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DOMINION.

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HORSES.

Relation of Croup and Shoulder to Tail and Neck.

If you want a carriage horse that will carry his tail well, remarked a judge of continental reputation last summer, choose one with a level croup. Such a one will incline to carry it well out instead of hugging it down between the legs. It is a matter of anatomy. The projection of the spinal column forming the coccyx cannot be expected to be extended upwards at an angle from the line of the pelvic vertebrae. A horse with an arched rump must be expected to have a drooping tail. Of course, a level-crouped horse will not necessarily carry a high tail, for much depends on feed, temperament, training, etc., but if you want one that will carry a good tail, avoid the sloping croup.

So with the neck and shoulders. To carry a high head gracefully, a horse must be built after the right pattern. The natural inclination of the neck is at about right angles to the slope of the shoulder-blade, hence a horse with an upright shoulder will carry his head low, while one with an oblique shoulder will bear it proudly. Check-reins do not avail to effect a stylish carriage in a horse not built along correct lines. A horse with his head jerked up by a rein will show a droop in the top line just before the withers, and will otherwise have a stilty appearance. The beautifully-arched neck, so much admired, must be natural, and depends upon anatomical structure of the vertebral column. The above considerations explain, in part, the emphasis laid on shoulders and croup by carriage horse, particularly Hackney, judges.

Of Interest and Value.

I take much interest in perusing the "Farmer's Advocate," and get much valuable information from it.
R. C. MCGOWAN.
Huron Co., Ont.

Training Hoofs and Shoeing.

It is absolutely necessary and very profitable to properly care for the feet of growing colts. If left to nature the foot will not always grow out full, strong and perfect in form. Where there is stone or gravel in the soil the horn wears off as fast as necessary to keep the foot in fair proportions, but the wearing is not always even, unless judiciously directed. On soft soils, which do not wear the foot, the horn, growing rapidly, is not kept in shape, with the result that the feet split, become uneven and, indeed, the entire bony column is not infrequently altered in form, and the animal partially, if not wholly, ruined in consequence. It is due to this fact that we have

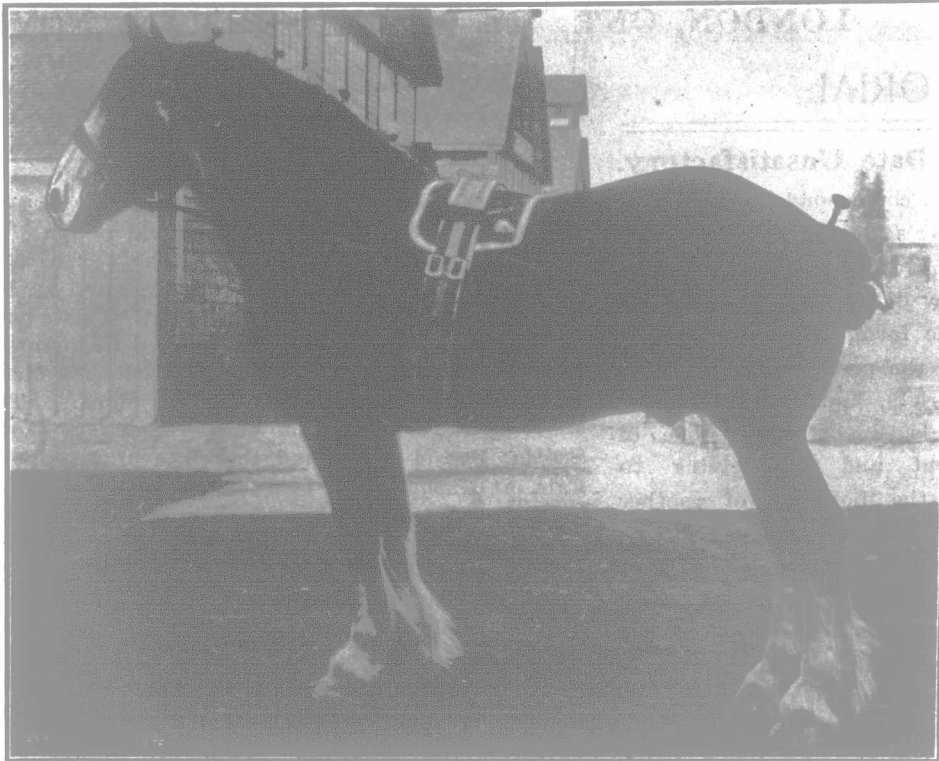
upon the ground and keep the heels properly spread. The frog should be particularly noticed, for if it gets out of contact with the bearing surface, the foot will very rapidly lose its proper shape; the heels will contract and the walls at the quarters become brittle, weak, and prone to split, either from above or below. Where a "quarter-crack" appears it is a difficult matter to bring down a new growth of sound hoof without firing and blistering, so that prevention is all-important. There is no need to cut out the sole or "open the heels," as it is called. The frog and heels should be left absolutely untouched, and they cannot be too well developed. The sole will take care of itself, for nature will throw

off dead horn as required. Keep the walls rounded at the ground surface, the toe short and the frog prominent and, with but few exceptions, horses will go to market in the best possible condition, so far as the feet are concerned, to command a profitable price.

In this connection it may be added that sound feet are best produced by adequate feeding of nutritious food. Horn comes from the nitrogenous constituents (protein) of the food, and, for this reason, a complete ration should be used for the growing of colt frame and sound hoof-horn, for corn alone cannot be depended upon to produce good sound feet. Sudden changes of food, periods of sickness, exposure to inclement weather for months at a time, all have an injurious effect upon the feet, therefore it is important to shelter the colt well, feed him regularly and generously, and protect him as much as possible from the ravages of disease. Train the feet in the way they should grow, and when they are mature they will not be so liable to depart from sound form and substance.

When the hoofs have been properly developed they are very apt to be quickly and injuriously changed in shape and condition by the erroneous, hurtful methods of a blacksmith who has not studied the anatomy of the horse's foot. The owner should supervise the shoeing of his horses, and in addition to the use of shoes of proper

weight and form, the following points should be attended to: The frog is to be left untouched by knife or other instrument; only that portion of the sole which is dead and loose is to be removed; the bars are to be left alone; the heels are not to be "opened" by a couple of deep scratches; the outer surface of the walls is not to be rasped, with the exception of a slight depression under each nail-point to allow of proper clenching; the shoe is to be fitted to the foot, and not the foot to the shoe; the shoe is not to be applied to the sole when red hot, unless a slight touch is necessary to show where



Imp. Royal Carlung (11486).

Five-year-old Clydesdale stallion. Second at Western Fair, London, 1905. Imported and exhibited by Dalgety Bros., London, Ont.



Imp. Sir Ryedale Duke (271) (8631).

Three-year-old Hackney stallion. Winner of third prize, Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1905. Imported and exhibited by Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont.

so many bad-footed horses upon the streets of our cities. The blacksmith is apt to get all of the blame, but the trouble really began on the farm.

To grow feet in the best possible manner, the colt should be driven into the stable once a month, when on grass, and the feet should then be carefully inspected. As a rule, it is necessary to shorten the toes, and this should be done with the rasp; in fact, no other instrument should be used for the trimming of colt's feet. When the toes are kept short the quarters will naturally take care of themselves, for the frogs will leave