

Incidental to the preparation of a paper pertaining to this matter for farmers and breeders, I have compiled and collated certain data which have a scientific as well as economic value, the more interesting portion of which I condense for this paper.

The horse has several gaits which he uses naturally, that is, instinctively. And, besides those which are natural, he has been taught several artificial ones, some of which have been much used, particularly in the middle ages. But to trot fast was not natural to horses; when urged to speed they never assumed it, and until within a century the gait was neither cultivated nor wanted by any class of horsemen. A breed of fast trotters, had it been miraculously created, would doubtless soon have perished in that it would have had no use, satisfied no fancy, and found no place in either the social or industrial world as it then was.

Before the present century the chief and almost sole uses of the horse were as an implement of war, an instrument of sport and ceremony, an index of rank and wealth, and an article of luxury.

For all these uses, as then pursued, a fast trotter was not suited, nor was he better adapted to the heavy coaches over rough roads, or the slow waggon-trains of armies. The horse best adapted to all these, however much he may have varied as to size, strength and fleetness, was one whose fast gait was the gallop or run rather than the trot. For leisurely horseback travelling the ambling gait (or pacing gait as it came to be called in America) was preferred. With increasing use of horses for draft, certain heavy but slow breeds were developed in the Old World, of which the Dutch, Clydesdale, and Norman breeds are examples.

The causes which led to the cultivation of the trotting gait in this country, and the evolution of a breed with which it should be instinctively the fast gait, were various, and the separate value of each as a factor in the problem would be very differently estimated by different persons studying the subject from different points of view. Now that he is so valuable and plays such a part as a horse of use, it is easy to see why a breed of trotting roadsters should be produced to meet certain important demands of our modern civilization. But this does not explain how the process actually began.

Reasoning *a priori*, the trotter, as a horse of use, should have originated in western Europe; as a matter of fact, he not only did not begin there, but he was unpopular there until well developed here. Locomotives began to draw armies to the battle field, the war horse declined in actual as well as relative importance, the modern, light, steel-spring, one-horse, convenient business waggon as well as

the modern buggy came into common use after trotting as a sport was established, and after the gait had been extensively cultivated and bred to. The trotting horse is specially adapted to various modern uses, but these uses followed his development, rather than led it, although in later days this factor has been an important one in the rate of progress.

The influences which originally led to the starting of the breed were more social than economical; a similar fact a century earlier marked the founding of that famous running breed, the English thoroughbred. The origin of the trotter, however, was not so simple as that, and several diverse social factors were involved, only the chief of which will here be noticed.

(To be Continued.)

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