

The German Hanoverian or Oldenburg Coach Horse.

With the above (to Canadians) comparatively new breed of horses, the name of Oltmanns Bros., of Watseka, Ill., has been closely identified, and to them we believe America owes their first introduction. One of the ADVOCATE staff had the pleasure of paying the firm a visit last November at their headquarters, at Watseka, which is situated some eighty miles south from Chicago. Everything pointed to a well-ordered establishment, and notwithstanding the numerous sales already made the firm at that time had some fifty head of stallions for sale. A brief history of the breed, as well as of the business of the firm, we give below, as sent us by the Messrs. Oltmanns, and given in their own words:

Our patrons, and the public generally, will be interested in a brief statement of the facts relating to the breed of horses imported and bred by our firm for many years. We claim to be the pioneers in the business of importing German Coach Horses in the United States, and we have taken the grand sweepstake premium at many State fairs for several consecutive years before other firms that now claim to be rivals ever engaged in the business. But neither our horses nor our business need any booming, for they speak for themselves.

Our horses are mainly imported from Eastfriesland and Oldenburg, the two comprising the northwestern corner of Germany. In this region the raising of horses has long received the most intelligent and careful attention from the wide-awake and thrifty farmers. These countries were generally blessed with wise and generous rulers, who, if they were not philanthropists, were always attentive to their own interests, and were willing to promote the prosperity of their subjects. But, above all, the whole population, since the dawn of history, have been lovers of horses, often equalling the Arab in attachment to their steeds and brood mares.

The Roman historian tells us of the Batavian cavalry as being the flower of the Roman army. Batavia proper did not include the country of the Friesians, but the limited knowledge of the Romans and the want of intercourse with the people dwelling on the shores of the German Ocean may well lead us to believe that these large bodies of cavalry did not come alone from the swamps and marshes of Holland, but were simply named Batavian because they came to the Romans at the Batavian frontiers.

The incursions into, and the final subjugation of England, though generally credited to the Angles and Saxons, undoubtedly was accomplished by the warriors drawn from the shores nearest to the invaded country. And here again we meet with traces of the great attachment to the noble horse. Hengist (stallion) Horsa are named of the leaders of this host that finally established Teuton supremacy in England, and introduced the blood of which the Anglo-Saxon of to-day is so justly proud. Whenever and wherever we hear of them, they are noted for their noble companion, the horse.

Well-authenticated history tells us of the careful breeding of horses in these regions, and since war has ceased to be the occupation of the powerful nobles and princes, many of them have made noble records for themselves in improving the originally good stock, and bringing it to a degree formerly unknown.

The first German Coach horses were imported by us in 1885. At the present time there are a good many firms in this country who are handling the German Coach horses, but we are considered the principal importers, confining ourselves strictly to this class and breed of horses, dealing only in the best class of German Coach horses registered in the stud book of Germany, and before purchased by us are guaranteed to be sure foal getters. The German Coach horse is a first-class coacher, but at the same time he is fitted for agricultural purposes, and being a distinct breed is certain to transmit his good qualities to its offspring. Since the sixteenth century

the German Coach horse has been recognized as a first-class and useful coacher. Especially under the reign of Anton Guenther (1603-1667) the breeding of this class of horses was flourishing in a high degree, and stood first in Germany. That this breed was highly appreciated is proven by the circumstance that these horses were given and considerably used in those times for princely presents.

The German Coach horse is fifteen hands two inches to sixteen hands three inches high. The colors are bay, brown and black; some few have a white spot in the forehead and white feet. They trot very regularly and with much action; are very stylish and handsome, and have short backs and good quarters; weigh from 1,350 to 1,600 pounds. Their early maturity is well-known, being fit for work at two years and for breeding at three years old. In fertility and great hardiness they are not to be surpassed in drawing loads. A couple of good strong horses can convey 10,000 pounds on paved roads.

Gnapheus, who was Mayor of the city of Norden in 1558, says that the city of Aurich had seven annual fairs, to which the Westphalians, Friesians and Belgians came in great numbers to buy war horses (stallions) and cattle for breeding purposes, both being found there only in the greatest perfection.

Count Emo III., of Eastfriesland, sent to King James of England (a founder of a more national system of horse breeding in that country), four Friesian stallions.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The Late Importation of John Millar & Sons, "Thistle Ha," Brougham, Ont.

