

Watch the Experimental Farms.

Those who are not yet familiar with Western agriculture will serve their own best interests by keeping closely in touch with the Experimental Farms at Brandon and Indian Head. These institutions have done a great deal for the farmers of the West, and the system which they follow in regard to soil cultivation and the rearing of crops may be safely taken as a guide by all whose conditions of soil and climate are in any way similar. Even the old prairie farmer finds it to his advantage to know what is going on at these stations. The new varieties of grains, grasses, etc., which have been introduced and tested, and found to be suitable to our climate, have very materially enhanced the value and extent of our agricultural products. The superintendents in charge of both farms are men capable and thorough, and their advice may be followed by beginning with the utmost security.

Horses.

Russell Spring Stallion Show.

At Russell on Friday, April 24th, a spring stallion fair was held, under the auspices of the Russell Agricultural Society, of which Peter Wallace is President, and D. M. Kinnaird, Secretary. For various reasons, chief among them, doubtless, being the busy season and the leanness of the prizes, the show was not a success. A very meagre number of horses graced the ring, and as they varied considerably in breeding, there was scarcely any competition, consequently the judges, Messrs. Robt. W. Patterson, of Shellmouth, and A. McLennan, of Minnaska, had a snap. These gentlemen rendered their decisions in a way that we feel sure was satisfactory to all intelligent horsemen, yet we venture to suggest that had the horses been made to show their action, and also speed, to that degree which is usually done in show-rings, the onlookers would have appreciated it.

The prizes consisted of ribbons, and this, no doubt, was largely accountable for the lack of competition in almost all of the rings. Russell is a good horse center, both as regards numbers and quality, but had the honor of winning been supplemented by dollars and cents, there is no doubt but a larger number of horses would have been on exhibition. To win a prize when there is but a single entry does not swell the breast of the owner of the winning animal with pride, or yet call for the plaudits of the onlookers. Moreover, a real top-notch when alone in his class has not the same opportunity of showing himself to advantage, for the average onlooker judges by comparing those that are in the ring, and seldom has in his mind the typical form of the breed represented.

The prize list was divided into the following classes: Heavy Draft, aged; Heavy Draft, under three years; General Purpose; Standard-bred; Carriage; and Thoroughbred. What is a general-purpose stallion? is the question which confronts each intelligent horseman as he views such a list. The general-purpose horse, as commonly known to-day, is got by crossing some of the breeds; thus he is an animal of haphazard origin, and for that reason, chiefly, it is entirely out of place to have a stallion-class called General Purpose. Perhaps the syndication of stallions was to some extent responsible for the small turnout of horses at this fair, yet most of those shown were owned by syndicates. However, nothing different could be expected, for very few stallions in the neighborhood are otherwise owned. When a number have joint shares in a horse it stands to reason that that horse is not as likely to be shown at a fair as if he belonged to a single individual, especially when honor is the only reward bestowed upon a winner.

At this show two Clydesdales and one of each of the following breeds were shown: Standard-bred, Hackney, and French Coach. In Clydesdales, Borthwick (imp.), sire Prince Cedric, he by Cedric, won first. He is rising five years, and is a good-sized horse, with a short, strong back, fine chest, smooth shoulders, and good bone. Borthwick is owned by the Russell Stud Horse Syndicate. P. Hyde, Silver Creek, is the president, and H. E. Boulton, Russell, the secretary. Archer's Heir, sire Royal Archer, dam Reinbeck Beauty, was his competitor. This horse is owned by the Archer's Heir Entire Horse Association of Russell. Archer's Heir is a beautifully made horse, with good bone and lots of quality throughout, but is undersized. Gritwood, the Standard-bred shown, is owned by John Pierson, Minnedosa. He was sired by Thornwood 1567, he by Woodlawn, he by Thorndale 549, the sire of Bob Johnston, 2.28; Alice Tyler, 2.30, and many other well-known winners. Gritwood showed in splendid form; he has a beautiful head and a compact, smooth body. The Hackney stallion,

Prometheus, which entered the ring and carried away the honors, is one that has stood high in strong competition. He was sired by Rufus Jr., dam Conquest, by Anconeus. Prometheus is owned by a small syndicate, of which G. P. Baker, V.S., Russell, is secretary. This horse showed up well, being in fine fettle. The French Coacher, Ottawa Chief 690, sire Ottawa Chief, dam Nancy, by Freichette, is owned by the Tumble Horse Syndicate, Messrs. D. Johnston and J. L. McDonald being manager and secretary respectively. Ottawa Chief 690 is a big fellow, and ought to leave good stock, as along with his size he has quality.



