

### A Paper on Horse Breeding and the Treatment of Brood Mares and Foals.

Read before the Brandon Farmers' Institute by T. M. Percival, Brandon.

The subject for our discussion to-day is one of such magnitude and importance, relating, as it does, to the noblest of animals relegated to the service of man, it is impossible in one short paper to give anything of a detailed account of their breeding or management; I will, however, endeavor, in as plain and concise a manner as possible, to touch upon some of what I consider the most important parts of the subject. It is only by a thorough discussion, and getting the experience of each other, we can obtain the best results.

First—Do not recognize luck in breeding. "Luck is a fool, pluck is a hero," is one of the grandest of many maxims voiced by sages, and with it as a central figure many edifices of success have been reared.

"Success," Matthews says, "always a coy maiden, is now, when crowds of wooers have made her saucy, harder than ever to win." And so it is in all enterprises, especially so in breeding of horses.

The haphazard system of mating in the past has left the majority of would-be horse breeders in this province with a large number of nondescript colts on their hands, which will be difficult to sell at a price to cover the cost of raising—in fact, in the present state of the horse market, difficult to sell at any price; whereas, a good animal of a fixed type will sell, even now, at a profit. However experienced and painstaking a breeder may be, he will, from some cause, have a few weeds. It is therefore of the utmost importance, in attempting to breed horses successfully, that we should, at the outset, know what type of horse we wish to raise, and never from any cause be led away from our ideal.

Second (and of paramount importance)—Never breed an unsound mare or use a sire that is unsound (by the term unsound, I mean any hereditary unsoundness); if you do, the chances are you have an unsound offspring.

Third—Use great care in the mating of your mares. There is now in this district a sufficient variety of stallions to suit any class of mares; there is therefore no excuse for a man using an unsuitable sire. Take particular notice of your mare's size, style and general formation, and then select a stallion to mate. Say, for instance, you have a mare between ten and twelve hundred. I would use a Hackney or Cleveland Bay, and the result would be a stylish driver or saddle horse for sale, or a good serviceable horse for the farm; if a filly, breed again on the same line and keep to it, in the end you will have a class of horses that you would not have to go away from home to sell. Again, suppose you have a 1300-lb. mare or upwards, breed to one of the heavy breeds, and keep to that line of breeding.

There is no greater folly than extreme crosses. Cross breeding is not satisfactory between heavy and light breeds of horses. Now, for instance, say you have a team of mares about 1150 or 1200 lbs., clean boned and active; you want to breed them to something and would like to get something heavier, you breed them to a big Shire or Clyde, thinking by that means to get what is termed an agricultural team, with the result, in nine cases out of ten, you have a fair farm team, at the same time a team there is no market for if you want to sell them; whereas, if you had bred them to a coach horse, Cleveland Bay or thoroughbred, you would have had a grand team for the farm or a carriage team that you would have had no difficulty in finding a market for. In giving these illustrations, I do not wish it to be understood that the weight of a mare is a safe criterion as to what sire to use. As I stated in the beginning, you must carefully study the general make-up of your mare, and then decide, but keep to the line. What we want is a horse to suit the people that can and will pay good prices for what they want. There is and will be a demand for heavy horses, carriage horses, high stepping drivers and saddle horses, and those who raise them of good quality and sound will have no trouble in selling them. We have a good class of mares, also stallions with which to mate them, and one of the finest climates in the world for stock. What is wanted is sound judgment in mating, a clearly defined ideal always in view, generous treatment and careful handling of our stock. Once fairly engaged in stock breeding, stick to it, bring your energies to bear upon it, and you will find it interesting and profitable.

In conclusion, I will just touch upon the treatment of the brood mare and colt. I will assume that the mare is due to foal early in the season, before she can be turned on the pasture. In the first place, for the health of the mare and also of the unborn foal, it is absolutely necessary that the mare should have daily exercise; steady work, if the trails are good, or an hour's run in the yard will do. Never back them when hitched up, or let them flounder about in the deep snow. One great cause of the loss of colts is driving on bad trails and walking in deep snow. So long as the trails are bad, and there is any danger of the mare breaking through, keep her off it, but when there is good, firm footing, steady work and careful handling are best. If you want your mare to bring forth a strong, healthy foal, you must give her plenty of out-door exercise in some form. As she nears the time of foaling, say two or three weeks before she is due, provide a roomy, loose box, well ventilated and light, free from draught, and lots of clean, dry wheat-straw for bedding. Turn your mare in loose and get her accustomed to being alone; also get her quiet and accustomed to your moving about and handling her; by so doing there will be less danger of exciting her, if she requires any assistance when foaling. Mares, as a rule, foal very quickly, and it is best not

to interfere with them unless absolutely necessary, though they should be carefully watched, so that assistance can be given if required.

