

HORSES.

Stallioners' Lien Act.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Now that there are enormous sums of money spent in the purchase of pure-bred stallions throughout Ontario, and breeding is proceeding satisfactorily to the owners of pure-bred stallions, and also to the farming community in general, the present is a fitting time for the various horse-breeding associations to see that the stallion owners have proper security for the payment of service fees by the Government passing a Lien Act. There is scarcely an owner of a stallion in Ontario who could not record losses, the service fees never being paid by individuals who call themselves men, especially at election time. This class of man, having found of late years that the pure-bred stallion is the most profitable to sire his colts, is as eager to breed to the good stallion as the gentleman who will pay on the very day the money becomes due. The owner of a stallion, when the season opens, probably goes with his horse into a strange neighborhood. Before he leaves it, about 1st July, his horse has served the mares of a number of worthies. When collecting time the following winter arrives, and he goes and meets those same worthies, and talks about payment, he thinks he is talking to another party altogether. The agreeable, unctuous smoothness has vanished, no satisfaction can be got; a second or third appeal shows the wolf in sheep's clothing. He tells you to sue for it, as you can get the money quicker than he can by that method. You sue it, and that costs you more money, and you discover when you try to enforce the judgment given you, that chattel mortgages, lien notes, etc., etc., control all his earthly goods. The stallion owner is forthwith a sadder and wiser man. This process will be repeated ad infinitum, until the crying need of the times becomes a law, viz., a Lien Act, to include both mare and foal. This will simply ensure to the stallion owner what rightfully belongs to him, and nothing more, for as soon as the fees are paid everything is free. A Lien Act will have no effect whatever on mares belonging to gentlemen who are glad to pay for a good animal. An Act of the kind will effect instant changes, and the pseudo-gentleman will become the genuine gentleman, as far as the stallion owner is concerned. How long are owners of stallions going to put up with the present arrangements? They are truly a long-suffering party. If a vote were taken of all the stallion-owners in Ontario, they would say "Aye" for the Lien Act. If a vote were also taken of all the honorable breeders who would favor the Lien Act, "Aye" would be their answer, as possibly at no very great distance in the past they have suffered some loss in other ways from the men whom the Lien Act is designed to partially convert into gentlemen. The Lien Act, by all means, ought to be passed to come into operation this coming spring. The stallion-owners will give their heartfelt thanks to any Government which puts it upon the statute book. The Lien Act ought to have precedence over chattel mortgages, lien notes, or any debt whatsoever, as far as the foal is concerned, and many will say both mare and foal. The Act, in its operation, ought to be as simple as possible.

HORSE-BREEDER.

Where the Horse Suffers.

The practice of feeding horses on "hitch-post hay" while in town is far too common in this country. A short period of such treatment will not hurt a horse if he be covered with a thick, warm blanket, but it is cruelty without excuse to leave horses hitched to a post in cold weather for any length of time, while the owner may be enjoying the hospitality of a friend or discussing in hot debate with a neighbor in the comfortable warmth of the store the salvation of the country by some munificent scheme he has conceived.

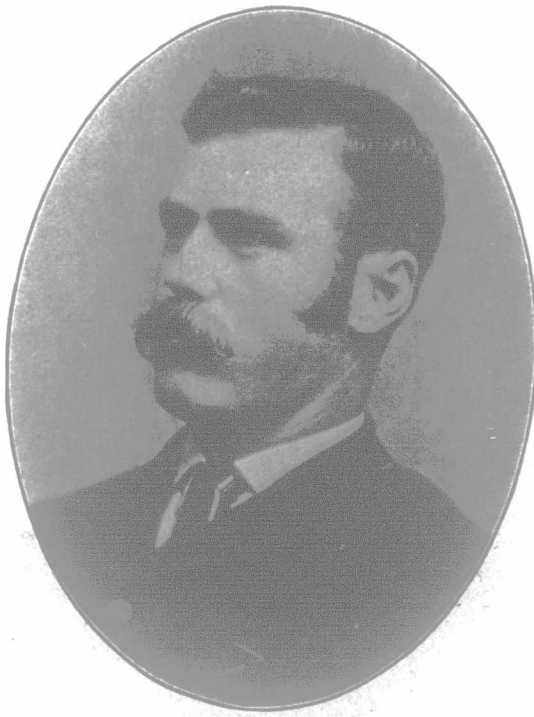
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The generic character, says Count Lehndorf, in his "Horse-breeding Recollections," especially must be unmistakably expressed in either sex. I dislike mares resembling in shape and manners stallions, as much as I dislike entire horses of which minute inspection is necessary to convince one that these are not mares or geldings. The more quality the mare possesses, the more marked must be the expression of her sex. The charm of femininity, if I may say so, ought to pervade her whole appearance.

Clydesdale Folklore.

In addressing a meeting of horse breeders, Alexander Galbraith, of Janesville, Wis., said: "Within my own recollection a distinct evolution in the tastes of breeders and demands of the market is clearly noticeable, and to no breed of horses does this apply with greater force than to the British draft breeds of Clydesdales and Shires. I can well remember, when a small boy on the farm, a rather noted Clydesdale mare which my father owned. She was named 'Old Jess,' and was sired by the celebrated 'Broomfield Champion' (95). This mare was the dam of many fine colts, one of which, 'Johnnie Cope' (416), won the



Fred. S. Black, Amherst, N. S.

