



ALIX, 2.03.
Typical roadster.

Classification of Horses for Show Purposes.

To any person who is in the habit of attending the horse ring at fall exhibitions, either in the capacity of judge or spectator, it is evident that many mistakes are made in classifying the exhibits. Many high-class animals are exhibited in classes to which they do not belong, hence cannot win, and while an animal so exhibited may be worth more money in the market than those that win the prizes, he is out of his class, and it would be doing an injustice to the other exhibitors to give him a place, notwithstanding his value. Occurrences of this kind are very unfortunate, and not infrequently subject the judge to unfair and severe criticisms. The owner of the horse knowing that he has the most valuable animal in the ring, and either through want of accurate knowledge of the characteristics demanded in horses of certain classes or carelessness in making his entry, has entered him in the wrong class, it is often hard to convince him that he has made a mistake. He either can not or will not see it, and considers that his horse should be placed first in either class, and in many cases will enlarge, often in language more expressive than polite, upon the ignorance of the judge. Conditions of this kind would not occur if exhibitors would carefully read the prize list and consider the characteristics of their horses and then be careful to enter each animal in his proper class. It must be admitted that there are many very useful, and in some cases valuable, animals that cannot be said to belong to any recognized class—that is, they have not the special characteristics of any class sufficiently well marked to justify classification. Such animals should not be exhibited. We have heard men grumble in such cases that there was no class for them. This is quite correct. An exhibition society cannot make classes for all animals, and it would be unwise to do so, for while an unclassified animal may in some cases be valuable, it would not be wise to encourage his production. The classes which include most of the horses owned and exhibited by farmers are: Heavy draft, agricultural, general-purpose, carriage, roadster, and saddle. The other classes, as high-steppers, tandems, four-hands, hunters, etc., require animals that in the first case are essentially of their respective classes, and then are subjected to special training in order to develop their characteristics. Hence these classes, we may say, are especially for the dealer or the gentleman who has plenty of time to prepare his horses for exhibition or pleasure. We will, therefore, confine our remarks to the first-mentioned classes.

THE HEAVY-DRAFT HORSE

must be of a certain weight. Some prize lists state what the minimum weight shall be. We will say 1,600 lbs. and over. He should possess the general characteristics of the special class of draft horses to which he belongs, either Clydesdale, Shire, Percheron, Suffolk Punch, German or French Draft, but he must have the required weight in order to make him eligible to compete. The Clydesdale and Shire are certainly the most favored draft breed in Ontario and some of the other Provinces.

THE AGRICULTURAL HORSE

is of the same general type, but of less weight, say between 1,400 and 1,600 lbs.

THE GENERAL-PURPOSE HORSE

is hard to describe. Some claim that there should be no such class, but we think there is a general-purpose horse. He is said to be an animal that performs fairly well to a wagon, carriage, buggy, plow or under saddle, not being an animal that is especially adapted for any one purpose. Such an animal we consider should be of the blocky type, say 15½ to 16 hands, weighing between 1,200 and 1,400 lbs., with clean, flat bone, good feet, withers well marked, good obliquity of both shoulder and pastern: an active, good-mannered fellow,

who carries both head and tail well and has fair action.

There are more mistakes made in classification in the light classes than in the heavy. Of course, when an animal is of pure breed there is no difficulty, but carriage and roadsters are usually of mixed breeding and classification depends more upon action than conformation.

THE CARRIAGE HORSE

should be a stylish, attractive fellow of fair size, say from 15 to 16½ hands, and symmetrical. (Many think that size distinguishes between the carriage and roadster, but this is a mistake.) In general conformation he should have more substance and general muscular development than the roadster. Still, we often see a horse whose appearance while standing will admit of him being placed in either class, and we must see him move in order to classify him. He must have style and attractive appearance whether standing or in motion, must hold his head and tail well, and should drive without either check-rein or martingale. His action should be straight and graceful, neither rolling nor paddling with the fore feet, nor going wide behind, and he must have at least fairly high action: the higher the better, and this action must be maintained whether jogging or going fast. He must not pace.

The extreme action looked for in the carriage horse, and demanded in the "high-stepper," is congenial in the Hackney, and in some cases can be developed in the Standard-bred or roadster.

ROADSTERS,

like carriage horses, are of different sizes, and usually of mixed breeding. A roadster should be of fair size and substance. In general appearance not necessarily as stylish and attractive as the carriage horse; still, there should be an absence of plainness and coarseness. He should be able to go fast, not necessarily fast enough to race, but should have sufficient speed and substance to draw two men in a buggy over an ordinary road at say 10 miles an hour, and have



MOPSA AND RUBICON.

Pair of carriage horses, exhibited by R. Beith, M. P., Bowmanville, Ont.

sufficient endurance to keep the clip up for a few hours if asked to. He may either trot or pace, and may go either low or high. Must not paddle or roll in front, but may go reasonably wide behind.

