AMERICAN ARABS

A NEW CLASS OF HORSES, OF WHICH PRESIDENT M'KINLEY HAS A PAIR.

After more than a half century of study and experiment success has crowned the efforts of American breeders, and a new race of equine beauties, rightly termed the Americo-Arab horse, has been produced which will work wonders on the stock farms of the United States within the next score of years.

The recent purchase of a pair of coach and road horses for President McKinley of the new Americo-Arab breed is justly regarded by horsemen throughout the country as an official recognition of the new race and has given it an added impetus, says the San Francisco Examiner.

England has long crossed her thoroughbreds with Arab blood, deriving what is known as the Anglo-Arab, which as a class is the finest type of

AMERICAN ARAB HORSE.

horse produced in that famous horse breeding country, while that government, as well as that of Russia, Germany, France and Austria, maintains in its government studs pure Arabs for the propagation of fine stock, particularly the raising of suitable cavalry horses. Now a movement is on foot to have the United States government establish a similar stud for its own benefit as well as to lighten the burdens of individual breeders.

Horses to a great extent represent the agricultural interests of a nation, and the team just delivered to the White House stables for the president's official use may be said to fairly represent the latest and greatest advancement in American stock breeding. The pair selected for President McKinley after several months' search are, as stated, Americo-Arabs, intentionally bred as such.

For centuries the civilized world has been writing and talking of the Arab and the Barb—two distinct and positive types of horse—as embodying super merit in cultivated, fixed standards, but the world has talked and written of what it knew practically little about, for the Arab horse is not easy to become personally acquainted with. This is due to the extreme jealousy with which he is guarded by his master, the desert Arab. And it is only by living with and among those nomadic tribes that one can learn of the pure Arabian horse or secure one. Even then the Bedouins have never been willing to sell for any amount of money a horse and a mare each pure in one family, of which there are five, separate and distinct, and have been so maintained for many centuries. The pure breeds may be graded as small, medium and large, and it is only the pony class that is parted with except in rare instances. In fact, since the demand for Arab horses has increased so in civilized countries, the Arabs breed the latter class exclusively for barter, keeping the medium and large horses for their own use.

MILLIONAIRE BREEDERS.

Are They Not Doing the Business More Harm Than Good?

The profits in the cattle business the past two seasons have attracted the attention of several millionaires, says the Michigan Farmer, and they have decided that it is a good line in which to invest some of their surplus thousands. Of course it is beef cattle they are interested in, just as a few years ago a number of the same class of men started herds of dairy cattle and built impossible barns and gigantic silos and had the dairy journals filled with long reports of the high breeding of their herds, their costly plants and the wonderful manner in which their dairy business was conducted. The result was disastrous in many instances both to the particular breeds they were exploiting and the dairy business itself. Their failures caused a slump in the value of dairy cattle from which they have not yet recovered.

The announcement, therefore, that the millionaires are about to turn their attention to beef cattle is not one we regard as an unmixed benefit to the beef breeds nor to the business of raising beef cattle. Nelson Morris, the Chicago beef magnate, has taken up the Galloway as his choice and is stocking his Texas ranch with them and taking Polled Angus for his Nebraska range. The Armours for some time have been investing heavily in Herefords and will stick to that breed. J. D. Rockefeller of Standard Oil fame is investing heavily in range property and will stock up with Shorthorns.

The result of these parties investing in the breeds mentioned will be to push up prices to a high point, as they can afford to buy what they like and to outbid other buyers who must look to the outcome of their purchases for their incomes. While they are buying breeders here and there will make sensational sales of special animals, and on the surface it will look as if the business was being placed on a better and surer foundation. But when these men have all the cattle they want and are ready to sell there will be a drop in prices that will inflict great injury upon the mass of small breeders, who really are the best friends and most active workers in the introduction of improved stock. These capitalists will place the business upon a false basis and in the end will not only lose money themselves, but greatly injure every one else connected with it.

Habits of the Goat.

