMILLIE.