

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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cursor interpretation of our position, unintentionally, no doubt, making us appear to say rather more than we did. Perhaps no particular harm would result, only that its reference has attracted comment on this side of the pond. The Scottish Farmer has it that "Parasitic mange and anthrax are common" (in Canada). "They (we) are at all times exposed to the risk of infection from south of their great border line."

What we did say on the subject of disease was this, and it states the case quite candidly: "Granted that our cattle are among the healthiest in the world—healthier, perhaps, than the British cattle—that does not guarantee that they are free from disease or the danger of disease. As a matter of fact, parasitic mange is more or less prevalent on certain areas of our Western ranges, notwithstanding strenuous efforts to stamp it out. Anthrax has occurred; we are by no means free from tuberculosis, and so of other diseases, while, throughout the length of the International boundary we are exposed to the possibility of infection introduced from the south, although it is but fair to state that the utmost vigilance is exercised by the Veterinary Director-General's Branch to guard against the introduction of disease." With this precise restatement of our position, the subject may be allowed to pass.

Fruit-growers and farmers who have been in the habit of using bluestone for fungicidal purposes will do well to heed the warning of Frank T. Shutt against substitutes for this material, consisting of a mixture of bluestone and copperas. Copperas is much cheaper than bluestone, but its fungicidal value is much less, and a mixture of the two is not nearly so effective or so valuable as the pure bluestone. Avoid the mixtures. Insist on bluestone.

Crop returns received by the Dominion Department of Agriculture indicate that, so far as grain production is concerned this is a hundred-million-bushel country.

SAMPLE COPIES.

During the autumn and early winter months we shall be printing extra copies of "The Farmer's Advocate" for samples. If you have a friend or neighbor who is not now taking the paper, but might be persuaded to do so if he knew how good it is, ask him to drop us a post card requesting a sample copy. We want to cover the Dominion of Canada from coast to coast with regular subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate," till the old "yellow-back" protrudes from dozens of boxes in every rural post office. By your help we shall do it.

HORSES.

CANADIAN PERCHERON HORSE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Canadian Percheron Horse-breeders' Association purpose publishing the first volume of the Canadian Percheron Studbook in January, 1909, and wishing to make it as up-to-date as possible, are anxious to have the pedigrees of all Percherons now owned in Canada recorded in it. This is essential to the breeders themselves from an economic point of view, because, according to the Rules of Entry for Canadian or American-bred Percherons, the ancestors of the animal to be recorded, back to and including the imported ones, must also be recorded in the Canadian Book. As there are quite frequently twenty or twenty-five of such ancestors to record in order to bring in one animal, it can readily be seen that the Association could not afford to pay for recording and printing these ancestors in order to complete pedigrees. Up to the present time, and until January 1st, 1909, the expense of recording these ancestors has been defrayed from a grant made to the National Records by the Government to assist weak associations, but, after January 1st, 1909, this grant is likely to be discontinued, as the association is supposed to be strong enough to work out its own salvation; so that, after that date, the person recording an animal will have to pay for recording these ancestors, unless they are already recorded in the Canadian Book, and, in place of paying a fee of \$5 for recording a stallion before 1909, it may cost considerably more after that date.

A person having only one stallion to record would pay a fee of \$5, and for this fee would become a member of the association for the current year, besides getting his horse recorded; if he were to get any more stallions in that year, it would cost him only \$3 each to get them recorded, and, in addition to this, he would be entitled to all publications issued by the association subsequent to his becoming a member. The Percheron Society of America charges \$5 for each volume of their studbook to members, whereas members of the Canadian Association will receive the volumes of the Canadian Studbook which are printed after their becoming members, free of charge. It behooves the breeders and importers of Percherons to bestir themselves and get in touch with one another through the association, for, while the Executive Committee are doing, and will continue to do, all in their power to advance the interests of the breed, and of the association, yet they would be glad to hear from the breeders in different parts of Canada, as to what steps it would seem advisable to take in their particular locality to benefit the industry.

At many of the principal Western fairs this year, the Percheron stallion class was numerically as strong as the Clydesdale stallion class. What would the Clydesdale breeders say to a Percheron man judging their horses in the show ring? Yet the Percheron breeders had to be content, in most cases, with a Clydesdale man judging their horses. This does not seem right or proper, and it rests with the breeders and importers themselves to make this association a strong enough organization to appoint their own judges, or to see that judges satisfactory to them are appointed at the principal fairs.

