

Hackneys--1896.

[Paper read by Geo. H. Hastings, of "Deer Park," Toronto, at the Hackney meeting held in the Albion Hotel, May 15th, 1896.]

The owners and breeders of the Hackney horse can hardly fail to regard the year 1895 as a season to be remembered. Prime Hackneys have been in good demand in the home market. Prices made at public auction have been such as nobody could have anticipated a few years ago. Even the unpleasant things said by a few persons who suppose that they are well-informed in regard to horses may not be without their uses for those who desire the steady improvement of the Hackney.

It is a fact that great progress has been made since the Hackney Horse Society was founded on the 30th of June, 1883, and more especially since the Society's first show in the spring of the year 1885—how great even Hackney breeders are apt to forget. But those who do not look with a kindly eye on this evidence of public favor have a better memory. They recognize that, so far as the mass of horse breeders are concerned, the Hackney is the new comer; moreover, they have not cared to look up the evidence that the Hackney has in foreign lands, as well as at home, well sustained the test that is everywhere recognized as the best proof of purity of blood—the power to impress its own characteristics on the produce of mares of other varieties of the horse; not even excepting the Eastern breeds, and the British compound of Eastern and the old English courser which we speak of as Thoroughbred. Hackney breeders know that the purest-blooded Hackney horses are just such another compound, but with the old English Hackney instead of the courser as the foundation. And they may readily admit that as this best breed were so few as to be spoken of as "well-nigh extinct" fifty years ago, Hackney owners had to master more of the science of breeding than has been demanded of the man whose taste is for the racer or the hunter. None should be more ready to admit that short pedigree has uncertainty as its attendant, since in recent years the one particular sought after by the owner of Hackneys is the back-breeding of sires and dams when a man desires to breed only the best.

Ireland saw, last April, the founding of an Irish Harness Horse Society, with an influential array of noblemen and gentlemen as its supporters. The declared purpose of this Society is to increase the supply of harness horses bred in Ireland by farmers who cannot hope to produce a made hunter, as Hackney stallions have been the means by which foreigners have been enabled to send to Great Britain "harness horses with action," for which there is a constant demand. The Harness Horse Society further proposes gradually to form a register of mares specially suitable for breeding harness horses.

The Harness Horse Society had stated that after the Horse Show of 1894 "the different journals were unanimous in expressing their approval of the action of the Royal Dublin Society in reintroducing Hackney classes, stating that it was part of the Society's duty to encourage a development of industry among all classes of farmers, and not practically to confine their efforts to one branch only of the horse trade." As a consequence, no classes were provided for Hackney stallions at the Dublin Show of 1895, and there was only the barest possible recognition of Hackney mares. The excuse was that the breeding of hunters would be made more hazardous by the possibility of farmers using a Hackney stallion. It was further asserted that big carriage horses were harder to get in Yorkshire since farmers there had bred Hackneys more freely, this apparently discounting the promise held out to Irish farmers by the Harness Horse Society.

One result of this dog-in-the-manger policy has been a letter to the *Live Stock Journal* by Mr. R. G. Carden, of Fishmoine, Templemore Co., Tipperary, whose "whole aim," he says, "has been to breed weight-carrying hunters with as much Thoroughbred blood as possible." This unprejudiced observer, acting as judge at district shows instituted by the Congested Districts Board, gives one of the strongest possible testimonies yet received as to the value of the Hackney stallion; and this, be it remembered, when the horse was used over Irish country mares—"deficient in bone, quality, and shape." Mr. Carden says of the young stock exhibited: "With regard to the young stock, the produce of the Hackney stallions, the really splendid show of two-year-olds, yearlings, and foals (particularly the last) which came before us would have done credit to any show in the country, and it was hard to realize when one saw the foals trotting beside their dams that one could have been the offspring of the other, so much has the Hackney impressed his make and shape." Further proof of what the Hackney is already doing for Ireland is found in Mr. Carden's statement that many of the farmers had got nearly double the price for the produce of the Hackney stallion that they had been hitherto receiving. Here is the promise of 1895 for British breeders of the prime Hackney, as it is also abundant warrant of increased efforts of the Irish Harness Horse Society.

Scotland has more than maintained the lively interest which has been aroused there by a few earnest lovers of the Hackney. Her Majesty the Queen is there an occasional exhibitor. There is also a noteworthy readiness to provide classes which shall lead to the more general use of the Hackney stallion. This policy, in such strong contrast to that pursued in Dublin, is followed consistently both by the Highland & Agricultural and

the Edinburgh Societies. County and district associations have thus a good example set them that is rapidly bearing fruit.

