

## THE HORSE.

## Requirements of a Choice Horse.

An old horseman knows at a glance, almost, the value of a horse but it would be difficult for him in many cases to explain the good or bad features of an animal to a son, or younger person seeking information. No score card would help an experienced horseman very much in judging a class in the show-ring, but there are certain features and manners which a good horse must possess. If a young man or student will impress these on his mind he will have acquired a mental picture with which to compare all horses and thereby learn to appraise an animal at first glance. W. J. Rutherford has summarized the requirements of a choice horse thus:

Any choice horse, no matter to what class or subclass he may belong, must be right in conformation, type, constitution, disposition, quality, carriage and action, manners, and be "sound as a bell."

**Conformation.** A right conformation consists of a short, wide back; short, broad loin; long, wide, deep quarters with nearly level croup; deep, round ribs and low flank; short, full coupling; full breast and deep, wide chest; strongly muscled stifle; heavily muscled arm, forearm, gaskin and thigh; sloping shoulder well laid in; crested neck neatly joined to a medium short head with broad forehead, large eyes and nostrils, heavily muscled jaws and medium-sized erect ears. This body should be set on legs that are placed squarely under it as viewed from front, side and rear; whose knees and hocks are strong and clean and strongly supported by wide clean cannons; whose pasterns are sloping enough to give springiness to the stride and easement to the foot and shoulder. The pastern should attach to a large, round, deep foot made of dense, smooth black horn, whose heels are medium in depth and wide apart, frog prominent and hoof heads open and roomy.

**Type.**—The type must be such as will enable the horse to do his particular work with the greatest ease and comfort, and lend itself to grace and beauty while he is at rest or in action.

**Constitution.**—Large heart girth, full breast, deep wide chest, large nostrils, full, mild, bright eyes, and good feeding powers indicated by strong jaw, deep ribs, full, low flank and short, full coupling, all combine to produce a strong constitution and give the horse endurance.

**Quality.**—Quality is indicated by cleanness of bone in the face, by cleanness of bone and tendon in the legs from knees and hocks down, by an absence of meatiness in these parts; by fineness of hair; prominence of tendon and density and smoothness of horn in the hoof. All these contribute to make the horse durable.

**Disposition.**—A horse should be kind and tractable, ambitious, bold and fearless. A good disposition is indicated by a wide, full forehead, large, full, mild eye, medium long, promptly set ears and slightly arched tail. The narrow headed, sunken-eyed, lop-eared horse should be avoided.

**Carriage and Action (General appearance).**—The carriage should be lofty and stylish, with a straight-away, clean snappy stride, whether at the walk or trot. These contribute to a good general appearance which oftentimes adds hundreds of dollars to the value of a horse, especially if he belongs to the roadster, carriage or saddle class.

**Manners.**—A horse, otherwise good, is of little use unless he is well trained to halter and rein, taught the proper use of the words "whoa," "get up," and "back" and to stand when hitched, until he is told to go. Unless a horse is well mannered he cannot properly class as a carriage, roadster or saddle horse.

**Soundness.**—A horse is sound when he has no malformation in his makeup, either in wind, body or limb, which will interfere with his usefulness or detract from his general appearance. Some commonly considered unsoundnesses are broken wind, sidebones, ringbones, spavins, curbs, bad eyes, sweeties, corns and quarter cracks. Blemishes such as wire cuts and small splints that do not cause lameness are not considered unsoundnesses.

A horse must not only be sound, but he must possess such a conformation as will (barring accidents) remain sound, to grade as choice in this class and to command the attention of a judge or purchaser.

**Age.**—A horse is not considered mature and set for hard work until he has passed the five-year mark. He is in his prime from five to eight, and, if kept sound until ten, should still have many years of service in him.

**Color.**—Usually browns, bays and chestnuts are in greatest favor, but fancy plays an important part in the selection of horses for particular purposes, and high prices are paid for well matched grays, roans, solid blacks and whites. Blacks and whites of the lighter classes with full flowing tails are used for hearse and hack purposes, while grays and roans of the heavy classes are used for circus, exhibition and advertising purposes. No one seems to take to "flea bitten" grays or mealy bays.

**Sex.**—City buyers prefer geldings, while farmers usually pay more for mares on account of their usefulness for breeding purposes. Geldings are steadier at all times on the city streets than mares.

**Condition.**—Skinny, starey-coated, ill-cared for horses are fit neither for work, market nor exhibition. Over-fat horses are objectionable, as they show staleness at work and in the ring. For the best results a horse should have his frame well covered with hard muscle, plumped out with fat which has been worked on. Unsuspecting buyers often pay a very high price for soft fat on an inferior horse. Such will be the case until we know how to discern between a good conformation

in poor condition and a faulty conformation in high condition. Breeding animals kept in too high condition for exhibition purposes are apt to become very precarious breeders. Already we are experiencing heavy losses from this source alone. Intelligent feeding, working and grooming bring good results.

