

The Horse Farmers Should Raise

After the judging of the Clydesdales had been done at the Fredericton, N. B., fair, a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue, Mr. Duncan Anderson, Rugby, Ont., delivered a most practical address on horse breeding and selection. His address is reported in part specially for THE FARMING WORLD as follows:

Judging from most of the horse stock he had seen in the province he thought the farmers of New Brunswick were often making a great mistake in breeding indiscriminately. Medium draught mares had been bred to Thoroughbred, Standard bred and Hackney sires and white the resulting foal might be a very nice one while it was young, it would almost invariably turn out an unbalanced horse, with weakness somewhere. But very rarely could a good carriage horse or roadster be got in this way.

While the farmer, if properly started, could undoubtedly breed good carriage horses, he should not try to do it with cold blooded mares. There were a number of good reasons why it was safer and more profitable for a farmer to breed his working mares to a draught stallion, such as a horse as the Clydesdale he saw before him. (This was "Copyright" owned by Chas. Yone, Tobique River, and imported from Scotland by Robert Ness, Howick, Que., last year and brought to the province by the New Brunswick Government.) He pointed out a pair of yearling colts bred in this way owned by P. C. Powys, Fredericton (sired by the Shire Stallion "King of Trump"), that promised to be just what the market wanted and for which the owner had been offered \$200 as they stood.

DRIVING HORSES NOT ADAPTED TO FARM WORK

Some men thought they could breed driving horses and use them for farm work until sold. His experience was that when driving horses were put at farm work they were pulled down in the neck and otherwise spoiled for fancy drivers and so their value was much lessened. A much safer business was the plan of breeding half-bred Clydes or Shire; they were easier to handle, free from blemishes, useful for farm work and more sure to meet a ready sale at good prices than the lighter horses. As a general rule, in breeding he liked to put a roan open made mare with a compactly built male. While large size was wanted in draught horses, mere weight must not be sacrificed to quality. Quality means conformation, a fine skin and hair, a good close grained bone and good action. Then the greatest possible weight was wanted with this quality.

STICK TO ONE BREED

Do not, Mr. Anderson said, mix your breeds. Choose the breed which you fancy and graze up to that, always using a pure-bred sire. A pure-bred sire is more valuable than a grade on account of his prepotency, or the quality which his ancestry gives him of transmitting his qualities to his offspring. Do not be afraid to pay a decent service fee for a

desirable sire. Learn to be a judge of a desirable horse. Too many of our draught stallions are senescent. Thirty dollars worth of feed will put a veneer on a horse, flesh and fat in some people's eyes, and cover up a multitude of faults. It is better that is sound and the top will usually follow good feet and legs.

FIRST LOOK AT THE FOUNDATION

In judging a horse, always begin with his feet; look carefully up from each foot to the knee or hock before you look any higher. A horse without the best of feet and legs is unfitted for a sire, no matter how handsome his head and body. A tough, flinty hoof with fairly thick walls, an elastic, concave sole and well developed frog and with a healthy ring of growths round the coronet, is wanted. The height from the sole to the top of hoof at the quarter should be just about half the height at the toe in a well formed hoof. The pasterns should not be too perpendicular but should slope to the fetlock. A very straight pastern meant that there would be no spring in the horse's action and that the concussion from placing his feet on a hard roadway would be likely to cause ring bones, side bones, splints, and quickly destroy his usefulness, as well as prevent the action we like to see in a good draught horse. The fetlocks should be squarely placed and free from all gummings. The cannon bone from fetlock to knee should be short and the tendons behind the bone so placed as to give the appearance of a razor blade with the back towards the front of the leg. Knees and hocks should be broad and squarely placed under the horse, and the forearm and gaskin should then be long, to give the horse a good stride.

A WELL-MADE TOP

The shoulder should not be straight up and down, nor yet as sloping as a running horse, but should have enough slope to give action. The back should be short and well muscled over the loin, showing no hollow there. The ribs should spring out round from back bone and give a depth to the body by their length. Great fulness back of the shoulder and also over the loin are essential points in a well built horse. The head of a good horse will always show intelligence. A large, clear, fearless eye, good width between the eyes and long from the eye to poll, but comparatively short from eye to muzzle, are desirable points. The nostrils should be large and full and the under jaw set wide apart and free from flesh, to give plenty of room for the windpipe. The neck may be full and heavy, but should join the head gracefully and then swell to a perfect blending with the shoulder.

QUALITY IN SKIN AND HAIR

Over this frame should be a soft skin covered with short, fine hair. While a heavy growth of hair on the legs of a Clydesdale is no objection, the hair should be fine and silky. Coarse hair indicates coarseness of bone and skin and a tendency to greasy legs and heels. After carefully going over "Copyright" point

by point, Mr. Anderson remarked, "there is a good, useful sire, considerably above the average in quality and fitted in every way to produce excellent draught colts." In reply to questions he said, in an ideal stallion the pastern might have a trifle more slant and the feather of the legs might be a little finer, but he was above the average even in these points, and he thought that New Brunswick horsemen were to be congratulated on having his services. In closing, he wished to emphasize the importance of looking to the horse's feet and legs before using him; that was a true old couplet which summed up the case, viz.,

"When selecting a horse, get feet, fetlock and feather;
The top may come but the foundation never."

FEED THE COLT

"Now," said Mr. Anderson, "just a word on feeding the colt. No matter how well he is bred, if he is not properly nourished he will never properly develop. Don't starve the colt the first winter. He should have at least 25 bushels of oats, 300 pounds of bran, 100 pounds of all the young cut hay he wants, with plenty of exercise. The second winter the same quantity of grain will do, and oat straw as well as hay may be fed. The hoofs of a colt should be kept pared so that the pressure on the joints above will be natural, and he should be educated as he grows." With care in breeding, feeding and training, there was, he thought, a grand opening for the New Brunswick farmer in supplying the demand for draught horses.

Getting the Winter's Wood in the West

Now that the fall of the year is here, and the leaves off the trees and brush, the farmers and ranchers should attend to the cutting of their winter's supply of wood, as it is so much easier to get it at now than it is either earlier, when the trees and brush are in full leaf, or later when it is covered up with snow. Especially does this apply to those parts where windfalls or lying timber is used.

A few days' work cutting and piling in the bush, ready for hauling, when the first sleighing comes would save double the time and inconvenience of getting it afterwards.

In many parts of the North-west where poplar poles from two to six inches thick form the chief source of fuel, a good way to pile it up in the woodyard, is in the shape of a teepee stand, two or three poles on end in form of a tripod, and keep standing the others round them, thus always having your wood clear of snow.

Western Subscriber.

Full of Spicy Things "Boiled Down."

There has been a great change in our welcome visitor, FARM AND HOME, but it is an agreeable change, for the paper as it is to-day is without doubt, the best farm journal coming here for the money. Its columns are full of spicy news "boiled down." The type is also much improved.

—Clarence E. Wilson, Vernon, B. C.



Part of the Exhibit for the Carnifax Stock Food Co.'s Special Prizes, Winnipeg Exhibition, 1903. Special Prizes will be given at the leading Ontario Fairs in 1904 for Carnifax Fed Animals.