OUR BREEDS OF DRAFT HORSES.

Prof. J. G. Fuller, Madison, Wis.

In discussing this important subject I shall attempt to present the facts concerning our breeds of draft horses in relation to the draft horse situation in our own state. Valuable statistics on the horse industry in Wisconsin are rapidly being compiled by the department of horse breeding. At the present time we have about 1700 draft stallions in Wisconsin. Classified as to breeds, including pure-bred and grades there are approximately 1200 Percherons, 200 Clydesdales, 150 Shires, 110 Belgians and 50 French draft.

These breeds of horses all have a common ancestor in the old Black horse of feudal times, a race of horses developed in Flanders, popular as a war horse and for heavy service. It was this animal that gave size to the modern breeds. With the passing of time and under varied conditions the modern breeds of draft horses have come into existence.

The Percheron of to-day, as we see him in his greatest excellence, comes directly from his native home, the district formerly known as La Perche, in France. He is the result of many centuries of breeding and we may well term him the champion breed of the continent. He is a combination of the best continental blood with the very best of continental conditions. His size, derived from the ancient Black horse, coupled with the style and action, contributed by the horses of the far East, have been moulded into permanent form. History states that in the year 723 Charles Martel fighting for Saracens or Arabians of the far East went down in defeat in the battle of Tours, France, at which time about 300,000 Arabian horses fell into the hands of the French people. Most of these horses being stallions they had a lasting influence on the horses of the country.

Until about fifty years ago there were three classes of horses in France all developed for a definite purpose and each class of practically the same breed. They were as follows: the light horse used for saddle and driving purposes, the middle class or medium sized horse used mainly for heavy driving or coach purposes, and the heavy horse, the least in number, for draft and agricultural purposes. For many centuries grey was the com-
mon color of these horses, in keeping with the old Arabian idea that horses under the grey coat were most serviceable in the heat of the sun. It was not until the last quarter of the 19th century that the Percheron became the favored breed of French horses. Until this time he was classed as a French horse, along with the other breeds of France. The Percheron Horse Society of France was organized in 1883 and since that time the name Percheron has been before the world as identifying that race of horses bred only in the departments of Normandy and La Perche in northwestern France.

**French Draft Horses.**

The draft horses bred outside of the Percheron district are termed French draft horses and include the following breeds; Boubonnair, Breton, Nivernais, Ardenness, and Picardy. They have much in common with the Percheron, but are generally heavier and more sluggish. They lack the style and action so characteristic of the well-bred Percheron. In quality and conformation they are much inferior to the Percheron, for they have not experienced the long refining process of selection and intelligent management. It may be stated that so far as we know, the Boubonnair is the only one of these breeds maintaining a stud book. The American French Draft Association organized in 1878 will register all of these breeds, including the Percheron.

**The Belgian.**

The Belgian is the second horse of importance among continental draft horses and is rapidly growing in popularity in the United States, but as far as I am able to determine, not in Wisconsin. He has an ancient ancestry, for Belgium has long been noted for the production of heavy horses. It is said the Romans secured their heavy horses from Belgium. Since 1850 special attention has been given to the improvement of draft horses and at that time a government stud was established. In 1886 the official Draft Horse Society of Belgium was established and has since been in close relation with the horse breeding interests.

The government promotes and regulates its horse breeding
industry by appropriating funds and defining their use. It supports the registry association, maintains stallion inspection service, contributes liberal premiums for horses, and subsidizes its best stallions.

THE CLYDESDALE AND THE SHIRE.

The Clydesdale, our most favored breed of British draft horses in Wisconsin, is a Scotch breed developed in the valley of the Clyde river in counties of Lanark and Stirling. The Black horse of Flanders appears to have been an important factor in the foundation of Scotch and English breeds as well as on the Continent. There are supposed to have been several importations of heavy Flemish stallions into the British Isles centuries ago. These mated with the native stock of the districts in which they were introduced made the foundation on which the Clydesdale and English Shire were developed.

Breeding pure-bred draft horses in England and Scotland has long been an important part of their agriculture and the great enjoyment and satisfaction of the people. In the last thirty years well regulated registration associations have been established and through the intelligence of breeders many famous animals and families of draft horses have been developed. Personal interest, public sentiment and public aid all have been conspicuous factors in achieving success and bringing the British draft horse to its present day enviable condition. Both breeds have reliable foreign stud books established in both countries about a quarter of a century ago.

