

well die like men fighting for their lives and these of our children as to starve like dogs with out letting him share our miseries."

Now, we do not say that the Cree or the Blackfoot who reasons in this way is quite right in every respect, but he has quite enough of right on his side to make his case look very plausible to a man in such dire straits as he finds himself.

It need not take long to point the moral to be deduced from all this. Canada has acquired a splendid territory, a country that ought to make her a great nation in the near future, and she has not given anything like honest value for it. It was an easy thing to fill up the country with officials to teach the Indians farming and to ration them (there are always plenty of people who are anxious to serve their country and be well paid for it), but it is quite another thing to make the Indian learn farming and to feed him decently till he can become self-supporting. A little more outlay comparatively speaking would have supplied these tribes with bands of cattle and horses from which to breed, and there is not an Indian in the North-West who would not cheerfully turn stock-raiser. They have many mares in some of the reserves now, but their ponies do not improve as they have only the little Cayuse stallions to which they can breed. Let the agent in each agency keep one, two, or three active and well-bred stallions suitable to cross upon and improve the Cayuse stock, and the Indians would gladly bring their mares to them. Let the agent point out to them the folly of working and riding their colts and fillies before they are properly matured, and they will soon see their breeds of horses becoming valuable. Those bands which have not a supply of brood mares could be furnished with them at a very moderate cost, and in the same way they might be started in the business of cattle-raising. They would take an interest in such pursuits as these, and gradually getting into the economical and thrifty ways of the stock-raiser, the path would be opened for them to adapt themselves to a mode of life more in accord with the necessities of a settled country before any contraction of their ranges would become necessary in the interests of actual settlement, and when the proper time came they would doubtless be willing to sell land as reasonably as any other extensive holders. It is quite true that such a plan as this would involve an initial outlay much larger than our annual expenditure for the sustenance of the North-West tribes now is, but it would be a long step in the direction of rendering them self-supporting, and would be vastly cheaper and pleasanter than the task of quelling Indian uprisings. The present troubles may be quickly over, but for all that many valuable lives have been sacrificed, and the Government may rest assured that the red men of the North West will not quietly starve to death without making further trouble. Would it not then be better to expend a liberal sum and grant them an extensive cattle range to render them self-supporting, than to either feed or fight them till they are exterminated?

THE HABIT OF ACTION.

The *Turf, Field, and Farm* has always been an advocate of warm blood in the trotter, and its intelligent and convincing editorials on the subject have done much toward enlightening the general public on a question of very grave importance to the horse-breeding industry in Canada and the United States. In a recent editorial on this subject the editor says:—

"Some time ago the *Turf, Field, and Farm* remarked that it was doubtful if more running blood could safely be introduced into the trotter than that possessed by Maud S. or Jay-eye-see. The second dam of each is strictly thoroughbred, while the first dam of each was got by a horse partly running bred. They have the quality and nerve force necessary to accomplish great feats, joined to harness action."

It is further explained that it was then apprehended that too much thoroughbred blood would result in a destruction of trotting action, and then follows the remark:—

"The performance of the Dame Winnie colt, by Electioneer, out of the thoroughbred daughter of Planet, a public trial as a two-year-old in 2.23 $\frac{3}{4}$, would seem to indicate that trotting action is not impaired by a larger infusion of racing blood than we find in the chestnut queen. But when we breed a trotting stallion to a thoroughbred mare, or the opposite, we should study the form and temperament of both. Haphazard mating will surely result in failure."

It seems just possible, however, that in the daughter of Planet the blood of Electioneer might have met with something not destitute of trotting disposition or inheritance. We have always believed in the value of warm blood in a trotting pedigree, and as long as a horse will stay on his feet and fully utilize his powers we would say "the more warm blood the better," but we are also of opinion that there are some families of thoroughbreds that take to trotting more naturally than others. It now certainly looks as though the descendants of Old Messenger have considerable "natural trot" in their composition inherited from the old horse, and those who have watched the Trustees are inclined to credit them with natural trotting proclivities. The famous twenty-miler of that name was a son of imported Trustee, and since his time many of the family have shown a disposition to trot. The late Archie Fisher said he had seen Vespucci (son of Planet and Columbia) show as good as a three-minute gait when leading behind a buggy, and later his chestnut gelding Donnybrook by Planet showed extra good trotting action, though of course neither of them had any education as trotters. The dam of our famous Canadian trotter Morse was said to be a half-bred daughter of imported Trustee, and though she had been badly knocked about by the late John Morrissy before she ever saw Canada, she was a very clever old mare on the road even after she was taken to Ottawa. Archie Fisher had early noticed the disposition to trot among the de-

scendants of Trustee, and particularly among those of his grandson Planet, and in his somewhat lengthy career as a jockey, trainer, and owner he had become fully convinced that the Planets at all events had a special aptitude for trotting a fact which he mentioned to us not many weeks before his death.

The success of the Dame Winnie colt is of course the most striking testimony in favor of Planet as a trotting progenitor, but how much of his trotting disposition and action comes from Electioneer and how much from Dame Winnie it will take many breeding experiments to determine.

In conclusion the *Turf, Field, and Farm* says:—

"Clear Grit, by a thoroughbred, out of a trotter, was first trained to run and then was handled for a short time in harness. He has a trotting record of 2.42 $\frac{1}{2}$, and he is the sire of three 2.30 trotters, and of a pacer with a record of 2.13 $\frac{3}{4}$. The running and trotting strains were balanced in him, and as he ran, trotted, and got trotters and pacers, he can safely be cited as an example of how speed at one gait can be utilized at other gaits. The habit of action is not as fixed, is not as difficult to change, as some of the theorists would have us believe. If Darwin himself were alive, and should he come to the United States and have the benefit of object lessons on our tracks, he would be forced to modify some of the views which he has expressed. The American people, through the development of the light-harness horse, have thrown great light on this problem of action.—light which Darwin did not have the advantage of in forming his conclusions."

Correspondence.

SUGAR IN CATTLE FOOD.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

SIR,—Well may the present be called the age of science, for in no other departments of enterprise have its attainments been more manifest than in the improvement of cattle on the one hand, and the cheapening of sugar on the other. In each case there has been a constant effort upward, until the results we now enjoy are truly marvellous. The cultivation of every variety of sugar cane in the different sugar plantations of the world, and the determination of those interested in the culture of the beet, has led to a large increase in the quantity of sugar grown and to an immense improvement in the quality of the raw material. With these advances in the earth's raw product there have followed changes in the process of manufacture which in turn have resulted in further economies. Less than ten years ago the prices quoted in London, England, for sugar cane molasses and beet root molasses were £11 and £7 10s. per gross ton respectively. To-day the difference of value between the two is so small that almost either kind could be bought for twenty shillings more than the difference between these two in 1875. Thus from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per 100 pounds the price has receded to about one cent per pound. It is not probable that the price will be any higher in the face of the keen competition among sugar-growers and refiners for the ascendancy. During the last five