

the fruit of the latter is seen for months after the gates of our fairs are closed. It is therefore a great responsibility for all connected with such fairs, whether as presidents, directors or managers to keep clear from the portals of the shows anything that may tend to debase, or neutralize the educative effect of other sections of the fair, for the big fairs of 1906 are the markers of our progress.

The Ontario Government Steps Forward.

The creation of a board of governors for Toronto University marks the start of a new era for that great provincial university, and also affords a precedent for the governments of the Western provinces.

The provincial university for Manitoba needs just such a reorganization of its governing board, at present it is unwieldy, and too much dominated by clerical influence and ideas, not always the most progressive. Many of the great universities south of the international boundary are controlled by a governing board, termed variously, regents, trustees or governors and the plan works satisfactorily. Then, again, most universities have a head, known as the president, generally a man whose mental calibre and breadth is such as to bring honor to and force respect for the institution he governs, such a man is needed for Manitoba's provincial university. At the present time the agricultural college ranks under the government as the leading unit of the present University of Manitoba, and as such is entitled to precedence. Practically the denominational and professional colleges are on a lower level, inasmuch as such are not state aided or state controlled institutions, and only affiliated with the university.

The real advance made by the Ontario government is that it has selected its board of governors from the ranks of business and professional men, as may be seen from the list published in another column. Such a selection is bound to have a good effect on the university, will broaden its policy and render it more useful to the people for whom it was created. It is to be hoped that the government of Manitoba will ere long move in this matter and so arrange the educational system of the province so that there may be no break in the chain from the primary school upwards to the summit—the provincial university. Reorganization of the governing board, a new and more suitable site and other necessary improvements would tend to ensure a broader view to the young man or young woman arriving at the summit, than is now possible. In the mad rush for material wealth, both people and politicians are overlooking the great question of the education of the masses.

Lessons from the Cattle Sales.

The spring sales of pure bred stock are over and in a general sense may be considered as satisfactory. In particular also, they were a success if we except the association sales at Regina and Winnipeg. In both these places the supply seemed to be far in excess of the demand and the limited demand is traceable to several causes. One thing is forced upon the mind and that is the abundant supply of bulls, the demand for these falling quite flat at the association sales and at the private auctions dragged along until many first class animals were sacrificed. The failure of bulls to bring their full value at all the sales doubtless has set breeders thinking. Everyone realized there are too many for the market but all are loath to use the knife. Some have suggested a concentrated system of weeding out under the supervision of an impartial inspector but there are so many objections to this plan that it is hardly probable it ever will be attempted. Last year the scheme was keenly agitated at Calgary but this year the public seemed to want all the bulls and we hear little or nothing about it. Probably by next year both Manitoba and Saskatchewan will take all the bulls offered and the question will be dead until the supply again becomes excessive. Unfortunately no one can tell how many will be sufficient at an association sale but having a mind to the territory to be supplied and the distance buyers travel it would seem that fifty head would be sufficient for Regina and Winnipeg until there is more active demand. By this we do not mean that all bull calves should be kept for breeding purposes. We believe that if half the bulls born were castrated as much money would be made out of the remainder but no one seems ready to take the lead.

Another thing that cannot fail to work injury to the association sales is the practise of putting an upset price upon each animal. When a man puts a price on his bull it is at once assumed that he can get that for him at private sale and the man who bids above that price pays for the privilege of buying at auction and cannot but fail to realize that he has given the owner more than the price he put upon the animal. Few men care to contemplate such a transaction. When the government stands the expense of conducting a sale there should be some reasonable guarantee that when two or more men are through bidding upon a bull he should change hands especially as the upset price is usually above the safety line. This contention is not made solely in the interests of prospective buyers but in order that the association sales may not fail in their object.

The satisfactory averages made by the females at the private auctions augurs well for the pure bred cattle interests. On every farm there will always be a few representatives of the bovine tribe and there seems to be an inclination among farmers to keep something high classed and valuable. Probably these men intend engaging in more extensive breeding operations and to gain their experience leisurely, if so they should meet with considerable success when cattle prices become higher.

Watching cattle sold at the different sales this year one could not but compare prices paid for western stock with the values put upon animals of similar quality in the east and the Old Country. The east of course has its peculiar conditions which give cattle an enhanced value over ours but in England and Scotland the high prices are due to the demand from Argentina, a country very similar to our own except that her winters are milder and labor less expensive. However, our winters are not considered formidable and it requires but little more work to care for ten cattle than for five. In other respects we are like the Argentine, her markets are our markets with the distance in our favor, and if there be any advantage in knowledge and experience it surely is not on the side of the Don. Obviously the only explanation of the situation is in the fact that wheat is easier money, and we are willing to take chances on our store of fertility.

HORSE

It will do a big growthy two-year-old no harm to breed her so long as she gets a chance as a three-year-old.