Carefully watch your colt for the first ten days, and see that its bowels act properly, as the first ten days are the most critical in a foal's existence. If you can get them over the first ten days, they usually require very little attention, if the mare is fed judiciously.

The mare should be fed some two or three weeks before she is due to foal and some time after soft food, such as boiled oats, bran, and linseed that has been boiled for 12 hours or longer, so as to loosen the system and provide a generous flow of milk. If from some cause the mare should not have sufficient milk, the best substitute is cow's milk, one-fourth water and a tablespoonful of honey to a pint of milk.

Costiveness, diarrhoea and inflammation are the principal ailments a young foal is subject to. The two first careful treatment will overcome; the last is, in most cases, fatal.

The following are well-tried and the best remedies that have come under my notice:—Costiveness. Rectal injections of luke-warm water every half hour, or syrup of rhubarb with a few drops linseed oil; dose, tablespoonful. Nothing acts more powerfully than injections, and the advantage is they do no harm.

Diarrhoea should not be stopped suddenly; tablespoonful brandy with half a teaspoonful of tincture of gentian and two tablespoonfuls lime-water, in a cupful of linseed tea every three hours.

Inflammation—Apply blanket, thickly folded and rung out in very hot water, to belly; rub the legs well; give teaspoonful laudanum in 2 ounces of water. Repeat dose in two hours if necessary.

#### Hiring a Man for the Season.

Every year it seems harder to get a good man, or men, to work on a farm, even at the present high rate of wages. There are so many avenues open to laborers here—the railways, the bush, city work on sewers, etc., all at far greater wages apparently than the farmer offers, or can offer, that farmers find it very difficult to get sufficient help. In many instances it will be found that the high-paid railway laborer is penniless in the winter, the quarryman is loafing round some tavern, and a great array of unemployed "bone and sinew" is in receipt of relief in winter. If these men will only try steady work for farmers, and work as faithfully on the land as they have been doing elsewhere, they will be more comfortable, live better, be better treated, and not work so hard as they have to do at chopping, shoveling gravel, etc. Again, is it not more manly to work on a farm during the winter for \$10 or \$15 per month, than to beg for relief from the city relief committee after having spent your summer's earnings in riotous living? I hope that some better plan will be put in operation this spring for furnishing farmers with good helpers.

#### NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Horse Sale—Cobbold & Shadwell, Toronto.  
Galloways—A. Mann, Bowmanville.  
Situation Wanted—Box 27, Compton, Que.  
Poultry—Pearce & Brown, London.  
Hay Implements—M. T. Buchanan, Ingersoll.  
Jerseys—Mrs. E. M. Jones, Brockville.  
Berkshires—J. G. Snell & Bro., Edmonton.  
Shorthorn Bulls—J. Miller, Markham.  
Poland Chinas—W. & H. Jones, Mt. Elgin.  
National Pump Works—J. McMartin, Montreal, Que.  
Paints—A. Ramsay & Son, Montreal, Que.  
Pumps—W. H. Van Tassel, Belleville.  
Baking Powder—W. D. McLaren.  
Fertilizers—Nichols Chemical Co., Capetown, P. Q.  
Corbin Disc Harrow—J. S. Corbin, Prescott.  
Seeds—Wm. Ewing & Co., Montreal, P. Q.  
Hay Caps—Symmes Hay Cap Co., Sawyerville, P. Q.  
Wholesale General Merchants—W. & F. P. Currie, Montreal, P. Q.  
Cream Separators—F. Wilson, Montreal, P. Q.  
Herefords—F. A. Fleming, West.  
Shropshires—J. & J. Smith, Paris.  
Hobsteins—F. A. Folger, Kingston.  
G. T. R.  
Poultry—L. W. Edsall, Selkirk.

#### Hackneys and Clydesdales

The choicest stud of Hackneys and Clydesdales will be found at the stables of R. BEITH & CO., Bowmanville, including the 1st prize and sweepstakes Hackney stallion, Ottawa, and 1st prize winner in Aged Class, Jubilee Chief. The Stud also includes a number of prize-winning Clydesdale horses and mares.

