

A Children's Excursion to O. A. C.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A matter of much importance to the rural schools of Ontario has been taken up by the S. Brant Farmers' Institute.

In a report of an address given by Mr. McCready, of Guelph, O. A. C., in your valuable paper, early last year, an invitation was made to rural schools of Ontario visiting the College with the excursions to have some one appointed to personally conduct and instruct in the departments which were likely to be of most benefit.

The senior pupils of three schools, accompanied by their teachers, numbering about 30 in all, attended the excursion, June 16th.

The pupils enjoyed the outing greatly, and were bubbling over with a desire to tell of what they had seen for days after.

Parents who had never attended an Institute meeting or College excursion are now interested because of the children's interest, and the trustees speak highly of the wisdom of granting the holiday.

Some time after, the teachers were asked to give their impressions of the effect of the day upon the pupils and their work.

All speak in the highest manner in favor of the day, as will appear from the subjoined extracts from the letters received.

The directors of the Institute are unanimous in their decision to push this feature. A large number of them will attend the annual school meeting, and bring this matter to the attention of ratepayers and trustees, with the object of taking a lot of scholars next 23rd of June.

FRANK M. LEWIS, Sec., S. Brant.

[Note.—Following are quotations from the letters of the three teachers:

Miss Amy M. Robertson, Teacher, Fairfield Plains School—With the exception of one, all my pupils were in their places on the following day. That one was a delicate child. The pupils I took were in the second, third and fourth classes. The advantages derived were many, but I shall mention only one or two. The process of sugar-making, especially, struck the second-class pupils. . . . On the following day they asked that we read the lesson on sugar in their reader. We did so, and I noticed that all the little excursionists were paying particular attention. Now, that lesson on sugar becomes a real live lesson to those pupils, of something they have actually seen for themselves. . . . The pupils called my attention several times to view specimens of which we had been reading the previous week. The advantages were not confined only to those who went. The knowledge gained by the fifth who went was conveyed to the remaining four-fifths on the following days. At recesses, at noons, little groups could be seen, with an excursionist as the center of attraction. Various were the things being told—how they kept a record of the milk of each cow, how the butter and cheese were made, and the old machinery. . . . I cannot say which profited most, the girls or the boys. . . . I think such an outing annually would be of great benefit to the children. We are inclined to keep the children too steadily at books, books, books, and forget that it is by handling and seeing that children most readily learn.

Miss Elsie Johnson, Teacher U. S. S. 11, Burford—Not only is it (the excursion) of value to the pupils educationally, in that they see and learn many things which they otherwise would not, but it has a value in fostering patriotism. . . . It has, too, I think, the effect of attaching greater importance to agriculture in the minds of the children growing up in the country. . . . In regard to the way the school children are looked after at the College, a member of the faculty was furnished to act as a guide; this man spared no pains to explain everything in a lively and interesting way, attractive to the children, drawing many lessons from things here and there. For instance, in the Experimental Building, he explained the experiments which had been tried in dates of sowing grain, showing the results of delinquency in sowing, and also indicating what grains should be sown first in spring, and which next, and so on. The boys were greatly interested in this. I do not think it made a very serious break in the entrance work; I rather think it did the pupils good.

Still another teacher says: You ask if it made a serious break in the school studies. On the contrary, it formed a most interesting introduction to many lessons. For instance, seeing the lava from Vesuvius, they got a much more vivid conception of what lava is. The sight of the devilfish, though it inspired them with horror, also made them read with renewed interest and more real understanding the lesson in the fourth reader. It afforded very solid ground for their nature study work, for, after looking at specimens of animals and birds, they wanted to find specimens of the same; it gave a basis for identification. Even for the above reasons, I should say an annual excursion would be a good thing.

It seemed to me that the practical interests of the boys were more awakened than that of the girls. The visit to the poultry-yard and cow barns, and the comparison of wheat, barley and oats seeded at various times, especially impressed them with lessons of cleanliness and the value of thrift and energy.

HORSES.

Shoeing Colt.

Colt 2½ years old was kept in box stall mostly all the time. The heels of hind feet grew high and straight, and the toes broke off, leaving feet short and high, and he is inclined to stand and walk on his toes. To save the toes, he was taken to the shop to be shod. He was shod with high-heel calkins and no toe calkins, with shoes long behind and short in front. Was this the proper way to shoe him?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—He has been shod so as to intensify the trouble you are endeavoring to correct. This manner of shoeing sets him more than ever on his toes, and tends to cock the ankles. The heels of the feet should be rasped down as much as they will stand, but the toes must not be shortened. Then, flat shoes should be nailed on; shoes that fit the feet, not long at either toe or heel. He should be given regular exercise. If necessary, very low calkins, the same height at toe as at heel, may be added, but unless necessary on account of ice, it will be better to have no calkins. The toe must be allowed to grow a reasonable length, and the heels kept low.