Winner of the \$50 special prize donated by the Dominion Agriculture Breeders' Association, for best pure-bred cow of any breed at Maritime Winter Fair.

Highland Society's first prize at Glasgow forty-four years ago, and that season sired the celebrated black horse 'Campsie' (119), the winner of many premiums in Scotland, and one of the earliest horses owned by the well-known David Riddell. The old mare 'Jess,' to which I refer, differed in every material point from the typical show Clydesdale mare of the present day; in fact, she resembles far more closely a characteristic Shire mare. She was large, approaching if not seventeen hands high, very powerfully made all over, with immensely heavy bone, not of the flattest or cleanest kind, but such as would appear to good advantage when measured with a tape-line. She had wonderfully heavy feather in keeping with



Stanley A. Logan, of Logan Bros.,

Amherst Point, N. S., breeders of Holstein cattle, Shropshire sheep, Yorkshire and Berkshire swine, winners of the \$50 clock, donated by M. S. Brown & Co., for best collection of pure-bred sheep at Maritime Winter Fair.

her immensely heavy frame—in other words, rather coarse, hard, wiry hair. She had never been worked on the farm, although she lived to be over twenty years old. She had, I suppose, a mind far above ordinary farm work, as she was considered and looked up to as a model mother of stallions. Contrasting that animal

with the typical Clydesdale mare of to-day, we find the difference very marked indeed. The weight of bone and frame has very materially decreased. The quality and action have correspondingly increased. The dams of such horses as McGregor, or Baron's Pride, were but small mares compared with 'Old Jess,' or even with 'Kier Peggy,' the dam of the famous 'Darnley.' I well remember seeing 'Kier Peggy' win first prize at the Highland show in 1864, and I saw the same mare twenty-two years afterwards, and I still think her one of the grandest animals the breed has ever produced. She had considerable scale, a fair amount of quality, was very symmetrically formed, with good action, but the most remarkable thing about this mare, and which has been a hard problem for Clydesdale breeders ever since, was that by far and away the best colt she ever produced, and she produced ten in all, was sired by an undersized and rather inferior stallion. This stallion's name was 'Conqueror' (199), owned by Mr. Moffat, of Shirva, and I well remember when the horse was hired at the Glasgow Spring Show of 1871, by the Dumblane, Doune and Callander Farmers' Club, to travel their district for small terms, the wisecracks laughed at the incompetency of the committee for choosing such a horse. Sir William Sterling Maxwell's estate of Kier being in the district, the manager thought he might perform a generous act by sending one of their mares to the district horse, and I understand the reason why 'Kier Peggy' was the one chosen was because she had failed to get with foal to any of their own stud horses, and they had several of considerable note. At any rate, the result was that 'Kier Peggy' got with foal by this obscure horse, and in due time produced the world-famed 'Darnley,' probably the greatest Clydesdale of the nineteenth century. It seems the irony of fate that such a wonderful product should be brought about in this haphazard manner. The mare was afterwards bred to many excellent horses, but never produced anything at all equal to 'Darnley,' either for individuality or breeding qualities, although two of them were good enough to win at the Highland show.

STOCK.

Feeding Calves for Beef.

There are a great number of calves, the offspring of the general-purpose grade Shorthorns which are commonly found on farms, that are raised on skim milk, and are used for the production of beef. It is easy, by good feeding, to produce excellent animals in this way, but, as anyone who has bought steers for feeding can testify, great numbers of these cattle are utterly spoiled by bad methods of feeding during the time they are calves, and are so stunted that no amount of good feeding at a later period can make really good cattle of them. It is of the utmost importance that the calf which is intended for beef should have a good start, and should form, while yet a calf, those habits of growth, thriftiness and good constitution which are the necessary characteristics of the good beef animal. To accomplish this end, good and careful feeding is a necessity.

In the milk food of the calf raised for beef a little generosity will prove the best economy. Those who take the calf at once from its mother and put it on skim milk at the end of a week or ten days, may save a little cream, but they run the risk of so injuring the delicate digestive organs of the young animal as to permanently retard its growth. It is a much safer practice to allow the young calf to remain with its mother for a day or two, so that she may nurse it and give it a good start; then to remove it, and give it warm new milk, in moderate feeds, twice a day for four or five weeks. It is a great mistake to feed even new milk from a pail in excessive quantities. Four or five quarts twice daily will be found an ample feed, and to feed more is to run the risk of upsetting the youngster's digestive organs, even while all new milk is being fed.

At the end of four or five weeks the calf is stronger, and a gradual change may be made from new to skim milk, taking ten days or two weeks to make the change, and being careful to have the skim milk as nearly as possible at the ordinary temperature of new milk. At the same time, some equivalent for the cream taken from the milk should be added. Starch, of course, fills much the same place as a food that fat does. It is not well, however, to use starchy foods as an equivalent for the butter-fat of the milk. The digestion of starch is effected through the action of the saliva of the mouth, and where starchy foods are fed in milk, they almost entirely escape this action, pass on to the stomach undigested, and cause trouble; hence, the fashion of feeding the meal of the ordinary grains in the milk, either raw or cooked, is not good, and is liable to lead to digestive troubles, and perhaps to scouring. The best substitute for the cream taken from the milk is, by all odds, flaxseed,