

should be placed on a higher plane of registration than Clydesdales imported from the home of the breed, the former being given registration numbers on the unsupported statement of their owners as to the breeding, with no inspection as to individual merit, and with only one recorded dam, while an imported mare, accepted for registration in the Scottish Studbook, must show two recorded dams, with numbers, in that book, and wait until she has produced a foal in order to receive a number herself. And, again, I fancy it will take considerable argument to establish the legality of the action of the directors in calling a meeting of the members to consider a published notice of motion, and then springing upon the meeting a motion entirely different in wording and meaning—a motion which, had it been advertised as the other was, would probably have brought out a much larger attendance at the meeting and a different result. The letter of the Secretary on the "problems," in your last issue, serves only to make the muddle worse mixed.

Huron Co., Ont.

HORSEMAN.

### COB OR DRAFTER: WHICH?

During the past year Canada has been fortunate enough to have a large number of Clydesdale fillies brought out from Scotland and sold at auction in many parts of the country. Some of these have been right up to the mark in both breeding and individuality, and, if properly handled, will prove a valuable acquisition to the registered breeding stock of the country. Much, however, will depend upon how they are fed, exercised, cared for and developed. Unfortunately, it is a foregone conclusion that some of them will never amount to anything better than ordinary general-purpose or light-draft stock.

The first thing to do with these fillies is to give them a chance to grow. The great trouble with most Canadian-bred draft stock is deficiency of scale. Size is a fundamental requisite in a drafter. Without size, the draft-bred horse is less desirable than a horse of the lighter breeds. As we have stated before, draft-horse conformation without draft-horse scale, is a poor proposition. To be sure, quality is important, but quality alone does not make a cart horse. Moreover, while quality is mainly a result of breeding, scale is largely—not entirely, of course, but largely—a matter of feed and development. A horse or filly has a given degree of quality to begin with. Whether it attains sufficient size or not, is largely left to the groom. Of course, every animal has its natural limitations. One can't get Clydesdale weight in a Hackney, but it is possible to keep the weight of the Clydesdale down to little more than that of the Hackney, just simply by denying him sufficient feed of the proper kind during the period of growth, particularly during the first and second years.

Stunt a young animal and you permanently curtail its weight. To understand why this is so, consider the bones of the young animal. These are composed of elastic cartilage. Towards each end of the long bones is a center, from which ossification or "bonyfication" extends. The rate at which ossification proceeds depends normally upon the age of the animal and its hereditary tendency, some animals, such as man, requiring a good many years to reach maturity. Once the ossification from one center reaches that which started from the other center, the bone becomes set, and growth in length ceases. The length of the bone, and, therefore, the size of the skeleton, depends upon how well the animal was nourished with bone-making material during the years prior to the complete ossification of the bones. It is plain, therefore, that we must—to use a field metaphor—"make hay while the sun shines." In other words, we must put the growth on the animal while it is young—the younger, the faster. And yet there are men who begrudge a few hundredweight of skim milk—that best of all bone-and-muscle making feeds—to a growing colt.