One does not necessarily have to be a breeder or an importer in order to belong to the association. Anyone interested in the breed to the extent of forwarding his name and address, together with a fee of \$2.00 per annum, to the Secretary, becomes a member; and, as this is the first year of the association's existence, it is money that is needed to put it truly on its feet, and the more membership fees that are sent in this year, the better will the association be able to look after the Percheron interests next year. F. B. PIKE,
Secretary-Treasurer

GREASING THE HOOF AFTER WASHING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice in your issue of October 15th an article regarding the use of hoof liniments. The veterinarian who wrote the article asserts that oils or grease should never be used on the horse's hoof. I agree with him that the natural moisture for the horse's hoof is water, but I think that, after the foot has been washed, a coating of some ointment is beneficial, in that it helps to retain the moisture by retarding evaporation. In this I am supported by no less an authority than Prof. Lungvitz, Director of the Shoeing School, of the Royal Veterinary College, Dresden, from whose work, translated by Dr. Adams, I quote the following: "If front hoofs are washed once a day, sufficient moisture will penetrate the horn to give it that degree of suppleness (elasticity) which is possessed by an unshod hoof, and which contributes to a proper expansion of the hoof when the body weight is placed upon it. In order to prevent a hoof from again drying out, the entire hoof should receive a thorough application of an oil or ointment." I am not writing this in order to help the sale of hoof ointments, for I believe that any fat that is not rancid will answer the purpose. However, in oiling, it is essential that the hoof should be first cleaned, or the dirt will form a greasy crust, underneath which the horn is liable to become brittle. I notice that some blacksmiths have a practice of rasping the whole surface of the wall of the hoof. This is injurious, for it destroys the natural covering, and renders the hoof more liable to dry out and crack. To prevent too great softening of the horn in wet weather, the addition of common yellow rosin to the salve is advised. I do not for a moment maintain that hoof ointments have any influence on the growth of the hoof. The essential factor in the development of the hoof is good circulation in the foot and coronary land. This is maintained by regular exercise. CYMRO.
Alta.

JUDGING OF CLYDESDALES.

Commenting upon what "Scotsman" had to say in favor of the judge's placing of Clydesdales at Toronto, The Scottish Farmer makes bold to remark: "If his (Mr. Weir's) critics knew as much about Clydesdales as 'Sandilands' has forgotten, they would hold their peace."

For one exception that has been expressed in regard to our comments on Clydesdales at Toronto, there are a score or more compliments. Our reporter was obliged to estimate the judge's knowledge of Clydesdales by his work at Toronto. How his awards would suit in Scotland, we are not prepared to say; but everyone who saw Toronto's exhibit, and watched the placing, knows it did not meet with general approval. That he was not consistent in his selection of animals for the various prizes, was only too evident in more than one class. This was pointed out in our report of the show. As to the stallion championships, it is casting no reflections on the quality or calibre of Lansdowns when we say it takes an exceedingly good two-year-old to beat a fully-matured horse that can carry as much avoirdupois as Sir Marcus carried, and remain in as good show condition in every respect. It is an easy matter to belittle criticism on the work of a Scottish judge, when the Atlantic Ocean lies between the chair of the editor and the horse-ring in which Canadian breeders were at a loss to know, from the placing, what was considered to be desirable Clydesdale type.

ALFALFA FOR HORSES.

On the feeding of alfalfa to horses, Jos. E. Wing, the well-known American authority on alfalfa, says:

"When alfalfa hay is first fed to horses or mules not accustomed to it, and fed in large amounts, it sometimes, not always, makes them urinate more freely than is their wont. This is nearly always a very temporary effect, and in a short time they eat alfalfa hay with no other noticeable effect than that they are in better flesh than when eating other forage, work better, and feel better.

"Alfalfa hay for horses or mules should be allowed to get fairly mature before being cut, should be well cured, and have no mold on it. The last cutting of alfalfa is usually too late to make the best horse feed, the coarser crops growing earlier in the season serving better. Neither horses nor mules should be fed all the alfalfa hay they will consume; it is too rich a feed, and they do not need so much of it, though it is ordinarily fed in limitless amounts, with no perceptible injury."

It should be remembered that overfeeding any appetizing hay is liable to cause heaves.