

EDITORIAL.

Horse and Sheep Breeding.

"Horses and sheep have fallen into neglect," writes Mr. A. McNeill, who, in another column, favors our readers with some thoughtful and practical observations as the result of a recent farmers' institute tour through a portion of the Province of Ontario. A visitor at the late Canadian Horse Show in Toronto, witnessing the magnificent cavalcades of saddle horses, and the still more attractive and varied exhibition of driving horses and equipages, both of the English and American type, might be disposed to discredit the former part of Mr. McNeill's statement were it not known to be the fact, especially as it relates to draft horse breeding. This would also be gathered from the preponderance of the lighter type of equines at the show referred to. But while the current of popular favor has strongly been set in that direction—the demand from the well-to-do civilian classes for really choice animals keeping clearly ahead of the supply—it is well not to forget how constant and substantial is the call for the heavy draft. Years ago, with the advent of the steam engine, the extinction of the horse was predicted more confidently than to-day; but the railway only created work for him; nor is there yet any more real prospect of his displacement. Canadian horse shipments to England increased enormously last year, and the Governor-General, Lord Aberdeen, in opening the show at Toronto, took an optimistic view of the future of horse breeding, remarking that in the motherland would always be found a profitable market for good horses. We doubt if there is really any more salable stock to-day than good heavy horses; we emphasize weight because that is perhaps more loudly called for than any other essential. Recently there was also a revival of shipments from Ontario to Manitoba and the Northwest, where farmers now realize that during the three or four years past they have, shortsightedly, allowed the industry to "fall into neglect."

The bicycle and the electric car have dealt a blow to the "general purpose" nag, but our safe plan of operations is not to rush pell mell out of horse breeding, but, rather, to breed with greater discrimination both in the choice of mares and mating, and then giving the progeny such an upbringing as will properly prepare them for the harness, heavy or light, or the saddle. Some years ago officers from England visited Canada on the lookout for suitable cavalry remounts, but they were not to be found here in sufficient supply. We have improved a bit in that direction since, but horse stocks generally in Canada are now lower than they have been for many years, and we are glad to notice a distinct and intelligent revival of interest in that direction, which we hope to see characterized with steadiness of purpose. A salable horse is not produced in a hurry, and it will be several years before any material addition can be made to the stock of the country. The greatest obstacle for some time to come will, we apprehend, be the securing of suitable brood mares of the various types.

A few words now with regard to sheep, which in his travels Mr. McNeill has also found fallen into neglect, for which the low price of wool and lambs and the ravages of dogs will probably be blamed. When we deliberately think over the many characteristics that commend the peaceful sheep to our best care on the farm, we must certainly deplore the occasion of such a statement. As good an authority (if we need to quote authorities) as Prof. John Wrighton, himself a thoroughly practical and successful sheep raiser, whose penchant is for the early-maturing Hampshire, observes that the whole world produces sheep, but the whole world, with its steadily increasing population, consumes them—fleece and all. The extension of sheep farming, he points out, keeps up the price of ewes, and sheep breeding stimulates the trade in rams. Natural vicissitudes often decimate flocks so that years are required to recover lost ground. Lately we notice that millions have actually been dying from the effects of drought on the Australian plains. Sheep are not to be increased by simply "writing them up" or decreased by writing them down. Climatic fluctuations and epidemics have more to do with the sheep population than the effusions of literary agriculturists. Sheep are in themselves profitable. What stock are so easily cared for, subsist on so little, and give so good returns therefor? Two crops a year they yield us. These columns have borne testimony from time to time

to the satisfactory condition of the British sheep breeder during past years. To the wail of agricultural depression going up he has not been a contributor. The unassuming sheep has helped its owner to withstand the evil times. "Why," asks Prof. Wrighton, "are sheep profitable?" and he answers his own question: "It is because the price of mutton always rules higher than the price of beef, while the wool at least pays for the labor expended on the flock. Again, sheep make better use of their food than cattle. They benefit light, arable lands in a two-fold sense; first, by manuring, and, secondly, by consolidating it."