"WHIP."

Use More High-class Sires.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

"Is Substance Lacking in Clydesdales?" Under the above heading appeared an editorial in your esteemed journal of the 24th ult. That substance is lacking, rather than quality, must be very evident to those who have been in a position to judge; but quality and action are very essential in draft horses, especially in Canada, where climatic changes have to be considered. The sultry days of July, in some parts, and the cold days of January, are very hard on the heavy horse of, say, 1900 pounds and over, that is lacking in action and quality, especially for long hauling. Generally, the horse of 1,450 pounds, with action and some quality, would have the advantage, and it would appear as though the country was fairly well supplied with these two kinds, with quality and action largely predominating. But quality, action and weight combined,—what the market is calling for; indeed, what it has always been calling for—are the most difficult to produce, and are the most profitable for farmers and breeders to put on the market. Particularly is it so in this country. But why is the draft horse particularly defective in weight and quality in this country?

Perhaps it would be well to look back into some of the early importations to find part of the cause. In the seventies and early eighties (owing, probably, to higher expense and greater risk, the boats not being so well equipped as they are to-day), some horses were brought over of inferior quality; I think I may say many, and, although such was the case, many of them were very useful. As our native mares were undersized and deficient in bone, but had fairly-good action and plenty of stamina, some fairly-good draft horses were the result of even the first cross. Those early importations served the purpose very well, as they were the foundation of our present draft horses, which have been gradually improving ever since. But let it not be forgotten that it started the business with low-priced horses, and many farmers have got into the habit of using common sires, as the most marked results come from the first and second crosses, and many cling to the old habit of paying a nominal figure for service. It is not the desire of the writer to say there are not some breeders who use the very best sires and dams that come within their reach. Indeed, I know there are; but there are

not enough. Neither is it my intention to cast any reflection on those farmers who may see fit to use a common sire, as I have done so myself, and seen my error.

I would also say that I am aware farming is often an up-hill business, and, although ambition may tell us to take a step higher, good judgment may demand a later date.

But the initial stage has passed—long passed—and the market is calling for a better class of horses, and is willing to pay for them good prices, and it is up to farmers from the east to the west of the Dominion to supply the demand of the market which is constantly calling for first-class animals. There is plenty of room, time and opportunity, and there is no good reason why as good stock cannot be raised in Canada as in any part of Europe. Some may say, How are they to be produced? By using a better class of sires and dams. And for such we will have to pay higher prices than have yet been paid. Let us see what class of sires are now in use here. I think it is safe to say there are very few that stand at over \$20; I presume there are some at over that price, but I do not know of them. I think it safe to say there are more that stand at \$10 than at \$20. Use better stock, and, above all, good judgment in mating. The latter is probably the most essential in grading up any kind of live stock. In Scotland, the headquarters of Clydesdales, sires stand at a much higher figure than here. Twenty-five years ago, or thereabout, Prince of Wales (673), Darnley (222) and Macgregor stood as high as \$50 some seasons, with no risks. In order that breeders may have better sires and dams, they will have to pay importers better prices, as they cannot afford to bring over good horses at a low



Daisy 5th.
Shorthorn heifer, two years old. Breed champion at Edinburgh and Smithfield Fat-stock Shows, 1908.

British Clydesdale Winnings.

The accompanying table gives a bird's-eye view of the winnings of the first ten Clydesdale sires in 1908, at the seven leading British shows of the season, namely, the Glasgow Spring Stallion Show; the Kilmarnock, Ayr, Glasgow and Edinburgh general shows; the Royal Show, and the Highland. The table shows little variation from similar tables for years immediately preceding. Baron's Pride (9122) maintains his position of unrivalled supremacy, and, among the first twenty sires, there are, besides himself, six of his sons, his two half-brothers, Sir Hugo and Baden-Powell, and several of his descendants. The best stallion of the year, individually, judged by his prizewinning record, was, in the final round-up, declared to be Baron o' Buchlyvie, the eight-year-old son of Baron's Pride. The second best was the four-year-old son of Baron o' Buchlyvie, Perfect Motion.

SIRE.	Total Prizes.	First.	Second.	Third.	Champs.	No. Animals.
Baron's Pride (9122).....	61	26	5	2	8	30
Hiawatha (10067).....	42	11	5	1	7	22
Revelanta (11876).....	26	3	5	5		9
Baron of Buchlyvie (11263).....	21	3	4	1	3	16
Royal Favourite (10630).....	21	3	7	4		9
Everlasting (11331).....	19	5	1	6	1	10
Marmion (11429).....	9	1	1	2		5
Silver Cup (11184).....	8		1	4		6
Sir Hugo (10924).....	7	3		2		5
Montrave Ronald (11121).....	7	1	4			3