

HORSE

Room for Work By the Canadian Clydesdale Association

A short time ago mention was made of the standards for registration in the Clydesdale Stud Books of Great Britain and Canada. At one of the livestock association meetings a year or so ago the late Mr. Robson (Manitou), drew the attention of breeders to the fact that while four registered top crosses were essential for mares, and five for stallions in Canada, imported stallions were admitted duty free and registered in the Canadian books possessing only three or two registered dams.

On the face of it, such seems an injustice to the Canadian breeder, and the reverse of an incentive for men to try by continuous use of purebred stallions to breed up so as to eventually get their horse stock registered. The secretary of the British Clydesdale Studbook practically admits the contention of our statement in a letter, and editorial recently appearing in the "Scottish Farmer"; although in partial justification for the low standards for registration in Old Country Clydesdale circles it may be said that all the mares and stallions there are understood as practically purebred, that such a thing as a grade or scrub as on this side of the Atlantic is unknown.

It may at first strike some of our readers that our call to put up the bars to short pedigreed stallions and for the opening up of the Dominion Shorthorn Herdbook to the first 40 volumes of Coates are inconsistent; the cases are hardly analogous, as shown by the records of the show yards. In the Old Country there are now 28 volumes of the Clydesdale Stud Book, 52 of the Shorthorn Herdbook, and while practically no new entries from the grade ranks are made into the cattle register, three crosses will put a stallion or mare into the Scottish book, and for a stallion foaled before 1890, all needed is, that his sire must be registered and his dam must be by a registered sire: as Secretary McNeillage remarks, "the present (Scotch) regulations are not severe after 29 years registration."

If the standard for admission for imported horses was raised to equal that demanded of Canadian breeders, would the crack horses be barred out? Investigation shows they would not be. We find that the following noted Clydesdale stallions have registered dams to the number placed after their names, Marcellus 4, Revelenta 3, Royal Chattan 6, Baden-Powell 5, Baron of Buchlyvie 4, Kings Crest 4, Perpetual Motion 4, Labori 5, Marconi 4, Baron's Pride 3, Prince of Albion (foaled 1886) 3, Prince William 4, Baron's Best 6, Clan Chattan 5, C.I.V. 4, Cedric, (foaled 1875) 2, Ciarnhill 3, Woodend Gartly (foaled 1897) 3, Vanora's Pride 4, Prince Thomas 4, Gallant Chattan 4, and so on, so that we can fairly state that the insistence by the Dominion Clydesdale Association on the higher standard would have a beneficial rather than a detrimental effect. The Canadian Clydesdale Association has been singularly lethargic in the Canadian breeders' interests, for whom it ostensibly exists; it meets annually, whines at the Western market which it sees gradually slipping into the hands of other men, and other breeds notably the Percheron, but as it continues to circle its offices around a select few its wisdom or store of knowledge does not increase a particle from year to year. It has for years, as have some other breed associations, subsisted largely on the charity of the Shorthorn Breeders' Association which has borne the burden of a secretary and registrar for practically all the horse and three-fourths of the cattle associations. The C. C. Association might well look into the matter of Scotch registrations and advise the Minister of Agriculture so that the Customs regulations could be changed to keep out the short pedigreed chaps. Fixity of type is not to be expected in a breed where standards are low, neither can farmers expect horses of scanty lineage to do much in the way of improving the equine stock or in perpetuating the draft type of horse.

The Live Stock Commissioner might well investigate the various foreign records of livestock, particularly horses, so that Canadian farmers would not be discriminated against by their own Customs laws or be flooded with horses ostensibly purebred, but really grades. It seems strange that a country that has gone so far as to establish National Records so as to obtain the imprimatur of the government should, because of origin out-

side the country, permit the importation of stock of inferior breeding. No objection could be taken if the stock was equally well bred with our own. Such would not be protection in a tariff sense but would ensure that a country or people possessing two classes of stock, would when supplying Canada, give her the best.

Another matter that the C. C. Association should attend to is to fix a stated fee (say \$3.00) for the registration of imported horses, as it is importers have been harassed by the uncertainty of the charges they would have to pay for registering ancestors.