R. BEITH & CO., Bowmanville.

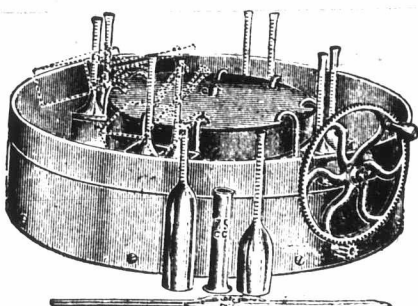
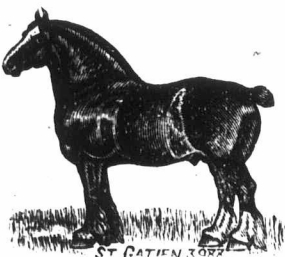
SHIRE HORSES.—A grand young imp. stallion for sale at a low figure.

IMPROVED YORKSHIRES.—Young stock of all ages at farmers' prices.

WHITE HOLLAND and BRONZE TURKEYS.—Orders booked for young birds for fall delivery.

Correspondence solicited. Prices on application.

WM. MULLEN, Hillsburg, Ont.



BABCOCK MILK TESTER.

Anyone interested in above should see our little treatise on the

"B-A-B-C-O-C-K."

SEND FOR ONE.

SEED AND DAIRY CATALOGUES FREE TO ALL WHO APPLY.

Our Celebrated M. S. S. and Other Ensilage and Fodder Corns.

WRITE US FOR PRICES.

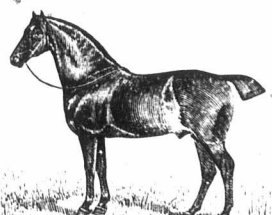
CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

JOHN S. PEARCE & CO.

London. = Ontario.

ROBERT NESS, WOODSIDE FARM.

Importer and Breeder of Yorkshire Coachers, French Coachers, Clydesdales, Clydesdale Mares, Shetlands, and Ayrshire Cattle. The stock has taken more prizes than all importers and breeders combined in the province. I am prepared to sell at prices to suit the times. Give me a call. Canada Atlantic Ry. and G. T. R. on the farm. ROBERT NESS, Woodside Farm, Howick, P. O., P. Q.



BABCOCK

MILK TESTERS.

ALEXANDRA

Separators (Hand and Power).

Butter Printers, = =

= Parchment Paper.

Nicest thing out for wrapping Butter.

La Compagnie du Haras National

30 St. James St., MONTREAL, CANADA.

65 Prizes & Diplomas

in 1891 and 1892

for our French Coach

(Anglo-Normant)

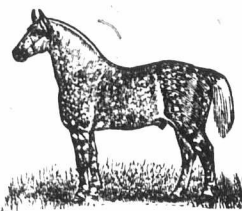
Pereheron and

Clydesdale stallions

and mares.

For sale at reasonable

prices. Give us a call.



Auzias-Turenne,

General Manager.

PREMIUMS.

FOR ONE SUBSCRIBER.

1 Rose—Hybrid Perpetual, Red or Scarlet.	30
1 Rose " " Pink.	30
1 Rose " " White.	30
1 Rose—Climbing, Pink.	30
1 Rose " " White.	30
These Roses are all strong two-year plants, of the best named varieties; will bloom the first year planted.	
2 Ampelopsis Veitchii, best climber for brick house.	30
1 Canna—Madam Crozy; best sort grown.	35
1 Hydrangea Paniculata Grandiflora, two years, strong.	30
12 Plants of either of the following valuable new Strawberries:—Woolverton, Saunders, Lovett, Beder Wood, Great Pacific or Parker Earle.	30
Or 25 Plants of either Crescent, Bubach, Haverland, Mitchell's Early or Pearl.	30
Currents—1 Cherry Red, or 1 White Grape, or 1 Lee's Prolific, Black.	30
Currents—3 Fay's Prolific, Red, or 3 Black Champion.	30
All good two-year-old plants.	
Gooseberries—4 Downing, best sort.	30
Grapes—4 Concord, or 3 Worden.	30

FOR TWO SUBSCRIBERS.

12 Plants of Cuthbert, Golden Queen or Marlboro Raspberries, and ten of any variety of the Strawberries named above with either lot of Raspberries.	60
1 of any variety of Grapes named below, or one each of any 4 varieties:—Worden, Moore's Early, Brighton, Niagara, Massasoit, Wilder, Lindley or Salem.	60

FOR THREE SUBSCRIBERS.

Any 4 collections named for one subscriber, in above list, all to go to one address.	90
1 Industry Gooseberry, 2 years.	90
4 White Smith " "	90
3 Moore's Diamond Grape.	90
15 Finest Mixed Colors Gladiolus.	90
All plants will be packed in the best manner in damp moss and oiled paper, and sent post free to your post office address.	