

from rural districts. If this were done, interest in the question would revive and teachers would prepare themselves to take up the work.

While the farmers expressed themselves clearly and strongly in regard to the advisability of teaching agriculture in public schools a few years ago, there remains at the present time a definite and necessary work for them to do. If the Department of Education is postponing action, as it would seem by present indications, until farmers have expressed themselves again on this matter, then there should be no delay in getting to work.

We believe that the farmers of this province want agriculture taught in the schools and desire that their boys and girls in preparing for life's work shall have their minds directed towards the farm and not away from it, as is the inevitable tendency of the present school curriculum. If this be their wish then let every farmers' institute and kindred organization in the province make its influence felt in no uncertain way. If need be, let them pass strong resolutions informing the Government of their wish in the matter. We believe that nothing short of the compulsory teaching of agriculture in all rural schools and in all high schools and collegiate institutes drawing from rural sections, should be demanded. Anything less than this will only leave the way open for further drifting on the part of those whose duty it is to further the educational interests of the province.

Ontario has, in times past, and justly so, boasted of her educational system. Whatever may be the condition in other branches, we know that her progress in agricultural education in the public schools is nothing to be proud of. Instead of advancing, she is going behind. Other provinces are ahead of her in this particular. Manitoba and the Territories have recently taken up the question and made the teaching of agriculture compulsory in all their public and high schools. The teachers there are compelled to take up agriculture whether they wish to or not. And what is more, the text-book on agriculture authorized by the Department of Education, for Ontario several years ago, for use in Ontario schools, has been adapted to the needs of the West and its use made compulsory in the teaching of this subject. Educationalists in the West speak very highly of this work. It has also made a name for itself outside of Canada. Several of the States of the Union have authorized it as a text-book for public schools, and in many cases its teaching is made compulsory. There is, therefore, no excuse for delay because a suitable text-book is not available. If this book is not what is required, then it is the duty of the Department to provide a suitable one.

During the past year or two, what is known as nature study has come into prominence, and not a few look to this to supply the place of agricultural teaching in schools. But will it do it? We are very doubtful. Some of the nature

study text-books recently authorized, don't give much encouragement that the mind of the pupil will be brought directly in touch with rural life and rural conditions by a study of this subject. Unless this is done the nature study course will fail to meet the demands of farmers in so far as agricultural education is concerned.

The recent announcement of the Department of Education in regard to courses of study, in so far as it relates to agriculture, is somewhat disappointing. An agricultural course is provided for in high schools, but it is optional. In regard to agriculture in rural public schools it is practically in the same position as it was five or six years ago, when the Department's first announcement on this subject was made. Agriculture then, being optional in both public and high schools, and with so many compulsory subjects to take up the time and energy of both teacher and pupil will, in our opinion, receive scant attention. It should be made compulsory, especially in rural public schools.

The American Syndicate Man in Eastern Canada.

An announcement appeared in a recent issue of the *Fredericton, N.B., Gleaner*, intimating that a representative of McLaughlin Bros., stallion importers, Ohio, was in that district, with an imported Percheron stallion, which, so the article reads, he was convinced, would do a great deal to improve the breed of horses. The article finishes with liberal praise of the many accomplishments of the said Percheron stallion and of Mr. Cool, the representative of McLaughlin Bros.

"The reader's interest considered first," is a good motto in journalism. Local papers in the Maritime provinces, and elsewhere, should be very guarded as to what they say about new arrivals and novelties, especially connected with the improvement of live stock. Farmers also should consider carefully what they are about when they are dealing with a firm which, as the announcement states, "last year disposed of 400 horses of this class at prices ranging from \$3,500 to \$6,500, with the best of terms."

Here are a few facts to consider. Imported Clydesdale and Shire stallions of fine quality can be bought at prices ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500 each. This year there has been imported into Canada by some of our own horse breeders, well-known and reliable, and who are right here where they are amenable to legislation meant to protect the farmer, perhaps, the grandest aggregation of Clydesdales that ever left Scotland. Their case should merit the attention of any individual or company that has \$3,000 or \$3,500 to pay for a stallion to improve the horses in their district. The horses that have held the championship at Chicago for the past six years have been the get of no better horses than their importations represent. This should be as creditable a showing for Clydesdales to bring to this country as a gold medal purporting to have been awarded in Paris. The high-

est price ever paid for a draught gelding on Chicago market was for a Shire. And it should be remembered that this was in a country where the Percheron has more adherents than anywhere else outside of France. It should also be remembered that in the British market the Percheron grade must be possessed of considerable Clyde or Shire type in order to command any sale at all. The horse that has the size and quality, combined with good action, is the horse for the farm and for the city, the one to sell and the one to breed.

Canada needs good horses, irrespective of breeding, but not irrespective of much that has made some breeds famous. Good, large, hard, sound feet, with large wide heels, large, roomy, open coronets, not tight or fine or with any bound in appearance, well sprung pasterns, and clean, flat, bone, large and straight, no winding of the front feet, or turning outward of the hocks as the feet are carried forward, are the things that are wanted, and wanted a great deal more than a big beefy body, which is hardly worth a leather medal without them. If a Percheron stallion will bear critical comparison with a good Clyde or Shire along these lines, and there is opportunity for ascertaining if his immediate ancestors have measured up to the same standard, then it would be safe to buy him at the same price one would have to pay for a good Clyde or Shire. One won't measure up to this standard, then don't let his fat, fine looking top, and the big bow on his neck, beguile any farmer or body of farmers into parting with their good money.

Mr. Beith's Hackneys Win.

The only Canadian harness exhibitor at St. Louis was our veteran and premier importer and breeder of the Hackney, Mr. Robert Beith, of Bowmanville, Ont. It was somewhat disappointing to learn that Messrs. Graham Bros. were deterred from competing in the Clydesdale ring as they intended doing, owing to the intense heat, to which they feared to expose their splendid stud. There is little doubt, however, that had they attended they would have had their own way, as Mr. Beith had in the Hackneys. Reports to hand give a number of the awards. The splendid Hackney stallion, Saxon—97—, champion at Toronto spring show, 1903-4, champion at Chicago, 1903; International, 1903; has again come to the front in the class for four-year-olds and over. Mr. Beith's string has also won first in two-year-old and over with St. David, and third in same class with Cliffe Rosador—219—, first with stallion one year old and under two with Lord Melton—315—. In mares Mr. Beith also won first in four years old and over, and first in mares two years old and under three. Mr. Beith is to be congratulated, not only on his success, but his enterprise in facing the risks and difficulties of the trip to St. Louis with his valuable stable of horses.

Later reports show that Mr. Beith on Saturday last won the championship in the aged stallion class, and also the grand championship with Saxon. He also won the grand championship for mares. This is a record to be proud of. Mr. Beith has won a notable victory for Canada.