

and tame, had been driven. When the sale commenced, it was the duty of the herdsmen to separate two at a time, and drive them through the narrow neck into the pound before the auctioneer. Around a crowd of spectators of every degree were clustered—squires and clergymen, horse dealers and farmers from Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire as well as South Devon and the immediate neighborhood.

"These ponies were the result of crosses made years ago with Dongola and thoroughbred stallions on the indigenous race of Exmoors, since carefully culled from year to year, for the purpose of securing the utmost amount of perfection among the stallions and mares reserved for breeding purposes.

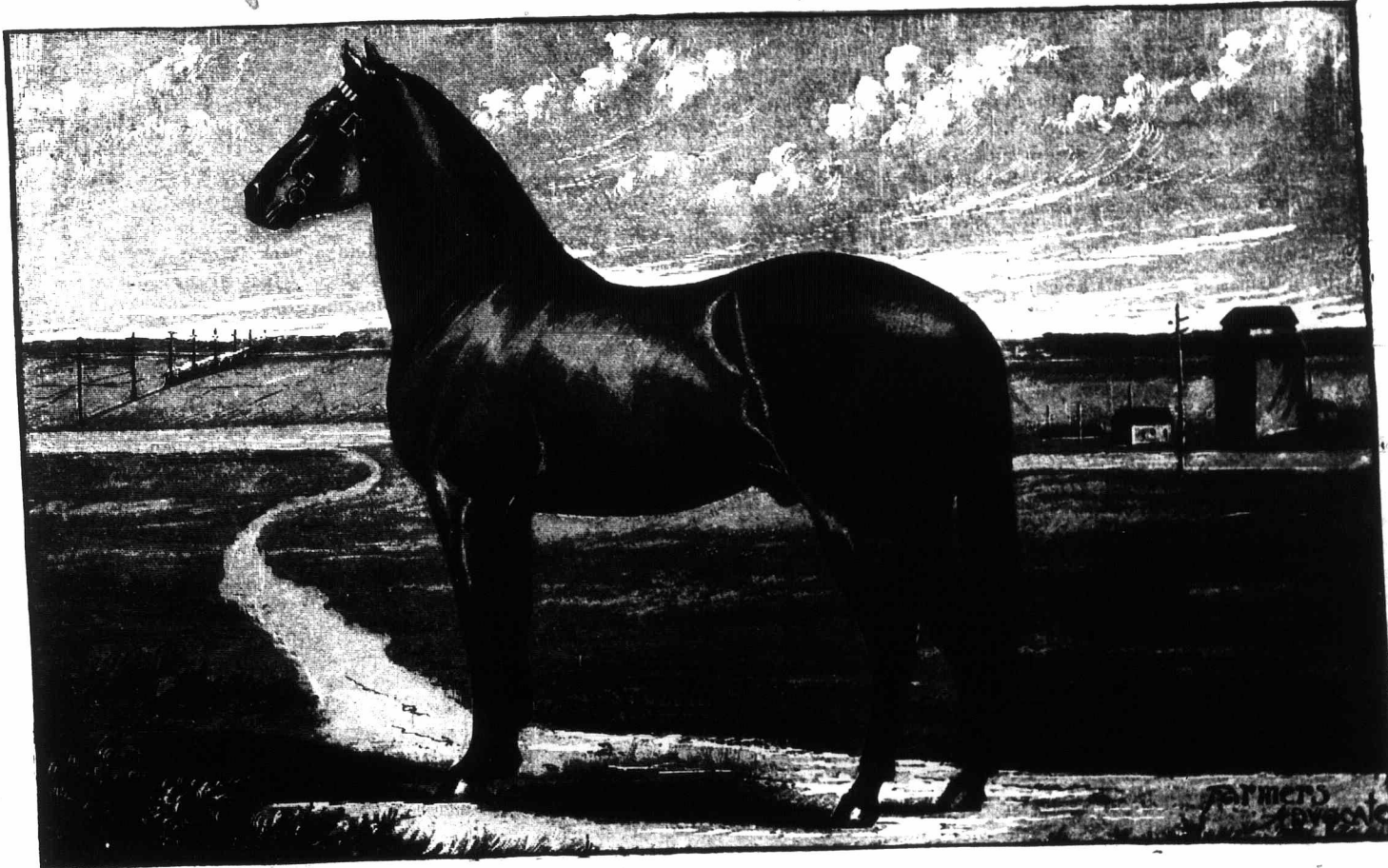
"The modern Exmoor seldom exceeds thirteen hands; has a well-shaped head, with very small ears. The body is round, compact, and well