This in brief is the history of the breeds to which belong the 1700 draft sires now in Wisconsin. With this stock of sires on hand and the market drafter steadily increasing in value, the future is certainly a promising one for the producer of draft horses.

Although the ideal market drafter can be produced by any of these breeds, he is seldom found and his proper conformation is not yet well understood by the producer. His essential characteristics should ever be kept before us. First. He must have size and be built for labor. There is a tendency everywhere to overload the draft horse. Chicago has recently enacted an ordinance specifying the maximum loads for horses, as 3500 lbs. for horses hitched singly and 4000 lbs. for horses
hitched in pairs. We can rest assured the maximum load will be required by all horses that reach the streets of Chicago.

Second. A deep bodied, closely coupled conformation should always be a strong characteristic in our market drafter. There are many counterfeits among the highly conditioned horses that go to market. Like the show stallion when stripped of their superfluous flesh, there is little substance left for actual service and only the teamster who works with the horse daily knows the true value of the beast.

Third. Large, sound feet are everywhere necessary to large horses, whether they be working on the farm or in the streets of great cities. At the present time it would seem that there is a great lack of quality in the feet of our drafters. The feet are often too small and not the proper shape, but I believe the greatest fault is in lack of quality. A thin, brittle, uneven, horn is altogether too common. In brief, lack of size, improper body conformation and poor feet are the great faults to me corrected in our market drafters of to-day. Producing good drafters and improving the horses of our state can only be done by grading up through the use of proper mares mated with the best pure-bred draft sires. Select the breed best suited to your condition and continue to improve it.

At this time the breeding of draft horses, both grades and pure-breeds, is greatly encouraged throughout the central west. It is urged because the high prices of market drafters give assurance of a good financial return for the investment. But, it seems to me that the satisfaction and educational value of breeding and developing a high class drafter of one breed is an achievement that should challenge the efforts of every lover of improved live stock.

Special attention has been given to the draft horse breeding industry in Wisconsin the last four years and our legislation enacting the stallion service laws has created wide agitation and like legislation has followed in many states. This agitation has resulted in new and important interest in our breeds of draft horses and has drawn particular attention to their breeding and registry associations.

The relation of a breed to its registry association is an important one. The association should be vigorously supported by every breeder, attract the admiration of every inquirer, and enthuse the beginner with its accuracy and integrity. Unfor-
tunately this has not been the case in the history of all the American draft horse registry associations. However, the Clydesdale, the Shire, and the Belgian are most fortunate in this respect. They are supported by strong and reliable associations both in their native countries and the United States. But the history of Percheron records is a different story. The Percheron in France is supported by a well-organized and thoroughly reliable association established in 1883. This association registers the Percheron horse only and is credited with being one of the most reliable horse registers in the world. Unfortunately the registration of the Percheron horse in America has never been conducted on a basis satisfactory to all parties concerned. There are now three or more associations in America registering Percheron horses, all operating in their own way under somewhat different regulations and much to the disadvantage of the breed. It is greatly to be regretted that the records of this grand breed of horses have not been kept and maintained by one strong association supported by the united efforts of the multitude of breeders throughout the United States.

In conclusion permit me to advance three important essentials highly necessary to continued progress in breeding draft horses. First, more general education for the producer; second, official inspection of service stallions by a state examining board, and lastly, rigid national control and inspection of all registration associations.

---

**DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Imrie: Is there any one Percheron association that registers all these different Percherons in this country?

Prof. Fuller: There are three associations doing business and all register Percheron horses brought from France. The one that should be the old reliable society and the one that ought to maintain the whole thing and have all the records is the Chicago Association, the Percheron Society of America, located in the Union Stock Yards, Chicago. That is the one we all like to do business with, but that is pretty badly mixed up on this proposition. The fact is that they have all these horses
in their books and they cannot be located over in France, then
four or five hundred of them register in Percheron Society of
America, and they have got all these horses. Now the Per-
cheron Registry Company has been a pretty reliable association
and their work seemed to be on the right basis, yet they have
been in business only two or three years and they have records
of only that time, mostly of imported horses. Really all the
records are in the old association, the one that most breeders
would like to stand by and yet at the present time there is a
great deal of dissatisfaction within the old association. The
more I think of this thing, the more I appreciate the inconveni-
ience of not having a good Percheron Association representative
of strong public regard and integrity.

Prest. McKerrow: Do you mean to infer then that horse-
men are not quite as good as Shorthorn cattle men?

Prof. Fuller: If we rely on the statistics there is something
mighty wrong with out Percheron history, that is all there is
about it. We are still human and I guess our importers, those
looking at the financial end of it, have been greatly to blame.