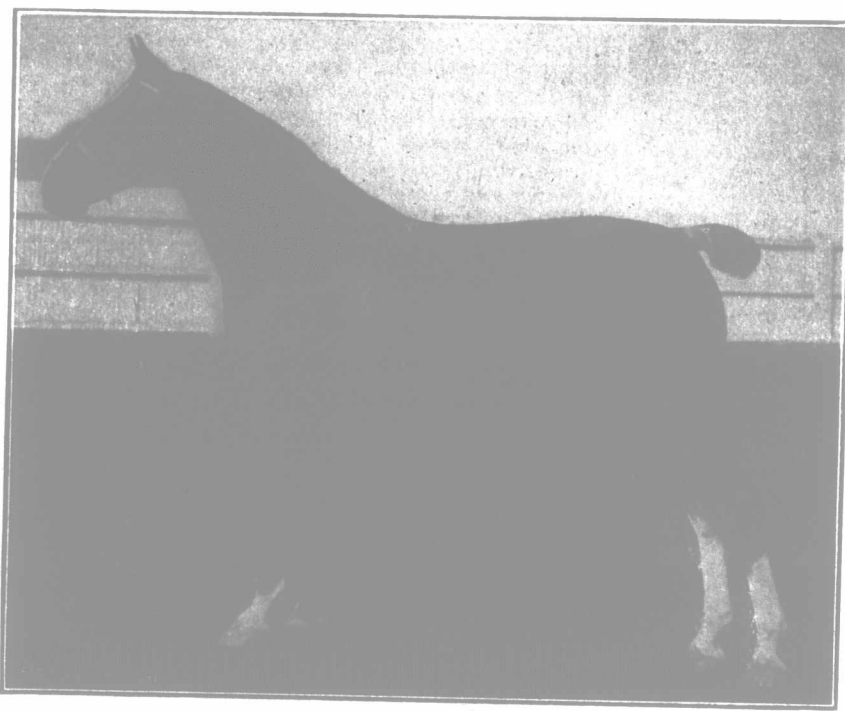
Of course, there are extremes. It is not wise to overdo the kindness, and rush the animal too fast. Such a practice seems to make it soft and flabby. There is reason in all things, and here, as elsewhere, there is a happy medium, but we have only too much evidence that the average Canadian farmer errs on the side of scanty feeding, especially in the case of draft-bred colts and fillies. Feed generously to insure liberal growth in the years while it is still possible to promote growth.

But there is another reason for good feeding. Stunted colts and fillies not only lack size, but their proportions are marred. As an illustration of this principle, we are reminded of the remark of a cattle herdsman, who asserts from considerable experience that good care and feeding will straighten the back of almost any droop-rumped cow. A similar principle applies in horse breeding. To secure full and symmetrical development of all the parts, with cool eyes, proper temper and condition, feed well, and bath. Many a promising filly, with gift of good lines, sinks into oblivion in the hands of a man who doesn't know how to feed, or of a doctor who

proportions, scrawny appearance, unsoundness due to overwork and neglect of the underpinning—these are some of the misfortunes that disqualify what were the makings of first-class horses and mares. Few realize how much good breeding comes to naught through just such causes. If they did, they wouldn't be so sparing of the feed.

If, therefore, you have been fortunate enough to secure a well-bred filly, or, indeed, if you have any other filly or colt, but especially if it be of one of the draft breeds, keep it growing right along. At the same time, see that it has moderate exercise, so as to insure the conversion of the feed into bone and muscle, rather than mere adipose tissue. In the winter, provide exercise, either in harness or in open paddock. This, with proper attention to general health, teeth, legs and feet, should result in realizing out of each young animal something like its inherent possibilities, and making the investment a source of constant pleasure, as well as substantial profit. Breed will tell with the feed and care, but not very often without.

A colt wants to be kept eating and growing and exercising, and anything except fattening, as long as he has a time assigned him by nature to grow. Well-bred and well-kept horses stand hard usage better at an early age than horses that have had a struggle for existence and have an inferior quality of blood in their veins.



Memento.

Hackney mare. First at the London Hackney Show, March, 1907.

## LIVE STOCK.

### MUSLIN-CURTAIN VENTILATION IN LARGE STABLE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Tully Farms, owned by the Solvay Process Company, of Syracuse, N. Y., have some barns that are partially ventilated by means of muslin over openings at the tops of the glass windows. The windows of one barn, in which 86 cows are kept, are hinged so that the tops may be drawn in. The space over the top of the window is covered with muslin. This arrangement permits fresh air to enter without creating drafts, and has been a very satisfactory arrangement in this particular barn. Ventilating flues are provided for the escape of the heated foul air. The muslin arrangement proves more satisfactory than cold-air ducts, which would permit fresh air to enter in sufficient volume to cause perceptible drafts. The arrangement of which I am speaking was put in the barn last fall, and has been tried one winter, with very satisfactory results. Under our conditions, I know of no objections to this method of ventilation. It permits considerable fresh air to enter without creating drafts, and at the same time excludes dust.