of Sir Hercules and Beeswing, and afterwards the celebrated pony sire Bobby, who was descended through two degrees on his dam's side from Borack, an Arab of celebrity on the Madras racecourse, the sire of some of the best ponies sold at the sales of Mr. Milward of Thurgarton Priory. But the experiment was not a success, for the foals required to be wintered in paddocks and fed with hay as two-year olds, and, being necessarily reared on the improved lands, cost as much to breed as would have produced larger and more valuable animals.

The true original Exmoor ponies, which were foaled and fed on the moor without any other food than they could pick up in winter on the moors after the Exmoor sheep had been removed to their winter quarters in the surrounding parishes, and which in hard winters sometimes perished of starvation, belonged to Sir Thomas

seek certain favorite spots known to the herdsmen, who build up stacks of rough hay well protected by stout rails, from which in very hard winters they give out supplies to the snowed-out ponies.

The weaned foals are now all sold from their dams at the Bampton fair in October; none are kept except two or three for use on the estate, so that the picturesque sight of a mare with progeny of three years is no longer to be seen. The sire in 1878, and for several previous years, was a tann muzzle black of fine riding form and action, nearly, but not quite, thoroughbred, and about fifteen hands high. The progress of sheep-farming, assisted by growing root and rape crops, has, while reducing the number, enabled Mr. Knight to improve the size of his ponies, which have two great merits for family use—sure-footedness and hardy constitution. Exmoors are



GROSMONT WONDER, THE PROPERTY OF MR. G. ALEXANDER, RAPID CITY, MAN.

ribbed, with good quarters and powerful hocks; legs straight, flat, and clean, the muscles well developed by early racing up and down steep mountain sides while following their dams. In about forty lots the prevailing colors were bay, brown, and grey; chestnuts and blacks were less frequent, although black was one of the colors of the original breed."

Simon's Bath was too far from the rail to continue long to be the site of these sales. They were removed to Bampton, where the ponies were sold by auction in the fair—Bampton fair being *par excellence* the pony fair of the West of England. Later on a little more breaking was bestowed on the ponies, and for several years the sale lots were sent by rail to Reading to meet the buyers.

In 1860 the tenant of an Exmoor farm tried to breed Galloways between 13 hands 2 inches and 14 hands. With this view he employed as a sire a son of Old Port, the diminutive progeny

Acland, who for many years rented the forest from the Crown. They are still bred uncrossed by the present Sir Thomas Acland, but without much improvement either in size or value, at Winsford Hill.

In 1864, when the Exmoor ponies were sold at Reading, three unbroken geldings averaged forty guineas each, a blood bay filly, 12½ hands high, four years old—a perfect model of what a hack pony should be—was sold unbroken for thirty guineas. These were, however, the rare exceptions, and an average of £12 to £15 was a poor return for a lot of good-looking and useful ponies of from three to five years old. A cross between the mares of this breed and a thoroughbred horse produces the blood-like animal of 14 hands high so much sought for London use. But the unimproved Exmoor hills will not produce that half-bred pony, and on the improved land sheep stock pay better.

The mares live on the hills all the winter, and

sometimes grey, occasionally chestnut with white marks, after a remote ancestor, the speedy Velocipede—but bay with mealy muzzle is the favorite Exmoor color—rarely black, and never piebald, although piebald Exmoors are constantly advertised.

Grosmont Wonder.

Grosmont Wonder, the subject of our illustration, is one of the finest specimens of Cleveland Bays we have ever seen. He was imported in the spring of 1890 by Messrs. J. D. McGregor & Co., of Brandon, Man., and sold to the present proprietor, Mr. G. Alexander, Rapid City, Man. Grosmont Wonder 838, Vol. IV., foaled 1887, is by Statesman 662, dam Fairy Land 164, by Barneby 18, is a beautiful bright bay with coal black points; stands a little over sixteen hands high and weighs twelve hundred and fifty pounds. As will be seen, he is of almost faultless symmetry, while his style and action is equally so.