

Messrs. Robt. Beith & Co.'s Stud of Hackneys.

Now that high stepping street and park horses are in such demand to horse the many fashionable vehicles by which men of pleasure about town seek to show their taste for display, more attention has to be paid to the breeding of the horse required for luxury. It is not surprising that in this race for the fittest, the Hackney has come in for a greater share of attention than at any previous time. As a proof of this, at the late London Show there were no less than two hundred and thirty-five entries of stallions and one hundred and forty-eight mares.

The demand for Hackneys from the continent of Europe, together with their increasing popularity since their introduction within the last few years in the United States, has stimulated breeding operations throughout Yorkshire and Norfolk, as well as other parts of England. The prices that are now paid quite eclipse anything ever heard of, except among the choicest strains of racing blood, and Hackney breeding has, therefore, become a leading industry in horse production.

Among those who were first identified with the introduction of this valuable breed were Messrs. Beith & Co., Bowmanville, Ont., and the stallions which they first brought over, together with their proved excellence for crossing with the mares of this country, have not only added to their popularity among horse breeders, but induced the firm to invest in a choice stud of the most fashionable breeding. In our front page illustration for this issue is portrayed the Hackney stallion Ottawa. He was bred by Mr. W. Martin, Scoreby Grange, Gate Hemsley, Yorkshire, England; sired by Lord Derwent 2nd, a horse much used in this excellent stud, and one of the most successful breeding horses of the day, which should be expected when we take the trouble to analyze his blood lines. Sired by Denmark 177, than whom no more successful sire can be pointed to in stud book, which is borne out by his numerous sons, such as Danegelt, Connaught, and his grandson Ganymede; and a score of other good ones, forming an array of winners not eclipsed by any other line of breeding, while Lady May, the dam of Lord Derwent 2nd, herself won no less than one hundred and eighty-one first prizes, and he himself has repeatedly carried winnings.

Lord Derwent 2nd was chosen by the Irish district board for the season of 1892, previous to which he stood at the head of one of the choicest studs in Yorkshire.

Ottawa's dam is Mayflower, a mare of wonderful beauty and true Hackney type, with which she combines more size than is usually found in this sort. She was sired by Highflyer 1648; dam Maid, by Performer.

Ottawa won first in his class at the recent Toronto Spring Stallion Show, also beating his stable companion Jubilee Chief in the sweepstakes, which he won. He is a colt of wonderful promise, and is doubtless as likely for future honors as any horse we know of. Imported in his dam, Mayflower, he was considered backward in development until the last few months, but has made a remarkable improvement, and is evidently growing the right way. In action he moves with free elastic step, with a brilliancy at the knee, and with the addition of a little education he will go equally well all round.

Among the many good ones in the Messrs. Beith's stud is Jubilee Chief 2122, which has been at the head of their stud of very excellent mares since these were first got together. Jubilee Chief was sired by Pilot 1323, by Lord Derwent, another son of the famous Denmark 177. The dam of Jubilee Chief is Queen of the Forest, a famous Hackney mare by Triffith's Fireaway 249, a line of breeding extremely hard to excel. Jubilee Chief is a horse of great substance, and has well nigh perfect action at knee and hock. He has distinguished himself by winning first in his class on several occasions, notably at the Industrial Show in 1891.

The mares in this stud are of truest Hackney type, and comprise the highest breeding combined with great quality and beautiful action.

The mare Mayflower, whose breeding and description are both given in the mention we have made of her son Ottawa, is one of the plums of the stud, but a number of others closely contesting her in point of merit are to be found here.

The beautiful mare Lizette also deserves more than a passing notice at our hands. She is doubtless one of the handsomest mares ever brought over the water; her true Hackney form and brilliant action form a combination that is sought after by the leading breeders of the day.

Monas Queen is a young mare also out of Mayflower, the dam of Ottawa. She is promising, and last year produced the colt South Park Jean, by Jubilee Chief, a weanling that already shows more than ordinary merit. Monas Queen won second in a class of five aged mares in her three-year-old form at the last Industrial Show. She was sired by Dictator 1471, he by Lord Derwent 2nd, described above, and bred by Mr. Wm. Martin, Scoreby Grange.

Another good breeding mare is Florence, a bay mare by Randolph 1123, also bred by Mr. Martin.

A handsome pair of fillies, rising three, are Lady Aberdeen and Winnifred. The former is a brown of great beauty, with all the freedom and brilliancy in action that is the marked feature of the breed, and although she is in our opinion a better mare than her mate Winnifred, still the latter beat her at the Industrial Show last autumn, which shows that she is also a good one.

Lady Aberdeen was sired by Lord Derwent 2nd, and is therefore half brother to Ottawa, while Winnifred was sired by Wildfire, one of the best sires of the day, he by Phenomenon; dam by Triffith's Fireaway.

It will therefore be observed that the best strains of blood have been drawn upon in breeding up the individuals which comprised this stud of Hackneys, and we must hope to hear of the production of a lot of winners at our future shows from the admirable mares of which this stud is composed.

At present the mares are all in foal to Jubilee Chief, and are in the most profitable shape imaginable. We congratulate the Messrs. Beith on having so good a selection on hand.

Rape Growing.

