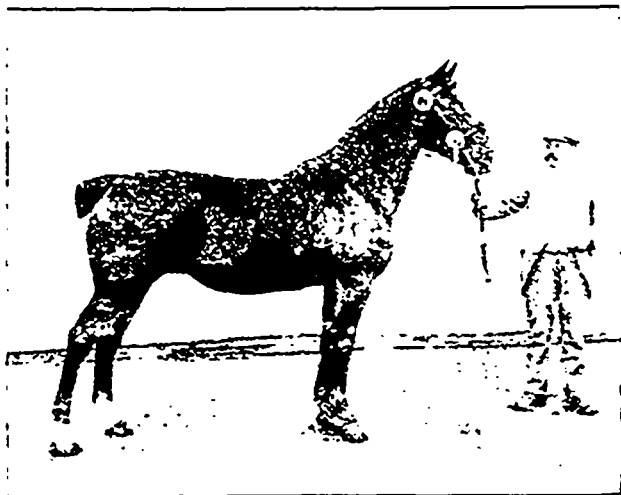


and this may be gradually increased. The colt's temperament and character should be closely studied, however, and the ration gauged accordingly. These concentrates and clover hay, being rich in protein or flesh-forming material, induce rapid development of muscle, sinew and tendon, as well as bone, and such are the great desiderata in colts. Feed liberally of the right kind of feed and nature will do the rest so far as bodily development is concerned.

Yet, nature must be given every opportunity and all her forces allowed to do their part of the work. Let the colt have lots of good pure air. Give it all the sunshine it requires. Stint it not where good pure water is concerned. Be careful to permit it to lie down frequently and comfortably. Do not over-exercise; yet, err not on the other side and give too little. The well-fed colt requires more exercise than the average or poorly fed one. As the weaning time approaches, the colt should be encouraged still more to eat hay, oats, and bran. By careful feeding he will scarcely know that he has lost a part of his ration, and will unwittingly substitute that which is provided to replace it. Some people forget to provide a sufficiency of a suitable substitute. Better not to forget. The same ration may be used during all its colthood days, but remember ever that larger animals require larger rations.

The training of the colt should begin the day it is born. The first point is to make friends with the shy youngster. The first day it is not, as a rule, hard to persuade the little



Hackney mare "Brunette," champion London Hackney Show, 1898.

fellow to stand and be petted, but the longer this is delayed the more difficult to persuade his coltship that your intentions are anything but malevolent. Give him a little sugar when you get near him, or some other equally palatable dainty. He will remember this and come to meet you the next time. Never make any hasty movements likely to scare him. As soon as on good terms, he should be halter-broken. The sooner he is disciplined the more easily will he be eventually got under perfect control.

The colt, when once halter-broken, should be gradually accustomed to the bit, and in succession to all other parts of the harness. It is folly to put all the harness on a colt for the first time and hitch him to some old rattle trap of an affair. He is certain, if worth anything, to show his fear and dislike of the proceeding in no pleasant way, and no amount of chastisement or "cuss" words will ever make him what he might have been.

Handle the colt with care and early accustom him to bicycles, engines, umbrellas, and the thousand and one minor unexpected or unusual things that seem to startle most young horses.

To do all this takes much time and patience, but the value of the animal is greatly enhanced, and if for the farmer's own use, the pleasure derivable from a properly trained horse much more than compensates for the extra labor involved. Just try it and see.

The Origin of the Shire Horse

One of the most popular draft horses in England is the Shire. While the Scotchman clings to the Clyde as being the very perfection of everything that could be desired in the way of a draft horse there are sections of England where the Shire stands just as high in the affections of the breeder and farmer. They are both good types of horses and if we had more of them in this country it would be better for the horse-breeding interests.

In an excellent work just published Sir Walter Gilbey, Bart., is traced the descent of the Shire horse from the "Great" or war horse so famous in England's early military history. This Great horse was bred for size and strength as well as activity. It was necessary that he should carry a heavy armor as well as a warrior who also wore a heavy armor of steel. The total weight that a war horse would have to carry into battle would be about 425 pounds, and not only would he have to carry this with ease but in such a way as not to interfere with his movements in an active engagement.

This Great horse continued to be the favorite animal until the use of armor in battle was discarded. After that he began to be used more as a beast of burden and for hauling carriages and such like through the almost impassable roads of old England. In the time of Queen Elizabeth the Great horse was used for draft and farm work as well as for military purposes. During the reign of Charles I. horse racing became popular, and its results on the breed of strong horses began to disturb the minds of many thoughtful men. About the time of Queen Anne (1702-1713) the name Shire was used for the first time. This name associates the Great horse, now no longer required as a saddle horse, with agriculture and commerce. It was in demand as a carriage horse because of the bad roads.

The writer states that this breed for which war-horse, Great horse, o'd English horse, or Shire horse are terms used at different periods has been distributed for centuries through the district between the Humber and the Cam, occupying the rich fen lands of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire and extending westward through the counties of Huntingdon, Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Norwich and Stafford on the Severn. It has also been extensively bred in the low lying pasture lands of England, in the counties both north and south of those named, everywhere retaining its typical character subject to slight variations produced by differences of climate, soil and food. The illustrations contained in this work show the types of Great horses popular at different periods, all having the one characteristic of large size and strong muscle.



How to Feed and Drive the Horse

By W. R. Swains, Valentia, Ont., in 1898 Farmers' Institute Report

Regularity is essential to economical horse feeding. Be regular in both time and quantity. It will not do when the boys are up late at night to feed the horse two feeds and think that will do for his breakfast. Don't conclude your horse is a machine which you can lay by when you do not need him and then give him a feed of grain and expect him to do a full day's work. Feed regularly and gradually increase the quantity as the work increases, until the full ration is reached. Don't measure his grain with a shovel or an old pail; have a measure that holds the right quantity, as every one's eye does not measure the same on a shovel. See that your horse is in good health before you waste much feed on him, as it is not what he eats but what he digests that benefits him. Do not drug him unless it is a case of necessity, instead, when needed, slightly change your feed from oats to bran mash, boiled barley or a feed of roots. You can tell the condition of your horse from his coat, whether his skin is loose or tight on his ribs or whether his hair lies down smoothly