There is no question about the natural adaptability of Canada for sheep husbandry. The winnings of Canadian flocks at the Columbian Exhibition and the phenomenal sweep made by Canadian fat sheep at the great Madison Square Garden Show last fall will not soon be forgotten. For years United States breeders have drawn their main supply of breeding stock from the healthy, high-class flocks of Canada. The remarkably varied soil, climate, and foods of the Dominion all suggest variety in breeds used and in management, and our nearness to great markets, in contrast with New Zealand and Australia, all suggest the possibility of greatly extending the scope of our sheep breeding operations. Last season witnessed a slightly improved price for wool and an immense increase in the exports of Canadian sheep to England, the numbers being 217,768 in 1895 as compared with 139,763 in 1894. In England the outlook for wool is that prices for some time to come will range better than the average of the past ten years. Breeding stocks were sold down very low the past season in Canada, and in no department of breeding is there a more hopeful tone, which, if not positively buoyant (for the halcyon days of high prices have not yet returned), is at all events, to put it mildly, one of steady security and well deserving of the very best attention instead of neglect.

A Famous Stud.

The famous stud of Robert Beith & Co., situated at Bowmanville, Ont., has been before the public as the home of the highest class of Clydesdales for a great number of years, but lately it has been more noted for its world-renowned Hackneys.

Our frontispiece represents the famous Jubilee Chief, who has been winning first prizes ever since he came to this country, some five years ago, fittingly crowning his honor-roll of triumphs by capturing first for Hackney stallion and three of his progeny in Toronto at the Canadian Horse Show a fortnight ago, thus demonstrating his potency as a stock getter.

Jubilee Chief was bred by Wm. Martin, Scoreby Grange Gate, Helmsley, Yorks., Eng.; foaled 1887, and having for his sire Pilot 1323, his dam being Queen of the Forest by the celebrated stallion, Fireaway (Griffith's). He is a beautiful dark velvet-brown of grand conformation, great style and action. He is proving a wonderful sire, and in the show ring is hard to surpass, having to his credit, previous to 1896, first at Toronto Industrial, 1891, 1892, 1893; first at spring stallion show, 1893; first and world's championship at Chicago, 1893; first in Toronto on three occasions with three of his get, the last one of which was at the recent Canadian Horse Show.

In Mr. Beith's stud may also be seen a number of other grand specimens of the Hackney breed. Lord Roseberry, by Jubilee Chief, dam Florence, is a horse of beautiful mold, a dark brown in color, and possessing good action, like his sire. Lord Roseberry's winnings were second as a three-year-old at the horse show at Toronto in the spring of 1895, third at Toronto in the fall of 1895, also second as a two-year-old same place, and fourth at the recent show.

The four-year-old stallion, Banquo, also by Jubilee Chief, and from Mona's Queen, is a handsome brown of superb form and action, with a flash and style about him that will always find him ready admirers and make him a favorite. His winnings are second at Toronto as a foal and first at all leading Canadian fairs since (except at the late show, when he came second), also champion at Toronto spring fair in 1885 and second as yearling and first as a two-year-old at the great New York show.

The two-year-old filly, Jessica, is a particularly handsome mare, also sired by Jubilee Chief and foaled by Mona's Queen. Her conformation is difficult to fault and her knee and hock action would be hard to surpass. She has carried off the first honors wherever shown and won the sweepstakes prize at the Toronto Fair last spring, in competition with two and three-year-olds. The above individuals would indicate the grand breeding and transmitting powers of the sire, Jubilee Chief.

Other choice productions of the stud are Portia, a beautiful chestnut yearling filly out of imported Florence and by the beautiful stallion, Ottawa, sold at a long price from the stud to F. C. Stevens,

Attica, N. Y., where, unfortunately, he died some time ago, as mentioned in the *ADVOCATE*.

The breeding mares include some grand individuals, such as Mona's Queen, by Lord Derwent 2nd, by Denmark, a handsome chestnut and the dam of Jessica and Banquo. Lady Aberdeen, also by Lord Derwent 2nd, was a winner of second money as a three-year-old at Chicago, and first at Toronto and Detroit the same year; she and her mate, Mona's Queen, always carrying first and second wherever shown. Imported Florence, a half-sister to Banquo, is producing some grand stock, and is one of the valued members of the stud. The grand mare, Winnifred (imp.), sold to F. C. Stevens, of Attica, N. Y., won first and championship at the Chicago World's Fair, and has a grand record as a winner; a foal of hers won first at Philadelphia last summer with competition of the keenest.

A careful perusal of the report and prize list of the Canadian Horse Show, published in this issue, will show that this stud carried away a number of very good prizes in the keenest sort of competition. In addition to those mentioned above, the three-year-old Clydesdale colt, Locksley, succeeded in winning first in good company. He is a solidly built bay with four white feet. He is out of imported Maria [977], and got by Sir Walter (imp.) [1131].

