

THE HORSE.

Saddlers

Saddle horses must be spoken of as a class rather than as a breed. The Americans have developed a class of saddlers for which they have a stud-book, hence they are considered as a distinct breed. The chief peculiarities of the breed are their attractive appearance, and the various gaits which they have acquired, to some degree by heredity and to some degree by individual training. These gaits are the walk, fox trot, single foot, trot and canter.

The English man has also developed a breed of saddle horse, but he has retained his original idea of a utility horse, and has not endeavored to breed or teach fancy gaits, but requires only the walk, trot and canter, and, of course, the extended canter or gallop.

In this country these are the gaits demanded in horses of this class, but even here the degree of action with which these gaits are performed varies greatly in saddlers of different breeding. Some make a distinction between the desirable type and action of a saddler and a hunter, claiming that the saddler should have higher and more attractive, and consequently heavier action than the hunter, and we notice that in the saddle classes at many of our shows, horses of this type and action usually win over horses that have more typical Thoroughbred action and conformation. For park and show purposes, horses with somewhat high and flash actions may attract the eye of the public, and often of the judges, and win over those of lower and smoother action; but the utility saddler—that is, the horse that is used extensively and for long journeys under the saddle, is the more serviceable the more nearly he approaches the Thoroughbred in both type and action.

In order to get the park or show action referred to it is necessary to have some heavy-harness horse blood, either the Hackney, Coach or high-stepping Standard-bred, and while horses of this action and breeding certainly are attractive to the observer, the seat is not so comfortable for the rider, and it requires little consideration to decide that the high actor will not go as easy or remain sound as long as the one that goes nearer the ground. High actors can do a great deal of roading in harness and remain sound in their feet, but if required to go long distances on hard roads under the saddle with weight up, their feet will soon become sore and diseased. Hence we claim that low action is the proper action of the saddler, and it may be considered somewhat unfortunate that it is not the action demanded in the show-ring. Let him or her who wants a high, flash and attractive actor to ride around town and attract attention have him and ride him, but we are of the opinion that in the show-ring the other class of saddler should win. No person but he who has ridden horses of different types and action can fully appreciate the difference there is in riding one of these high actors (that of necessity must jar and shake his rider considerably, and one with typical Thoroughbred action, which, while certainly not so flash, is smooth and comparatively frictionless, and gives the rider a pleasant and easy seat. Any man or woman who has done considerable saddle work, if about to take a long journey in the saddle, and has a choice of mounts, would, without hesitation, select the horse with Thoroughbred type and action, while, if he or she were about to take a short ride in the town or park, and wished to attract attention, the flash actor would be selected. Hence, we claim that for saddlers we should demand a near approach to the Thoroughbred type and action. If we wish to recognize the other type, make distinct class and call him a park horse. The utility saddler should be able to go long distances at any saddle gait, with weight up, without expending great energy or making things uncomfortable for his rider. He should be a good walker, trot fairly well, canter nicely, gallop fast and stay. The qualities necessary to make a hunter valuable are the same, with the addition of his willingness and ability to negotiate obstacles of different kinds; he must be able to jump both high and long, and, of course, must be willing to "take water." Hence, in our opinion, the general type, characteristics and action of a saddler and a hunter are the same, with the exception that the latter must have the courage to jump in good form, while in the former this, of course, is not demanded or required. A good hunter is (if we agree with this statement) necessarily a good saddler, but a good saddler is not necessarily a hunter, but, with few exceptions, may be made by careful training across country. The Thoroughbred is the typical saddler up to a certain weight, which, of course, differs with individuals; and one of this breed that has been kindly used and carefully handled will usually make the most satisfactory saddler or hunter for a real horseman or horsewoman. The principal objections to Thoroughbreds for saddlers or hunters is their restiveness, impetuosity, and often want of sufficient weight for a heavy man. Having been bred for racing purposes for so many generations, they inherit the characteristics of their progenitors, and are often not sufficiently docile for the average rider, either on the flat or across country; but when one of sufficient size and desirable manners is found, there is no horse of any breed his equal for either purpose. In order to overcome these undesirable qualities of the Thoroughbred, it is necessary to infuse some colder blood into our saddlers; but this blood must not be too cold. We want more substance and bone, but must not get this at too great a sacrifice of ambition, courage and impetuosity. Hence in order to produce serviceable saddlers and hunters, the Thoroughbred sire should be used, but the dam must not be too cold-blooded, or in other words, "the cross must not be too violent."