The year has, as we have said, been noted for the exceptional prices realized at several of the sales by public auction. Mr. Alexander Morton in March offered Hackneys and ponies from his stud at Gowanbank Darvel. A couple of Hackney geldings made 400 guineas, and the average for nineteen harness horses was £90 6s., as against £67 14s. 6d. for ten sold in 1893. Two sales on following days in the East Riding opened the English season. At Mr. F. Usher's, Middlethorpe, the top price was 145 guineas, for Maggie Murphy, and 100 guineas was given for a yearling filly. The first seven mares sold made a total of 459 guineas. Lady Cranbrook, 205 guineas; 8215 Martha, 185 guineas. Sir Gilbert Greenall's Hackneys were offered at Tattersall's, when Orange Blossom was bid up to 1,400 guineas and withdrawn at 1,450 guineas. Amusement was withdrawn at 900 guineas. Sir Humphrey de Trafford's ponies, sold on September 5th, previous to the removal from Flodden to Swaffield, in Norfolk, were yet more sensational: 4703 Snorer 2nd, 600 guineas; Georgina 5th, 600 guineas; 1081 Dorothy Derby, 600 guineas; Dorothy Derby 2nd, 720 guineas; 8461 Snorer 2nd, 700 guineas; Miss Sniff, yearling, by Cassius, 900 guineas; Snorter 4995, 350 guineas;—the stud of breeding ponies totalling £6,100 10s. The reason of this phenomenal sale is their suitability for breeding Hackney cobs and polo ponies, which are in great demand up to big weight and very fast and active for saddle. They fetch higher prices than the hunters, as they are quicker, and several large breeders are breeding this class.

General Gordon Stud sale of Hackney ponies, on September 10th, was followed two days later by another Lancashire opportunity, Mr. R. Hartley's Woodfold Park Stud at Blackburn. The top price at this sale was 250 guineas for Countess of Derby; 230 guineas was given for Fearless, three-year-old filly, and 170 guineas for Golden Belle, also a three-year-old.

In Canada there has been several good sales made, and only this month Mr. Geo. H. Hastings sold a complete stud of Hackneys and mares to go to North Carolina. They comprised: Black Prince, Miss Noble, Noble Girl, Soubrette, Little Duchess, sire Young Nobleman; Lady Bardolph and Geraldine, by Lord Bardolph, and Norfolk Duchess. Two of them were left at A. J. Cassatt's Farm to be bred to Cadet, and two were sent to Dr. Seward Webb to be bred to Matchless of Lownesborough. The purchaser was more than pleased with them, and it is his intention to cross them with trotting mares, of which he has a large stud.

Americans are more and more demanding style and action in their pleasure horses, and there has also sprung up a good demand for geldings with the Hackney characteristics, which tends to the advantage of the importers and breeders.

Some Parasites of the Domesticated Animals.

[From an address to the Farmers' Institute, by Fred. Torrance, B. A., D. V. S., Brandon, Man.]

The study of parasites covers an immense field, and even if we limit our view to those which are outside the domain of bacteriology, we are surprised and appalled at the vast number and variety of parasites. And so common are they that with most animals it seems to be the normal condition to harbor more or less of these little pests; and when not very numerous an animal seems able to afford food and refuge to its parasites without inconvenience to itself. But it is far different when the parasites are numerous enough to affect the health of the host. Then the parasites seem to thrive the more as the health of the victim becomes feebler, and unless art steps in to the rescue, the animal may lose the battle in the unequal combat of one against thousands, or even millions, and go to an early grave.

In the Province of Manitoba there are some varieties of parasites which are very common and entail great loss to farmers, especially among young stock, and it is my purpose to say a few words about these special varieties.

LICE.—*Pediculi*.—All the domesticated animals may be affected with lousiness, and each species has its own variety of louse, but in many cases the lice will attack more than one species. Thus, some varieties of the horse louse will attack cattle also, and poultry lice will infest horses as well as hens. It is during the winter months that lice are more troublesome to stock, and the farmer should always be on the lookout to detect the presence of these parasites as soon as possible. They show themselves first by causing the animal to rub himself against the sides of the stall and bite his sides and flanks to relieve the itchiness. In bad cases the hair will be worn from the body in patches by this constant rubbing, and the animal is thin and out of condition. On young colts lice are very effective in preventing them from thriving and attaining their growth; and under the long hair which grows upon colts during the Manitoba winter the lice are often not detected until they have caused much damage. The injury which the presence of lice inflicts on an animal is caused not so much from the abstraction of blood as from the continual irritation of the skin. Some varieties of lice do not suck the blood at all, but gnaw at the outer layers of the skin with their strong mandibles. Lice may be detected by parting the hair and watching closely, when their movements will betray their presence.