Though until recently comparatively unknown in this country, rape has been grown as a food for fattening lambs in England for many years. This practice has been introduced in a number of places in Ontario, and especially in the county of Wellington, where it has long played an important part in the finishing of lambs for the Buffalo market. The fattening of lambs on rape has lately been brought prominently before the public by experiments conducted at the Ontario Experimental Station, Guelph. Still, the rape is practically an unknown plant to many farmers, and we would advise all to sow a small area as an experiment. In appearance the plant resembles the turnip, to which it is closely related. The main difference is that rape has no fleshy bulb-like root, but the condition and preparation of the soil are similar. The soil should be plowed in the fall and well worked in the spring. This plant gives good returns for all manure applied, and as it is considered one of the best cleaning crops, it will take the place of a summerfallow. The more work and cultivation given the land before sowing, the less will be required to keep the weeds down after the plants are up. Sow from the twelfth of June to the middle of July in drills as for turnips, twenty-seven or thirty inches apart, with about one and a-half to two pounds of seed per acre. Use a common turnip drill. The most satisfactory results are obtained from slightly raised drills, but one disadvantage in this system, which will not be found in flat cultivation, is that the lambs require careful watching, or they will be liable to get on their backs between the rows.

Do not leave the plants too thick in the row, as they require plenty of room. Start the scuffler as soon as the plants appear, and keep it going, not only to kill the weeds, but also to keep the surface loose and prevent evaporation. The rape should be ready for pasturing by the first of August, if sown about the middle of June, or before the 25th. An acre should carry ten to fifteen lambs from that date to the end of the season. Rape is acknowledged by all to be the best late fattening feed for sheep and lambs. Cattle can also be profitably fed on it, but they require more attention. Always feed stock well before turning on rape. If turned on hungry, animals are liable to eat too much, and loss may occur. When buying lambs for feeding always get the best obtainable, well-bred ones if possible; poor, late culls are dear at any price. If at all possible, plow land used for this crop in the fall, for after the tramping of lambs in all kinds of weather it should be turned up to the mellowing influence of the winter's frosts. Great care is necessary when buying the seed; obtain it from some reliable seedsmen, and have him guarantee that it is the right kind. If this is done, and the seed does not turn out to be as represented, damages can be collected from the seedsmen. Last year, the rape on the Experimental Farm, Guelph, and also on the farms in that and other parts, was of an inferior variety, supposed to be a hybrid much larger than

bird rape; but like it, ripens seed the first year, and thus was practically worthless for pasture. A variety called the Dwarf Essex, which does not seed the year it is sown, has given general satisfaction. Much seed resembling rape has been palmed off on farmers; among others a German rape, which is grown for bird food, and as it produces enormous quantities of seed, it can be sold much cheaper than the true rape for feeding. The true rape is known when the second leaf appears, it being smooth and glossy like the Swedish turnip, while the other varieties have a course, rough leaf like wild mustard. Test your seed before you sow; buy early, and sow a little in boxes.

Corn Culture.

The great increase in the number of silos in Ontario during the last two or three years has increased the acreage of corn, and in each succeeding year farmers who have never grown corn for fodder before try it, to a greater or less extent, and those who have grown it for years are increasing their acreage. Corn requires a dry, warm, thoroughly prepared soil, and plenty of sunlight; for this reason it is better to plant in rows running north and south. A clover sod makes a good seed-bed for corn, but it must be thoroughly worked up.

If the land is stubble plow it deep in the fall, manure and either plow or cultivate thoroughly in the spring. Sow about the 24th of May, either earlier or later according to the location and season. It is not well to plant too soon. The seed is better in the barn than rotting in a cold, wet soil. In sowing use the common seed drill, and stop a number of the spouts so that the drills will be a suitable distance apart. Allow about half a bushel of seed to the acre. As soon as the corn is up give it a stroke with a light harrow; repeat two or three times until the plant grows so high that the harrow pulls the plants out by the roots. The harrow will kill a large number of weeds, pulverize the soil, does the corn good, and is the cheapest method of cultivation. When too high to harrow start the horse hoe at work, and keep it going during the summer, not only as a weed cleaner, but also to loosen the soil so that it will retain the moisture. Do not let the soil crust after a rain. The cultivation should be shallow, so that the roots of the plant be not injured.

Each grower should plant the varieties which mature in his own district. If the corn is nearly ripe these will have no unnecessary delay in waiting for it to wilt before putting in the silo—the silage will be better in every respect.

The further north the shorter the season of growth, therefore a variety will be needed which will mature in less time than is required for warmer localities; as a rule, the large varieties are later in coming to maturity.

Mammoth Southern Sweet and Red Cob Ensilage will do well for the more southern portions of Ontario. Thoroughbred White Flint, Pearce's Prolific, Angel of Midnight, Smutnose and Longfellow are all favorites, requiring less time to complete the growth than the first named varieties. For farther north it is likely that a still earlier corn, such as Mammoth Cuban or Crompton's Early, would give better satisfaction. But the best advice to each grower is, sow the bulk of your crop of some variety which has been tried in your own neighborhood, either by yourself or some good farmer; also test the different varieties of newer sorts in small plots. In this way each farmer is always sure of what he is doing.

Don't stop the grain feed all at once and depend on the pasture to keep the animals in good order. Get them used to the grass gradually.

Be sure and tag your sheep well before letting them out to grass. It will save you many pounds of wool, and perhaps prevent losing some of them.

Seeding will be well under way before this number reaches our readers, and in some places nearly over. Farmers will be thinking of roots, corn and potatoes. Are you going to try an acre or more of rape to fatten your lambs on this fall?

What varieties of the different root crops are you going to sow this spring? It will pay you to study carefully the letters on corn, roots and potatoes in the issue of March 6th. These notes are written by practical farmers from all parts of the province, and are short, pithy, and to the point.

Chief Buchanan, of the World's Fair, will consult as far as possible the wishes of the exhibitors as regards the appointment of judges. Some associations have asked for single judges, others prefer the three judge system. Requests will all be honored as far as possible. If associations have judges to recommend, it will be well to send their names to Mr. Buchanan as soon as possible.