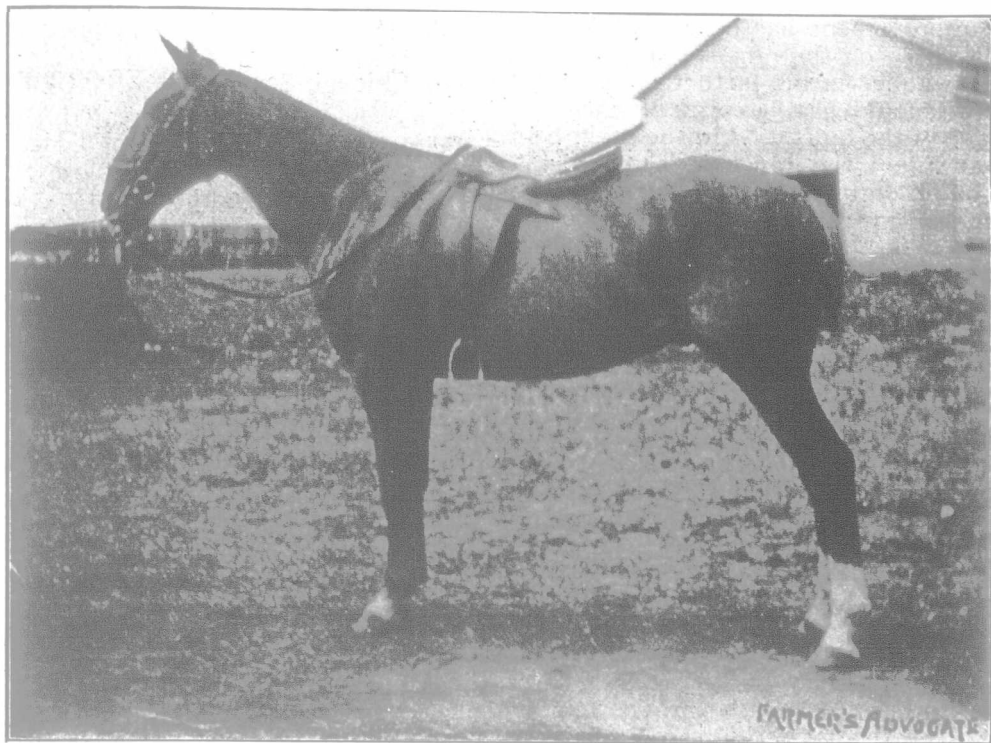


horse, and not endeavor to either breed or teach fancy gaits, but require only the walk, trot and canter, and, of course, the extended canter or gallop. In this country those are the gaits that we consider necessary in horses of this class, but even here the degree of action with which these gaits are performed is a matter of degree in

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;

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 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 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."



A TYPICAL SADDLE HORSE

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.

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

Horses for the Prairies.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

An eminent provincial authority has lately stated his opinion that the future of British Columbia lies in her agricultural resources, rather than in the more dramatic ones of her mines and forests.

If this be true, her future is inextricably bound up with that of the advancement of the prairie provinces, for they are her nearest and best market. The authority quoted above had reference to the swiftly growing fruit industry of the province, and his forecast is probably a true one. That the East Kootenay valley is some day destined to have its full share



PYRENE.

Champion Clydesdale Female, Highland Show, 1906.

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

of this industry is the opinion of every expert who has gone into its agricultural resources, but we venture to suggest that it has an advantage over its friendly rivals of West Kootenay and the Okanagan, which only needs enterprise and a reasonable amount of capital to exploit to great advantage. We refer to horse raising for the