

look as though our hard Canadian winters, at which horsemen of ten years ago were wont to shudder, were just what are needed to rejuvenate the overstrained sinews of the campaigning race horse. Hickory Jim bears in the brand of a Montana herd the memento of a period in his strange eventful history in which severe northern winters have played an important part. We do not for a moment recommend a course of freezing and starving for any animal, much less an animal possessing so delicate and sensitive an organism as a race horse, but what we do say is that it is quite possible that the invigorating effects of our bracing Canadian climate, administered in such doses as horses that are well looked after are likely to receive, may prove very beneficial to horses that have spent the racing season in the more enervating regions further south. It is very certain at all events that two of the very best campaigners that the past two or three racing seasons have developed have come from localities that are not famed for "tropical" winters. Turfmen will remember also what a marvellous campaigner Inspiration proved herself after she had taken up her residence in Canada. Thus far the only serious obstacle that stands in the way of the Canadian breeder of race horses is the backwardness of our two-year-olds. Indeed our three-year-olds have so far often failed to show what would elsewhere be rated as respectable two-year-old form, though at four, five, six, and "aged" they have raced well. At present two-year-old racing is so popular that the breeder who wants to make his venture a financial success cannot afford to ignore the early maturity problem, though the solution may not be readily obtainable. It is possible that it may ultimately prove impossible to bring forward Canadian two-year-olds rapidly enough to enable them to have anything like a fair chance in the two and three-year-old stakes, but after all it looks as though we have in the past overcome difficulties that at one time looked quite as serious. Once it was thought impossible to breed thoroughbreds of good size in Canada, though there were several province-breeds of good size then on the turf. In the face of this prejudice Mr. John White bred Fanny Wiser, Chancellor, and Marquis, any one of which is big enough to haul a family carriage, and so one of our great discouragements faded away. Then while Nettie had shown herself a good mare over a distance of ground, people began to think that we could not produce a good sprinter, when behold, Disturbance runs six furlongs in 1.15, while Bonnie Bird shows herself a good one at anything from a six furlong dash up to two miles, or mile heats. We breed so few race horses that we must be patient regarding our progress as compared with States like Kentucky and Tennessee, where breeders of race horses are numerous, and where more thoroughbred foals are dropped on a single farm than can be found in our whole Dominion. In the meantime, however, we have the satisfaction of knowing that when we produce a race horse he is apt to remain a race horse for several seasons, despite the

severest campaigning. Let the youngsters be kept in vigorous health and growing from the time they are foaled, through the winter as well as through the summer; work them moderately as their growth and general development will warrant, feed generously but rationally, at all times keep them clean and well housed, especially in cold weather; and when all these rules are carefully observed it will not be outside the range of possibility for Canadian-breeds to figure in the big two and three-year-old events at Washington Park, Saratoga, Monmouth Park, or Sheepshead Bay.

REGISTER YOUR STOCK.

The cattle interest in Canada is such a permanent one that it is not necessary to furnish the breeders of Jerseys, Shorthorns, Herefords, or any other thoroughbred cattle with any reminders regarding the registering of their calves. In the matter of horse-breeding, however, the case is quite different. Owners of both trotting and running stock perfectly eligible for proper registration are neglecting the opportunities offered them, and in that way letting valuable breeding lines drop into utter oblivion. Such carelessness cannot be too strongly condemned. Mr. Bulmer, of Elmira, for example, owned the valuable imported brood mare Lady Glasgow—a veritable gem for the stud—and yet, though she had been imported at considerable cost, he had not seen the importance of registering the importation and her foals. When Minnie Meteor surprised Canadian horsemen last season with a rare turn of speed combined with weight-carrying capacity of no ordinary measure, there were very few who knew that she was even thoroughbred. Meteor was known as a thoroughbred son of Thunder, but the American Stud Book contained nothing as to Lady Glasgow and her produce. Many jumped at the conclusion that she must be a half-bred mare, and thus through the neglect of a breeder a most valuable strain of blood came very nearly being lost sight of. Mr. Bulmer's neglect brought its own reward. Had it been generally known among American horse-breeders that the dam of such a good mare as Minnie Meteor was one of the most richly bred imported mares to be found on this side of the Atlantic, it is not at all likely that Mr. Patteson would have been allowed to secure such a valuable prize for Mr. A. J. Cassatt's stud without anything in the shape of competition. Lady Glasgow was in the English Stud Book, but there are very few horsemen on this side of the Atlantic who, like Mr. Patteson, keep a copy of that valuable publication; but on the other hand, no one breeds or buys race horses can afford to be without the American Stud Book, and had Lady Glasgow and her produce been properly registered in the latter nothing is more probable than that her owner would have been able to sell her at a very handsome figure. What has been Mr. Bulmer's loss has been Mr. Cassatt's gain however, and possibly the next time the former pays a good strong price for a yearling

filly in the old country, he may think it worth while to send her name and description along with the names of her sire and dam and the date of her birth to the office of the *Turf, Field, and Farm*. But Mr. Bulmer is not the only delinquent in this matter of non-registration. Maj. Peters, of London, has been so neglectful in this respect that though he has one or two strains of horses that race well, their pedigrees are of the haziest description, having been handed down through the cloudy memories of the various grooms, trainers, and stable boys that the Major has employed from time to time. The case of Mr. Frank Lowell, of Galt, is if anything a more flagrant one. Mr. Lowell is a thorough horseman and a careful student of pedigrees. He knows the importance of keeping produce registered, and yet, though he has been breeding thoroughbreds every year, he has not an entry in the fourth volume of the American Stud Book. The facilities for the registration of trotters are also abundant. A line to the *Turf, Field, and Farm* office will always reach Mr. Chester, whose *Trotting and Racing Record* promises to become an invaluable addition to the horseman's library, while the veteran editor of *Wallace's Monthly* is also engaged in the same laudable work of collecting and preserving trotting horse pedigrees. These works to which we have alluded are in the hands of horsemen all over this continent, and the breeder who neglects the facilities they afford seriously prejudices his own interests.

A MATTER WORTH CONSIDERING.

Just now, when the average Canadian farmer is not "pushed" by his work, is a time when he should consider and settle questions that are apt to force themselves upon his consideration at a time when he is too much occupied to give them more than a few minutes' thought at the most. One question that can be settled as well now as at any time is the class of stallion whose services he will next season secure for his brood mares. The usual custom unfortunately is to wholly neglect this important question till the time arrives for stinting the mare. Just at that time the farmer is often "rushing" his spring work as rapidly as he can, and he is glad to have the choice made and the whole affair out of the way. He has not made up his mind what kind of a colt he desires to secure, or what kind of a stallion would best suit his mares. He gives his custom usually to the attendant who has the most persuasive power, regardless of all questions of fitness or desirability. Of course this is all wrong. The farmer should use his own judgment, and use it deliberately and carefully, in a matter of this kind. He should determine what sort of a foal he wishes his mare to throw, and then it need not take him long to decide what horse is most likely to produce (through a union with his brood mare) the kind of foal he has decided upon. The farmer usually has leisure at this season to study questions of this nature, and if he would only use that leisure intelligently it would prove a substantial benefit to him every year.