

of "fairer lands and tempered winds" to the south.

From the Upper Columbia lakes to Banff is but four days' easy packing over a well-used pass of the Rockies. Bands of horses, with mares having colts at foot, are driven over this route constantly through the spring and summer months.

The market advantage alluded to above also places the horse rancher beyond any anxiety as to the advent of the railway now building from Golden, while the nature of the country can never allow large areas of it to be adversely affected for ranching, on the building of a railroad through it. It is now old history how the great horse ranches of Calgary have become fertile homesteads for the farmers who have flocked there. This, greatly to the advantage of the prairie provinces, has sometimes spelt ruin to the large ranchers, who were only protected by annual leases for the greater portion of their grazing lands. These leases the Dominion Government very properly refused to renew, as the demand for small holdings became greater.

East Kootenay, B. C.

W. P. EVANS.

Long vs. Short Stirrups.

In reply to the question, "Is there any hard-and-fast rule for correct riding; is the short stirrup absolutely incorrect; or, in other words, is the long stirrup the only correct method?" a writer in the Rider and Driver replies:

In a recent issue of the English Country Life there are photographs of Mr. Buckmaster and the Nickalls Bros. Mr. Buckmaster uses the long stirrup, the Nickalls Bros. the short stirrup. The argument was advanced that by using a short stirrup it was more awkward and heavier for the horse.

My impression is, that the strength of the push upon the stirrups can in no case be greater than the weight of the rider's body. Therefore, how can the short stirrup be harder upon the animal, inasmuch as the weight must, in any case, be received from the center of the saddle?

The correct length of the men's stirrup is the one which allows the thigh to descend obliquely from the hip to the knee, and the leg to fall perpendicularly from the knee to the ankle (thus hiding the girths).

This length of stirrup allows of the foot's describing—when at rest—an oblique in contrary direction to that of the thigh, consequently with the heel lower than the toes.

The advantages of this length of stirrup are manifold, the three principal ones being that of obtaining a greater surface of contact, of assuring greater solidity in the saddle, and of better outlining the human form than does the cramped leg.

With short stirrups the rider's weight is thrust further back on the horse's spine, as it is comprehensible that when a man's knees are pulled up his seat must of consequence be displaced, because the length of his thighs remains unaltered.

Thus with short stirrups the rider sits on the cantle and not in the middle of his saddle, which is incorrect, esthetically as well as anatomically, because his weight is brought to bear on a weaker part of the animal's back.

For this reason do lady's saddle-horses require to have strong backs, the side-saddle's seat being placed behind the horse's natural carrying point.

The difference in the "strength of the push" existing between the long and the short stirrup can be ascertained in two ways: 1st, Theoretically; 2nd, Practically.

1st, Theoretically.—If a compressible object, representing the horse's body, is held between the thumb and forefinger, representing the rider's thigh and leg, it will be seen that the wider apart the two will be kept, representing the "long stirrup," the lesser will be the compression brought to bear on the said object. And vice versa.

2nd, Practically.—Every horseman with a little experience has had to ride some time or other weak-backed horses, and has thus been able to appreciate the influence which the difference in the manner of distributing his weight in the saddle exercises on a horse's back.

A horse should never be put to quite hard, straining work or his highest speed until he is seven years old, says an Old Country stock journal. Those who make the most money out of horses are those who strive to have the best kinds and these free from blemishes or diseases.

I received the premiums, Reading-glass and Harmonica, in good shape, and I am highly pleased, as they are two useful presents. Every farmer's boy or girl should have one, which they can do by securing new subscribers for "The Farmer's Advocate." Wishing the paper every success.

Haldimand Co., Ont.

WM. J. RIDLEY.

LIVE STOCK.

Aberdeenshire Shorthorns.

