

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

MARCH 11, 1909

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tration of pure-bred stock has become more mani- festly a necessity from year to year.

In order to protect the integrity of Canadian registration, it has been necessary, not only to impose more stringent regulations, but in some cases to prosecute, of which the recent conviction of a Toronto horseman, on a charge of forgery in connection with the sale of a Cana- dian-bred mare, as Jean Austen (imp.) —10373—, is an example.

Owners of pure-bred animals, however, will find in the vigilant care which the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada, as well as the National Live-stock Records Office, exercise over their records, a protection which will more than repay the extra trouble which more stringent regulations impose upon them.

J. W. SANGSTER,  
Secretary, the Clydesdale Horse Ass'n of Canada.

## Points of a Clydesdale Horse.

The head of the typical Clydesdale shows a broad jaw, ending, as a rule, in a not very fine or well-tapered muzzle, but with large, open nostrils. His eye is usually full and vigorous, yet mild; his forehead broad and full between the eyes; while, from the eyes, the forehead tapers gradually upwards to the ears, which are long and active. Breeders of Clydesdales should attach considerable importance to these points, as a horse of such a description will generally be found to be of excellent temper, easily trained, docile, and very wise in cart of plow.

Experience alone can teach one when the head is well set on to the neck; but the latter should be strong, massive, and of medium height; while the shoulder should be more oblique than in the English draft horse. This, indeed, is one of the distinctive features of the Clydesdale, as to his formation of shoulder is largely owing his long, quick step, for which he is so justly admired. The "upright" shoulder of the English cart-horse may certainly give greater power in the collar; but if shortness and slowness of step be considered, this cannot be called an advantage. The English horse, besides, is more accustomed to sheer drag- ging and to working in chains, while his Scot- tish rival is chiefly employed in the two-wheeled cart, which occasions a considerable amount of weight being balanced on the animal's back. A medium slanted shoulder gives a horse, in such circumstances, an advantage; and doubtless those who carted the minerals of Lanarkshire in ante- railroad days found this formation well adapted for their purposes. Even yet, no one will affirm that it is unsuited to the traffic of the day, if he will only take the opportunity offered for forming an opinion by the sight of the Clydesdale horses yoked to a cart or lorry in the streets of Glas- gow.

Good sound legs and feet are essential to all horses, and are certainly not undervalued in the Clydesdales; in fact, some judges, in their ad- miration of such good qualities, frequently lose sight of "top" altogether.

Quite as essential as the slightly oblique and closely-topped shoulder of the Clydesdale for his long, quick step, is a strong forearm. This part, from a side view, should be broad; loaded with long, strong muscles, so as to give him full power to bring forward the part beneath; and in length should be proportionate to the length of the shoulder. A flat and broad knee is also essential; but this is a point sometimes overlooked by the best of Clydesdale judges, who prefer strength of bone immediately under the knee in many horses, and so the leg comes to the ground as if there were no joint between the elbow and the pastern.

Deficiency of bone under the knee has not in- frequently caused the rejection of many good horses in the show-yard in favor of animals which happen to be thicker at that particular place, yet have not half the strength, owing to the bone not being of the proper shape, or to the entire absence of sinew. The shank-bone should be flat from a side view, thick and gently rounded from a front view, and tapering to an edge as it goes back. The late Mr. Fulton used to say he liked the "razor-legged" ones, an expression which conveys the idea of what this part should be. The back, from the knee down, should possess a nice flowing fringe of silken hair, which should spring from the very edge of the bone. This hair should be of what a judge of a Skye terrier would style a "pily" nature; and good judges will not have a horse at all the feather of which has a coarse, matted appearance. Possibly too much attention is paid by Clydesdale breeders to this point, and many will not exhibit at certain shows because their horses at the particular time hap- pen to be what they term "bare of hair." The hair certainly creates a false impression of strength of bone, as an animal which has a broad forearm and well-developed knee, if deficient in "feather," does not compare well with one pos- sessed of a nice flowing fringe several inches long; and this is decidedly disadvantageous; but the high value set upon nice silky hair is on account of its being, in all cases, a certain indication of a strong, healthy bone, as the hair of a short, coarse matted kind suggests a decided tendency

to grease. All horses have a tendency to lose their hair when being put into show condition (i. e., loaded with fat like a bullock), and so "blistering," it is to be regretted, is commonly resorted to in order to strengthen its growth. The hair produced by this process is not, how- ever, so silken or so fine as the natural, and the difference is easily detected by the practiced eye.

