

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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### Sowing Clover with Oats.

Resolve to seed down every acre of grain this year to clover or clover and timothy. Even if past experience shows a doubtful chance of getting a "catch" with oats, it is worth trying, anyway. The harder it is to get a stand of clover on a particular field, the worse the field needs it, as a rule, and one chance in six is worth taking on such land. Sow the grain thin—about 1½ to 1¾ bushels per acre—and the clover seed thick, about 10 pounds of good clean seed per acre, and you will double the chances of a successful seeding over the neighbor who sows two bushels of oats and six pounds of clover seed, and you will get very nearly as much grain, too. Some say, "If it all grows, six pounds of seed is enough." True, but it never does all grow, especially on the poorer spots. Sow plenty of seed, and all the plants will do better, apparently; there will be a mat on the ground after harvest to keep it shaded and moist, so the plants will have a chance to thrive and stool out, and grow themselves a winter protection. On the other hand, by sowing the seed, there will be a sickly stand, weeds will come in and choke out the clover, and it will be so miserably thin on some spots that the man will hesitate to leave the field to meadow, and very likely say there is no use seeding down with oats. It depends a good deal on how one goes at it. Never begrudge money invested in clover seed; it returns the biggest interest of anything we know.

### Draws from England.

I am very pleased to inform you that I am coming to your beautiful country at the beginning of March next, so I shall have much pleasure in renewing my subscription to your most valuable paper when I arrive, and am in a position to let you know my permanent address, as I am going farming. I may say that during the short time that I have had "The Farmer's Advocate," I have derived much pleasure and knowledge from its perusal as regards Canada and the methods of working, which I otherwise should have been ignorant of, so I am sure you will agree with me when I say that if some others were to do the same they would feel much more at home and independent with the knowledge obtained when they arrive in Canada. Hoping to make your acquaintance again about next season.

Croydon, England.

JOHN MORLEY

### Value of Pure-breds: A Fact as Well as a Theory.

The tardiness of the general farmer in availing himself of the benefit to be derived from the use of pure-bred sires in the improvement of his stock, is something difficult to understand or explain. Many good farmers, having ample means, appear to actually entertain a prejudice against pure-bred stock, and will stand at a cattle-sale ringside, and see thrifty, useful pure-breds sold for little more than ordinary dairy cows or butcher's beasts would bring in the marketplace, while they continue to feed good food to inferior stock which make poor returns in meat or milk for the food consumed, and sell for low prices when placed upon the market, as compared with well-bred grades which meet the demand for good quality and bring top prices, making profitable returns for what they have eaten.

The opinion seems to prevail that pure-breds are less hardy, and require more care and more liberal feeding than grade or ordinary stock. This is a mistaken idea. Many pure-breds have stronger and more vigorous constitutions than common stock, consequently have a keener appetite, superior digestion, assimilate their food to better advantage, and make greater returns in gain of weight and quality of product.

Most men acknowledge the superiority of well-bred grade stock over common scrubs, but few appear willing to give to pure-breds the credit due them for the existence of good grades, yet any intelligent man, by doing a little honest thinking, must be convinced that, but for the pure-breds, there would be no good grades, and no improvement over the scrub in any class of stock. And yet, how often does it occur that when, for instance, a grade cow is bred to a pure-bred bull and the produce is a male, it is, owing to its superior appearance, kept entire and used as a sire, with the result that little improvement is made in the herd in comparison with what might have been effected by the continued use of pure-bred sires, which, if well chosen, would have continued the grading-up process until the value of the herd would probably, in a few years, have been doubled.

We do not advise farmers generally to go into the breeding of pedigreed stock as a special business. We do not believe it would be in their best interest nor that of the breeds, for the reason that all are not qualified by training, taste and judgment to take up the work, and that probably but a small proportion would make a success of it, owing to the lack of the qualifications named; but in this age, with the superior advantages which young farmers enjoy for the acquirement of knowledge concerning improved methods of feeding and management of stock, it is passing strange that many more do not make a commencement in a modest way with pure-breds, and that the rank and file of farmers do not make it a point to improve their stock in all lines by the use of pure-bred sires. The satisfaction of seeing good stock in one's stables and pastures itself adds much to the pleasure of farm life, and when we consider that, from the practical dollar-and-cents point of view, it is certainly more profitable to rear and feed the improved class, there appears no sensible reason for neglecting to effect the needed improvement in the only way by which it can be done, and that is by the use of a good class of pure-bred sires. If the cost of such were unreasonably high, it might be considered a valid reason for postponement, but the reports of public sales and the experience of those who correspond with breeders, proves that useful sires can now be secured at prices the general farmer can well afford to pay. It is practically certain that a pure-bred sire will add sufficiently to the value of his offspring over that of a grade in the usual term of his service in a herd or flock to more than recoup his cost and keep, and in many instances may be sold for nearly if not quite his original cost at the end of his term.