In a continued sketch of Aberdeenshire Shorthorn herds by a writer in the Scottish Farmer, there appears the following chapter on the Sittyton herd of the late Mr. Amos Cruickshank:

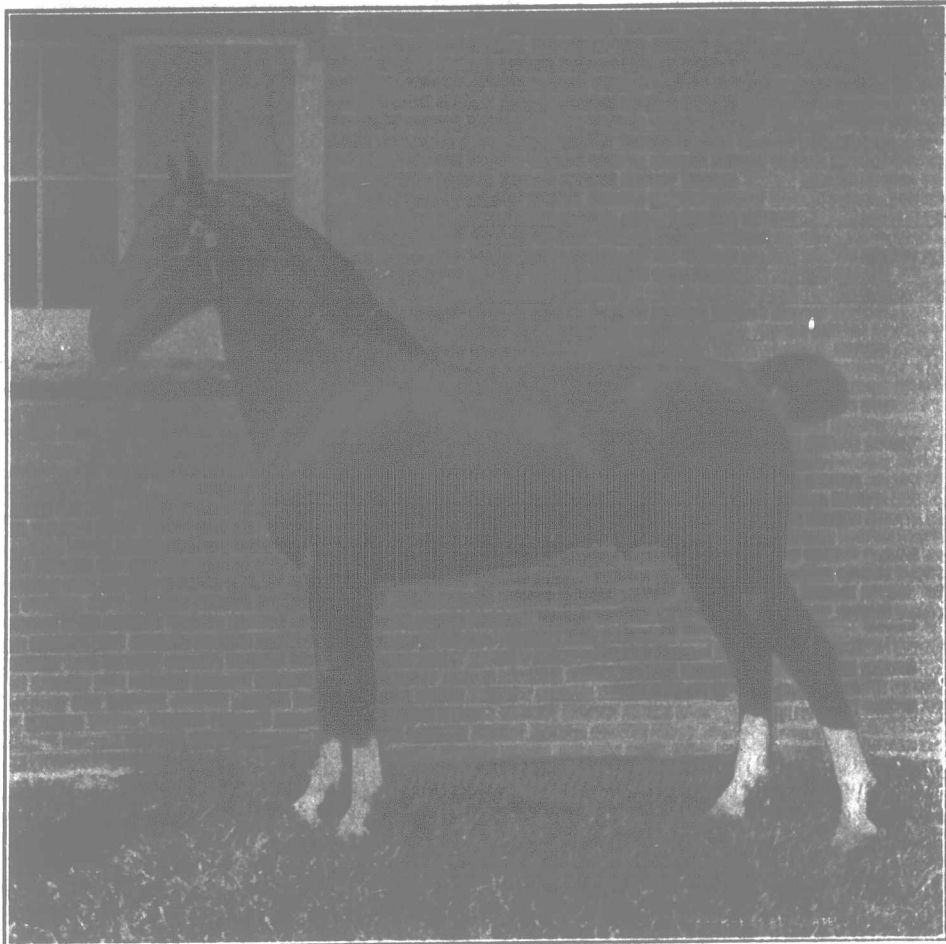
The great roan bull, Champion of England, "the greatest stock bull Scotland has ever known," was calved on the 29th November, 1859, and was the son of Lancaster Comet (11663), out of Virtue, by Plantagenet (11906); and, as has already been said, his retention as a stock bull marks a distinct epoch, not only in the history of the Sittyton herd, but in the history of Shorthorn cattle.

This remarkable animal, the foundation-stone of the Scotch Shorthorn, has been described by one, than whom no man living is better qualified to speak regarding him, who says: "As to Champion of England, unlike his sire, he had a nice horn, and a very good, wide, open, honest head and face; he was specially well developed in the forequarters, the space behind the shoulder, the forerib, standing out beyond the shoulder; he had a straight back, very strong; well-covered loins, and specially deep and wide thighs, with a very deep body and very short legs. He was square, and filled the eye well; but his covering of natural flesh and his abundant coat of hair were perhaps his strongest points." From the very first, Amos Cruickshank had had before him a clearly-defined object, and for more than twenty years he had been strenuously endeavoring to find a sure way whereby that object might be attained. Despite the large measure of his success, he was far from

questionable proof. They were all thick, fleshy, hairy, good-thriving animals, and, from the first season, were in great demand among the farmers in the district whose aim was to produce beef, and Mr. Cruickshank therefore decided that he was not to be subjected to the strain of showyard treatment, but to be solely devoted to the improving of the herd. He was used for ten years in succession—ten of the most important years in the herd's existence, for from 1860 to 1873 it was at its largest. At that time it numbered over 300 head, the greatest number of bull calves in one year being 84.

