

or otherwise. The British railway companies had a larger traffic, and earned more money in 1910 than ever before. A second indication is the annual return of the bankers' clearing-house. The total clearance of checks, bills, etc., for 1910 reached the stupendous sum of £14,658,000,000, an increase on 1909 of £1,133,000,000. The return states that these figures indicate a "healthy growth in the trade of the country." To all these proofs may be added the fact that in 1910 there were fewer bankruptcies than for twenty-three years.

Taking all the indicators together, we can reasonably conclude that on the showing of 1910 the United Kingdom is doing a good business; is not by any means asleep, much less moribund, as some people would have us believe. In the face of such figures, the talk of national decadence and ruined industries seem particularly foolish.

### Country and City Schools Contrasted.

Under the above title, C. R. Barnes, Minn., as quoted in "The Farmer's Advocate" of Feb. 2nd, summarized a number of rural-school children's compositions on the subject, "Why I Want to Leave the Farm," and then moralized on the complaints that expressed their "natural and wholesome desire." These children, seeking sentences to suit the assigned topic, argued the superiority of city schools over rural ones, and greater convenience of access to the former kind. The youthful but "sometimes already embittered essayists" did not spare "the little one-room district school, with its scanty apparatus and its single teacher, often poorly fitted for the place, and compelled to divide her time among pupils of every grade, to be reached in many cases by a walk of from one to two miles, etc."

Now, in the first place, it seems foolish to base a comparison of schools on the one-sided experience of children, and, if possible, more foolish to seek a judgment from them by proposing a leading question. The same children would, in all probability, have written equally lengthy and argumentative compositions on the topic, "Why I Do Not Want to Leave the Farm."

The editor invites comparison of the attitude of rural-school children in this country with that of youthful Minnesotans. My reply, based on wide opportunity of observation, is that rural-school life is happier than city-school life, and that the majority of rural-school children are all the better pleased that they live so distant from the schoolhouse that they do not have to go home for dinner. The occasional day in the city is less enjoyed by the country child than the occasional day in the country by the city child.

I have taught in both rural and urban schools, and for more than a score of years inspected schools of both kinds. Against my feelings, I could not help arriving at the conclusion that the tendency of the school system is to draw boys from the farm, but certainly not for the reasons quoted above. I have examined thousands of children year after year, without finding any that made more satisfactory progress than some in the "one-room district school, with its scanty apparatus and single teacher," and I have never seen children enjoy what might be called the social life of the school, with its friendships among pupils and teacher, and the spontaneous play and games of the intermission periods, so thoroughly in any other schools as some rural ones. I could wish a school child no happier lot than to be placed where he might attend an ideal rural school taught by a single competent teacher.

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## HORSES.

### Stallion Enrollment Needed.

Adoption of reciprocity in horses, giving greater inducements for the American stallioner to ply his business in Canada, would undoubtedly stiffen the demand for stallion-enrollment laws in the various Province of Eastern Canada. It should come, anyway. Such laws ought not to be drastic, but benefit would certainly flow from having every stallion travelled for what he was. A grade stallion should be advertised as a grade; an unsound sire, if permitted to travel at all, should be called unsound, and his unsoundness specified. Because of the active canvass for patronage of stallions, the horse business is on a different basis than any other branch of stock-breeding. Opportunities for deception by a sleek groom are better, and an inexperienced horseman is more likely to be wheedled into patronizing an undesirable sire than if left to his own deliberate decision, based upon knowledge, inquiry and report. Therefore, the stronger the searchlight thrown upon questionable sires, the better for the horse industry, and the better, also, for the individual breeder. Compulsory stallion enrollment has worked much benefit in all States and Provinces where it has been strictly and wisely enforced. In some cases the law had been only

