

For Better Horses.

Readers who followed carefully our last week's issue would notice that the Stallion Act amendment has been brought down in the Legislature of Ontario by the Hon. Jas. Duff. While this amendment says nothing of grading stallions 1, 2, 3, as some radical advocates of compulsory inspection asked it goes farther than many expected it would in stating that no grade stallions of the scrub variety shall be allowed to travel or stand for service after August 1st, 1914 and that after the same date in 1918 no grade stallion of any kind shall be allowed to travel.

The Act if the amendment passes should in time drive the inferior horse out of business. The original intention when the Stallion Enrolment Act was first mentioned, was to have something on the statute books to aid the horsemen in eliminating the scrub horse. The Act as it now stands did not seem to meet with the approval of the stallion owners neither were the farmers strongly in favor of it. It did not go far enough. Compulsory inspection will likely serve to drive the inferior pure-bred stallion off the road. There is no doubt but that there are some pure-bred sires which are of very little value as breeders and are almost useless and as much deserving of elimination as grades or cross breeds.

Right now would seem to be a good time for breeders to make a little increased effort with a view to increasing the size and quality of their horses. Mare owners should do all in their power to drive the grade horse and scrub stallion whether he be pure-bred or grade out of business in 1914. He has no place in the right kind of horse breeding. Get rid of the inferior animals and there will be more room for the better class. Make geldings of all entire colts not up to the mark, and aid in the uplift of Canada's horse-breeding. And just a word to intending importers. Would it not be better to leave all the culls in the homes of the breeds from now on, and for the good of our horse industry bring out the best? We can breed enough of the every-day kind.

The Horse Market Situation.

There has been a good deal of pessimistic talk about the horse market situation during the past winter. Many men, particularly the smaller breeders, have been prophesying a distinct falling off in demand for horses, and in fact some have gone so far as to foresee a market glut, and a period of depression almost equal to that of a decade or so ago.

True it is that the demand has not been as keen this winter as during the past few winters and fewer horses have been changing hands, but prices still are not too low to pay a breeder for raising the animals. The time is far distant when the horse will not be the mainstay upon which the farmers rely to get their work done, and notwithstanding the fact that automobiles and motor trucks are being used in thousands, the horse still has his place in the cities and is meeting with fairly ready sale at good substantial prices.

Breeding stock has not sold as readily this winter as formerly, but we believe that most of the larger breeders have pretty well disposed of all their good sires, and females of the right kind are still none too plentiful. It is a hopeful indication when horses are selling, as they are at present, at the top price of their history in certain parts of the Old Land. Drafters in Great Britain are in keen demand, but they must have size and quality.

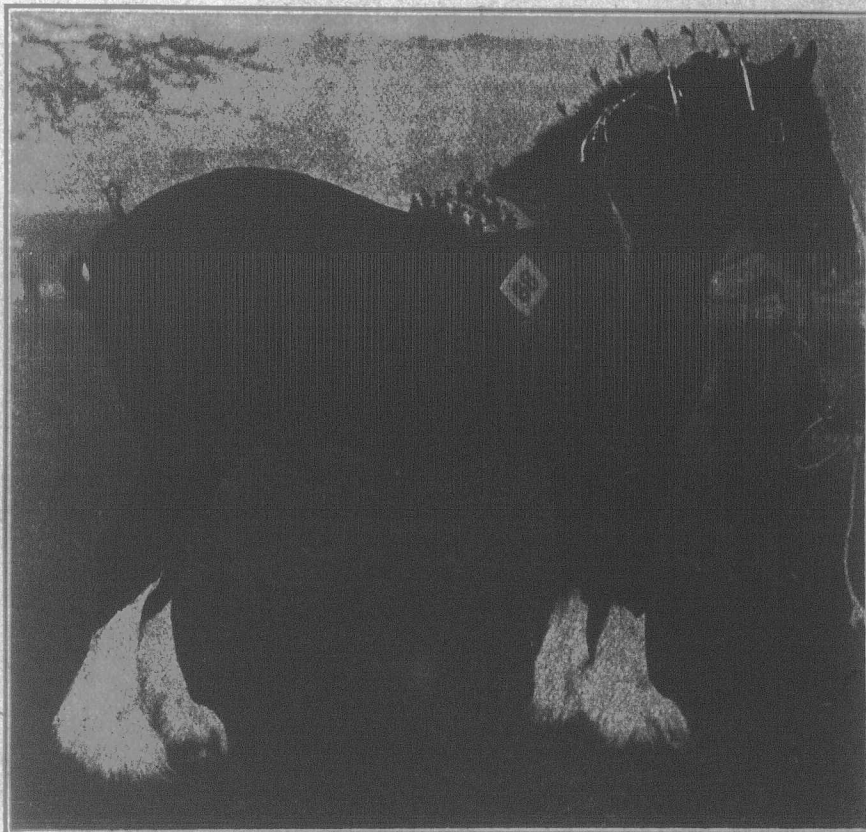
The market in the United States is holding up very well. There is a very good demand for the big gelding weighing 1,600 pounds or upwards, and such sell on city markets very close to \$300 each, and many bring \$250 to \$260. Farm geldings reach very near the \$200 mark, and many of these weigh only about 1,200 to 1,300 pounds. Our own markets stiffened a little when spring opened up and drafters were reported as selling on Toronto market as high as \$240 each, with general-purpose horses going up to \$225 each, and the light kind of express horses from \$150 to \$200. These are not bad prices, and will admit of lowering considerably before colts will be raised at no profit under favorable conditions.

