

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 studbook, and they call them a distinct breed. The chief peculiarities of the breed are their attractive appearance and the various gaits which they have acquired, to some extent from heredity, and to some extent by individual training. These gaits are the walk, fox-trot, single-foot trot, and canter. There has been for a few years an attempt in England to establish a distinct breed of saddlers, but what success will attend the effort can only be told in the future. Even though the Englishman may succeed in establishing a breed, he will stay with his original ideas of a utility horse, and not endeavor to either breed or teach fancy gaits, but require only the walk, trot and canter, and, of course, the extended canter or gallop. In this country those are the gaits that we consider necessary in horses of this class, but even here the degree of action with which these gaits are performed is a matter of degree in saddlers of different breeding. Some make a distinction between the 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 high and somewhat flash action may catch the eye of the public, and often of the judges, and win over those with 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 get some heavy-harness blood, either the Hackney, Coach or high-acting 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 so 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 for the saddler, and it may be said to be somewhat unfortunate that it is not the action demanded in the show-ring. Let those who want a high, flash and attractive actor to ride around town and attract attention have him and ride him, but I am inclined to 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 the rider considerably, and one with typical Thoroughbred action, which, while certainly not as flash, is smooth and comparatively frictionless, and gives the rider a very 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 having a choice of mounts, would, without hesitation, select the horse with the Thoroughbred action, while if he or she were going to take a couple of hours' 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 a 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 it uncomfortable for his rider. He should be a good walker, trot fairly well, and either canter nicely or 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. 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 jump in good form, while in the former this, of course, is not demanded, or required. A good hunter is (if you agree with this statement) necessarily a good saddler, but a good saddler is not necessarily a good hunter, but, with few exceptions, may be made so by 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 never raced will usually make the most satisfactory saddler or hunter. The principal objections to Thoroughbreds as saddlers or hunters is their restiveness, impetuosity, and often want of size 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 with sufficient size and desirable manners is found, there is no horse of any other breed his equal for either purposes. 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 we must not get this at too great a loss of ambition, courage and impetuosity. Hence, in order to produce desirable and serviceable saddlers and hunters, the Thoroughbred sire must 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 that are Thoroughbred, we consider the nearer one approaches characteristics of a Thoroughbred in both type and action, the better, provided, of course, he has the necessary manner. He must be docile and tractable, readily and promptly obeying the will of his rider, standing still when required, changing his gaits promptly at the signal from the 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, and as we state that the characteristic of the Thoroughbred are the desirable ones, and as we, in a former article, have enumerated these, we do not consider it wise or necessary to repeat. "WHIP."



Heatherbloom.

A prizewinner over the hurdles.

Horse-breeding in Hastings County.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As your valuable paper is always open for discussion on live agricultural subjects, I would like to ask if there has ever been any legislation in this Province (Ontario) against the scrub stallion? So far as I am aware there never has been any, and if so, do you not think it a good question for consideration? As I am a resident in Hastings, and am interested in horse-breeding to some little extent, I am satisfied that there should be something done here if the horses of this county ever attain the standard they should, either in the draft or carriage classes. This last few years I have been watching the horse business, and have expected to see quite an improvement in the colts raised, as we have first-class stallions both in the heavy and light classes, thanks, I may say, to some of our energetic neighbors. There is very little change yet, for when the stallion season comes around you will see the miserable scrub on the road, with a fee of a couple of dollars to insure and nothing if the mare fails to breed.



Wakeful.

An Australian Race-horse.

Next day, probably, my neighbor's well-bred and splendidly-finished horse comes along, with a fee of from ten to fifteen dollars, which is cheap as dirt for a horse worth probably two thousand dollars, and he finds that the greater part of the people are using the scrub horse, and think they are saving eight or ten dollars by doing so, never caring, apparently, two straws for the man who has purchased the two-thousand dollar horse and brought him to their stable doors, and never looking ahead to the difference between the comparative value of the progeny. Possibly I am mistaken in thinking we should have legislation against the scrub horse. However, I think the question might well be taken up by the public and discussed thoroughly. A BREEDER.

LIVE STOCK.

Live-stock Judging.

An inevitable aftermath of the fairs is a discussion of the correctness, or otherwise, of the ruling of the judges, who are fortunate, indeed, if they escape adverse criticism of some of their work. The position would appear to be an unenviable one, judged from the amount of censure often indulged in by disappointed exhibitors and the sometimes veiled strictures of onlookers and press reporters, and the wonder is that greater difficulty is not experienced by far boards in finding a sufficiency of men willing to undertake the task, exposing themselves to the fire of fault-finding so liable to follow an unpopular decision. It is well, however, that worthy men do not always yield to their sense of diffidence in this regard, declining to act, in which case the list of capable judges available would be sadly limited, and less satisfactory work would be common. While men who consent to serve as judges are rightly supposed to be acquainted with the standard of excellence in the classes on which they undertake to pass judgment, it should not be forgotten that instances may occur in which competent judges may honestly differ in their opinions as to the order of placing two or more animals of nearly equal merit, one attaching more importance to one characteristic, and another giving more weight to another point or quality. In the case of a single judge, he must make a choice, and his ruling may be as nearly right as the rating of another, equally competent, would make were he the arbiter; and where two such men are working together, there must, in order to an agreement, be a compromise, which may be the result of the greater persuasive power of one, and the yielding of his convictions by the other. If both hold out for their own view, and an umpire is called, his ultimatum is confined to the two in dispute, though there may be a third he would have placed before either of the two in question, in which case the choice, no matter which way the referee votes, is that of one man. For this, and other reasons, one of which is that the man realizes his sole responsibility, cannot shift it on another, and will be careful to do his best work, we have always favored the single-judge system, where a competent man of integrity of character can be secured to adjudicate. We have seen more mistakes made in one day by a bench of two or three judges than ever we have witnessed in the case of a single judge. But the man who accepts the position alone must, in order to do good work, have confidence in himself and in his own judgment, in addition to having had experience in breeding and

handling superior stock of the class he undertakes to judge, and, after carefully viewing the exhibits from all sides in action and standing, and critically handling them, should decide as promptly as practicable, for in this work it is too often true that "he who hesitates is lost," and the longer he delays, the less likely is he to satisfy himself. And it is himself alone he should seek to satisfy. The example of Mr. Duthie in passing judgment in the Shorthorn class, and of Mr. Graves in the Jersey section, the two largest divisions in the cattle department at the late Toronto exhibition, furnished splendid illustrations of work well and expeditiously done by men who knew their business, and had confidence that they knew it. The man who hesitates and longs for or looks for help from others, had better not undertake the work, as