What Induced Me to Begin Underdraining-- Profits from Tile Draining.

BY R. G. SCOTT.

Three things induced me to begin underdraining: (1) A sense of need; (2) unfairness of others; and (3) increase of knowledge.

1. I have a good farm of 150 acres. Visitors from districts better handled than my land was handled a few years ago told me in a kindly manner that I was not getting from my fields what they were capable of producing. I had not been satisfied with returns from my seeding and tillage. Every new comment by intelligent friends who came to my farm made me more suspicious that I was wanting in some of the first principles of successful farming. I wanted to know the better way, and I came to rejoice over the promise to him who seeks along agricultural lines as well as others. Weeds, thistles, cotton, bleached blades, thin yields, unrewarding threshings for a number of years, set me out to inquire why these things? I plowed carefully, I put in clean seed, I attended to my work, but things were not turning out well. I had begun to farm like a man to build at the chimney instead of at the foundation. By a series of leadings, which space will not permit me to explain here, I came to realize that drainage is the foundation of all successful farming. I began on new lines, and from the year of the new beginning until to-day I have delighted in my calling, and, without egotism, I counted myself a prosperous farmer. All land may not require the exact treatment mine does, but I declare, with a knowledge that I prize, that underdraining constitutes the most important line of thought in agriculture in the Dominion to-day, and I emphatically assert, from an understanding of farming operations in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia particularly, that the main cause of nine-tenths of the unprofitable farming in these Provinces is due to the want of the underdrain.

2. The unfairness of others was a factor in setting me out on a better way with my farm operations. I heard not a few, who were working on the old lines, blaming the Almighty for wet fields, emptying clouds, and poor harvests; others laid the blame at the door of the Government. Sometimes the "Grits" got it, sometimes the "Tories." "This infernal Canada," said a friend of mine; "I can't make things pay in it by farming, and I'm going to the States." He did not go, however. He was dissuaded from the change by hearing me say, "They cultivate oysters under water, but not wheat and potatoes." Here is one who would sell his farm if he could and try the city; and there was another who would quit the soil and speculate in cattle. I writhe at blames cast upon God. I dislike to hear the Government charged with ills belonging to other men. I think Canada, all in all, the best country on this planet. I prefer the country to the city, and I honor the world's oldest occupation of agriculture more than the speculating of modern times. I was of the same opinion years ago in these respects as I am to-day; hence, when some of my fellows were planning to go elsewhere and do otherwise, in days gone by, I was being taken along a better way. Things were brightening up with me, because I was coming to appreciate foundation principles. While others raved, I worked the spade. They cursed when the water came on; I rejoiced as I let it off, and rejoicing turned to better profit than cursing.

3. Increase of knowledge on my part makes me an enthusiast in underdraining. Thanks to the publishers of the best farm papers, to agricultural colleges, to men of common sense who talk at institutes, to those who use the pen to give others valuable information on the science and art of successful farming, for what they have done, I am indebted to them. I have gone from home to get knowledge for farm work. I have brought knowing ones to my place to give me information. I wish all fellow farmers would prize these twelve things: (1st) That we must get surplus water away from the soil if we are to succeed on the farm; (2nd) that the best way to get it off is to let it go down the tile in the underdrain; (3rd) that manure is turned to advantage in clay soils only when they

are underdrained. The water is put in a work its way to the surface where it works water and gets the soil; (6th) fertility; (7th) drained land rust; (8th) reduced to a well drained of summer of the season of as compared ground pasture feed upon is and (12th) the

4. In the underscore of day, before costly that boards, etc., of setting my judgment the drains were replaced. Material for draining are being up to lines: (1) I no longer a ment. One Drained soil the way for asks for ad boon. (3) An undrain is herewith debt to buy quickest was testimony investment is the invest tiles, and i rejoicingly, laid under the rate of

Th
A FLATTER

The lead U.S. refer i picture, wh by sending Here are a equally goo

AN
A very horse bree "Farmer's nipeg, Man engraving, the publish styled "C the finest great bree bred, and C uals depict to the far popular pie panion pic cate" issue home of ev and town, be an orna taste in th and other high ideal Globe, Tor

With t street car digious sc invention that the u business o be profit class hors in as much the marke ness is as is still "C lithograph Advocate, of the fine companio Weld Co inches in

A
Rumor evidently of London tenor of i and bree horse pict uly the have yet subscribe ave that