While we seldom see in the show-ring or on the streets saddlers or hunters that are Thoroughbred, we consider that the nearer one approaches the characteristics of a Thoroughbred, in both type and action, the better, provided, of course, he has the necessary manners. He must be docile and tractable, readily and promptly obeying the will of his rider, standing well when required, changing gaits promptly at the signal from his rider, whether this be given by word, rein, heel or knees, according to his schooling. On account of the composite breeding of a very large percentage of our saddlers and hunters, we repeat that they should be spoken of as a class, rather than a breed." WHIP.

LIVE STOCK.

Sheep at the 1918 International, Chicago.

The sheep exhibit was on a par with that of other years. The Shropshire exhibit might be mentioned as being the most outstanding of all. Among the exhibitors in the various classes were a number of Canadians, who secured a large share of the honors. H. Lee, of Highgate,



Three Southdowns.

had the champion wether in the Cotswold, Lincoln Grade and Leicester classes, while Chamber Bros., of Woodstock, had the first-prize pen of three fat Southdown wethers, and also secured first on Southdown wether lamb. The grand champion wether was a Southdown, exhibited by J. C. Andrews, of Westpoint, Ind., and R. J. Stone, of Stonington, Ill., had the reserve with an Oxford Down. The Canadians were also very successful in the breeding classes. In Lincolns, H. Lee had the first-prize aged ram, first-prize ram lamb, secured second and fourth on ewe, one year old, and second, third and fourth on ewe lamb. He also had the first-prize flock, the first-prize pen of four lambs, and the champion ram. In Southdown breeding classes, where there were entries from twelve flocks in some classes, the Larkin Farms had the first-prize yearling ewe, third-prize ewe lamb, third-prize yearling ram, and third-prize ram lamb; also the first-prize flock, and were second with a pen of lambs. They also had the grand champion ewe. Chamber Bros. had the champion ram in their ram lamb, and secured first with ewe lamb and pen of four lambs. Robert McEwen's flock, of London, secured the first prize on a yearling ram, second and third on yearling ewes, third on aged ram, second on flock, and third on pen of lambs. It was one of the strongest Southdown shows that has been

seen for some time, and it is gratifying to see so many of the prizes coming to Canadian flocks. The championship lot in the car-load division was won by Heart's Delight Farm on a carload of Southdowns. They were a particularly choice bunch and were very uniform in size and conformation.

Swine at Toronto Fat Stock Show.

Following are the exhibitors and list of awards at the Toronto Fat Stock Show:

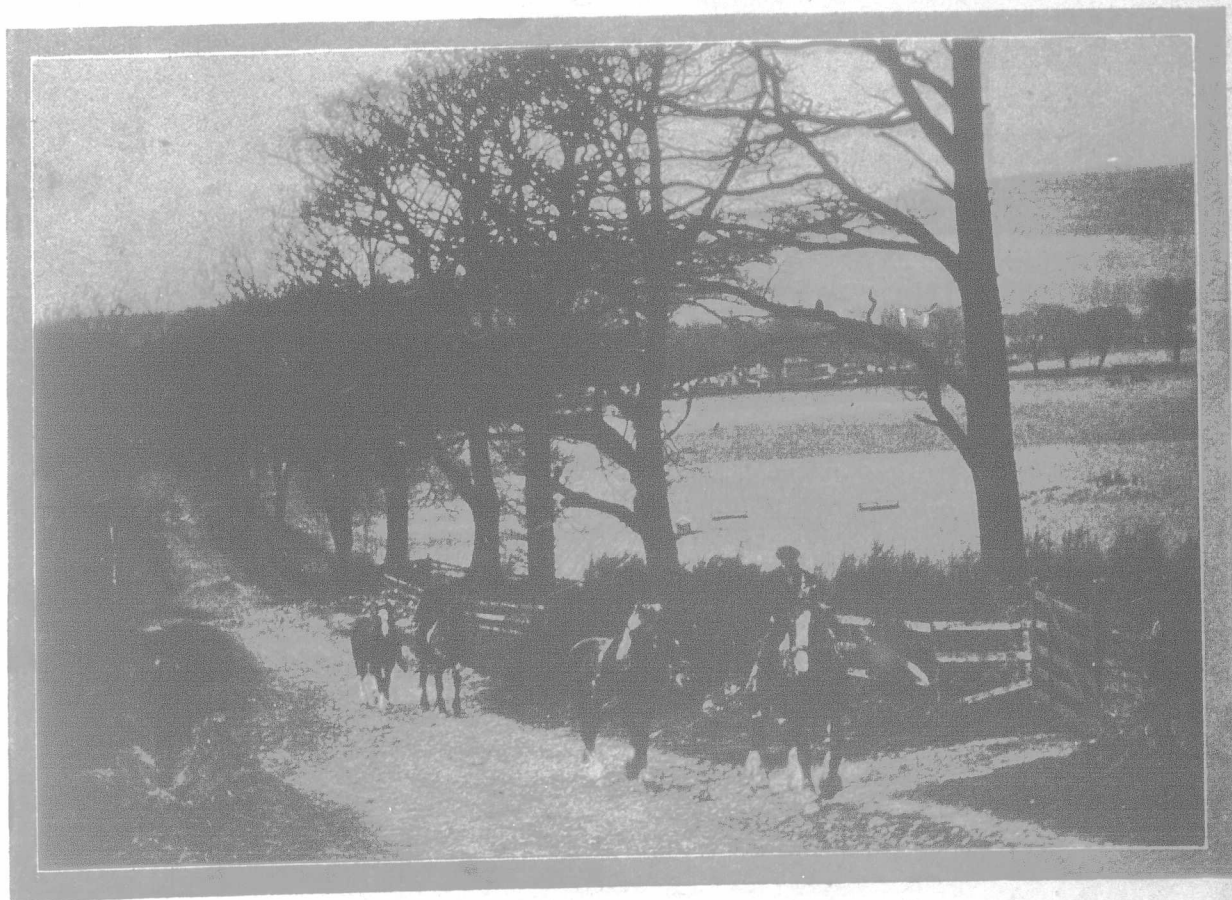
Exhibitors.—C. B. Boynton, Dollar; J. E. Brethour & Nephews, Burford; Thos. Chard, Lambton Mills; Jno. Duck, Port Credit; J. K. Featherston, Streetsville; Oscar Lerch, Preston; Wm. Marquis & Sons, Sunderland; C. E. Meggs, Paris; Wm. Murdock, Palmerston; Jos. Stone, Seagrave; R. A. Templer, Burford; C. J. Brodie, Stouffville; W. J. Silverthorne, Burford; H. Wade, Pickering.