When we go back a couple of thousand years ago or even still farther and read in the old books of what the ancients knew of things in general, we must well believe that we have not made the best use of our advantages, says Henry Stewart in The Sheep Breeder. For in many things we may learn much from these old books in which the ancient poet farmers and shepherds and cattlemen recorded in the most elegant language their ideas on subjects appertaining to their practical business. Indeed the young men now at school or college should by no means slight these classical studies which when the old men of the present were mere boys were thought to be indispensable to the cultivation of the mind and the habit of study and acquisition of useful knowledge. And as just now the public mind is becoming excited in regard to goats let us go to the sweet fount of knowledge of these animals which sprang from the graceful mind of the first of the old Roman poets, Virgil, himself an accomplished farmer and shepherd. And we shall find that what this great man did not know of sheep and goats and cattle and horses and the breeding of them and of fields and crops as well as of human nature is hardly worth the telling now. And in the third book of his Georgics, or songs of the farm, field and herds and flocks, he talks of cattle, horses, sheep and goats. And when he gets through with the herds he writes: "This is enough for herds. Let us turn to another part of our care which exceeds this, which is the care of sheep and goats. Expect, O hardy husbandman, praise from this. Beginning, I command that the sheep be fed in warm stables until the leafy summer returns, and spread the hard ground with straw and bundles of fern lest the cold may injure the gentle flock and cause scab and filthy sores. Also I command to supply leafy arbutus (small shrubby branches) to the goats, to lead them to the clear streams and build their stable safe from the winds. For these are to be guarded with no lighter care than the sheep, nor will their use and profit be less."

Difficulties of Horse Breeding.

Horse breeding in all parts of India has its difficulties, says the London Live Stock Journal. Latterly the imperial government has been trying to encourage pony breeding in the Manipur state, but the officers who visited the country reported that there were extremely few decent stallions to be seen. It has since been ascertained by some sympathetic traveler who could induce the Manipuris to discuss matters with him that the people do not understand that the methods of the British government differ from those of their own chiefs who formerly ruled them. The rajah, it seems, used to insist upon buying any foal he might fancy at his own price, and as he bought through a chief who bought through some understrapper it may be easily conceived that the price received by the owner of the foal was small when it reached him. Under these circumstances the owners of good stallions keep them carefully hidden away in the jungle. In short, Manipur horse breeding had been a regular hole and corner business, which knowledge of British methods will eventually change for the better.

PROFIT IN DOGS.

How Some Farmers Are Said to Get Rid of Poor Sheep.

The Maine legislator who hated dogs and hoped to exterminate the breed by imposing a per capita tax had no idea that by so doing he would add an appreciable sum to the revenue of the state, says the Boston Globe.

Treasurer Simpson's report for the year 1899, which has just been issued, shows that $30,989 was received last year in dog taxes, out of which $4,558.14 was paid for injuries committed to domestic stock by dogs and other wild animals, leaving a net income from the dogs of $26,430.86 a year, or enough to support the entire Maine militia for 12 months and still have more than $5,000 to the good.

When the Spanish war broke out and the examining physicians rejected nearly half of the enlisted men for physical disability, officers of high rank felt badly and remarked that the Maine troops had "gone to the dogs," little thinking how literally true the assertion was, because if the dog tax had not been in force the public treasury would have shown a big deficit.

The so called dog law was passed for the purpose of providing funds for reimbursing farmers for the loss of sheep that were killed in pastures by dogs, bears, catamounts and other bloodthirsty animals, and the bill has not only accomplished what it set out to do and provided a fat surplus to be devoted to other purposes, but in the hands of a few cunning farmers who care more for gain than for honor it has opened up a market for aged, sickly and unsalable sheep that is afforded in no other civilized community on earth.

In collecting sheep damages the owner of the dead or wounded animals applies to the selectmen of the town, who act as coroners to view the remains and fix the value on the same. The most expert shepherd in the world cannot distinguish a lean and languishing animal from a healthy one after it has been slain and mangled by wild animals.

The presumption is that the weaklings of the flock are killed because they can be caught more easily than vigorous animals, but when the owner makes oath that the dogs or bears culled the pride of his flock the selectmen cannot dispute him and allow him top notch prices.