In the early seventies the lease of Longside fell out, and a little later Mains of Udney was given up, and, owing to the resulting shortage of accommodation, the herd had to be considerably reduced. When the last catalogue was issued, in 1888, there were 120 females in the herd. The first catalogue had been compiled in 1845, and contained the names of 29 cows. For twenty years these catalogues were issued annually; after that they were compiled every three years. All the Sittyton records were very carefully kept, and perhaps no large herd has ever been possessed of such reliable annals. It is generally believed that the world owes these valuable records to Anthony Cruickshank, and here is again demonstrated the advantage of the partnership of the man of business training and methodical habits with his practical farmer brother. To Anthony Cruickshank, too, along with one or two others (Barclay, of Ury; Grant Duff, of Eden, etc.), Aberdeenshire owes the existence of the Royal Northern Show, for, in the little back room connected with his business in Union Street, the idea of its establishment was discussed in 1844, and the first show was held in August of the same year. During

Champion of England's long reign at Sittyton many other noted bulls were also in use, the long-established policy of buying the best that could be obtained being steadily adhered to. Among the bought-in sires of this period was the great show bull, Forth (17866), bred by Sir Wm. Stirling Maxwell, of Keir. He was four years old when he came to Sittyton in 1864, and was reported to be the grandest Shorthorn of his time. He had a splendid show-yard record, and has been described as "a remarkably fine animal on a large scale, having length and breadth to satisfy the most fastidious, and extremely good-tempered. He had a good head, a full, placid eye, a rich coat of hair, and great girth of body, with ribs arching out well from his back." One of his most famous calves was the cow Violet's Forth, one of the earliest Sittyton exportations to Canada, whose exhibition and great show-yard success there first drew prominent attention



Warwick Model (8694).

Four-year-old Hackney stallion, sire Garton Duke of Connaught, dam by His Majesty. Winner of first prize, sweepstakes and English Hackney Society's silver medal, Western Fair, London, 1906; also first in Toronto Horse Show, May, 1906, for stallion most suitable for siring carriage horses. Imported and owned by O. Sorby, Guelph, Ont.

satisfied, for he had never been able to secure uniformity of results. He had scored many undoubtedly great successes, but still real advancement was intermittent, and the very successes savored of the haphazard. He had secured and he had bred many animals of outstanding merit, but he had not been able to fix a type, and to fix a type was the great ideal to which he had steadfastly devoted the efforts of all these years. He knew exactly what was the type he wanted to produce, and believed it possible so to master the art of breeding that uniformity of results could be secured. In Champion of England he early recognized the promise of a nearer approach to his ideal than he had yet secured, and almost from his birth he was set aside to be kept as a stock bull. With his customary Scotch caution, however, Mr. Cruickshank began by using the young bull sparingly and with discrimination, and did not depart far from his previous methods, till results proved the wisdom of the move he had made. Champion of England's calves soon furnished un-

to the Cruickshank cattle in the New World. Other bulls used in the herd at this period were Windsor Augustus (19157), of Booth extraction; Allan (21172), a son of Forth; Lord Privy Seal (16444), bred by the late Prince Consort at Windsor, also of Booth extraction; and Prince Alfred, a young bull of much promise, unfortunately lost soon after his acquisition, through an attack of foot-and-mouth disease. There were also Rob Roy (22740), Count Robert (30812), Scotch Rose (25099), Knight of the Thistle (26558), Master Darlington (37067), Meridian (38748), Ravenshope (22681), and General Windsor (28701)—none of which left any very strong mark on the herd. Meantime, the wisdom of placing Champion of England at the head of the herd was being more and more clearly demonstrated, and Amos Cruickshank was satisfied that at last he touched the secret of success.

Contrary to all custom among Scotch breeders at that time, he followed up the use of Champion of England by the use of his sons, thus entering