MILITARY CAMP FIRE.

How the pot was boiled at Camp Barr, Saskatoon, Sask.

Cure for Sore Shoulders.

Now that the spring work is over, there will be some horses, no doubt, that will have sore shoulders, caused either by scalding or ill-fitting collars; this spring it would no doubt be the latter, as it was very cool. A good cure for an ordinary gall is graphite. It can be had at any general hardware, and costs about five cents per ounce, but an ounce is quite a bulk. The way to use it is simple: Dampen the collar or pad, just where it will touch the sore, then sprinkle a little graphite on, and smooth it with your finger. This will prevent the sore from sticking to the collar, as it is very slippery stuff. At night, as soon as the collar is taken off, wash with salt and water made pretty strong, or a solution of carbolic acid, say one to thirty, and apply a little sweet oil; if salt and water is used it should be thoroughly brushed all around as soon as it is dry. Follow these directions and I am sure good results will follow, at least my experience has proven so. Some say air-slacked lime is good. I tried it once, and that was enough, as it seemed to burn the skin and make the sore far worse. Hoping this suggestion may give some poor horse relief, I remain for this time, YOUNG HORSEMAN.

Satisfaction All Round.

We think the "Farmer's Advocate" "all right," especially the Immigration number, and look forward for each issue. We wish you continued success. THOMPSON ATKINSON. Medicine Hat, Assa.



STALLIONS AT THE SPRING SHOW, RUSSELL, MAN., APRIL 24, 1903.

The Examination of Horses as to Soundness.

While the official examination of horses as to soundness is solely the province of the veterinarian, and his certificate alone is of value in courts of law, there is no reason why any ordinary horseman cannot attain reasonable skill. In the strict sense of the word any abnormality is an unsoundness, but the definition usually accepted in the courts is something like this: "An abnormality that interferes with, or is liable to interfere with, the horse's usefulness is an unsoundness; hence, the man who passes judgment in regard to soundness must of necessity have a knowledge of the various kinds of diseases and abnormalities that impair the usefulness or value of a horse; he must, also, be able to discriminate between degrees of the same disease or abnormality, and decide whether that which exists should be considered serious or not: For instance, a small splint, when not situated very close to a joint, is not usually considered sufficient to condemn a horse; while if it be large, double, or near a joint, it is more serious. Again, slight bursal enlargements in the region of the fetlocks (usually called windgalls) are not considered serious, but if quite large and tense they certainly constitute unsoundness. If we were to accept the first definition, very few horses would pass, as there are few horses that have reached adulthood that are absolutely sound. In order that a man may be able to detect unsoundness, he must be perfectly familiar with the appearances of and the sounds made by, the organs when in a healthy state. This knowledge can be attained only by actual and extensive observation. Theory is of little use here; he must have actual practice. For instance, a man may study the anatomy of the eye and be able to give or write an accurate description of the normal eye, and at the same time not be able to recognize a healthy one at sight. Familiarity with the different appearances of the different organs, or the different appearances of the same organ, all within the region of soundness, is necessary to enable a man to detect disease when it is present. It must be remembered that there are many divergences or differences in appearances or conformation of various organs, not constituting unsoundness. As an example, I might mention the hock. There is probably no part of the anatomy that admits of such varied conformations, and we might say roughnesses, due to what may be called hyper-development of the various bones, the relative position one bone bears to another, as regards angles, etc., and still be sound as this joint. In fact, it often gives the most expert veterinarian trouble to decide whether or not a hock is sound; hence, not only in respect to this particular, but to a greater or less extent to all points, it is necessary that the prospective judge examine carefully the different normal conformations and appearances in order to be able to detect abnormalities.

In examining a horse we consider him both standing and in motion. We first examine him standing, and in order to do so thoroughly, we must do so systematically. We will start on the near side. First pass the hand carefully over his poll and search for symptoms of poll evil, either present or past. If there be swelling or soreness we condemn him, and although neither be present, if there be scars or cavities that indicate that he has at some time been operated on for this disease, we are justified in pronouncing him unsound; as, while in many cases a perfect cure is effected, it is not unusual to have a recurrence