Getting rid of lice is not always an easy matter, especially when several head are affected and they have long winter coats on. Some of the most effectual remedies are of no use in this climate during the winter, when it is unwise to apply anything which will wet the hair and perhaps cause a severe cold. The remedy then for winter should be either an ointment or a powder. A mixture of coal oil and lard is very effectual if applied freely, but it takes a large quantity when the hair is long. Coal oil itself is deadly to the parasites, but will take off the hair as well, and should not be used without mixing it with lard or oil. Of powders, the Persian Insect Powder is the most effectual. It should be dusted into the hair along the back, and will gradually make its way down the sides and kill all lice it comes in contact with. It has no effect on the nits or eggs, however, and should be reapplied in about a week to kill the fresh brood. In mild weather the lice may be destroyed by wetting the skin with coal oil emulsion prepared as for spraying trees, one part strong emulsion to ten of water.

Horses are sometimes infested with lice from poultry when hens are kept in the stable. They give rise to intense itching, especially at night, and cause the horses to lose flesh and become emaciated. Poultry lice are smaller than horse lice, and therefore more difficult to detect. But the effects they produce on the skin are characteristic. The hair comes off in small circular patches, giving the animal a flea-bitten appearance, and these spots are not more general on the neck and near the root of the tail than on other parts of the body. There is another variety of these parasites of poultry, the *Dermanyssus Gallinae*, which remain hidden on the roosts and woodwork of the henhouse during the day, and at night crawl on to the birds while roosting. They will attack horses, and even human beings, and when numerous cause much damage by the abstraction of blood and by preventing the birds and horses from obtaining rest.

In order to get rid of them it is necessary to employ the remedies already mentioned for destroying lice, and, in addition, to give the woodwork a good coating of lime wash. In henhouses the roosts should be painted with coal oil, and it is hardly necessary to say that hens should not be kept in the stable with the horses.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

FARM.

Crimson Clover.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—For a quick-growing nitrogen trap nothing equals crimson clover. Having seen so many reports in the rural press in regard to whether this variety of clover would stand our severe winter or not, I concluded to try it; and, after two repeated trials, have come to the conclusion that it is just as hardy as the red or Mammoth varieties. I sowed a small plot on heavy clay loam soil, in August, 1894. The seed did not germinate for some time, owing to the drought, but had a nice start when winter set in; and when the snow went off in the spring it commenced to grow rapidly, and began to bloom about the 5th of May. As it was such a small plot, I did not bother with the seed, but thought I would try it on a larger scale. Last fall I sowed 1½ acres, at the rate of 15 lbs. to the acre, on black, sandy soil, about September 1st. Part of the seed was sown in corn at the last plowing, the balance on early potato ground after the potatoes had been removed. After sowing, the continuous drought retarded the growth greatly; but when winter set in it had a fair start, and although the weather was very severe, not a plant was winter-killed. It made a very heavy growth in April, and was in full bloom about the 8th of May, standing two feet high, and presenting a beautiful appearance; its sweet scent attracting thousands of honey bees from the neighboring hives. At time of writing (June 12th) it is fit to cut for seed, and, from all appearances, I will get seven or eight bushels of seed, one of my neighbors estimating the crop at ten bushels.

I intend disking up my stubble ground after harvest, and turning under next spring when in full bloom.

My experience is that this should be sown, if for no other purpose than for a mat or cover for the ground during the winter and for early pasture in the spring. Farmers should not be backward about raising it, on account of climatic changes, as no doubt it will become hardier when it becomes acclimatized; and it has stood the winter with me when the red clover was completely killed and heaved out. I consider it a veritable godsend to farmers on poor, run-down farms, where a heavy crop can be turned under in the spring, and for fruit orchards it is invaluable.

Essex Co., Ont.

GEO. S. CORNWALL.

Give the work horses a night pasture near the stables. After the day's work they should receive the same care in the stable as if they were going to remain there; and after being cooled, fed, and cleaned, turn them into the pasture or large paddock, where they can get a generous bite of grass, and roll and rest. They should receive same amount of feed in the stable. It is cruel to expect them to work all day and pick around all night to satisfy their hunger.