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There is a deal of good done a horse by letting him out a few hours in the evening where he can get some fresh grass. Grass is nature's spring medicine for stock.

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There is no easing off in the horse market and prices can be depended upon to remain high until the man who begins raising colts now shall have horses to sell.

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Muddy fields and dry, hard, stable floors are the two extremes that often cause dry, brittle, contracted hoofs.

Draft Horses.

THE PERCHERON.

The Percheron horse originated in the Department of Perche, France. Writers generally attribute to him an Arabian ancestry. While no positive historical writings prove that he is an Arab, it is claimed that, by fair historical deduction, he is in fact.

After the defeat of the famous Saracen Chief Abderame by Charles Martel, on the plains of Vouille, the cavalry of the foe fell into the hands of the victors. More than 300,000 infidels were killed on that day, and the horses which they rode were, like themselves, from the East. Upon a division of the spoil, a large number of these horses were assigned to the men of La Perche, of Orleansais, and Normandy, who composed the bulk of the French forces, and it certainly is reasonable to suppose that they left in their progeny indelible traces of their blood. These sires, crossed with the native mares, doubtless laid the foundation of the present Percheron. Writers tell us that stallions were imported from England and Denmark at different periods, and that occasionally fresh Arab blood was introduced to give

tone and ardor to the Percheron race. By careful selection, and by the influence of climate and food, the present draft horse has been produced, one of the most marked features being his color, which is either gray or black, a large percentage being the former.

A peculiar system of horse breeding and raising exists in Perche. Some sections of the province produce, while other sections raise the produce. A mare is expected to produce a foal every year. If barren she is sold, and passes into public use. During gestation she is worked continuously. A few days' rest before and after parturition is all the time that is lost. At the age of about five months the colt is abruptly weaned and sold, and taken to a section where they raise rather than produce horses. Like most breeds of horses, the Percheron has occasionally degenerated in characteristics by carelessness in mating and feeding, by the introduction of undesirable foreign blood, etc., and has again improved by careful attention of the breeders on these points. After the inauguration of the Percheron Studbook, of course, the introduction of foreign blood has not been allowed, and the breed has become a distinct breed, with sufficient prepotency to reproduce its characteristics on the progeny with reasonable certainty, and a sire of the breed, when crossed with a mare of another breed or of mixed breeding, will in most cases transmit to the progeny sufficient of his characteristics to enable a horseman to see at once that the animal has Percheron blood. The modern Percheron, notwithstanding what his ancestors may have been, is essentially a draft horse. His height should be 16 to 16½ hands and weight from 1,600 to 2,000 lbs.; in rare cases he may be heavier. His head of medium size, and carried high; neck of medium length, and muscular; withers rather high, and not so broad as some other breeds; back usually somewhat long; croup long and muscular, and not too drooping; hock coming out well up, well clothed with hair, and well carried; ribs long and well sprung, deep through girth; shoulder somewhat oblique; forearm rather long and well muscled; knee strong and straight; cannon flat and clean, with an absence of long hair on posterior border; a tuft of long hair usually seen on the fetlock pad; pasterns rather short and oblique; feet round and strong, with well-developed frog and broad, strong heels; should stand with feet straight, toes not turning either inwards or outwards; haunch strong and broad; gaskin rather long, and well muscled; hock large, clean and angular; from hock to foot, same characteristics as from knee to foot, except that the hind toes should turn outwards slightly when standing. Color must be either gray or black.

In action, he should walk and trot well, should go straight in front, neither paddling nor rolling, and have fair knee and shoulder action. He should flex his hocks fairly well, and keep both them and his hind feet fairly close together, but not close enough with his feet to interfere. When in action, he should have an attractive, stylish appearance, and can generally move with considerable speed and lightness of tread for a heavy horse.

"WHIP."

What is a Thoroughbred?

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The above question I am repeatedly asked, and really the ignorance that exists regarding the term "thoroughbred" is surprising. So often do we hear the word thoroughbred used where purebred would be the correct one; for instance, some little time ago I was asked to look at a "Thoroughbred" stallion. Upon entering the stable I found the horse in question to be a Clydesdale and not a Thoroughbred; the horse was registered which proved him to be purebred, but not a Thoroughbred as many would in ignorance say, and it is to try and make clearer the real meaning of the two terms that I write this short article.

Let me first explain there is only one breed that the term "Thoroughbred" can correctly be applied to, and that is the race horse (galloper) or Thoroughbred as is the correct name of the breed. There is no such thing as a thoroughbred Clydesdale, Shire, Percheron, Suffolk Hackney, Coach, or any other variety of the equine family, but the one above mentioned. Not only is the term incorrectly applied to horses, but to cattle, sheep, pigs and even poultry; none of them are thoroughbred but all and each may be purebred if eligible for registration in their respective stud or herd books. There are different rules and regulations regarding the registration of purebred animals, which would take up too much time and