The sinews of the leg should be thick, strong, thrown well back from the bone, and capable of being felt with the hand; if not, the leg is not a good one, however thick, as a soft, round leg, in which the sinews are not very well defined, will not stand work.

The lower end of the shank-bone, or fetlock, should also be large in all, so as to give full play to the tendons; and Clydesdale judges are also very particular as to this, and also to the pas- tern, which, during the last few years, has come in for a large share of attention. No doubt an upright pastern suits well the upright shoulder and slow action of the English draft horse, a conformation which can scarcely be called the best for any purpose; but it will not do in the Clydesdale, which requires a pastern to suit the formation of the shoulder, and to confer the neces- sary elasticity to counteract the concussion caused by his quick, firm step. Short, upright pasterns always get worse with age and feeding, and the action, in due course of time, becomes impeded. A horse with an upright pastern has little or no command of his foot, and literally walks as on a crutch; and if he has no power of his foot, he cannot have much in his shoulder. The streets of Glasgow are very trying to horses, which have to scramble for a footing in the furrows between the hard, smooth paving-stones, and horses with upright pasterns are sometimes almost powerless to move, where those with pasterns moderately sloped, and of a medium length, can walk with comparative ease. Farmers around Glasgow are alive to this, and will not readily use a stallion which has this defect, however strong and shapely. Without a good sound, well-shaped, healthy foot, a horse is of no use at all, however sym- metrical and strong. A dissertation on the form, defects, etc., of the foot is not required here; it suffices to state that the Clydesdale is generally sound on that point, though subject,

like all other breeds of the equine genus, to its various diseases.