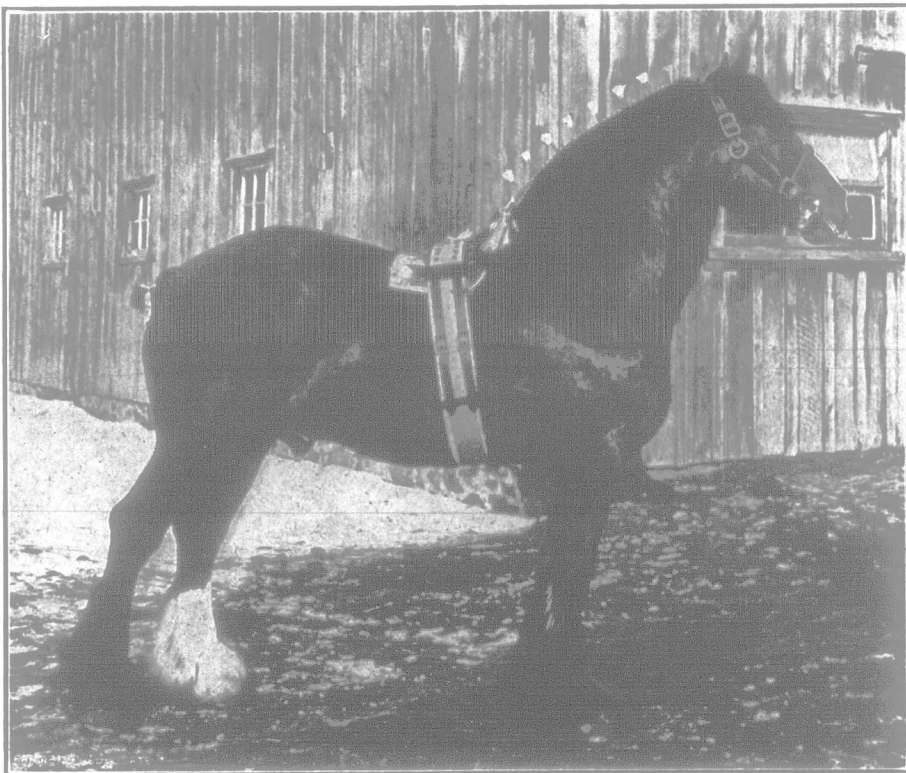
partially enforced, and, therefore, has partly failed in its purpose. But that is not the fault of the law.

### Essentials of Draft-horse Action.

The standards of action for the various market classes of horses are essentially different, and are determined by the function which the horse has to fulfil. Roadster or light-harness horses are required to take someone somewhere in a hurry; they are expected to cover nine or ten miles an hour; consequently, theirs must be a long, free, easy, rapid stride, in which no motion or time is lost. Heavy-harness, coach or carriage horses are primarily for display, being a luxury of the rich, maintained for pleasure. They must, therefore, possess in the greatest degree possible that action which is most striking. The draft-horse has a different function, and, consequently, in some respects, the requirements when in motion are different.

Since the function of the draft horse is the pulling of heavy loads, most of his work is done at a walk. It is, therefore, most essential that his walk be more critically studied. If a purchaser could see the horses under his consideration hitched to a heavy load, and walked, he would have them under the most ideal conditions for a critical examination. When this is not possible, then they should be moved on the halter.

One should always observe a horse, when studying him in motion, from directly in front, from directly behind, and from the side. When a horse is approaching the observer, the feet, the legs and the body should all be noticed. Horses whose front legs are set too far apart, appearing to be placed at the "corners" of the body,



Craigisla (imp.) [10587] (12925).

Clydesdale stallion; bay; foaled 1904. First in class and reserve champion at Guelph and Ottawa Winter Fairs. Exhibited by Graham-Renfrew Co., Bedford Park, Ont. Sire Prince Thomas.

when moving sway the body or "roll." When the legs are placed as just noted, or when they are correctly related to the body, but come close together at the ground, the feet, and frequently the entire leg, is thrown outwards when being carried forward, thus describing a circular motion. Usually, when such a horse is trotted, this motion is more apparent. Such action is wasteful of energy, and a horse which moves in this fashion, while he may negotiate very well on a good dry road, plays out every much more quickly than a proper-moving horse on winter roads or on any other kind of bad-going. In front, it is desired that from the time the horse's foot leaves the ground until it returns to a position of rest again, the foot be carried in a straight line, and that neither the foot nor any part of the leg be thrown either inwards or outwards.

