

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AMERICAN SUBSCRIBER'S OPINION.

The great majority of subscribers in Canada consider "The Farmer's Advocate" rare value at \$1.50 per annum. We have also a considerable number of readers across the International Boundary who cheerfully pay not only a dollar and a half, but the extra dollar for postage now necessary on papers mailed from Canada to points in the United States. Here is an opinion lately expressed by one of these American subscribers:

"You will please find enclosed \$2.50 for a renewal of my subscription to 'The Farmer's Advocate.' Your paper is certainly O. K. I take a number of others from the States, and they are not in the game compared with yours for good A-1 common-sense reading and instructive matter."—[From J. Arthur Sylvester, Pa.]

DUAL - PURPOSE ABERDEEN - ANGUS.

The desirability of the dual-purpose function among the recognized beef breeds gains increasing recognition. An American advocate of the Aberdeen-Angus urges Doddie breeders to develop the milking function in their cattle. In the coming rise in values and subdivision of farms he foresees the growth of a demand for a dual-purpose as contrasted with a special-purpose beef breed. There are already some good milkers among the Angus, and he thinks that by systematic effort on the part of its breeders the dual-purpose quality of the Black Polled cattle might in a few years be raised to a parity with that of the Red, White and Roans. "Whenever this is accomplished," he says, "the demand for them will be increased a dozen fold."

HORSES.

ARAB HORSES.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I wish for a little information as regards the Arab horse. Is it noted for its speed, and what are its general characteristics? ARAB.

The Arab horse is the Thoroughbred of the East, just as the English Thoroughbred is of the West. Arabia was the original home of the breed, though now there are a number of strains developed in other countries, particularly Persia and Turkey. They are used to a very considerable extent in Asia, as far east as India.

In color, the Arab is bay. Contrary to general opinion held in this country, probably over 85 per cent. of the breed are dark in color. No Arab horse is ever born white, but always bay, chestnut or dark brown. There are, however, strains in Turkish Arabs, particularly, that are gray or white, but the true Arab is never light in color. The best are bays, with black points.

In general form of the body, there is a beautiful balance of power and symmetry; and, for racing, to which the breed is dedicated, the great general length gives it a long reach or stride. The head is not proportionately small, but beautifully formed, large and broad above the eye, and tapering from the eyes to the muzzle, with a depression or hollow in the face. The nostrils are wide and long, capable of being greatly dilated. The neck is light, but strong and muscular, moderate in length, and arching gracefully from the poll to the withers. The withers are high and long, but too thin. The back is short, the loins broad, well coupled and powerful. The croup is high, the tail set up rather high. The quarters are powerful, being both long and deep; the gaskin full, thighs well let down, and hock clean and large. In front he is much the same, the shoulders long and well developed. The arm is strong and muscular, knees large and square. The legs are well-boned, the feet large and open at the heels.

The Arab horses are noted more for their wonderful powers of endurance than they are for speed. They are used for racing in the East, but events in which they compete are almost always restricted to their particular class or to ponies, for the Arab seldom exceeds 14 or 14.2 hands in height. Given even liberal allowances, the Arab in racing stands no chance against foreign rivals. It is used for polo, but high-class English polo ponies excel it in speed and cleverness. In India they are used to some extent in hunting and steeplechasing, but, as a general rule, are not such clever jumpers as ponies having a strong admixture of English blood in them.

The announcement is made, according to Western advices, that an organization known as the National Breeding Bureau, which is in some way allied to the British War Office, has begun the inauguration of a big scheme of horse-breeding in Canada. The plan of the Bureau is to place Thoroughbred stallions at different points throughout the Dominion, the produce of such sires to be available for the British Army remounts. Col. McLaughlin, who has been in Canada for the past three years, during which time he has been studying horse-ranching conditions in Alberta, is interested in the operations of the Bureau, as is also W. Oswald Brown, of Calgary.

CARE OF WEANLINGS.

An important period in the development of the horse is the first winter of his life. Under fair treatment, the horse grows more in his first year than in any other. In order to making the most of him, it is, therefore, important that the colt be so fed and cared for that it is kept growing constantly. It is only by such care that it can be grown to the fullest size it is capable of being brought to. The first winter is the most critical of its life, as, if it be allowed to lose its foal-flesh, it can never recover it; and, in order to making the best of it, the feeding and management should be such as to retain the good foundation laid by the mother's milk. The foal should be taught to eat oats and bran before being weaned. When cold weather comes, it should have a roomy box stall, and if two are kept together, they will be better for the company. The colt should have been used to being handled when a few days or weeks old, and, if not taught to lead before going into winter quarters, the sooner it is so trained, the better. It is a good plan to keep a comfortable halter on it continuously, with a short shank, say, about six or eight inches long, hanging from it, so that it may be easily caught and handled in its stall at any time, its legs handled, and its feet lifted, so that when they need attention, the colt will make no objection. Standing on the soft bedding and the accumulated manure, the colt's feet are liable to grow long, and should be occasionally shortened, and kept level by means of a rasp. The colts should be turned out for exercise in the barnyard for an hour or two on all fine days, when cattle and older horses are stabled, as exercise is essential to development of muscle and strong bones. There is no more suitable or better feed for the colt, ordinarily, than good clean clover hay, oats and bran, with a carrot or two daily. If treated as above indicated the first winter, it will look after itself in summer, and do well enough on good pasturage. If it is purposed to prepare it for show purposes, it may be more rapidly developed by means of a moderate supply of cow's milk and oil-cake meal, in addition to the clover, oats and bran; but, with such feeding, ample exercise will be all the more necessary, in order to keeping it in the best health and condition.

TEACHING COLTS TO FOLLOW RIG.

Among the many devices contrived for teaching colts or horses to lead behind a rig, perhaps the simplest and one of the most effective is made by taking a long rope, or heavy plow line, and extending it through the halter ring over the back, having a loop act as crupper. The rope can be doubled and one knot made about the middle of the back, and another further back, to form a crupper. By passing one end on each side of the neck through the halter ring, it will remain in place. When the colt pulls back, this rope (which should be tied to the axle or rear part of the wagon) tightens, and the rope device pulling under the tail brings him to his place. One or two pulls generally cures any tendency to rush back. The same treatment will cure a halter-puller in the stable.



Imported Clydesdales.

Reading from left to right: 1. Blythe Baroness (20658), bay, foaled 1905, sire Baron's Pride. 2. Baron's Rose (20659), bay, foaled 1905, sire Baron's Pride. 3. Fairbairn (18398), (12473), bay, foaled 1905, sire Baron's Chief (10971). Owned by J. D. Larkin, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.