

the natural structure of the foot, and gives a firmer foothold with less slip. The "Charlier" shoe answers well for hack or light harness horse with good foot. "Rodway's," or double-grooved ground surface, lessens slip, and sometimes so much as to cause rigid action. Narrow concave ground surface answers well for hunters. A plain broad shoe without groove is the strongest, but allows free slip; is suitable for cab, van, bus, or farm work and horses with heavy step. Calkin at heels to give firmer foothold for draught horses; calkin at both toe and heel gives the strongest possible foothold for heavy draught work. The hind shoes are best with the heels both sides alike, whether plain or wedge-shape or calkin; it is not good practice to have a calkin on the outside and wedge-shape on inside, as it must inevitably tend to twist the foot outwards after reaching the ground.

(To be continued.)

AN ENGLISH HORSE DEALER'S EXPERIENCE.

Morning Post, London, Eng., 7th April, 1885.

"A London Horse Dealer" sends the following capital letter on the subject of the best horses for British markets to *The Morning Post*, London, Eng. It contains much sound practical advice and is worthy the serious attention of all those interested in the horse-rearing industry, whether in England or in Canada:—

"My sales average over 200 high-class horses per annum; averaging prime cost 60 to 200 guineas per horse. Every one interested in the horse must feel interested in the life and interest of those valuable societies the Hackney and Cleveland Bay Horse Societies and the Hunters' Stud Book; they deserve and will receive the support of the London trade, the veterinary profession, and every intelligent tenant who means horse-breeding with profit. We never let a good sort go by us, but of late we have had to travel miles before suiting ourselves, adding to our heavy expenses, and wasting our time, &c. The absolute want of system must be brought to a close. That this entails loss is an annual experience and is recognized by able men in the *Field*, *Live Stock Journal*, *County Gentleman*, &c. Take pains with the every-day sale horse and money will be forthcoming. The demand for the improved horse of any class is a certainty. Surely breeding a rent payer one or more offers a greater attraction to sensible men, practical farmers, than breeding odds and ends, no man can predicate what his breeding or trade is. If tenants, in spite of the efforts of these important societies, still patronize horses at low fees, they must not wonder how in the world it happens dealers do not go down and offer large sums for their haphazard bred stock. Breeding from cripples is bad policy. The market is strong for quality, the rest nowhere. Big-boned, muscular horses that can move and are at home whether in harness or in the saddle, up to their work, is the class wanted. Quality and substance, blood or bone, and breeding, these characteristics call for the breeder's special attention. Breeding from undersized dams, especially if short in their breeding or faulty in their contour, have proved dead failures times out of number. There is nothing to commend them to the eye of the fastidious or cognoscenti. Landlords should combine in their districts and establish stallion clubs. This plan appeals to the business mind, does not. Horse manure is worth more than a long bill for specials. Farmers deserve every encouragement, and a good stallion is half the stud. The first step to suc-