Mr. Convey: I am a member of the American Percheron
Association and I attended their convention last November or
December, and that matter came up during the meeting, as I
understand, formally, and the Association was conducted, it
was said by an individual, and the registry was quite unsatis-
factory in that case. Later on, the breeders have organized,
and are making every possible effort to get the pedigrees
straightened out. If Prof. Fuller can suggest anything they
haven’t done, I would like to hear from him. Even over in
France they almost allowed the regular association over there
to lapse. As I understand some pedigrees were brought into
this country that they scarcely knew what to do with, but if
Prof. Fuller could suggest anything, I know that the member,
of that association would appreciate any suggestion that meets
with his approval.

Prest. McKerrow: Any suggestions, Professor?

Prof. Fuller: The only suggestion that I can offer is to
look out for the whole proposition; follow the thing up, and
state your pedigrees pretty carefully and be ready to back up
any movement in the direction of cleaning the thing up that
can be done.

Mr. Imrie: It seems to me that in all these organizations
where they have so many different views, so many different ways of registering, that the average man is mystified, one is reported here and another there, and if they all come together and make one association of it, it would be a great deal better for everybody concerned.

Prof. Fuller: One more thing, I think we should take active part in our own state, because we have been leaders in horse registration. At Washington it has been a political proposition, but I can’t understand why it is that the National Government cannot regulate these associations and make every one of them do reliable business, or else make it go out of business. The idea of the department, which the Secretary maintains, seems to be to have certain inspectors travel around the country and inspect these associations in an informal way, and then they dash off on another line and get all the information they can and go away. Why can’t the Government say they shall not or they shall do so-and-so, or else go out of business, and give us a good, honorable association in which every farmer shall get a good square deal?

Mr. Hill: This is along the lines of a paper I read two years ago. I think as Mr. Fuller does that the Government taking hold of this thing is very essential, not only for the Percheron association, but for many other associations. Is there any move on in that direction?

Prof. Fuller: Yes, but I do not know that it is crystallized in anything definite. I think it is to be taken up next week in the Horse Association meeting.

Mr. Convey: The American Percheron Association sent a committee, the officers of the Association waited on the Secretary of Agriculture at Washington, and they have undertaken a system of checking and keeping the record of all importations so that we hope some improvements will be made along that line. They promise to do so, at least we sent a special delegation down there for that purpose, and they suggested a line of improvement, and I understand the Department at Washington promised to work along that line.

Prest. McKerrow: Right along this line I have had a little experience myself in pedigree live stock for the last forty years, and it is unfortunate that irregularities,—we will call them that, because it is a mild name, although I believe in calling a spade a spade,—have crept into some of these associations coming
through the work of certain importers and breeders, and continuously brought about by the love of filthy lucre, the almighty dollar.

Going back to the early days of the Percheron Register Association, we had two very large importing associations in the United States; the Dillons of Bloomington, Ill., and the late Mark W. Dunham of Wayne, Ill. They began with stud books, and were nominally associations, but really they were private associations. They started out separately, but finally the Dillons and Mr. Dunham in a way got together, yet it is said by those on the inside of the circle that Mr. Dunham was dissatisfied at the two names, and ultimately had the name changed from Norman to Percheron, and ultimately got control of the organizations with Mr. S. B. Thompson, whose name to the old breeders of horses is very familiar. Mr. Thompson was the secretary of this Percheron organization and Mr. Dunham was its director, you might say, in those early days. It ran along in that way. The Dillons were not satisfied with this record, because they were bringing a great many horses out of the Percheron district and it is said Mr. Dunham got them outside, but he got them into the Percheron stud book, but as he is dead, we will not go into that very far. The Dillons, not being satisfied with the change of name, were the moving spirits in the organization of the French Draft Stud Book, and other parties were brought in with them, and that book was established, which has not had a very prosperous history of growth. The Percheron Stud Book went on and flourished well. It started practically as a close incorporation, directed practically by Mr. Dunham and it finally became the private property of Mr. S. B. Thompson, and in the last days, as is mentioned in this little circular, in the last days, under the management of Mr. Thompson, suspicions arose that false pedigrees were reported. Certain importers of this state have had as high as fifty blank certificates turned over to them, signed by Mr. S. B. Thompson, and filled out the blanks, some on the boat coming over or in quarantine, or on the cars coming across the country, and sometimes, at least, made to fit the horse for the occasion. So the story goes at least and I have had this story from some of the men who have been at the heart of the business, in our confidential moments, you know. But the result of it was that the best Percheron breeders, knowing these facts, moved for a new
organization, the larger organization now in this country. They gave Mr. Thompson an ultimatum that they would either run him out of business, or he could sell his books and rights in the Percheron Association at a nominal figure to them, and Mr. Thompson gave up the fight after some litigation and counterfencing and work, and practically turned over his books to the Association that you mention, that Mr. Convey is a member of. As I understand from those who have been breeders and interested in that association, they found a pretty dirty stable and they have been trying to clean that stable ever since, and as they are the larger association and the more representative association in the country, I live in hopes that they will be able to clean the stable. We are assured they will try to do the right thing and help everybody.