The time has come, we think, for the abandonment of the old fee or commission system in favor of more business-like methods, both in the matter of the registrar's and secretary's salary. It would be well to publish, for the information of the members of the association and those registering horses, an annual statement similar to the one published by the Shorthorn men, with this improvement, that moneys paid each director for expenses, etc., be charged to him specifically, and not as now, lumped in one big sum. The principle must not be overlooked that registration fees are taxes and that all who contribute have a right to know how every dollar is spent, not only so but it is good business to send out such reports to every person connected in any way with the institution, the more it is discussed and thought about the better for the C. C. Association. It is also in decidedly bad taste to assume that a South Ontario directorate can adequately represent the views and wishes of the Clydesdale breeders of Canada.

This ventilation of the association's methods is not done in a fault finding spirit, but to point out that lethargy and senility bid fair to overcome a breed association, to arouse interest, and to widen its circle of members, aims to which no valid objection can be taken.

The trade in horses between Ontario and the West promises to be unusually active from now until spring opens up. Annually Western farmers invest large sums of money in horseflesh to perform the ordinary work of the farm. The investment is necessary and generally nets fair returns based upon the current value of horse labor.

It is just a question though if many farmers would not be better off, if they bought a few first class mares at a high price and used them for breeding purposes, rather than to depend upon the markets for a supply of working horses. The natural increase of live stock is one of the surest and easiest ways by which a profit is made off a farm, and often represents the sole item of profit on the year's operations.

Has anyone an opinion to express upon the advantages or otherwise of a stable without mangers? In many of the recently built horse stables, the hay and grain is fed on the floor in front of the horse, from which he eats his feed as nature intended he should. The departure from elaborately contrived mangers is a radical one and if the plan is serviceable, should be commended for cheapness, sanitation, and simplicity.

Local spring stallion shows are conducive to the spread of much useful information and education upon horse matters, and agricultural societies might well consider the advantages of holding one wherever there is an interest taken in horse breeding.

FARM

Believes in Using Good Seed

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Having noticed some sharp discussions, re seed grain, in your valuable paper in the last few issues, I venture to give my own experience along these lines of practice.

Being under the impression (like a good many more) that frozen or shrunken seed produced as good a crop as good No. 1 Northern seed, having heard farmers say that they had sowed wheat that graded No. 1 feed and reaped a good No. 1 Northern, with a view to economy I tried the same experiment three years in succession with results that make me blush with a feeling of shame at my own stupidity.

The wheat grew all right, and looked as well as any, to all appearances, but when threshing time came, I generally was about 1000 bushels short in my calculations. The sample was pretty good considering the kind of seed I used, some of which I sowed without even cleaning it. This happy-go-lucky style landed me into about \$1000 debt, all owing to calculating on a fair average yield, but when I came to thresh there was a big shortage at the top of the bin, which we always like to see full.

Last winter I got some new seed. It was an extra good No. 1 Northern and extra well cleaned, having been run through a Perfection fanning mill three times. I sowed on fairly well prepared land. I was surprised this time. I threshed 50 bushels of No. 1 Hard to the acre from this seed, and from my other seed that I sowed, No. 5 Northern went 27 bushels to the acre of a poor No. 1 Northern sample.

A person may save money at seeding by sowing low grade seed, but for every \$10 he saves at seeding he loses \$100 at threshing. This is my own dearly earned, actual experience, an economy of being penny wise and pound foolish, at least that is about the way to estimate the economy of sowing low grade seed wheat. It is also a sure way of being made acquainted with the manager of your local Bank, who very kindly makes up the deficiency at the very low rate of 10% payable quarterly. Better borrow the \$10 on the start to get good seed, as have to borrow \$100 in the fall to make up the deficiency caused by sowing low grade seed.

Sask.

WHEAT HEAD.

A Plan of a Farm Granary.

I noticed in a recent issue some one asking for a plan for a granary, and having recently built one and found it satisfactory I take the liberty of submitting plans of same. I notice Mr. Wolverton, of Brandon, writes in your last issue advocating portable granaries, so just a word regarding them. They have one and only one recommendation, and that is, they are very convenient at threshing time—and of course that is a good deal—and every one must use his own judgment, for my part I prefer a good solid granary, so as I was short of room last summer I set about



BARN AND OUTFIT OF HORSES BELONGING TO T. W. KNOWLES, OF EMERSON, MAN.