In my judgment, it is essential that cow stables, where any considerable number of cows are kept, should be provided with ventilating flues through which the heated foul air can escape. I should plan to have these flues extend near to the floor, so that the air near the floor, as well as the warmer air near the ceiling, may be removed. The removal of the foul air from the stable is quite as easy to provide for as is the entrance of fresh air without drafts.

In the case of stables not provided with ventilating flues, or with fresh-air ducts of any kind, I should suggest constructing flues for the escape

of the foul air, and covering part of the window with muslin. The amount of muslin to be used would, of course, depend largely upon the number of animals kept in the stable and the amount of air-space in the stable per cow. The smaller the air-space, the more rapidly should the air be changed.

We are about to construct a new stable, having a capacity for 96 cows, and are planning to get from 550 to 600 cubic feet of air space per cow. Our cows are mixed Holsteins, Jerseys and common stock. They will probably weigh nearly 1,000 pounds per cow.

G. C. WATSON.

Gen. Manager Tully Farms.

New York State.

### RECOLLECTIONS OF A SHEPHERD.

(Continued.)

The reference in my contribution in last week's issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" to a \$20 prize for a ram lamb at a Toronto exhibition in 1852, may surprise present-day exhibitors and fair boards when compared with the prize-list of the Canadian National of 1907, in which the first prize for ram lambs is \$15, and when we compare a first prize of \$70 for bulls at the former date with \$30 at the latter, and \$60 for stallions in several classes then with \$40 now, our boasted progress in some lines makes no great showing in this respect. And the prices paid for pure-bred sheep

now make even a poorer showing in contrast with those of fifty years ago, when the country was young. At the Provincial Fair, at Hamilton, in 1853, the first-prize Leicester shearling ram was sold for \$120. At London, in 1854, the first-prize two-year-old ram of the same breed was sold for \$240, and a two-year-old ewe of the first-prize pair of Cotswolds for \$120; while at Brantford, in 1857, the first-prize Cotswold shearling ram sold for \$250. These, it is true, were imported sheep, and as the freight and other expenses of importation were much higher then than now, and the risk much greater in the long voyages by sailing vessels, importers had to receive stiff prices in order to make a profit; yet, with a liberal allowance for this, and with due deference to their enterprise, one cannot but think they were not overmodest in their asking, nor the buyers lacking in pluck, when they paid such prices, so soon after their battle with and conquest of the forests that had so recently covered their farms. As evidence that Canadian farmers were not less enterprising then than now, I recall that not a few were willing to pay two to five dollars each for the mating of their best grade ewes with imported rams, and take their ewes ten to twenty miles in wagons in order to secure the best breeding. An amusing incident in this connection recurs to my mind. An ambitious up-country man brought a wagon load of pretty plain sheep fully twenty miles to be bred to our imported ram, and, in unloading them, the under shepherd, then quite a young boy, made the interesting discovery that one of them was a wether. The exclamations of the owner on this revelation would not look well in print, hence are not recited. Suffice it to say, he seemed to find it difficult to do what he considered justice to the occasion, since the joke, he knew, was too good to be kept a secret. Speaking of high prices for rams, reminds me that the Leicester two-year-old above mentioned as being sold for \$240, lived but four weeks after being turned in with a flock of 112 ewes, but the dates of birth the next spring showed that only six of the number were not in lamb to him, and as about fifty were paid for at the rate of \$4 or \$5 each, the investment proved a not unprofitable one, which indeed it would not had only the owner's little flock been bred to him, as his get were so superior they sold readily at fancy prices far in excess of the ordinary. This may appear rather a "tall" tale, but is a modest record, and cuts little figure compared with the story I remember reading somewhere in history of a scrub ram that swam across a river and sired 125 young scrubs in one night, which reads somewhat like fiction, but, in view of the virility of evil, is scarcely preposterous, but for the improbability of his finding so many willing accomplices in so short a period, unless the flock was of the ranch order, numbering in the thousands.

It used to be said that figures cannot lie, but in this age of exaggeration and incredulity a good many people have come to doubting the reliability of much they read in the papers, and some go so far as to say there are few things that lie faster than