

they rent 52,000 acres more. The Board of Managers of the company have just decided to sanction the purchase of 10,529 acres at £7,191. The local director and the Fray Bentos managers strongly recommended the purchase. This is about \$4.50 an acre. If they pay such prices there, the prices demanded for land in the West and South of \$1 to \$3 an acre must be very low, and can be well afforded by the owners of large stocks of cattle. Hereford cattle are being exported from England to Buenos Ayres to improve the cattle there so as to make much better and smoother beef steers, which will mature early, get fat on grass, and travel well to market.—*Breeders' Journal*.

Breeding the Trotting Horse.

SINCE the day that the book of Genesis was written, every intelligent breeder has regarded the principle that kind produces its kind, or that like produces like, as a fundamental, never-failing law. In the face of this well-recognized principle there are many who argue that an animal can and does transmit a quality that neither it nor any of its progenitors ever did possess. We have reference to that class who attribute the fast trotting gait to the thoroughbred blood that may be found in an animal that trots fast. This class of writers or talkers are no more or no less than a class who fail to comprehend that the fast trotting gait is one that is of recent origin. It makes no difference what breed of horses a trotter (we mean a fast trotter) may trace back to; if it reaches to a non-trotting blood then it can have no claim as a progenitor of trotters. There is much said and written about the blood of Messenger as the real source of the American trotter. Men in this respect are not unlike men in many other things. They get into a groove or line of thinking and don't stop to investigate. Messenger certainly was a good horse, but he was not a trotting horse, nor he never sired one that was. There was no trotting horse in his day, and when one was looked for about the time his youngest colts were ready to die with old age, and although it was found in Messenger's own neighborhood, its breeding to this day is not known. Our only aim in referring to this little bit of history is to show that the trotting gait is one that has been manufactured, and does in no sense owe its origin to any breed of horses

or to any certain animal. We have by judicious selecting and training made a breed. Having done this, there is but one way to improve it, and that is by mating trotting-bred animals. This is a plain proposition. It is one that cannot be ignored nor successfully disputed. Here is the argument in a nutshell. Gen. W. T. Withers, proprietor of Fairlawn Farm, Kentucky, owner of Almont, Happy Medium, Aberdeen and others, who is now regarded as one of the greatest of trotting-horse breeders, says: "Nothing is more certain now than that trotters are begotten by trotters." Think over what the General here says and see if you don't reason at once that if "trotters are begotten by trotters," to argue that trotters are produced by animals that cannot trot, never did trot, have not been bred nor trained to trot, is a most palpable piece of foolishness. A gentleman said to us the other day: "Why don't you admit that horses trot which have got thoroughbred blood in them?" "Certainly," we do admit. "Well, then," said he, "why do you not encourage it?" Our answer to this was: "We know of many fast trotters that have plenty of cold blood in them, but because this is true we never thought it wise to attribute their trotting gait to the cold blood. But," said we, "if you find an animal that was sired by one of the most prepotent trotting sires, and out of a thoroughbred mare, or was the daughter of one, you claim that such a trotter owes its gait to the thoroughbred." Continuing, we asked this friend if he should mate a thoroughbred Berkshire boar with a Chester White and get pigs with a purple-colored skin, black hair, white face, white feet and a white tip on the tail, if he would attribute those Berkshire characteristics to the White Chester. We hope the readers of the *Rural Spirit* will bear in mind that like begets like, and that the law of nature tends towards a greater perfection under favorable circumstances or conditions, and this rule applies to everything, just as well as it does to the breeding of the trotting-horse.—*Rural Spirit*.

Two countrymen seeing a naturalist in a field collecting insects, thus spoke of him: "Vot's that ere gemman?" "Vy, he's a naturalist." "Vot's that?" "Vy, one who catches gnats, to be sure."