

total wrecks after working for a comparatively short period.

It is essential that a draft horse working in cities or towns should be capable of backing heavy loads into lanes and back courts, and unless a horse has some width in quarters and power in his thighs he is unable to perform this task; the long sloping-ankled, straight-hocked horse always runs a serious risk of upsetting himself when he attempts to set back his load. Notwithstanding the rapid strides mechanical haulage is making, I believe there will still be a continuous good demand for good blocky horses for town work. There are indications that matters are showing signs of improvement in this respect. Having had the privilege of judging in the two-year-old gelding class at the Lanark October show and sale for the last five years in succession, I have been struck with the gradual increase in numbers of colts showing real draft horse character.

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### CLYDESDALES MOST ECONOMICAL

41 Carr Road, Nilton, Lancashire.

In reference to your enquiry re my experience of Clydesdale geldings in town and journey work in connection with brewery work at Astley's Brewery, Nilton, I may say that some twenty years ago this firm was buying the best Shire geldings obtainable with as little hair on the legs as possible. The prices paid then varied from £100 to £140 (\$500 to \$700). Finding the Shire gelding to have a very short street efficiency life, and the continual trouble with legs and feet, in the form of grease, side bones and bad condition generally it was decided to make a change and try Clydesdales in place of the Shires. Clydesdales were then purchased at about the same cost, viz., £100 to £140. The effect was noticeable at once as in place of 30% to 40% of hospital cases, and unfit for journey we got all the lot ready to take any turn. Since then the Clydesdale geldings have been sold when too slow for long journeys for from 30% to 40% of their initial cost after working here from five to eleven years or an average town life of seven and a half years.

#### Deductions

Two Clydesdales will do the work of three Shires, and their town life will be double at this class of work, i.e., you only need two Clydesdales to last as long as six Shires.

The salvage is also much better. The horses are seldom off work.

Grease and side bones are almost unknown.

The road speed is better in virtue of the better walk of the Clydesdale.

The horses are bought at five and six years old, not less than 17 hands high and weigh about 16½ cwts. (1,850 pounds) more or less according to condition. They have most often been bought in Scotland, sometimes in the north of England. The price given in war time has been up to £200 (\$1,000).

The horses are worked in double shafts, in pairs, dray weight 24 to 25 cwts., and the load is from two to three tons according to incline of roads. The