The foregoing is a description of a high grade horse. According as he conforms to certain requirements of type, height, weight, style and action, manners, and in certain cases, color, will he find a well defined class for himself.

## LIVE STOCK.

Give the heifer a chance to develop before breeding her.

Give the pigs all the clean water they will drink. They need it during the hot weather.

Attention to details and cleanliness of mangers, pens and feed pails are factors in successful calf raising.

On the agriculturist's back will rest a good deal of the burden of reconstruction. Good live stock will help bear this load.

The stiffening of the cattle market will be gratifying to feeders with one or two carloads of steers on hand about ready to ship.

Many calves are lost during hot weather through that troublesome complaint "scours." Prevention largely lies in clean feed pails and pens.

The scrub bull will bring a higher price now for beef than he is likely to in the future. Sell him now and keep on the lookout for a right good bull that should improve your herd.

If pasture is likely to be short before fall for sheep, hogs and steers, there is yet time to prepare a few acres for rape. Sown early in July there should be an abundance of feed by September.

An unprecedented demand for live stock for export is experienced in the Old Land, and prices for all classes of stock have reached a new level. Countries which hitherto did little importing are now looking for high-class foundation stock and herd sires.

There is no use bemoaning the fact that your cattle are all of mediocre quality. You have yourself to blame. A better bred sire was available for use at a little more money. When will we cease putting such paramount importance on the first cost of our breeding stock and forget the greater reward to be derived from the quality stuff?

The trend of prices for pure-bred live stock is upward. At Escher & Ryan's auction 171 head of Aberdeen-Angus brought a total of \$376,300. The bull "Enlate" brought \$36,000. Thos. Stanton, of Ill., made an average of \$1,599 on 25 Shorthorns. The Brown-Miner Shorthorns of N. Y. averaged \$1,158 and F. R. Edward's Shorthorns averaged \$1,401. Newton Loyalist, known to many Canadian breeders sold in the latter sale for \$2,500.



Treatment Such as This Will Prevent Many Losses from Heat and Exhaustion.

## A World-wide Demand For British Live Stock.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

At our leading ports where live-stock shipping is handled there are now daily enacted scenes of great activity, in sending abroad thousands of head of pedigree cattle, sheep and pigs, which buyers in all parts of the globe are gathering together with a view to the expansion of the output of meat. On the high seas, as I write, over a thousand head of beef cattle, chosen from our leading herds of Shorthorns, Aberdeen-Angus, Herefords, Sussex, Devons, and other native breeds, are going either to ranches in Rhodesia, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and other countries south of the equator, or to Canada and U. S. A., to strengthen existing herds there, reduced by the call of war conditions. Sheep and pigs, likewise, have sailed in considerable numbers to Japan, Morocco, Australasia, Canada and Argentina.

In the first week in June there was assembled at our ports awaiting shipment almost a dozen separate selections of Shorthorn and Hereford bulls, the like of which have never before gone to America, Argentina and Uruguay. They include champion winners at Perth, Birmingham, Penrith, Hereford, Cookstown, Aberdeen, Bristol, and other leading exhibitions, and though some bulls have cost over £3,000 each, and others £2,000 down to £600, their exporters have no fear but that on the other side of the world they will prove worth their cost in the estancias where beef raising is a far-reaching industry upon which millions of money have been expended. The stamp of quality borne by British bulls is necessary in those estancias where native or grade-bred females predominate.

The story of this volume of export trade is much the same among our sheep stocks. Fleece, and its bulk and quality, however, are subjects of consideration in the specimens bought by foreign customers. While mutton raising is the fundamental object of our pedigree sheep stocks sold for abroad, Canadian and American buyers are finding that the fleece of the Romney Marsh, when crossed on the Merino, has made some cents a pound more than any other wool in the States, and as a Canadian buyer said to me the other day: "When your ranch carries 20,000 sheep those extra cents on each pound of wool mean many dollars to the lucky fellow with the right goods." This gentleman is on a "big buy" over here, and is taking back with him not only Romney breeding stock, but Lincoln Long-wool sheep and other types which produce a dense fleece, and one which will give the sheep protection from the cold winds of the uplands of the States and Canada.

Argentine buyers have this year secured Lincoln sheep as quickly as English breeders could raise them, indeed, the method used has been to buy up every ram raised in every flock, leaving the breeder himself second or third choice. Lincoln rams have lately made £1,000 each, and that price, too, has been paid for Romneys which have been sent abroad. The smart little Welsh and Scotch sheep have also been exported in large numbers. America has taken its quota of Shropshires, Cotswolds and Oxford Downs. Berkshire Large Black and Large White, and Gloucester's Spotted pigs have also gone to places as far apart as Lisbon and Tokio. The world's call for stock cannot really be met with the readiness it might be, for shipping is scarce and freightage remarkably dear. The Board of Agriculture, quite naturally, is carefully superintending this great volume of export business. The latest cattle