We believe it is safe for most farmers on the general farm or even on a farm where specialized agriculture is carried on and where horses are necessary to do the work, to keep a few brood mares and to breed them every year. The life of a horse is uncertain and short at best, and it is necessary if one is lost and no colts are coming on to take his place to go out and buy, and to get a good class of animal which will do the work required of him and keep in fairly good condition a fairly long price must be put up. It is our belief that the man who must feed the horses to do his work might just as well keep mares and have them raising colts, as under most conditions it is quite possible for the mare to raise a foal and do all the work that is required of her. When this is considered colts are

raised at much smaller cost than where the mare does nothing else but suckle her offspring.

It may be that it is a good time to go a little more steadily in the wholesale production of horses, especially of certain types. The market for the biggest kind of drafters is not likely to be overcrowded for some time, and the real good express horses and general-purpose animals, according to market reports, are still in demand. For the farmer, however, we would pin our faith to the grafter. If for no other reason than just to be safe in case of accident it would be generally advisable to have a young horse coming on to step into the gap which would result if one of your working horses should happen to meet with an accident or disease should prove fatal.

We would not, therefore, notwithstanding the pessimistic beliefs of many of those who are almost too ready to see disaster ahead, restrain breeding operations very much during the coming season, but in view of the fact that the demand is slackening somewhat and that only certain types of horses are going to top the market and meet the most ready sale, we would advise that all mare owners pay more careful attention to the kind of sires they use this season than ever before. With the slackening demand there is no place for the scrub horse, and this same carefulness should apply to the mares as well as to the sires. If the owner has three or four females and is at all afraid that there will be difficulty in selling the offspring and decides that one or two of these mares shall not be bred, he should in each case discard the poor individuals and use the best available. In fact there are many cases where a man gets a poor foal from a good horse, and in which he blames the horse when the real cause of the failure is a nondescript dam. Play safe and breed the best.



Another Clydesdale Winner at the Glasgow Show.

Stopping Kicking.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I saw in your paper of April 16th, page 189, a request for a remedy for a horse that kicks in the stall at night. We had one of the worst. We tried every remedy advised by experienced horsemen, but nothing would stop him until one of my boys just put his manger back far enough in the stall so that the horse could not reach the partition or the post. When he found out he could not strike anything he gave up the kicking. This is worth a trial.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

JOSEPH POOLE

Be Careful.

Breed societies, through advancing the interests of their own particular type of horse, have eliminated a few of the chances of procuring a serviceable light horse by cross-breeding. Every stamp of horse has been developed along special lines which the advocates of the breed consider of paramount importance. Consequently, from sharp crosses the outcome is often problematical. This does not imply that a general-purpose horse may not be obtained by intelligent crossing, but the breeding must be intelligent and based upon a knowledge of what really constitutes a general-purpose horse as well as the different characteristics contributed by the breeds represented in the matings. Speed, stamina and road or saddle qualities are attributes of two of the lighter

breeds, conformation and style for a medium-sized horse are derived from the coach type, while the weight must be the outcome of blood of draft character. Indiscriminate mating is a gambler's game, and the sources of error are more numerous than where the crossing is confined to breed lines.

The market for "misfits" is dull indeed at this stage of the horse-breeding industry, and any system of breeding which will tend to eliminate the number of undesirables and produce a recognized stamp or horse to fit each of the different market demands is in the right direction.

LIVE STOCK.

The Bacon Imports of Britain.

Time was when Canada supplied a considerable portion of the pork products imported into Great Britain, but of late there has been a decided falling-off. In the month of March this year Great Britain took from the Netherlands 550,020 hundred weights of fresh pork, more than two and one-half times what she sent in the same month in 1913 and nearly four times as much as she sent the same month in 1912. Of bacon Denmark supplied Great Britain with 237,435 hundred weights in March of this year as against 177,552 hundred weights in March, 1913. The United States stands second in supplying bacon sending over 154,191 hundred weights in March, 1914, as compared with 197,776 hundred weights in March, 1913. Canada sent in March 1912, 42,494 hundred weights of bacon to Great Britain. This fell off in March, 1913, to 27,643 hundred weights and again showed a shrinkage in 1914, when only 18,512 hundred weights were sent. During this same month the imports from other countries were 44,296 hundred weights or nearly twice as much as for March 1913. In hams the imports from Canada also showed a falling-off being only 7,148 hundred weights in March as against 8,128 hundred weights in March 1913. Other countries increased from only 70 hundred weights to 1,010, this not including the United States which sent this year in March 69,554 hundred weights of hams.

Docking Lambs.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I saw in last week's paper a letter on docking lambs. I think Mr. Underwood or any other farmer can do this much more easily. When in the Old Country I used to cut over 150 lambs' tails every year, and the only thing we ever did

was to take the lamb, when seven days old, and have a man hold the lamb with its four feet on the ground with its head between the man's legs. The other man takes the tail and with a sharp knife cuts it, leaving always an inch or inch and half. Let the lamb go and it will not leave any blood to speak about. This should be done in the middle of the day without hard frost, and never castrate an animal while any frost is about. We used to do castrating of lambs in April, and about ten o'clock in the morning commence and get it over before dinner, even if you put dinner on one side for an hour. Should you find any lamb losing blood catch it and tie with string for 24 hours. During eight years at this game I only lost one lamb.

A FARMER.

Live Stock, a Valuable Asset.

Few people realize the value of the live-stock industry to a country. Besides maintaining the fertility of the soil for the benefit of generations yet unborn, this industry is the prime contributing factor to enterprises of pretentious proportions located in our industrial centres. It is estimated in the city of Chicago alone that 400,000 people obtain employment, directly or indirectly, through the operations of the Union Stock-Yards Company, and at the yards alone an annual business is transacted that amounts to one and a quarter million dollars for each working day in the year.

According to the report of the Union Stock-