Prof. Fuller: They can keep the dirt from coming in again anyway.

Prest. McKerrow: Now, I don't like to say of an association that they work with dishonest purposes, although there may be such, and not only that, but sometimes they are ignorant in the matter of pedigree. You can usually straighten up an ignorant fellow, but a dishonest fellow is a hard one to straighten up. In some of these breeds that are being very largely imported, there is always a little trouble in the air. Some of the sheep associations of which I am a member have at times had to send our secretaries to the quarantine station where the sheep were landed to take the number of importations, the tags and numbers, and ages, all the data possible to get there to make sure that things were kept straight with certain importers, and some of them had considerable reputation, too. Now, I do not believe that the sheep men are any worse than the cattlemen or the horse men. The government inspector, it strikes me, and I told Mr. Wilson so a few years ago when they were starting this inspection business,—that a government inspector looking into these organizations ought to make it a business to be at the landing points. He might not do any good, but if he took numbers and names at the time of the landing of these animals, it might prompt some of our importers to be a little more cautious than they are, in the manner in which they fix up these things at least.

Mr. Cowan: It would scare them, at least.

Prest. McKerrow: Yes, it would scare them at least. Now
the Professor has spoken about the government inspector and I am not objecting to him, but like Prof. Fuller, I do object to the social visits, backed up sometimes by the social glass and the good fellowship that prompt that inspector to go away sometimes without looking very deeply into matters and to give a whitewash to the business, to forget to inquire very much about it. But there is one thing he never forgets, and that is to draw his salary.

Now, I believe that right on this question it should be the business of the breeders and the farmers here assembled to voice their sentiments along these lines, that is one of the purposes of just such meetings of farmers as this.

The chair will admit that he has neglected to appoint a committee on resolutions, and at this time unless he hears objections he is going to appoint a committee on resolutions, and we trust that one of the things that may be taken care of by that committee is the sentiment of this meeting on the line of registry associations and that that sentiment may go to Washington, to the Department.

Therefore, I will appoint at this time as the members of that committee, Mr. C. L. Hill of Rosendale, Mr. Thomas Convey of Ridgeway, and H. C. Taylor of Orfordville.

Prof. Fuller: Mr. Chairman, I might say this, we are going to try to get such a resolution passed by the Horse Breeders next week, and I think it will go. As a teacher I am continually urging our boys to go out and make a little investment in good live stock. Sometime ago one of our farmer students had gotten a soaking on one of these pedigrees. I was to blame to some extent for it, I thought I had sent him to responsible parties. Now, that is a discouraging thing for a teacher. If the rules are not going to bear up our reputations for honesty and integrity, some of us cannot always preach those doctrines.

Mr. Cowan: I really know very little about the horse end of the farm business, and I know very little about these draft horse associations, and it is really a very safe rule when a man knows nothing about what he is talking about, to keep still. But a question has come up here that touches a little bit upon associations about which I do know something. The suggestion of Prof. Fuller that we have the national inspection registry is good in a measure, but it is only good to the extent of controlling that association and saying that in the future it shall be honest.
The National Government cannot say to that association, "You shall purge your records from all spurious pedigrees."

Now then, I fancy that these new Percheron associations have started up simply on the ground of their dissatisfaction with the irregularities and spurious pedigrees that have been recorded by the parent association. Now, you cannot say to them, they shall come into one organization so long as some other association continues these spurious records so that the Government or official inspection can be good to the extent of controlling associations in the future, but it cannot force it to purge its records of false or spurious pedigrees, and so long as that condition exists, I doubt very much if you can get the seceding or new organizations to come in and join in one record.

