

height, with sunken soles, seedy toes, sand crack, etc., or are found crib-biting, wind sucking, or if unsound in the eyes, wind or limb, or vicious, in or out of stable, they will be returned to the dealer, who must send in another suitable horse in exchange.

(7) Government prefer taking horses that are undocked, but no horses will be accepted with a very short docked tail.

The age of a horse will be reckoned from the first of May in the year in which it was foaled, and no remount horse will be purchased prior to the first of October in the year in which it becomes three years old, except under the special authority of the Adjutant-General; or later than the 31st December in the year in which it shall have reached the age of six years. On and after the first October, three-year-old horses will be purchased at four-year-old prices.

The standard of height is fixed by the Commissioner-in-Chief. The fitness of horses in point of appearance, strength and action will be determined by the purchasing officer, and their soundness will in each case be certified by an army veterinary surgeon.

The following are some further instructions for our guidance:

Examination of the mouth and eyes, measuring and examination from near side, cannon bone, arms and thighs.

Every horse about to be examined should be taken under a shed, archway, or to the stable door, where the light is suitable. The veterinary surgeon first examines the mouth in order to determine the animal's age, and at the same time he sees that there is no defect in the jaw or teeth. The eyes should then be carefully inspected, and, if they are found to be sound, the horse may be led out for examination by the purchasing officer, care being taken that no "gingering" is practised. Any good looking five or six year old horse submitted at troop price should be treated with suspicion. The purchasing officer will measure the horse, note the color, and observe from his near side how he stands all round on his feet and legs; whether he looks small or tied in below and at the back of the knee. Every troop horse ought, if possible, to measure not much less than eight inches round the leg close under the knee, and the bigger and flatter he is here the better, for it is at this point that strength is specially required. The cannon bone should be short, and, together with the tendons, distinctly defined; the arms and thighs long and muscular, and the joints not small, but clean and well developed.

**KNEES, ELBOWS, HIND LEGS, HOCKS, PASTERNS, FETLOCKS.**

The knees should not be back like those of a calf, nor too much bent over, like those of an old cab horse—though of the two evils it is preferable that a horse should stand a little over at the knee rather than back; the elbows should be free; the hind legs must be well placed under the body; the hocks not too straight, yet not sickled or bent; they should be clean, well cut, and free from any enlargement inside or out, or any tendency to curb or thoroughpin; the pasterns must neither be too short or upright, nor too long and sloping; the fetlocks should not show signs of work, too much play either in these joints or in the pasterns produce overshooting, which is a decided weakness. There are occasional swellings on these parts, especially in young stock, arising from sickness, debility or contusions, which are sometimes mistaken for unsoundness.

#### FEET.

The feet should be of the same size, round in shape at the soles, with good open heels, not small, contracted or flat; the hoo's should stand as nearly as possible at an angle of 50°, and they must not be brittle, blocky, or ring.

#### HEAD.

In considering the shape of the head, it is important to note the position of the eye, which should not be too low down, too far forward, nor too small; the last named defect is called "pig-eyed." The forehead should be broad and the countenance kind. Long, big ears, provided they are not lopped or drooping, are preferable to such as are small, curved or pointed, though these latter are no doubt prettier. The head should be well set on to the neck at an angle not too oblique or acute, and there should be sufficient room under the jaw. The nostrils should be large and open. The lips not drooping or relaxed. The jaws and teeth evenly placed above one another.

#### NECK—SHOULDERS.

The neck should be convex and not concave, which latter is a structural defect indicating weakness, and is called "ewe-neck." It should be well set into the shoulders, and these should be clearly defined, sloping well back from the points to the withers. The points of the shoulders ought not to be heavy. Fine high withers are a great attraction, and enable the saddle to retain its proper position. It is true that horses with thick or flat withers, or short, upright shoulders, may be suitable for draught, provided they have good action.

#### BARREL.

The barrel should be deep and arched behind the elbows, thus affording space for the development of all vital organs. Every troop horse should girth as much over 70 inches as may be procurable.

#### BACK AND LOINS.

A long hollow back should be avoided. "roach-back"—though ugly—is strong. The loins should be as broad and deep as possible.

#### TAIL.

The tail should be set on high enough to be symmetrical. Fine hair in the mane and tail shows breeding. The greater the length from nose to withers and from hip to croup, the better. Care should be taken that the withers, shoulders, back and chin are free from material blemishes.

#### EXAMINATION OF CHEST AND FORELEGS, ETC., FROM FRONT.

While the horse remains standing, the position of the purchasing officer may be changed from the near side to the front, so as to note how he looks from this point of view, and to see how he stands, whether he has sufficient breadth of chest. There should be no blemishes about the knees, no enlargements or scars from brushing inside the fetlocks, no marks from speedy cutting under the knees, and the situation of splints, if there be any, should be particularly noticed.

