

but rather a superabundance of excellence, that has brought down the value of Shorthorns. Indeed, it is hardly fair to assume that prices have fallen upon the whole, though the collapse in the rates for fancy bred animals has had the effect of somewhat reducing the average, in a manner that is at first sight somewhat deceptive. A few years ago, so far as Canada was concerned, everybody who started a stock farm on anything like a prosperous scale considered a supply (large or small) of pure Shorthorn stock indispensable. All that is changed now. The breeder may still fancy Shorthorns, but he is quite as apt to turn his attention to the founding of a herd of Herefords, Polled Angus, Galloways, Red Polls, Jerseys, Holsteins, or Guernseys, and as a consequence less is heard of the race that was really the pioneer of genuine cattle improvement. If anyone doubts that the Shorthorn interest is a growing one, let him attempt to make a list of the farmers who are breeding them, and he will soon find that though they are making no great noise about it, they are still working, and working successfully too.

A MUCH-NEEDED EXPERIMENT.

The feeding experiments that have been carried on at the experimental farm in connection with the Ontario Agricultural College have furnished much in the way of valuable data for both breeders and feeders, and Professor Brown has earned the heartiest commendations from cattlemen all over this continent by his efforts in that direction. Inasmuch, however, as Canada depends largely upon the products of the dairy and the creamery for the prosperity of her farmers, it appears highly desirable that some carefully conducted experiments should be made with a view to establishing, beyond a doubt, the most profitable breed of cows for the production of butter and cheese. It is not merely the amount of butter produced by one cow, but the cost of producing it. If, for example, a cow eats up three-quarters of the value of her milk product it is right that the farmer should know it.

We do not wish to disparage the value of the butter tests made by private individuals, which are likely to prove extremely useful in their way, and we do not want to see cows tested on a diet of rye straw and basswood browse; but as no two farmers house, milk, and feed their cows in precisely the same manner it might be a little difficult to have the relative merits of the Jersey and Ayrshire tested under precisely similar conditions unless they were kept on the same premises, and nowhere could such an experiment as this be more satisfactorily and fittingly carried out than at the experimental farm. The Guernsey also has a substantial claim to recognition as a first-class butter cow, and if her claim be well founded nothing would do more toward bringing the breed into favor with the farmers than the publication of the result of a highly satisfactory butter test conducted on a thoroughly business

basis at the experimental farm and under the supervision of Professor Brown.

OUR ILLUSTRATION.

The subject of our illustration this week is the two-year-old Shire Stallion Prince William, 3,956, winner of the Elsenham Challenge Cup, value 100 guineas, the 50 guinea cup given by the Society and two other prizes, at the Shire Horse Society's Show held last week at the Agricultural Hall, London England. He is the property of Mr. Rowell, of Bury, Huntingdonshire. We are indebted to the English *Live Stock Journal* for the portrait.

A WELCOME EXCHANGE.—One of the most remarkable advances recently made in journalistic merit is that observable in the editorial and general management of the *Chicago Horseman*. It has of late become a thoroughly first-class sporting paper, and one that promises speedily to make more than one of its metropolitan contemporaries in the east look sharply to their laurels. This is as it should be. Chicago is fast becoming a first-class racing centre. Such a meeting as that given at Washington Park is not surpassed by any of the eastern clubs in point of generosity in purses and added money. Besides this, the horse-breeders of the west are taking hold of the business in that genuine and whole-souled manner for which western men have long been noted. They do everything on the broad gauge principle, and now it is only fitting that Chicago should supply the horsemen of the west with just such a "broad gauge" sporting paper as the *Horseman* is proving itself to be.

Correspondence.

BLOOD IN THE TROTTER.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

SIR,—In "Wallace's Monthly" for March I observe the astounding statement that "the Narragansett Pacer was winning races in excellent time long before there was any such thing as an English thoroughbred." This paragraph is preceded by the assertion that the blood of the little Canuck pacer springs from a far longer line of inheritance than "the purest blood of the desert." Now, sir, I never saw a copy of Wallace's Monthly in my life till this number was placed in my hands, but if this be a sample, it seems to me that a very busy man need not regret having hitherto omitted this publication from the sporting litter of his library. Of course the veriest tyro in horse history knows that such statements are but silly exaggerations. The history of the Narragansett pacer is wrapped in obscurity; but it is generally conceded that the Spanish palfrey was the founder of the breed, and its wiry endurance was certainly akin to that of the mustang, derived from a similar Andalusian source and found on the Pacific side of this continent. But the Spanish horse

was a barb, and barbs and Arabs are equally sons of the desert. The Canadian horse, also, may be attributable to the early missionaries of the Catholic faith. These zealous pioneers had to thread the country before roads had been made, and when the animals they bestrode had need to be intelligent, enduring, and sure-footed. Those who like myself have ridden a Californian pony up and down the rugged stairways of the Sierra Nevadas in pre-railway days, know why the old monks brought over animals with the qualifications I have enumerated. And animals of barb blood, that is to say the blood of the desert, spread west and northward to the southern shore of the Mediterranean, were easily accessible to the religious houses either of Spain or France. Every student of the horse accepts the theory that the first importations of horses to the American continent were of barb origin; that is to say, Arabs domiciled in the various petty sovereignties extending from Egypt to Morocco; for the African horse is doubtless traceable to the Asiatic side of the Red Sea. Place's White Turk, who preceded the Royal mares, mostly barbs no doubt, brought into England by Charles 2nd; Captain Byerly's Turk, 1689; and Curwen's bay barb were obtained from places on the north coast of Africa as far from the real home of the Arab as New York is from San Francisco. Considering the then available means of transit, it is fair to assume that all these horses were some generations removed from the blood of native Arabians. But they and others of the same sort founded the present English and American race horse. In fact the name Arab is a misnomer for the greater number of those ancestors to which Eclipse, Herod, and Trumpeter, the three great procreators of the modern race horse, owe their existence. The origin, therefore, of the thoroughbred (so-called) and of the Narragansett pacer is identical, and to localize it as nearly as possible, I should put it in Morocco. The pacer could not have existed as such in America, certainly could not have attained a record "in excellent time," before the produce of the Royal mares were racing at Newmarket under the supervision of Charles, James, and William, say in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. And these animals were nothing if not English thoroughbreds. The racing calendar commences with full particulars of York races in 1709, Sept. 13th, 14th, and 15th, four mile heats; and of one day's proceedings the following account is given:—"The third was a dead heat between Button and Milkmaid; but the riders being guilty of foul play in running, and afterwards fighting on horseback, the plate was given to Brisk." These are English names of English horses, of the same blood as Messenger and Lexington. Do the chronicles of Rhode Island show that the watch was held over pacers at an earlier date? Is it likely that the stock of the old Puritans who settled east of Delaware Bay commenced the wicked and worldly pastime of horse racing before the gentlemen of Maryland and Virginia? These