cess is quality and soundness in the dam. Practice proves that the greatest profit accrues from breeding from animals that are good shaped and fashionably bred in their respective classes. Sound in constitution, free from hereditary defect, perfect in their symmetry and proportion influencing the position of their legs, hence their wear. The form of the shoulder and its conjunction with the forearm govern action; in like manner proportion in the loins, thighs, and gaskins, quality in the hock joint, and their relative positions, ensure a favorable position for the hind legs, and their most approved action. Beauty of proportion and style is essential for the best market. Speed, action, and endurance must be secured to obtain success. York, Preston, Doncaster, and Munster great horse fairs prove farmers have yet much to learn about horse flesh. Secondary sorts were a drug, and quality very scarce, so we begin the year, and the prospect is the reverse of promising. A moderate sized mare 15.2-3, true in her make, clean in her breeding, neat in her action, mated to a horse that hits her points and 'nicks' well with her—the horse, without being coarse or loose made, should certainly be bolder in configuration of the two—is the only breeding that pays in this class. Sound common sense indicates that it is far safer to give a good price for a six or seven-year-old mare than to speculate on one whose infirmities are likely to be 'tattooed' on her progeny. From a good sound mare you may get a dozen paying foals, worth, when sold, 100 guineas a piece; from a cripple the chance of making £25 is against the breeder. A young handsome brood mare is the sort to stick by; and the screw dam, the fount of all disappointment in horse-breeding. Food, climate, selection, have gained for us greater size and precocity, but without anatomical proportion we cannot hope for profit. Leverage is valuable, i.e., length and obliquity in the movable bones if accompanied by muscular development, not without. A leggy, flat-sided sort, deficient in muscle with great striding action, invariably lacks activity and endurance. Out-sized dams and sires disappoint because of the difficulty of securing symmetry in them. At one time Shropshire was a happy hunting ground for the dealer, and now the Royal Agricultural Society are taking horse-breeding up systematically. We'll hope they will again come to the front with a useful high-class horse. Fashion has led with force, because of additional profit in the two extremes of the market; and coach-horses and hunters cannot long remain neglected. The demand for horses in these islands is so varied and extensive that it must pay for years, and the trade would treble itself in a very short time. The one thing wanting is system and combination on the tenants' part. I am asked, how do I value a horse? A good-shaped horse in the hunting class up to weight is worth 150gs. to buy; if educated and clever the valuation over 150gs. is not governed by any fixed standard, simply an individual estimate or inclination on the buyer's part. Light-weight hunters range under three figures. Excessive action is not essential or looked for in a hunter, but a good hunter should be a good hack. No thoroughbred is educated to sit on his haunches, and no horse can perform correctly without exhibiting this form. No horse with any pretensions to weight-carrying will measure less than eight inches under his knees. In the harness class dealers require a horse well grown, made, bred, and broken, and the more attention the breeder pays to these market requirements, in exact proportion will the enterprise remunerate him. Good selling, all round action, to be well broken recognises audacity, so very essential to private buyers lacking nerve, or who are particu-

lar about mouth and manners. Harness horses are bought from 60gs. to 240gs. from the breeder, according to stamp, action, and quality; roadsters and hackneys, from 50gs. to 120gs. for blood hacks. There is no mystery about the horse market. A good one sells; a mis-stitched, sour, plain, or under-bred brute drops money all round. Color is a bagatelle, if character is stamped—the darker the better for profit; but roans with black points are inquired for, and with dark tan muzzles they are very fetching; though seldom a high-bred horse they are a very useful sort. All harness horses should go 'right up' and 'all round.' The forerunner of success is to know the points of a horse, and what quality the character in the points insures. We should soon see misfits and nondescripts take a back seat in our studs, now that registration is demanded; because by the intelligent breeder and buyer it has established a money value, especially with exporters, who like our dams with quality, substance, style in action, and make, and sires with high-class character. In every district we see the baneful effects of unsound weedy wretches going the circuit for low fees. A desirable stallion costs from £300 to £500, and he cannot pay his way under five guineas per mare. A stallion should not serve more than four mares per diem, and 50 mares should be the maximum for the season; neglect this rule, and disappointment ensues. Aim at stoutness, stamina, and weight-carrying characteristics—that is money. A sustained and increasing demand is certain. A short Act, to restrain the use of stallions that had not passed the qualified veterinary inspector's approval, would be followed by the very best results. No hardship would be incurred, and no interference with private property would supervene. It would enlist the services of sound, reliable, useful stallions, and bar the poisoning of our useful breeds—a direct national benefit—with some sacrifice, at the expense of none save some mercenary stallion men. These serviceable horses are now exported at a wholesale rate; but with the nucleus left grand results might be secured, at no very distant date, with system."

DUBLIN SOCIETY'S CATTLE SHOW.

The spring show under the auspices of the Royal Dublin Society was opened at Ballsbridge on 7th inst. The feature of the show was the exhibition of young bulls, and amongst some 124 yearlings there was scarcely one indifferent animal. In the Herefords, the Queen sent over a beautiful bull, "Gladiator," which was placed next to a splendid animal exhibited by Mr. Taylor, from Herefordshire. In the section for pigs Her Majesty also exhibited a fine specimen, which obtained first prize. It was the opinion of several English and Scotch breeders who were present at the show that the display of young bulls was much superior to that which was seen recently at Birmingham, Aberdeen, and Perth, the animals showing more flesh, better quality, and sounder constitutions. Amongst the Hereford heifers the Queen showed a very fine young animal, which had to compete against others of more mature years. Mr. Taylor's was placed first by the judges. Among all the exhibits the Queen took three first prizes.

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