

The Clydesdale Horse



J. W. WHEATON

The history of any kind of livestock forms an interesting study. Sometimes the origin of a breed is veiled in obscurity, yet there has been no chance in its development. If we could go back to the very beginning we would find someone's skill, someone's good judgment, and desire for improvement at the back of it all. It is unfortunate perhaps, that in connection with the beginning of many of our standard breeds of livestock, it is difficult to trace back to the very start. Not that it would make these breeds of any greater value to the country, but merely that there would be much satisfaction in knowing just what the real factors were in bringing them into existence. But we have to be content with what history has revealed to us from out the distant past, when no authentic records were kept and when most of the information obtainable is from private sources, chiefly local stories about this and that animal. In the light of modern methods of recording pure-bred stock, the information regarding the origin of some of our most popular breeds of livestock is very hazy indeed. Nevertheless, there is a ring of genuineness about it, that enables us to trace back pretty accurately, if not to the very beginning, to the time when the type began to attract attention and to be sought after in the improvement of the livestock of the district or locality in which it developed.

The origin of the Clydesdale, Canada's premier draft horse, like that of many others of our leading breeds of livestock, is difficult to trace to the very beginning. The valley of the river Clyde in Scotland is credited with having given the name to the breed now universally known as "Clydesdale." Some claim that the Upper Ward in Lanarkshire, in Clydesdale, was where the breed as such originated. But the important thing is not so much where it originated as how. As early as 1352, the Earl of Douglas, whose castle was in Clydesdale, got a permit from the King of England, to take ten "large" horses into Teviotdale, then in possession of the English. This transaction has been taken by some to indicate that the Clydesdale horse was then in existence, and that because the permit was for large horses, that the Clydesdales of that far distant date were large superior horses. But no definite reference to the breed is found during the intervening years up to about the middle of the eighteenth century, although in the introduction to the Scottish Clydesdale Stud Book, a reference

Originating in the Valley of the River Clyde this Famous Breed has been Developed for Strength, Agility and Docility---By J. W. Wheaton

(Secretary Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada)

is made to one John Paterson, of Lochlyoch, who died in 1682, as being the first careful breeder. His grandson of the same name, in 1750, though some records give the date as being between 1715 and 1720, brought from England a black Flemish stallion. The mares at Lochlyoch are recorded as having been quite celebrated at that time. They were generally browns and blacks, with white faces and a little white on the legs; they had grey hairs in their tails and occasional grey hairs over their bodies. In any case this Flemish stallion seems to have nicked in extremely well with the mares, as the horses procured in this way were superior, became more than locally famous, and are regarded as being the foundation stock to which the modern Clydesdale owes its origin. From this stock was descended the Lampits stock, and the celebrated "Glancer" (335).

On Solid Ground

So much for the origin of the breed.



Pure-bred Clydesdales, all of them Prize-winners at the Western Summer Fairs, 1918. Owned by Thorburn and Kiddle, DeWinton, Alta.

The mention made of the earlier John Paterson as being the first careful breeder, shows that there was someone's skill behind the excellent results of later days. To the horse "Glancer" (335), all that is best in the modern Clyde can be traced. He is described as a black, with white hind legs. "He had a strong neat body set on short thick legs, the clean cut bones of which were fringed with nice flowing silken hair." In 1828, a grandson of his, "Bloomfield Champion" (95), came to the front as an extra good sire. He was a black, with four white legs, on which was set a round, "capacious" body with a short back. He had, we are told, a nice broad head, with a full vigorous looking eye, and was a perfect mover at all paces. Another description of him is, as follows: "He was a rich brown, with

black forelegs, white hind pasterns, and narrow white streak down the face."