Awards.—Pen of 3 barrows, bacon type 170-225 lbs.: 1, Jno. Duck, (630 at 21½); 2, J. K. Featherston, (630 at 24); 3, Wm. Marquis & Sons, (630 at 22½); 4, Oscar Lerch, (610 at 24). Boys' Hog Feeding Competition, limited to boys under 21 years, pen of 3 barrows, bacon type, 170-225 lbs.; fed, since weaned, by exhibitor: 1, Oscar Lerch, (620 at 25); 2, Thos. Chard, (650 at 29½). Best pen of 3 bacon type hogs, 170-225 lbs.: 1, Oscar Lerch; 2, J. E. Brethour & Nephews. Pen of 3 Barrows, range 170-225 lbs.: 1, Jno. Duck. Pen of 10 hogs, bred, fed and owned by exhibitor, 170-225 lbs.: 1, W. J. Silverthorne, (2,330 at 30¼); 2, C. B. Boynton, (2,190 at 29¼); 3, Wm. Murdock, (2,040 at 25). Pen of 12 hogs, weight 170-220 lbs.: 1, H. Wade, (2,240 at 25¼); 2, C. E. Meggs, (2,220 at 21¼); 3, J. K. Featherston, (2,410 at 21). Pen of 5 barrows, weight 170-200 lbs.; must have been fed since weaned at 6 weeks old by exhibitor: 1, H. Wade, (940 at 27); 2, Wm. Murdock, (940 at 27); 3, J. K. Featherston, (920 at 22). Pen containing litter of one breed, limited to young men of 25 years, entire litter must be shown, and must be fed, bred and owned by exhibitor, weight 170-220 lbs.: 1, Oscar Lerch, (1,510 at 27½); 2, Thos. Chard, (1,700 at 24).

The Southdown Breed of Sheep.

The Southdown is one of our smallest breeds of sheep, but yet they develop carcasses of exceptionally high quality, and, while they do not shear a particularly heavy fleece, the wool is of high grade. The native home of this breed is in the south-eastern part of England. Extending through this region is a range of hills known as the Southdowns, which grow a fine herbage, as well as producing wheat and other cereal grains. The breed is supposed to have originated from the original stock of the district. There is a great difference, however, between the Southdown of to-day and that of a century or more ago. The native sheep of south-eastern England, especially Sussex County, were small with dark face, light in the fore quarter, but possessing a fairly good leg of mutton. It was not as well proportioned an animal as the Southdown of to-day. John Ellman was one of the earliest improvers of the breed. His aim was strong constitution, good mutton form, and a sheep that would fatten easily and dress out high percentage of marketable meat. Along with Mr. Ellman was a breeder known as Jonas Webb, who also did much to improve the breed by purchasing the best sheep he could buy and mating them with much wisdom. He developed symmetry of form in the breed. In the middle of the nineteenth century he was letting out in the neighborhood of two hundred rams annually.

The characteristics of the Southdown, as described



Everything Scotch—Men, Horses and Landscape.