

a steady advance in show matters has distinguished the years. The question is often asked—was asked perhaps oftener than ever this year—“What, after all, is the value of such fairs to general agriculture?” and, admitting for the moment that the professional exhibitor is not representative of the masses generally, we may return to the discussion of the practical question when leisure and space permit.

A. E. BURKE.

“The Farmer's Advocate” is, above everything else, reliable. Unlike the newspapers and many so-called farm journals, it does not publish items for the sake of novelty or sensation. It does not exaggerate or misrepresent. It is open to all variety of honest opinion, but withholds editorial sanction except where thoroughly assured. Endorsation by “The Farmer's Advocate” is the best evidence of credibility.

“The Farmer's Advocate” is the stockman's paper. In addition to its many other strong features, it posts its readers on the live-stock situation in Canada, the United States, Great Britain, and the world at large, as no other journal pretends to do. It is the exponent of all that is latest and best in live-stock circles.

HORSES.

Horse-breeding in Prussia.

In view of the Ontario Government's exhaustive investigation of the horse business, looking to legislation in its interest, the following particulars of measures taken in Germany to promote the horse industry will be read with interest:

In the case of horse-breeding, it appears from a Foreign Office Report on the State of Agriculture in the Rhenish province that considerable assistance is afforded to this industry through the Provincial Chambers of Agriculture. In that Province regulations are in force requiring the licensing of stallions and providing for the appointment of district commissions authorized to issue licenses. These regulations are given below, and it is stated that they are enforced by the State and are very strictly adhered to:

Sec. 1.—Only such stallions may serve mares as are approved by the State and have received a serving license, which has to be renewed annually. The following are excluded, and need not have any license: (a) The sires owned by the State; (b) Thoroughbred sires charging a fee of £2 10s.; (c) sires owned by private owners, and only used to serve the mares belonging to that same individual owner of the sire; (d) sires belonging to horse-breeding associations and subsidized by the Government, and still under the supervision of the State officials.

Secs. 2 and 3.—The Province is divided into three districts, and each district has a breeding commission, which consists of: (1) The director of the royal stud at Wickrath; (2) an expert who is appointed by the Chamber of Agriculture for a period of six years for the whole Province; (3) an expert appointed by the Province for six years; (4) the president of the horse shows; (5) an expert appointed by the Chamber of Agriculture for six years for the particular district; (6) a veterinary surgeon, appointed by the Provincial authorities. All appointments have their substitutes. A chairman is appointed by the combined commission. The commission has annually to appoint and fix days in every district for shows and for issuing licenses.

Sec. 4.—Only such sires get a serving license are approved by the commission appointed; they must invariably belong to some recognized breeds.

Sec. 5.—The commission's decisions are absolute; the votes are taken by secret ballot. In case of equal votes, the chairman's vote decides the point in question. Every sire receiving a serving license is registered and minutely described; the places where the stallion may serve are fixed, the name of the owner is stated, and registers of the mares served have to be kept by the responsible person. Besides the sire's owner and the stallion's description, the amount of the fee charged for service is fixed and made public.

Sec. 6.—When a stallion has received a serving license, the owner is obliged to renew his license every year; the license is only given for twelve months. If the license is not renewed, the sire is not allowed to be used for serving purposes again.

Sec. 7.—The owner of a serving stallion is obliged to keep a register of the mares served, and an accurate description of them has to be

entered; these lists are periodically checked by the authorities.

Sec. 8.—Every owner of a sire who shows him as a candidate for a license, pays a fee to cover the costs of the show and commission expenses.

Sec. 9.—The owner of a sire not having a license and using the stallion for breeding purposes is fined £1 10s. for every individual case, and the owner of the mare is fined 15s. Should it be proved that the registers are not properly kept according to instructions, the owner is fined 15s. in each case.

Horse-breeding associations exist which are subsidized by the Government through the Chamber of Agriculture, and these purchase good brood mares at reasonable prices from the best breeders. They encourage horse-breeding among the smaller farmers and assist them financially, as well as with advice. There seems to be a good demand for horses. The army requires a large number for its artillery and cavalry. At a recent show of horses, the Government bought a large number from farmers; the average price was £62 10s.; the prices varied from £50 to £70, chiefly for rising four-year-olds. The great iron industries and coal mines also require a very large supply of horses, and for these purchasers the farmers breed the Belgian class. The associations buy annually about twenty Belgian mares of the very best blood and sell them to their members. At the last sale, £50 to £90 were paid for 1½ to 2½-year-olds.

How to Reduce the Grain Ration in Autumn.

We have about come to the season when most teams will cease work. Unless the feed is reduced, many horses will suffer from lymphangitis and other derangements of that kind. On the other hand, sudden cessation of heavy feeding will result in staring coats, and lack of condition to go through the winter in good health. So here is the dilemma. Where possible, the work and feed should be reduced gradually. If it is not practicable, care should be taken to let the horses exercise daily in the barnyard, or on some meadow which is to be broken up in spring. Then attend to the stable, chinking up cracks, putting in window panes where needed, and making things bright and comfortable as possible.