From the advent of this horse which was not only a great show horse, but also a great sire, we begin to get on solid foundation regarding

the Clydesdale. The more careful class of breeders began to take up records of their animals and their breeding. Tracing the line of improvement through this train we reach the great progenitors of the breed, "Prince of Wales" (673) and "Darnley" (222). "Prince of Wales" was foaled in 1866, in the County of Ayr. He was sired by "General" (322), and out of the mare "Darling of Logan's Twin" (741). In color, he was a dark brown, with white strip on face and considerable white on three legs. Although described as being somewhat too straight in his hocks, he had splendid action, and made his mark in the show ring. "Prince of Wales" was not only a great show horse but was one of the greatest sires that the Clydesdale breed has ever produced. In Volume I. of the Scotch Clydesdale Stud Book, he is credited with more off-spring than any other horse. When 18 years of age he was sold by auction for \$4,725, the purchaser being David Riddle, of Paisley.

sire in the more recent history of the breed. He has set the fashion in the modern Clydesdale, and has done more, perhaps, than any other sire to fix the standard for the breed. He was a brown, with white strip and white feet, possessing rare quality in feet and legs, had a finely-moulded top, with good weight and size. "Baron's Pride" was got by "Sir Everard" (5353), a son of "Top Gallant" (1850). His dam was "Forrest Mollie" (4746), by "Pre-tender" (549). "Baron's Pride" has 225 of his get recorded in the Scotch Clydesdale Stud Book, or about twice as many as are credited to any other sire. One of his most noted sons was "Baron of Buchlyvie" (1163), which for a time stood second in the best of sires in the number of his get recorded. This horse was foaled in 1900 and was sold at eleven years of age, by order of the court in Scotland for \$47,500, the highest price ever paid for a horse of draft breeding.

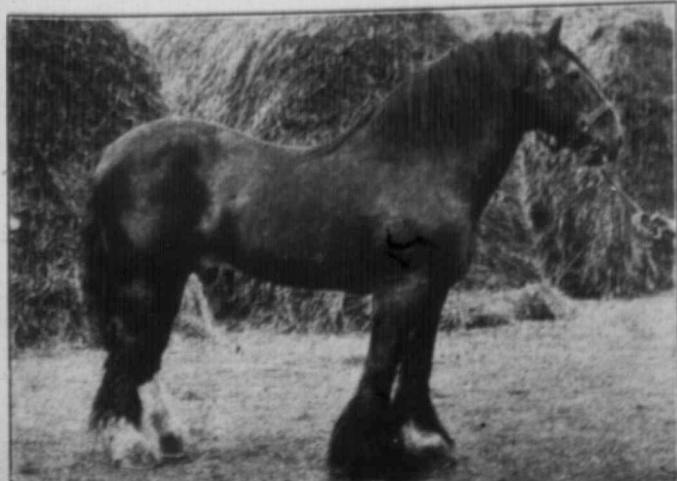
After tracing the development of the Clydesdale, in somewhat summary fashion, it may be, to "Baron's Pride," that part of the topic we have been asked to write upon need not be further considered. In "Baron's Pride" we have the modern Clydesdale as we see him today in his best form. This wonderful horse is the model, by which Clydesdale breeders the world over are guided by more than any other in their breeding operations. Today the "Baron's Pride" strain is more popular than any other, and deservedly so. There are hundreds of his breeding in Canada, and they are laying the foundation upon which are being bred our best Canadian bred Clydesdales. So we can safely leave the question of development just here and pass on to the important topic of Clydesdale characteristics, also included in the subject assigned to the writer.

Breed Characteristics

Early in the last century a practical farmer and horse breeder, named Aiton, wrote in regard to the horses in Scotland as follows: "The breed of horses generally, though erroneously termed the Lanarkshire or Clydesdale breed, is the most valuable breed of draft horses in Britain; and that not only for farming business but for every description of work where strength, agility and docility of temper are required, that are anywhere to be met with, and that whether the grounds or roads in which they are employed are hilly or more level. They are natives of every county in Scotland south of the Tay, and therefore ought rather to be dominated the Scottish breed of horses."

This quotation is given not for the purpose of discussing the name by which the Clydesdale should be known, but as a description of the characteristics of the breed that might well fit in with present day requirements. Every

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"Prince of Wales," one of the greatest sires of the Clydesdale Breed.



"Drumcross Radiant," Winner of the Cawdor Cup at the Scottish Stallion Show, 1915.

"Baron's Pride"

Through another noted son of "Darnley," "Top Gallant" (1850), we come to "Baron's Pride," the most noted