In discussing this question, the mind naturally turns to cattle—a class of stock which nearly every farmer keeps, either for beef or dairy purposes, but the doctrine of the value of pure blood, as a fact as well as a theory, applies equally to horses, sheep, hogs and poultry. The potency of

the pure-bred sire in effecting improvement has been so clearly proven in observation and experience as to be beyond question, and the better he is in individual make-up, and the higher the standards of his recent ancestry in character and record of production, the more likely will he be to impress those desirable qualities upon his progeny in a high degree. We counsel farmers all to take advantage of the opportunity now presented of improving the quality of their stock, and prepare to profit by the good market prices present and prospective for farm products in all lines a little better in quality than the common. Our markets are expanding, and will continue to expand at home and abroad, and the best quality of product will always command a premium. Let us, then, not be content with slow-growing, common stock and the inferior prices they inevitably bring, but be ambitious to produce the sort that sells quickly at the best prices going. Bear in mind the fundamental doctrine of this article, that the value of the pure-bred is not simply a matter of theory, it is one of the best and most widely-attested facts of experience.

## HORSES.

### High Prices for Thoroughbred Stallions.

The recent sale of the King's horse, Diamond Jubilee, for 30,000 guineas (\$157,550), to the Argentine breeder, Senor I. Correas, following close on the purchase of Cyllene by William Bass for a similar sum, has caused so much discussion that a table containing the names and prices of all Thoroughbreds (and, as far as possible, their ages at the time of sale) which have changed hands for £10,000 or over, will doubtless be found interesting.

It was nearly 41 years ago that the Marquis of Hastings electrified the turf world by his purchase of Kangaroo for 12,000 sovereigns.

The colt had won three races off the reel in the early spring for "Mr. Henry," which was one of the assumed names adopted from time to time by Mr. Padwick, and it was after Kangaroo's victory over the Duke of Beaufort's Koeing (a hot favorite) and a big field in the ill-omened Newmarket Biennial, that the Marquis secured him for what was then, and for some years afterward, a record price for a race-horse, says "Hagioscope" in the London Sportsman.

Not until 1872 was Kangaroo's figure exceeded, and then for the stallion Blair Athol, who was purchased at the sale of the Middle Park Stud in July, 1872, for 12,500 guineas. Three years later this sum was surpassed, the late Duke of Westminster giving £14,600 to the late Robert Peck for Doncaster, whom the vendor had previously acquired for \$10,000.

Not until 1890 was Doncaster's figure equalled. Count Lennsdorff in that year paid £14,000 for the Derby dead-heater, St. Gatien, who for a long time stood at the Grady Stud before in his old age, being acquired at a low figure by the Americans, owing to the stud success of his best son, Meddler.

From 1890 to the present day prices for the best stallions, mares and also younger animals of fashionable blood have gone on increasing, and in September, 1891, the late Sir J. Blundell Maple paid £15,000 for the triple crown winner, Common.

Scarcely had the sensation caused by this big deal subsided when the news was cabled from the States that St. Blaise, who in 1885 had gone to Mr. Lorillard's stud, had been sold at auction for £20,000, which was the opening and closing bid.

In 1892, Ormonde, whom the Duke of Westminster had parted with three years previously for £12,000, again changed hands, his South American purchaser, Don Juan Boncau, selling him to W. O'Brien Macdonough, the California breeder, for the colossal sum of \$150,000, or £31,250.

Even here, however, finality in the matter of high prices was not reached, for, in the spring of 1900, M. Edmond Blanc, at the sale of the late Duke of Westminster's horses in training, easily beat all previous records, by securing Flying Fox for 37,500 guineas. Later in the year, too, the record price for a yearling of 600 guineas for Childwick was beaten when Sceptre was sold at the July sales for 10,000 guineas.

Since the day of Flying Fox's sale Cyllene and Diamond Jubilee have both fetched more money than Ormonde, without, however, approaching the sum paid by Edmond Blanc.—(Rider and Driver.