Thus by a little adroit misrepresentation which nobody can detect the gentle shepherd sells fourth class, scabby and death stricken sheep at rates which are charged for finely selected thoroughbreds, and the paternally gullible old state foots all the bills.

Rules For Horse Traders.

Several weeks ago a Memphis man saw a fine buggy horse which he thought he wanted, says The Scimitar. He located the owner and asked the price. "One fifty," was the reply. After looking the animal over closely and trying her speed he concluded it was a good trade and without more ado wrote a check for the amount. The next day he found that the mare was as blind as a bat, but this did not hinder her speed nor detract from her general appearance. He drove the animal for several weeks and succeeded in attracting the admiration of another lover of horseflesh, who made a proposal to purchase. "Well," said the Memphian, "I gave one fifty for her, but I will let you have her for one sixty-five."

The prospective buyer looked the animal over and concluded he had a bargain. He paid over the money and took the mare. When the animal was unhitched, the first thing she did was to run against a post and then by way of emphasizing the fact that she was blind fell over a barrel. The next day the buyer came back to the Memphian with blood in his eye.

"Colonel, you know that mare you sold me," he began. "Well, she's stone blind."

"I know it," replied the colonel, with an easy air.

"You didn't say anything to me about it," said the purchaser, his face reddening with anger.

"Well, I'll tell you," replied the colonel. "That fellow who sold her to me didn't tell me about it, and I just concluded that he didn't want it known."

The new owner took his medicine and is now on the lookout for a friend on whom he can even things.

THE CARE OF SHEEP

EASILY AFFECTED BY FEED AND WATER AND BENEFITED BY EXERCISE.

Sheep require exercise, and especially is this true in making baby mutton. Exercise stimulates their appetite and tends to keep off disease. The accompanying illustration from The National Stockman and Farmer shows the system of a practical shepherd. The supply of water is also one of the most important things to think of in regard to the welfare of sheep. As a rule, says The Sheep Breeder, running water is objectionable unless it is brought by pipes or a spout into a trough or a succession of them. Drinking from the ground should be avoided as much as possible, so should water gathered from roofs into cisterns. All such water is apt to be impure and may be infected by injurious parasites. Even well water is frequently objectionable on account of mineral impurities, by which any of several diseases may be caused.

Brook water and pond water, which is worst, are almost always impure and quite frequently injuriously so. It is apt to contain eggs or the larvæ of injurious intestinal parasites of several kinds, and the dreaded stomach worm even may be taken up by sheep or lambs in water in which a flock can stand, then dropping their dung in it. The eggs of tapeworms, too, may exist in such water and thus sheep be infected. In fact, any water whatever which is exposed to the air or to visits of other animals, wild or tame, is liable to be contaminated in this way, and the use of it is to be guarded against. Instances have occurred in which the fencing up of all natural supplies of

EXERCISING BABY MUTTON.

water and the digging of a well, the water being pumped into troughs for use by a windmill, have relieved flocks from diseases which have been due to the use of natural supplies.

The very common use of rape as a green feeding crop for sheep or lambs, the eagerness with which the sheep feed on it and the succulence of the fresh green plant make it extremely desirable that caution be exercised in the use of it. It should not be fed when wet with rain and while it is in a luxuriant condition. It should not be fed when the sheep or lambs are hungry. The flock should not be kept on it more than 15 minutes or half an hour at the most for some days after the feeding of it has begun. It is best to put the flock into the field or lot near noon, after they have been pasturing some hours, and always when the rape is dry.

American Trotters.

The trotting horse may be said to be the perfection of the American type, says Ainslee's Magazine, but there are modifications of this type all in a measure due to the making of that type resulting in heavy harness horses, high steppers and the best kind of saddle horses, while the general utility horses of this country are so far superior that they are being purchased for use in the European armies to such an extent that the exportation of horses is becoming a great business. To be sure, we are importing horses all the while also, but these are brought either to add new strains to our thoroughbred stock or to keep up the supply of heavy draft animals. Hackneys have also been brought in within 15 years in great numbers, and it is likely that within a decade or so there will be an American hackney type. The hackney as originally developed in England, as the name implies, was a general utility horse and used under the saddle and in harness as a hack. The accentuation of the high knee action of this kind of horse has given to it a vogue in England, and they have been used for coach and light driving as well, the showy movement being considered very graceful and effective.