Of late years the importation of Shorthorn cattle has been the exception rather than the rule. The difficulty of getting them from the Shorthorn districts in Great Britain, together with the irksome, though necessary, quarantine restrictions after landing in Canada, have combined to deter many from continuing this important work. Cruickshank or Sittyton Shorthorns, as most of our readers are aware, have acquired more than a continental reputation. When the Sittyton herd was sold two years ago, for exportation to South America, a large number of the choicest matrons of the herd, together with several of the best breeding bulls, were purchased to add to the already famous herd of Mr. Duthie, Collynie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. From the 1891 crop of calves from these cows the above gentlemen made a selection, ten of which are bulls and three heifers. These have lately arrived home from the quarantine station at Halifax. Every one of them is sired by bulls bred at Sittyton, while their dams belong to the most esteemed Cruickshank tribes, which are represented as follows: Four Lavanders, three Secrets, and one each of the Crocus, Clipper, Barwith Bud, Silvia, Lovely and Duke of Gloucester tribes. The bulls are chiefly of the most approved colors. We should be much disappointed if each of the entire lot does not turn out exceptionally well. In date of birth the bulls range from March 27th to June 3rd of last year, and are of the unmistakable type of the Aberdeenshire Shorthorns, having straight top and under lines, good depth of rib, with nice touch, and giving every evidence of being capable of carrying a good weight of flesh. These calves were necessarily weaned early to be placed on shipboard; however they all have stood their voyage right well. Breeders requiring bulls to head their herds had better not linger, for they are not likely to be long wanting buyers. In regard to the cattle bred at Thistle Ha, we were much impressed with the grand, fleshy two-year-old and yearling daughters of Vice-Consul. It is difficult to conceive anything more even as a lot. They are all large and well developed, and belong to such good, standard families as the Strathallan and Astarte, while a number are from imported cows of the best Sittyton and Kinnellar tribes. Here are also a number of young bulls of the right stamp, although the sales of such come quick and fast, as there is at present an increased demand for No. 1 bulls.

The large flock of imported Shropshire sheep are doing well.

Maplecliff Stock Farm

Is situated in County of Lanark, about one mile from the limits of the city of Ottawa. The proprietors are Messrs. R. Reid & Co., Hintonburg, Ont., who have for a number of years been breeding Ayrshires, and now have a small but choice herd. Robbie Dick, 5363 (Canada Ayrshire Herd record, Vol. 3) is at the head of the herd; he was bred by Mr. Thos. Brown, Petite Cote, and is three years old, nicely marked, has a good mellow skin, is low set, a little undersized, but is proving himself a good sire.

Sunbeam, bred by Mr. Thos. Guy, of Oshawa, Ont., is a good type of an Ayrshire; she has been a successful prize winner at many of the leading shows. She is a red and white of good size, and a heavy milker, her milk rich in butter fat; her average for six months after calving last season was 22 quarts per day. She now has a fine bull calf at her foot, sired by Robbie Dick, that promises to make a good one.

Susie Jane is a large cow, and is also an excellent milker. In the stables is the young bull, Sultan 2nd, from this cow; he is about one year old, sired by Jack of Shade Park. This is a strong calf, promising to make a large and good animal; he was a prize winner last season at Ottawa in a ring of fifteen.

Queen of Meadows, a red and white three-year-old, bred by Mr. Jos. Yuill, Carleton Place, is a large fine looking cow.

Messrs. Reid & Co. have for sale three young bulls, Sultan 2nd and two others.

This firm are also breeders of bronze turkeys, which have been prize winners wherever shown. Amongst these is a tom weighing over 40 lbs.

The South Dumfries and Paris District Breeders' Association.

This, we believe, is to be the initial Breeders' Association in Canada, formed with a view of assisting horse breeding, started somewhat after the manner of the Scotch and English district system, with the object of obtaining the best stallions suitable for the locality. The membership fee is fixed at the nominal sum of 50c., for which sum the members are entitled to all the privileges of the Association. Last season the best results were obtained, two capital horses having been selected, viz., Crosby Chief, an imported Clydesdale stallion owned by Graham Bros., Claremont, and Wild Harry, an imported Yorkshire Coach Stallion owned by Hisy & Son, Creemore, Ont. Both of these had been prize winners, the latter having won sweepstakes in his class at the Toronto Industrial and the Toronto Spring Stallion Show previous to his being chosen. In proof of the satisfactory results the Association intend selecting three stallions the coming season, including a Clydesdale, Coach and Thoroughbred. The advantages of organizing, both to the members as well as the owners of stallions, is readily understood—to the members because they obtain the use of stallions of the best breeding and merit at the same rates that they would have to pay for any horse that chanced to stand in the locality. The horse has to be brought within reach of each member at least once a week, and for a period of three months.

The advantage to the stallion owner is that a sufficient number of mares is guaranteed to make the arrangement pay. If district breeding associations with this object were formed all over the country it would give a wonderful impetus to the breeding interests generally. A more systematic manner of mating the mares with suitable stallions would be the result. Now often through the want of a proper horse not being within reach, and often through ignorance the best mares are lost on account of not breeding them in the proper line.

—"And you know this Deacon Elkins to be a thoroughly reliable man in every respect?" "Indeed, I do," said honest Nathan Robbins. "He is the very soul of honor; couldn't do a mean thing. I'd trust him with all I have." "Well, I'm glad to hear this, for I'm just going to buy a horse of him." "A horse?" "Yes—a horse." "Then I don't know anything about him."