

lightened barbarians from a horse point of view. Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore and San Francisco have followed the lead of New York, and horse shows of similar character and approximate importance are now held in these cities every year.

Of course the inspiration for these shows was drawn from Great Britain, where the horse shows at Agricultural Hall and that of the Royal Dublin Society in the Irish capital attract large gatherings. At these events, "the horse is the thing," and the main thing, although in addition to the horses at Dublin, especially beauty and purple and fine linen have always held a prominent place. In fact the Panhippic festival, which takes place at the end of every August, is the most crowded week of the year at Dublin, and hotel accommodation is difficult to obtain.

The horse show had its rise in the horse fair, which has been so long known to history, where farmers, dealers and gentlemen would meet every year, and where the chief business was the barter and sale of horses. The old style of horse fair has been immortalized on canvas by Rosa Bonheur's famous picture. It was held in the market place, and the horses were exhibited and paraded along the streets, which were given up for the purpose. Horncastle in Lincolnshire, was, in the old days, the largest horse fair in the United Kingdom, and dates from early times. In fact I believe it existed at the time of Henry VIII., when legislation was enacted to improve "the generation and breed of good and strong horses within this realm, which have extended not only to a great help and defence, but also as a great commodity and profit to the inhabitants thereof." At any rate, the trade in horses had evidently assumed considerable proportions at that period, for another act made it a felony "to sell, exchange or deliver within Scotland or to the use of any Scottishman any horse." The reason of this legislation does not appear, and one may be at a loss to know whether it was to prevent Scotland from improving its cavalry or because in a horse deal the canny Scot always got the better of his English brother. Naturally, James I. repealed the Act.

Upper Canada has, thanks to its British ties, always been a horse-loving and a horse-producing country. Our northern climate is one excellently adapted to the rearing of sound horses, being cold enough to give them hardness and soundness, and warm enough to foster and develop their growth. The Canadian bred saddle and harness horse has always had the advantage of the United States product, for the reason that our farmers and breeders have used thoroughbred blood while the Yankee was wasting his time in trying to produce a trotter that would draw a light vehicle at something less than a mile in three minutes, but which for drawing heavy vehicles or carrying a man on his back over the road, was useless. The presence of the regular regiments did much in founding the Canadian line of good saddle horses, for when the officers returned home they left behind them well bred hunters and steeplechasers, and from that day to this Canada has ever been prominent in American steeplechasing. The agricultural exhibitions and fall fairs were of early growth in this country, and at these a leading place has always been given to the showing of horses. The equine race came into especial prominence with the Provincial Exhibition and the Industrial Fair, inaugurated in 1878, and up to half a dozen years ago the best display in America of harness, saddle and hunting horses, and of many other breeds, was that seen at the Toronto Fair. In carriage, Clydesdale and draught horses no other exhibition in America can approach the Canadian Shows.

Incidental to the discontinuance of the Provincial Exhibition, the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario inaugurated the Spring Stallion Show in 1887. This exhibition, confined to stallions kept for breeding purposes, was held in the old Drill Shed at Toronto. The desire to hold a horse show for all classes was keen among many horsemen in Canada, who contemplated with eagerness the success of the annual event at New York, where the Canadian entries generally carried off the winning ribbons, but the lack of any suitable building was a great obstacle to the accomplishment of the