#### SHANK BONE.

The shank bone should be straight and square under the body, not banded or twisted, but supporting properly the weight of the body. The toes should neither be in nor out. One foot turned out or in is unsatisfactory, because it indicates uneven action with an uneven bearing of weight of the body either at rest or in motion.

#### EXAMINATION OF OFF SIDE AND REAR.

The off side must be examined in detail in the manner already specified for the near side. The purchaser should then walk round to the rear of the horse and notice if the hocks are very much in or bowed out—of the two the former is preferable. A horse ought to be broad across the hips, and these must be even and level; the fork should not be too much split up.

#### WALKING

The horse must now be led off at a walk; the purchaser should keep behind him and note as he goes from him if he turns his toes out or in, or whether there is too much play outwards or inwards in the hocks. If he crosses his hind or fore feet or legs he should be rejected. As the horse turns he should be narrowly watched, and as he walks past it should be seen that he puts his feet down even and fair. The action of his fetlocks and pasterns must also be noted. If there be decided knuckling or overshooting here, he must not be taken. The walk should be free, the stride long and clear, the hocks not bent, no dragging or catching of the hind or fore toes along the ground, no "forging" from over reaching. When the toes are out, the elbows are in, and the latter being tied, the fore action is often cramped and contracted.

#### TROTTING.

The animal can now be trotted, and as he goes from you it must be noted if he crosses his fore or hind legs, which is dangerous; if he dishes or turns one or both feet in or out, it is objectionable. Should he roll in his stride, this may denote damage in the loins or hocks, and the attention of the veterinary surgeon, who is responsible for soundness, would naturally be called to these points. If there is any catching in the action of the hind legs, he should be run sharply backwards to ascertain that there is no paralysis; as the horse passes it should be seen that he has good knee and hock action.

#### SPEEDY-CUTTING.

Speedy-cutting arises from faulty conformation of the forelegs, and also from a peculiar kind of high action in front. It is the act of striking one fore-leg just below the knee with the inner quarter of the other fore foot, a most acutely painful and dangerous thing, for which a horse should be at once rejected.

#### REJECT FOR ANY ONE WEAK OR BAD POINT.

Although a horse is a good colored, well topped, good going, taking animal, yet, if he have one decidedly weak or bad point he must be refused; but here the veterinary officer's opinion will be most valuable, as many horses may be quite serviceable, though not absolutely sound, and may "in time of need" be fully equal to the requirements of a campaign, and do much hard work.

#### RESTRICT PURCHASING TO 25 A DAY.

Purchasing horses is laborious work, and by the time that 25 or 30 have been examined, passed and registered, the officers employed will have exhausted much power, both of eye and brain. When continued daily, purchasing should be restricted to 25 a day; when working for a special object, seventy a day have often been examined, but it is not practicable to do justice to such a number. Very good and very bad animals are soon disposed of; it is the middling and doubtful horse which take up the time; further, it may be accepted as a general rule that the first impressions of a horse are the most correct and lasting.

#### EXAMINATION ON BEING RECEIVED INTO DEPOT, AND RETURNED IF UNFIT.

On remounts being received into depots they should be lunged at once—if fit for it—to try their wind, unless this has been done previously, and they should also be generally re-examined under the direction of the veterinary surgeon. Their shoes should be taken off and the feet examined for sand cracks, seedy toes, sunken soles, etc. They should be carefully re-measured and registered, and if, on being re-shod, they are found below the necessary height, or if any unsoundness is detected in eyes, feet, wind, or limbs, or if they are found vicious in or out of the stable, they should be returned. On the other hand, if fit, they should be branded on the hoof, in accordance with the regulations on that subject.

(To be continued.)

#### Meeting of Ayrshire Breeders in Ottawa, April 26, 1887.

This was in response to a circular calling a meeting issued jointly by the two Ayrshire associations, to complete and confirm the amalgamation, and for the election of officers. The circular also went over the business done at the meeting of delegates in Ottawa on 6th April.

The Revising Committee, composed of Messrs. Rodden, Garth, Drummond, Nicol, McCormick and Yuill, met on Tuesday, 26th, at the Russell House, the object of the committee meeting being to formulate a basis upon which the business of the amalgamated associations could be carried on.

The following motion of Mr. Nicol was then adopted. Mr. Drummond seconded the motion:

"That the Canadian herd-book be taken as the nucleus of the amalgamated association's herd-book, and that the revision of the pedigrees be left to Messrs. Rodden and Wade, who were to have such assistance as they required. Any difference of opinion between the two revisors to be referred to the Executive Committee for final settlement."

At the general meeting next day Mr. Rodden explained what they had done in committee, which met with the unanimous approval of the meeting.

The next thing in order was the

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS,

of the amalgamated associations, which resulted as follows:

President, Wm. Rodden, Plantagenet, Ont.; Vice-president for Ontario, James McCormick, Rockton, Ont.; vice-president for Quebec, James Drummond, Montreal, Que.; vice-president for Nova Scotia, C.P. Blanchard, Truro, N. S.; vice-president for New