Pure Bred Scrubs.

During the years of depression in pure bred live stock not a few breeders made the mistake of neglecting to record their stock, to their subsequent regret and loss, says The National Stockman. Now some of them are running close to the other extreme, not only recording inferior animals, but allowing them to perpetuate their undesirable qualities. Unfortunately there are always buyers who are seeking pure bred stock at grade prices, and to them some breeders are selling their culls. This is at best a shortsighted policy, which will result in injury not only to the reputation of the breeder, but to the cause of improved live stock. We have never yet met a buyer who got scrub stock at a corresponding price who did not think he ought to have as good as the best. He is never satisfied and never will be even if he did get actual value for his outlay. The best way for all concerned is to let the pure bred scrubs go to the shambles.

LIVE STOCK SOUTH.

Farmers of Georgia and Alabama Awake to New Industry.

The restless energy and enterprise of the cattle men of the west have opened up an entirely new source of revenue and profit to the farmers of Georgia and Alabama, says a correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer. For months the agents of the cattle men of Kansas and other western states have been scouring every section of Georgia and Alabama buying every "piny woods" cow and steer they could find at prices that were considered fancy by the farmers, who had hitherto been glad to get rid of their "dry cattle" for almost any price. The railroads have carried train load after train load of these piney woods cattle to the western ranges, where they have been fattened and shipped to the slaughter houses. In fact, the shipments have been so numerous and so large that people are wondering where so many old, poor cows came from. These sales have brought thousands of dollars into the south, but this has been the least of the benefits resulting to the section from the enterprise and hustle of the western cattle dealers.

The returns from the sales have opened the eyes of the farmers to the fact that there is money to be made by raising cattle to sell to western dealers, and as a result hundreds of pastures are being built up and enlarged, and breeds of cattle that mature early and fatten easily are being rapidly introduced. The farmers figured it out that if the western men could pay them a fair price for piney woods cattle, pay freight on them to the western ranges, fatten them and then pay another freight to the packing houses there must be money in it for the buyers. They reason that it will be much more profitable for our farmers to raise better breeds of cattle, fatten them in their own pastures and ship direct to the packing houses than it would be to continue the present plan of selling to the speculators for shipment to ranges in the west.

Red Hogs.

Each and every breeder has his own fancy as to breeds, said Sam Walker before the Breeders' association of Licking county, O. Some prefer Berkshires, some Poland-Chinas, some Chester Whites, some Duroc-Jerseys. The truth is no doubt each breed has its good qualities. But the question comes forcibly to our minds which is the most profitable breed to make a success in hog raising. The Duroc-Jersey is the only pure bred hog that will make his offspring uniformly after his own color. He was ridiculed a few years ago as a perfect curiosity; but, like the Norman horse, he has become popular. Today the Duroc-Jerseys bring better prices than any other breeds. Why? Because their offspring prove to be more profitable. Their superiority over some other breeds lies in several things. In breeding they are more prolific, having no equal in this. They make good mothers no difference how young. Seldom do a sow lost in farrowing, and the little ones lose no time in finding their own feet. They are very hardy hogs and make good grassers; will take on fat at any age, and, having a good coat of hair, they will stand the cold winters and hot summers as well and will care for themselves. They are easily handled. They will make a weight in show condition at 6 months old of 200 to 250 pounds. They have been tried and not found wanting, weighed and not found light, tested and all found to be good, raised and found profitable, bred and found to be the most profitable of all breeds of swine. Never have to kill any of them because they have too many white spots. The Duroc-Jersey is a red hog and red all over.

Selection of Breeding Ewes.