Now then, if all the breeders of draft horses should meet and say, "We are willing to purge this record of all spurious pedigrees," you can see how it would reach out, the five or six hundred horses that should not have been recorded have been used all over the country and been used on mares that were absolutely right and straight. Now then, all of their offspring for all these generations—why, it would reach into hundreds of men and thousands of horses and hundreds of thousands of dollars in value, so it is really a very perplexing condition.

Now then, our Shorthorn Association never had any such condition as that. At one time there were three herd books of recorded Shorthorns in the United States; there was the first one that was organized by Louis F. Abbott, at Buffalo, N. Y.; there was the Ohio Shorthorn Herd Book and the Kentucky Shorthorn record. The Kentucky Shorthorn record association was organized simply because some breeders became dissatisfied with Mr. Abbott, because of the way he managed the business, the books. He was recording cattle that beyond the state were not entitled to record. That condition existed only until they published ten volumes. Then the breeders got together, bought out the Ohio record and the Kentucky Shorthorn record, and organized the present American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, and of course, ceased to publish anything except the one Herd Book.

Now then, there were a few pedigrees in the early days by Mr. Abbott that perhaps should not have been recorded, and the present Association, with the distinct understanding with Mr. Abbott that they would continue to report the produce of
those few cows, though they were not really entitled to record, that was done, but then the Association ceased ever to accept any of a similar kind, so that the record now is in a splendid condition and I will say here that the American Shorthorn Breeders’ Association, during the time that I have been connected with it, have investigated and put out of business three men that we, after investigation, proved were dishonest and were recording fraudulent pedigrees. We struck from the record absolutely all those fraudulent pedigrees that these men had recorded, and then put them out of business by a resolution that they never afterwards could record a single animal in that Herd Book.

Now, if the record associations could only take that stand and march right up to the line and hew to the line, there would be no trouble, or at least very little trouble with the business, because, when men find out that the Association is not going to tolerate that kind of thing and that it will promptly expose them, they are going to be very careful indeed in trying to perpetrate frauds on the record association.

Prest. McKerrow: That is very good, but for want of time we will have to close this discussion, because we have two very important subjects yet for this session. The talk of Mr. Cowan was to the point and it is to be regretted that in some breeds of live stock there have so many associations sprung up, and yet there are people who argue that that is a good thing, because one association watches the other. I believe that instead of that, there should be one central organization for the country and then that each state at least ought to maintain a breeders’ association that will help watch the conditions in their own state, and where there is much breeding done, it will pay to have county organizations. We have them in Wisconsin and the county organizations could watch the breeding in the smaller districts and by all working together with a cap-sheath or National organization, things can be kept cleaned up.

The object of this committee is simply to resolve on these lines and help to educate us all, and we will leave it in their hands.

The next topic on our program is worded “Breeding Sheep for Highest Profit,” but I understand should be “Feeding Sheep for Highest Profit,” to be presented by a gentleman who needs no introduction, because you have heard not only of the
great reputation that Wisconsin has had for twenty or thirty years at the great shows of the country, but you have heard something about Wisconsin's great reputation in the National Live Stock Show in Chicago, and you probably were as proud as I am of the reputation of Wisconsin at all these great shows, especially at the last National exhibit, when out of the first class of the best flocks of breeding sheep one prize went to—one to the State of New York; one went to Iowa and four of them came to the State of Wisconsin; also the record made in the carcass test, wherein of three prizes offered, for the Wether carcass, the first and third came to Wisconsin, and in the champion carcass classes the first, second and third came to the State of Wisconsin and the champion to Wisconsin lambs at Chicago. Of course we all swelled up with pride. Now, the gentleman that fed these winning carcasses we all ought to and probably do know something about, and we would like to meet him face to face, because he fed those lambs himself, and now we have a chance to make him tell us his secrets.

FEEDING SHEEP FOR HIGHEST PROFIT.

FRANK KLEINHEINZ, Madison.

The introduction which I have received from our worthy President, Mr. McKerrow, is a little extreme, I believe, because you probably will expect too much of me when I begin talking here, and when I am through you will probably question me more sharply than I am able to answer you.

I will say that while I know some men perhaps have a little more knowledge and experience about certain lines of live stock, still there is no one that I ever got acquainted with that knew it all, although we admit that some are a little bit further along on certain lines of work, having had more experience.

If we want to consider this subject properly, we must, I believe, start with the lamb shortly after its birth. To obtain the highest profit on sheep or lambs intended for market, we should not overlook the fact that lambs should be docked, and male lambs not intended for breeding purposes, should be castrated. In this respect farmers must improve their methods in our state.