

HOME AND FARM.

DRAFT HORSES VERSUS TROTTERS.

There has been a lively discussion going on in regard to the respective merits of the various breeds of horses during the past year. This reached its culmination this winter, when Mr. Wood, a distinguished farmer in New York, advocated the breeding of draft horses for profit, rather than trotters. As soon as his addresses appeared, the discussion waxed warm. Participants, all the way from Nova Scotia to California, defended their respective breeds. The main discussion was on the profit of the business. Mr. Wood maintained that, for the farmer, the draft horse was the more profitable to raise and sell, while his opponents held there was more money in raising trotters.

It is barely possible that, with some modifications, both parties are right. It is certain that it would be about impossible to dispense with the draft horses. As to the usefulness of "Trotters" or "Runners," it might be urged that they could be dismissed with, without any serious inconvenience to any one save "Sporting" men. This would be restricting the meaning of "Trotters" too narrowly. By "Trotters," some writers mean those horses which make fast roadsters. It is well to bear in mind these two meanings, for by the first definition, only those would be bred which would be trained for the race-course. The second meaning would include those which filled a very useful purpose, and for which there is a constant demand by the business of the world. However literally "Trotters" would be restricted by the first definition, the second would be covered by Roadsters.

The advantages of raising draft horses, it is urged, are:—(1). Their early maturity for market. (2). Their certainty for finding a market, as they are always in demand. (3). The certainty of breeding good ones. (4). They require no training, save being broken to drive.

The advantages claimed for trotters are their high price, which it is claimed is far above that of any other horse.

The advocates of draft horses maintain that the disadvantages or risks in raising trotters are enormous:—(1). The trotter has to be kept until he is five years old (slow returns). (2). That it is the exception that brings the high price, and that most of them only turn out second-rate horses. (3). That the risks of injury to the colt are greatly increased on account of training. And (4). That training is expensive.

Undoubtedly, a really fast horse is valuable. This value is purely due to their scarcity, and this scarcity is in its turn proof evident that they can not be bred with certainty. With greater care and skill this objection may be fairly overcome, but with it the price of fast horses will fall. They must be kept twice as long, or nearly twice as long, before selling, thus making their cost double after their birth. They require a skilled driver to train them, hence their value is partly dependent on the skill of others besides the farmers.

Farmers make money by either course, and it is in many cases purely a question of taste. If the farmer likes one or the other style of horses, he should in general let his taste govern him. If he has had experience in breeding one or the other kind, that should influence him some. No cast-iron rule can be laid down to govern all farmers.

DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

The last annual meeting of the Dairymen's Association of Nova Scotia was held in New Glasgow, in March. It is to be regretted that these meetings are not more largely attended than they are. Very few were present, and not all of these farmers.

The addresses and discussions were valuable, and deserved large audiences. A paper by Mr. A. C. Bell, on the breeding of live stock, was especially commendable. Mr. Sydney Clarke, of Tatamagouche, a student in the School of Agriculture, read a paper on the care of cattle. He gave also a brief abstract of some analyses of milk, which he had made at the Provincial Agricultural School. The Secretary, Mr. P. C. Black, of Falmouth, read a valuable paper on the same subject.

Two very lively discussions arose. One was—"Does farming pay?" The other was on Creameries. The former discussion was opened by Mr. Townsend, of New Glasgow, who maintained that it not only was not as profitable as formerly, but that it was growing less so every year. Mr. Ross also supported this view. Mr. A. B. Black, the president, defied any one to show that feeding cattle for beef paid during last year. Messrs. Lawrence and McKeen, both from Inverness Co., C. B., maintained that, excepting the very extraordinary drouth experienced the past year, farming was quite as profitable as ever it was with their county. The latter gentleman had found considerable profit in the production of beef during the past year. Nearly every one in the meeting took part in this discussion.

In the debate on Creameries, it seemed to be the universal opinion in the meeting that they should be started in various parts of the Province, and that properly managed, they would score a profitable investment. There was not so unanimous an opinion on how this should be accomplished, some maintaining that unless they could be made to pay without a grant, they would be of little benefit. A resolution, asking aid from the Legislature, was passed with some opposition.