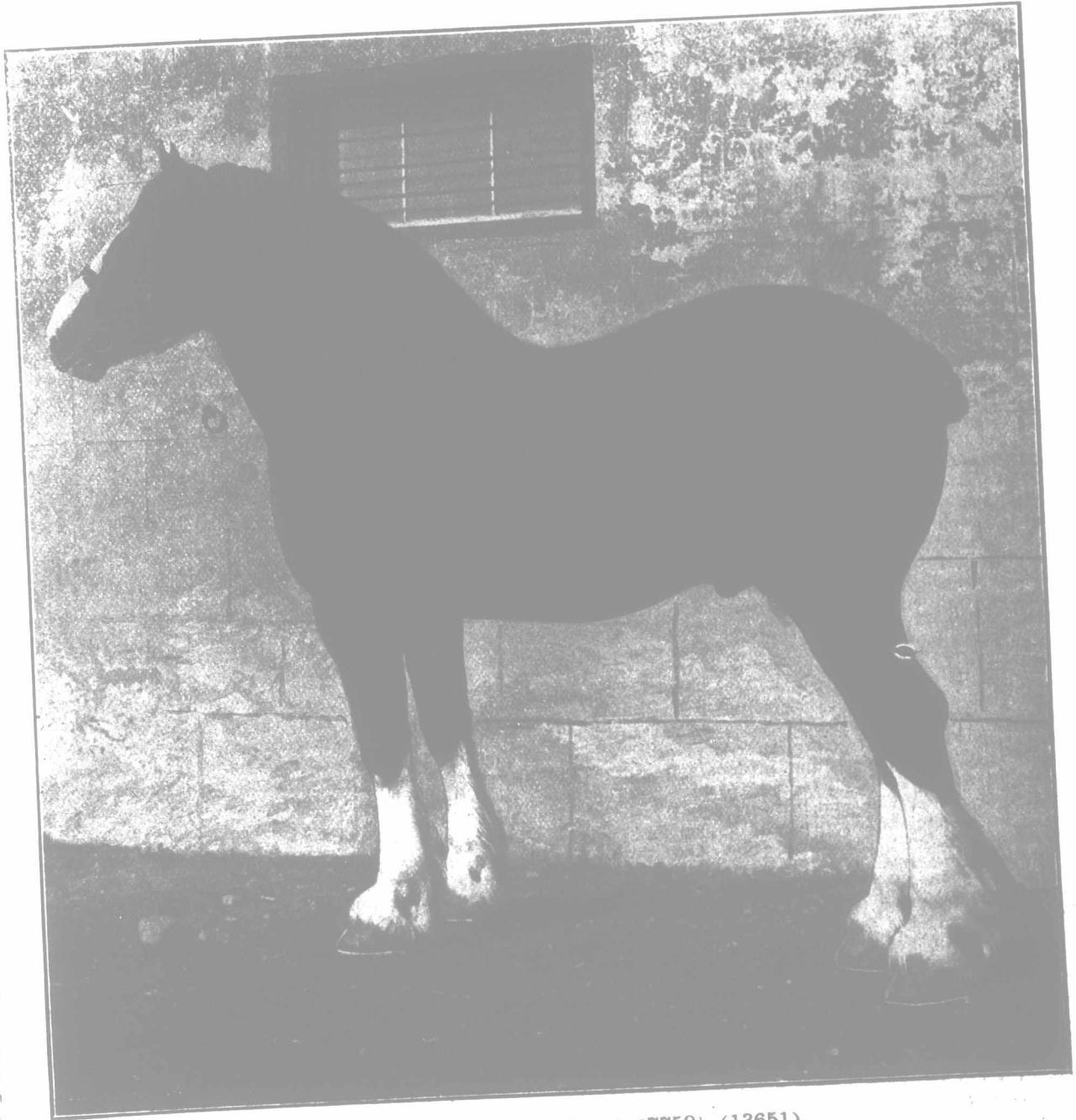
An undue length of back is not an uncommon defect in the formation of the Clydesdale, and flat, badly-sprung ribs—the last of the latter oc- casionally very short—form defects which it should be the object of breeders to remove. The back is not infrequently low, and the horse, at first sight, looks as if he had no command of him- self, the barrel merely forming a bridge between the fore and hinder ends. The chest is generally low, broad and full, if the body is large and round-ribbed; if not, it is narrow, and the horse has a weak, "wedgy" appearance. And in street traffic, this want of breadth places him, sometimes, in rounding corners, under command of the shafts of the wagon or lorry, if at all heavily laden.

Broad, low-set hind quarters, with muscular thighs, descending into broad and proportionate- ly-developed hocks, sum up the good points of the hind end of the Clydesdale. Narrow hocks are so subject to thoroughpin, etc., that most breed- ers avoid them, though there should be no per- ceptible marks of unsoundness. Straight hocks are not liked; but if the other parts are pro- portionate, and the action sound, no exception is taken to this formation. It is as a work-horse, however, that the Clydesdale should be considered, and it is questionable if a straight hock affords as much propelling power as one moderately bent. The muscles surrounding the hocks should be strong and firm; and objection is always tak- en to animals which have them loose and flabby, or which, to use a breeder's phrase, have "fleshy hocks."

From the hock to the ground the leg should be short, broad, flat, clean, evenly, and straight or slightly inclined forward, the sinews standing out from the bone, and having a similar fringe of hair to that on the fore leg, and rising as high as the bottom of the hock-joint.

The hind pasterns are a little larger, general- ly, than the fore ones, and are more inclined, but not so much as to give the idea that they are not supporting the quarters. Short, steep hind pasterns are a very bad fault, as the animal is always sticking its toes into the ground.

In examining a horse, when standing, a good



President Roosevelt (Imp.) [7759] (13651).

Clydesdale stallion; bay; foaled 1902, imported and owned by Smith & Richardson, of Columbus, Ont.; winner of third prize at Canadian National, Toronto, 1908; first and championship at Central Canada, Ottawa, 1908; second at Ontario Horse-breeders' Exhibition at Toronto, 1909, and first and championship at the Eastern Ont. Live-stock and Poultry Show at Ottawa, 1909.