As the horse is led away from the observer, the feet and the hocks demand the closest scrutiny. That same live action which is demanded in front is also required behind. The hocks, which are the crucial point of a draft horse, should, as described in a previous article, be close together in the standing position, and in the walk should be freely flexed, carried straightly forward, and should never spring outwardly.

Going away from the observer, the horse should show the sole of his foot fully, or, as some put it, should show his metal well.

While a general idea of the length of the stride is obtained from an end view, if the observer can,

he should always see a horse from the side when walking and trotting. From that position, the length, balance and snappiness of the walk and trot is best observed. Since most heavy work is done at the walk, the stride should be long, quick and free; the horse should show an alert, brisk cheerfulness. (The feet should be lifted clear of the ground, so that there is no tendency to stub the toes, which is an abomination in any type of horse.) The gaits should be taken with a free head; a side rein or a check rein may conceal deficiencies, and the leader should be required to give the horse a free head. The gaits of a horse that carries his head well up are generally freer and quicker, while a horse that carries a low head is inclined to forge, is more likely to step short and to stub his toes.

Horses that are shown to halter are always trotted, and rightly so. The conditions of the trot are an approximation to pulling. At the trot, many weaknesses are revealed which are scarcely noticeable at the walk, but which would immediately appear at the walk when pulling.

### Quality in Draft Horses.

Quality in any class of live stock is not easily defined, nor easily judged. Perhaps in meat-producing animals it is more readily grasped in its more important phases, thus, in a steer, one of the essential factors of quality is the dressing per cent., which, however, is only one factor, and there still remains the matter of bone and flesh, the latter of which is more or less puzzling, even to the experts.

In horses, as in other classes of stock, quality is judged chiefly in connection with the bone, the hair and skin, and the general conformation. The

first conceptions of quality in a horse are impressed upon one when the animal is first seen. The shape, size and delineations of the head lead one to draw conclusions at once regarding the quality of the animal. If the head is large, if it lacks clean-cutness, if the ears are heavy, if the lips are held slovenly, one may quite safely conclude that the animal throughout is coarse. Then, casually glancing over the animal, the character of the shoulders and rump give added impressions.

In making a systematic examination of a horse's quality of bone, first attention is devoted to the legs, since here one gets nearest to the bone of the animal. The canons, both front and rear, should appear broad and flat, the hind canons being the larger. These bones should be of good width, as viewed from the front, yet the width, as viewed from the side, should be much greater, so as to avoid any appearance of roundness. When the tendons do not stand out distinctly from the bone, so as to produce a flat appearance, there is frequently a tendency to meatiness or beefiness in the legs, and this is a serious objection in any horse. There should be nothing but "skin and bone" to the canons. In all draft breeds, the presence of any meatiness is a serious objection. It is generally associated with bone which is less dense, and of less strength; when such a horse is idle, his legs are likely to swell and puff up. Moreover, the beefy legs are usually associated with a coarse skin that on the least provocation will give trouble with scratches and kindred troubles.

Quality of bone is also indicated in the contour and proportions of the head. The head should not be unduly large in proportion to the rest of the animal. The face should be clean-cut, and the eye sockets well set out, and the jaws strong. These factors indicate a desirable quality of bone in the animal.

The hair should be fine, straight, short, dense and glossy, having a liveliness and softness that bespeaks a healthy circulation. Especially should the feather be fine, straight, and of good length. Curly hair is coarse hair; consequently, any tendency to curl in the feather, mane or tail, is not desirable. A glossy, sleek, lively coat all over the animal is much admired, and is desired