These things attended to, reduction of grain rations may be accomplished without upsetting the horse's digestion or injuring his health by standing inactive and ill-fed in a drafty stable. To keep horses as many as are kept every year is inhuman, and should be made a penal offence.

Knife Liked as Well as Ever.

Received premium knife all right. It is well worth trying to get a new subscriber for. Will try to get a few more for some of the other premiums. R. M. BELL, York Co., Ont.

Feeding of Horses.

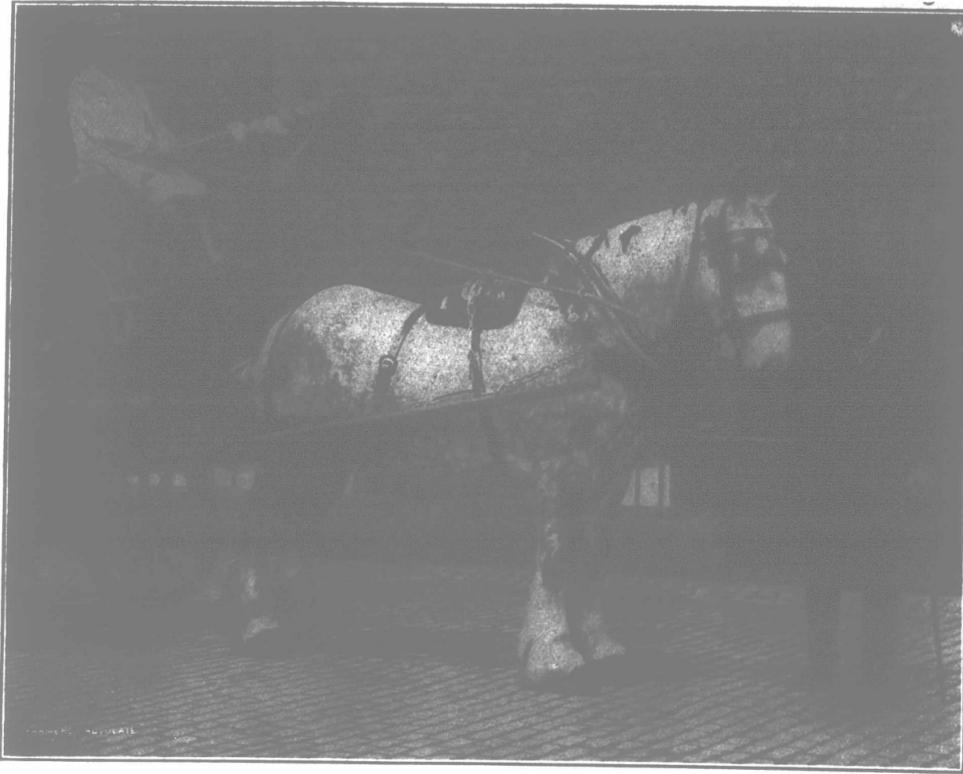
Skillful feeding goes hand in hand with skillful breeding, and in this respect the following hints from a French paper are of interest:

Three meals are necessary and sufficient, with an interval of four or five hours between, to keep a horse in good condition. Oats take at least two hours to digest, hay takes three hours, and, because it takes so long to digest, it should be given when the day's work is over. The evening meal should be a full meal, the animal being then at rest and able to digest its food at leisure. There should be an interval of half an hour between the return of the horse to the stable and his getting his evening feed. Too much food at a meal, or too long abstinence between meals, followed by voracious feeding, is conducive to colic and indigestion. Irregularly fed, he is given to showing his impatience by letting his hoofs play about the woodwork of his stall. Giving “refreshers” at odd times is also bad. Remember that both stomach and bladder should never be loaded in work time, whether light or heavy work is done. A horse, therefore, should not be ridden or driven immediately after a meal, on the same principle that it ought not to be fed sooner than half an hour after work is over. Between one end of the year and another a horse consumes an amount of dry, heating food which calls for special regimen to neutralize the excessive proteid consumption that has taken place. Thus, in autumn, a ration of carrots given before the evening meal of oats is good; and so in spring, at the fall of the winter coat, a little green meat is beneficial, mixed with hay and oats, for the evening meal. Another maxim much disregarded in practice is that the horse should be watered long before being put to work, and then very sparingly.

Feeding Idle Horses.

Clover or alfalfa, fed in limited quantity and moistened to lay the dust, is the best feed for idle horses in winter, especially for those that have recently knocked off work. It keeps the bowels looser than timothy and nourishes the system better. Emphasis, however, must be laid on the adjuration to be sparing of the amount fed. Horses are fond of clover, and some of them prefer alfalfa to oats, hence they are liable to overload their stomachs, of either, and this is the primary cause of heaves. Dust also aggravates the trouble. This latter difficulty may be easily overcome by sprinkling the hay before feeding. It is a good plan to give a small forkful of hay, followed by a quantity of bright oat straw. Idle horses getting clover or alfalfa hay, can use considerable straw to advantage. Clover or alfalfa combined with straw makes a cheaper and better winter ration than timothy.

Brood mares in foal should have exercise, and liberal feed, with good quarters.



Shire Gelding.

Winner of three society medals at London Shire Horse Shows.