SADDLE HORSES

are, with rare exceptions, the produce of the Thoroughbred sire out of mares of mixed breeding. The nearer they approach the Thoroughbred in general type the better, so long as they have sufficient size and substance. A saddle horse must have a rangy neck, well marked, and rather sharp withers, rather strong back and strong loins, oblique shoulders and pasterns. In action he has not got the height and flash of the carriage horse nor the speed of the roadster. He goes rather close to the ground, with an elastic motion, whether at the walk, trot or canter.

Another class not mentioned is the

COMBINATION HORSE.

Good horses of this class are hard to find. The characteristics are a mixture of those of the high-stepper and saddle horse. The aspirant for honors in this class should be of medium size. He must be of an attractive appearance; have more action than the saddle horse, yet not so extreme action as the high-stepper. In rare cases a horse can be taught to act higher in harness than in saddle, and this makes the ideal combination horse. He must have good manners in both harness and saddle.

"WHIP."

The weather during August was, in nearly all sections of the Dominion, favorable for harvesting the grain crop, which, with few exceptions, is a bumper one in all the Provinces of the Dominion, while pastures have kept fresh and the cows have continued to do good work. The farmers in most districts have finished the harvest, and are in the best of spirits, owing to the satisfactory results. Truly, this Canada is a favored land.

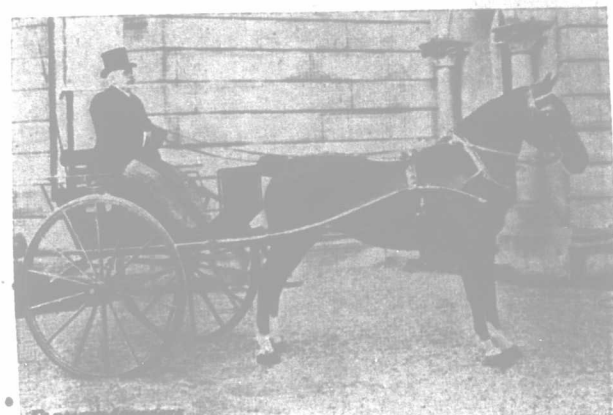
STOCK.

Selecting Brood Sows.

From the general trend of the hog market, and the prices which have been paid for the last few years, it must be clear to every intelligent farmer that more brood sows could have been profitably kept in this country. Recent advices, too, coming from Great Britain, as well as reports from packers in our own land, indicate that very profitable returns may be expected by Canadian bacon producers for some time to come. It therefore behooves farmers to awaken to the situation and at once prepare to increase their capacity to meet the demand.

The first step will be the selection of good brood sows. This is an important matter at any time, and especially so when large profits may be obtained from the industry. There is no better season at which to make a choice and no more opportune time than the present one. Spring-bred litters are the best from which to select, because usually the young pigs will have had more exercise than if dropped in the fall, and in consequence will be possessed of stronger bone, heavier muscle, and the foundation of a better constitution. As a breeder of bacon hogs, it is not necessary that the sow be pure-bred, but she should, at least, have two or three direct crosses of some recognized bacon breed, and if a pure-bred sow of the right type can be secured at a moderate price, she is preferable, because she will be more likely to breed true to type. Since it is essential that a brood sow be a good mother, a heavy milker and a breeder of fair-sized litters, it will be necessary that the young sow be chosen from a dam known to possess these characteristics, and if the same can be said of the female ancestry for two or three generations, so much the better. It is also very important that she be descended from an early maturing strain and one noted for constitutional vigor. Individually, she should give evidence of possessing these qualities in high degree.

The age at which a sow is selected effects, to some extent, an estimate of her possibilities; the nearer maturity, the better idea may be had as to her probable form and quality in general. No sow, however, intended for breeding, should be allowed in the finishing pens where rapid fattening is taking place. It is, hence, necessary that she be removed from the rest of the litter before forcing begins. Even at three months, a fairly accurate idea may be had of her possibilities as a breeder. Strong constitution will be indicated by breadth, depth and fullness of chest. Early maturity may be estimated by size according to age. Maternal instincts will be seen in a kindly disposition, and ability to produce large litters will, to some extent, be assured by good length and depth of body and by the presence of at least twelve mature teats. In addition to these, a brood sow intended for raising bacon hogs should show strong bone of fine quality, stand well up on her feet, have smooth shoulders, a strong back slightly arched, be long from shoulders backward, with hams full and well-developed. It may be difficult to find these in a single individual, but the closer to them an animal can be found, the greater the assurance of success. While the history of the ancestry (pedigree) is of great significance in the selection of breeding stock of any class, individual merit must not be overlooked. Young sows are frequently taken into the breeding pens without sufficient consideration or care in choosing. The difference between the profits from a good and an average brood sow in a single year may easily amount to as much as \$50, and when



COMBINATION TYPE.

Harness, saddle or brood mare? Ringlet.
OWNED BY C. V. HAWORTH, ENGLAND.