The choice of ewe lambs to increase the flocks should be begun while they are running with the parent and should be first made to depend upon what is known of her, says The American Cultivator. If she has produced good lambs and has proved to have abundance of milk, it may be expected that this quality is likely to be transmitted to her ewe lambs or through her ram lambs to the next generation. The production of twins or triplets is largely hereditary, and the number of such can be increased by those who think it desirable by the saving of ewe lambs that are from ewes dropping twins. In a similar manner one who knows the ewes can choose lambs to mature early, to fatten easily or to yield heavy fleeces, as they may think most desirable, and such as are chosen in this way should be marked and their development watched. If they show faults later on, they can be culled out and should be. If we had 50 lambs and wanted to increase our flock by 20, we would reserve 30 until well grown to select from, and when we made a final choice we would be able to give our reason for reserving each one. It might not be a good reason or might not seem so to others who were building up a flock upon a different principle, but no system at all is worse than one that is closely followed until its faults have been made apparent by the test of time.

British Exports.

We exported 452 cattle last year valued at £14,190 as compared with 341 valued at £11,566 in the first quarter of last year, says the London Live Stock Journal. The like comparison for sheep and lambs exported is 1,540 valued at £16,940 against 1,690 valued at £18,465. That of pigs is 85 valued at £281 against 374 valued at £1,947, and that of other animals is 23,040 valued at £11,640 against 13,150 valued at £12,921. The value of all animals exported, including horses, noticed in another paragraph, was £185,436 against £204,893.

Sheep Worms.

The full treatment recommended by the Ohio experiment station for worms in sheep or lambs is to put a gallon of flaxseed in a cheesecloth sack and place this in a kettle with two gallons of water and let it steep for two hours. Then remove the bag and let it drain thoroughly into the kettle. When the flaxseed tea is about as warm as freshly drawn milk, put four ounces into a bottle and add a common tablespoonful of gasoline for each sheep of 60 to 80 pounds weight. Shake well for a minute or two, then turn into the drenching bottle and give to the sheep. Have the sheep set up on its rump and held between the knees, taking care not to throw the head farther back than the line of the back. The sheep should be housed in the evening and not fed before 10 o'clock, when the dose may be given. Allow them to remain three hours longer without food or drink; then let them feed until evening. Repeat this treatment for three days, and in a week's time give three days more of the treatment and again repeat at end of ten days more, always giving the medicine after about 16 hours' fasting and fasting about three hours after giving it. The flaxseed tea need not be made fresh each time, but should be warmed every time, as the gasoline mixes better with it and passes down from mouth and throat to stomach.

When to Plant Trees and Shrubs.

But for the difficulty of obtaining well matured stock in the fall I should advocate setting most trees and shrubs in September and October. Because of this difficulty, however, spring planting is usually advisable, says Professor Munson of Maine. All planting should be done just as early in the spring as possible, that the trees or shrubs may become well established before the leaves are put forth.

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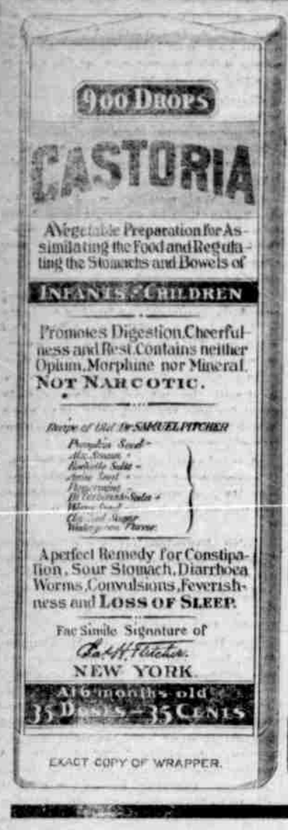

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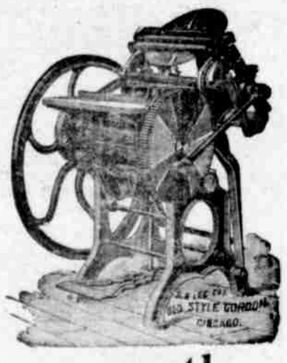

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