The Rev. A. C. McDonald, who has taken great interest in the society since its beginning, was present, bidding his friends farewell, as he was soon to start for the West. The society passed proper resolutions of regret and wishes of success in his new field, together with a memento which they presented to him.

Other interesting and instructive papers were read by Mr. McKay, of Hopewell, and others, of which we cannot give abstracts. Farmers should

attend these meetings, and should send fifty cents to the secretary, thus becoming members, and obtaining a copy of the Annual Report.

PLUMS.

"Nothing is more favorable to the growth of the black knot than neglect. We have seen trees growing in the grass in some uncultivated door yards transformed into a mere mass of black knots, while trees in neighboring gardens under good cultivation were entirely exempt. In our specimen plum orchard, it does occasionally make its appearance, but we constantly remove it. Our preventives and remedies are good, clean, culture and prompt amputation."—Ellwanger's and Barry's Catalogue.

Probably no other cause has exerted such a depressing influence on the growth of plums as this single one; although it is the almost universal testimony of fruit growers, that with good attention and proper care it could be completely checked. Only a few years ago, that veteran fruit-grower, Mr. J. J. Thomas, of the *Country Gentleman*, said in effect, what is quoted above as the testimony of Messrs. Ellwanger and Barry. It is a fact within the observation of every one who has seen the plum receive any cultivation and care whatever. Unfortunately, however, it is the custom to set out the trees, and let them take care of themselves, except during the fall when the fruit is ripe. They have to contend against grass and weeds to get their share of food from the soil. They are allowed to starve not only for fertilizers, but even water is denied them.

By good cultivation is meant more than just a little care in digging around the trees once a year, although this would be acceptable to many a plum tree in Nova Scotia. It means the same as good cultivation does when applied to any other crop. It means the soil should be deep, fertile, pulverized, when the tree is planted, not a hole a couple of feet in diameter, with just room to crowd the roots in, but all the surrounding soil; that it shall be regularly stirred or mulched, and shall receive its proper quota of manure. In this way the tree is kept healthy and vigorous, is therefore less liable to disease, and is much better able to overcome it when attacked. In case the tree is attacked by black knot, immediately on its discovery cut it out thoroughly; if on a branch (which is usually the case) cut it off some inches below the knot, and in all cases burn the knot after removing it. Some recommend an application of turpentine to the wound; but if the knot has been thoroughly removed, as well as the adjoining wood for some inches around it, the best thing to apply is something to exclude the air, as clay, or better still, grafting wax, covering the wound completely. By taking the knot as soon as it appears, this does not make a serious wound.

NOTES.

It does not pay to plow clay land wet. Better wait two days longer, to spend that much more time in getting it mellow every time it is plowed for the next three years, besides injuring the land seriously. It would be a greater injury to the crops to have the land puddled, than it would to have to be two days later in getting it in.

Do not set a hen where the other hens can disturb her or break her eggs. A little trouble will save considerable disappointment. When she wishes to set, give her a nest separate from the rest of the fowls, and plenty of food and water, and dust all within easy access.

A rusty plow is what the careless farmer pulls out of the fence corner to plow with. It draws much harder, and does the work not one-half as well if the soil is light, and will scarcely work at all in some soils. All this for what would have been only a few moments work when last used, the plow should have been thoroughly cleaned, wiped dry on the mould-board and land side, oiled or greased thoroughly, and kept in a dry place. Some barns are so dry that the greasing may be unnecessary.

How often, in riding through the country about this season of the year, or earlier, the mowing machine, the plow, and the harrow, may be seen lying where last used the previous year. The snows of winter have for very shame tried to hide them. It is the farmer who leaves his tools out this way, who never nails on loose boards to protect the cattle in the stable, who is ever crying out "Farming does not pay," and such farming does not pay, or at least it pays more than it should; for such shiftlessness in any other business would make the person a beggar.

It is often said, that a cow which gives from twenty thousand to thirty thousand pounds of milk per year, must be an enormous eater, but she can well afford to eat enormously since she gives from three to ten times what our best common cows do, and she only eats a fraction more at the outside. The great bulk of what most cows eat goes to maintain life. It is only a small portion that makes milk. Now, with double this small portion, the trained cow gives double the return.

Do not leave sheep out in cold rain storms. It injures them, affects their health, and weakens the wool.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle.