

Horse Breeding For Profit.

With hints upon care and management by W. S. Spark of Canterbury, Eng., before the farmers at the Maritime Winter Fair.

Mr. W. S. Spark, an English horseman of 30 years experience, who came to Canada as a delegate to the meetings of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at Montreal last summer and who has since been interesting himself in the possibilities of horse raising in this country, was invited to visit our Winter Fairs and talk upon horse breeding. Mr. Spark illustrated his talks with stereopticon views and impressed his audience with his thorough knowledge of his subject but gave a great deal of good advice which, if acted upon, will mean millions to this country.

There is today, he said, a tremendous demand in the British market for all kinds of good horses and over there we are looking more and more to this country for supplies. Canada on account of her climate her foders and her men should be the coming country of the world for horse breeding. To ensure success of course the highest intelligence and skill must be put into the business.

Our exhibitions, he thought, might encourage our farmers in horse raising by giving more money to brood mares and young stock owned and bred by farmers, for it was only through the farmer that we could get any large number of horses for market.

The first step in choosing breeding stock was to avoid stallions and mares with hereditary unsoundness such as roaring, whistling, cataract, cur spavins, side bones, laminitis, navicular disease and grease. Always look carefully for these troubles before using either mare or stallion.

Select a deep roomy mare on the bent of feet and legs, large flat feet are a sign of weakness, a cup shaped foot with a thick crust and not too large are what is wanted, a sloping pastern, the toes turned neither out nor in and the cannon bones short and full of quality. Both knees and hocks should present a good bearing surface, the hock should be wide from front to rear and free from any puffs or enlargements. The fore arm and second thigh should have length and be well muscled. The gait should be strait away showing no straddling or interfering. We want a brisk walking pace with true action.

I consider, he said, that the breeding of Draught horses is a better business for the average farmer than raising light horses, because the brood mares and colts are better adapted to farm work, there is little trouble about training and fitting them and there is always a good demand.

A mixture of Clyde and Shire blood makes the draught horse best suited to the market. The Clyde should give quality of bone, spring of pastern and action while the Shire should increase the weight and strength. If the pedigrees of the best stallions of today are studied it will generally be found that they contain a mixture of the two breeds. Originally the two breeds were probably one and they both had a common origin in the old English war horse that was noted for his strength in the time of Julius Caesar. Of late years the Shire has been bred more in the flat country and for the moving of very heavy loads on a straight away pull where strength and massiveness is the main requisite. The Clyde on the other hand has been bred in a more hilly country and has more quality of bone and muscle and more activity. Question.—What about the Percheron?

Mr. Spark—We have never found the Percheron satisfactory in England in comparison with the Shire and Clyde. He will not stand up under hard work as well and is not bred to a definite type.

The demand for draught horses in Britain this year has been such that no foals have sold for less than 20 guineas each and horses have sold up to 120 guineas.

Draught mares are the better for being worked up to the time of foaling but should not be put between shafts. After the foal is dropped however they should be laid off for 2 months. In case they are worked the foal should now be allowed to follow the mare and great care should be taken that it is not allowed to suckle while the mare is hot. When she is brought in some milk should be drawn off as it is in a fevered condition and is likely to derange the foal's bowels.

The foal's feet should be watched and kept trimmed to the proper shape and his legs handled so that he will always be gentle. Never work a colt hard he may be gradually started at 2 years old and is the better of steady work under a judicious driver. Remember that his muscles and tendons are forming and growing and may be seriously injured by overstraining.

Any horse that is stabled and fed needs regular and thorough grooming otherwise the pores of his skin will become clogged and he cannot be in perfect health. While it is desirable to clip horses for fast work it is not necessary for the heavy horse, good care will prevent his coat from becoming unduly long.

When a horse comes in warm from work he should never be washed or wet in any way above the knees. Coming in wet from a rain or perspiration he should be thoroughly

dried otherwise rheumatism and other ills are likely to occur. The feet and legs below the knees if dirty should be washed out clean and the legs rubbed dry.

During his talk of which the above is but a very brief synopsis, Mr. Spark illustrated desirable and undesirable types of horses, good and bad conformations, evidence of unsoundness and a large number of noted Shire Clyde Stallions and mares with life size lantern slide views. This made his demonstration quite as practical as if he had the horses upon the platform. His talks will long be remembered with pleasure by his audience and we are glad to know that he will speak before the annual meeting of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association at Fredericton on the 20th. January next.

"Cash Down."

"You wouldn't want to tell me the secret of your success, I suppose," said a young woman to a teacher whose influence and position had been secured by years of work.

"I have no secret," she replied, "except that I have always been ready to pay the price for what you call success. Sometimes it has come high; it always demands 'cash down.'"

Women, from the very fact that most of them live outside the business world, like to believe that there is some escape from the price named by life for many of its prizes. The bargain-counter attracts them, in society as in the department store. In point of fact, however, the principal of a great school who succeeds must pay the price of getting up at six o'clock in the morning instead of sleeping till eight; of laboring with a refractory girl instead of reading a novel; of plodding through examination papers instead of driving over pleasant country roads—in short, of giving up the little things that she likes as the price of her larger desire.

So the mother who wishes her children to be loving and well-bred must pay the exacting due of patience by day and by night, of cheerful sympathy even in weariness and illness, and of unflinching devotion to the details of household life.

The girl who resolves to become a pianist must pay the price of long days of drudgery, spent in compelling reluctant muscles to do the bidding of the will—and that without hope that the discipline may ever be relaxed.

Lowell, in a charming piece of verse, after warning us that the "Earth gets its price for what Earth gives us," assures his reader:

"Tis Heaven alone that is given away,
Tis only God may he had for the asking.

Lowell to the contrary, however, this is not the plain, hard truth. Heaven itself descends only into the heart made ready for it by the stern expulsion of all that is common and unclean, and by the steady, painful search for whatsoever things are lovely and of good report.

Early Glimpses Of Greatness.

The Union at Oxford must have been a fine school of debate for more than one student in after years of public speakers. William Charles Lake, formerly Dean of Durham, says in his memoirs that he has heard Lord Coleridge say:

"Well, I have never heard better speaking anywhere than I heard at the Union."

Dean Lake recalls two speeches which he heard there at different times. When he was

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president of the Union an unknown gentleman commoner made a striking and very poetical speech. Especially memorable was his description of the Alps.

"Who is this?" asked Lake.

"Ruskin, a gentleman commoner of Christ Church," was the answer.

The Alps had already set fire to the imagination of the man who was to describe them as they never have been described by another man.

On another occasion, some years later, Lake heard a brilliant speech of quite a different character.

"Who was that?"

"A young gentleman commoner just come up to Christ Church, Lord Robert Cecil."

This was Lord Salisbury, who became the great figure in public life which, on hearing that boyish speech, Lake predicted he would be.

Indirect Answers.

Yankees are said to answer one question by another. Turks meet questions by another sort of evasion, quite as irritating. Sir A. Henry Layard says, in his "Autobiography," that during a journey through Asia Minor he met a shepherd driving his flock.

I asked him how many goats he possessed. His reply was, "As many as passed by you."

"But," said I, "I did not count them. How many are there?"

"The same number I took with me to the mountains."

"But how many did you take to the mountains?"

"As many as I had."

It was useless to inquire any farther. Passing a caravan of laden camels, I asked one of the drivers whence he came.

"From that side," was the answer, pointing with his finger in the direction.

"But from what town?"

"The town is there," pointing again.

"But the name of the town?"

"It was toward Smyrna."

And so the colloquy ended.

This habit is derived from the suspicion entertained by Easterners of strangers, who are generally taken for government officials on some mission connected with tax-gathering or other business distasteful to the population.

A Cereal Story.

The refreshing part of a story which the New York Times recounts is not the stupidity of man in his domestic aspect. The particular man concerned is an actor whose wife—an actress—is an earnest advocate of the theory that food should fit the consumer rather than the nerves. Consequently there are periods when milk flows incessantly through the household menu. Again it is hot water, and at other times nuts, fruits and grains alone are relied upon to nourish genius to its finest flower.

Once, in the grain age, the wife was called away to a rehearsal that was likely to last well into the afternoon. She told her husband that he would have to get his own luncheon; and he cheerfully consented to do it.

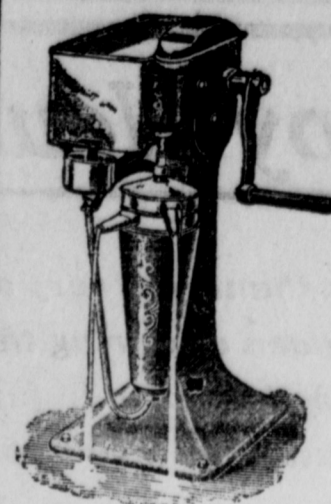
"I had a fine meal on your new cereal," he said when she returned.

"What do you mean?" she inquired, "I haven't any new cereal in the house."

"Why, the nutty sort of stuff you left on the dining room table."

The wife sat down suddenly. "You've eaten up my window-garden!" she wailed. "All my petunia, nasturtium and pansy seeds!"

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