

The Clydesdale or the Percheron

Live Opinions from Practical Horsemen as to the Merits of these Two Breeds

Percheron His Favorite

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

I have been following with some interest the discussion in your paper regarding the comparative merits of the Clydesdale and the Percheron. So far, no one except Mr. Ballachey has favored the latter breed. I should therefore like to say a few words in support of the Percheron, and also in examination of the arguments brought forward by those advocating the Clydesdale. I shall consider the latter point first.

Mr. Smith, writing in your issue Clyde man and is not in a position of June 15th, admits that he is a to give an opinion upon the comparative merits of the two breeds from a farmer's standpoint. This is a very frank admission, and therefore when he goes on to say in the next breath that his reading and observation lead him to favor the Clyde, that neither Mr. Ballachey nor his Brantford friends have had any experience of his chosen breed to outrun his discretion and his balance of mind, not to speak of his logic. It is light that is wanted, not heat. Mr. Smith will be given the same opportunity to advance the Clyde as any one else is given to advocate the Percheron, but it is desirable that both sides keep within sane and just bounds.

Mr. Thos. McMillan, writing in your issue of the same date, very fairly and moderately advocates the Clyde. Evidently his experience with the Clyde has been happy, or his experience with the Percheron either unhappy or wanting. At any rate there is one argument of his that does carry weight. If the Clyde is in demand as a dray horse, the man who wants to raise and sell dray horses should keep with the popular breed. Whether or no this touches the question of the relative merits

of FARM HORSES each may decide for himself.

Dr. Reed's letter, in your June 1st issue, should command the attention of horsemen everywhere, because Dr. Reed is a recognized authority in that line. I cannot but feel, however, that, apart from a statement of the greater demand for Clydes, the doctor's only arguments in favor of the Clyde are its superiority in the show ring and the alleged necessity of "sticking to type"—breeding mares with Clyde blood in them to Clyde sires. I doubt whether the show ring test will give the same results as the farm test; and, in regard to the second point, the same argument would favor the Percheron if it had happened that most of our mares had a strong infusion of Percheron blood instead of Clyde blood. However, Dr. Reed, deserves our thanks for giving his opinion so frankly.

Mr. Robert Ness relates some

INTERESTING EXPERIENCE

of his French neighbors. It is open to question, however, whether or not this experience is distinctly unfavorable to the Percheron. In the first place there was only one Percheron sire tested, and it is never safe to generalize from one concrete

case. In the second case, it is more than possible that the poor results which Mr. Ness relates were due to the strong variation from type, so reprehensible in Dr. Reed's opinion. I cannot see, therefore, that Mr. Ness' letter can carry much weight as an argument.

The experience cited by Mr. J. G. Clark can also be interpreted in several ways, and is by no means conclusive.

As far as my own experience and observation go, I do not lay much stress upon them. The single individual's experience is, as a rule, so limited, that it would be presumptuous to generalize on such a narrow foundation. So far as it goes, however, I may say that as farm horses

I PREFER THE PERCHERONS

to the Clydes. I have not had any pure-bred animals of either class on my own place, but have had some that were half-bred—of both breeds. The Percherons were tougher, lighter and more active than the Clydes, which qualities I consider desirable in a farm horse. Six years ago I had some experience with a team of nearly, or quite, pure-bred Clyde mares, which sold for \$400. I drove them on a binder for about two weeks, with another native nondescript mare, on a Manitoba wheat field. I never want to drive another team of such sluggish, lumbering, lazy brutes as those. My own little horses—there is some Percheron blood in them—can do and are doing far more work than these two Clyde mares did, and they do not weigh over two-thirds of what the latter did.

In this locality I do not think there is any predominant breed, although the Clyde has perhaps

THE GREATEST FOLLOWING

Many of the Clydes are doubtless splendid horses, and it is quite possible that my own experience with them has been disproportionately unfortunate. Personally, however, I do not like a big, heavy horse for the farm. I would rather have four

twelve hundred pound horses than three sixteen hundred pounders. There is so much of my work—such as scuffling, drilling, mowing, cutting grain, running to town with a medium load, etc., etc., which requires quickness and agility, together with endurance, that I do not want any ponderous horses. Others, however, may be differently situated and may have different tastes. They will, therefore require differently built horses from those which I myself require. Each to his liking, and let there be a free field and fair competition with no exclusion.

W. C. GOON.

Brantford, June 27th, 1905.

Has Tried Both Clydesdales and Percherons

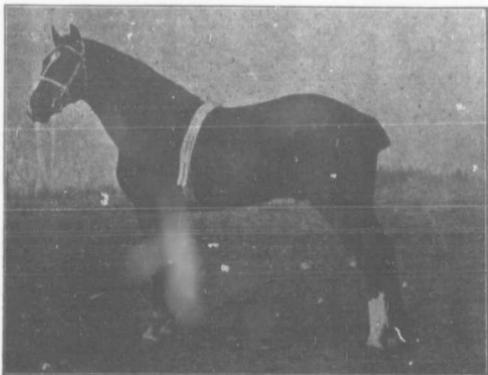
Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

I have read with interest the discussion in response to my letter in your issue of May 15th, about the Percheron and the Clydesdale. As none of your correspondents as yet agree with me, perhaps I may again be permitted to write. So far none of them speak from actual farm experience with both breeds and therefore they have not had the best opportunity of judging. This would lead one to think that there are very few Percherons owned by your readers, and judging from the opinions expressed it is also probable, that some poor specimens unobtainable in the United States at good prices, have been dumped into this country where the breed is not so well known.

One of your correspondents, Mr. Wm. Smith, credits me with saying that all Percherons are superior in the points mentioned to the Clydesdale. If my letter conveyed this meaning, it is not what I intended. The former would indeed be a wonderful breed if this were so. Mr. Smith, while admitting that he has not had an opportunity of comparing the breeds, and notwithstanding my statement that I drew my conclusions from experience, also ventures to say that I have not had such opportunity; and, as is usual with those who speak without knowledge, is entirely wrong.

HAD BOTH CLYDES AND PERCHERONS

My father, some years ago, imported and bred both Clydesdales and



Imported Hackney Stallion Income, sire Rosador, dam by Garton Duke of 1 caught two of England's best famous sires. This colt won first in two-year-old class at Industrial, Toronto, second at Toronto Horse Show as a three-year-old, 1903, with fourth place as stallion. Best suited to sire carriage horses. Owned by W. C. Quickfall, Glenora, Ont.