

HORSES.

Market Classes of Horses.

Nowadays the producer studies the markets, and thereby stands a greater chance to make money out of his work. A mass of useful information has been collected on the above subject by Geo. M. Rommel, B. Agr. (Iowa), Expert in Animal Husbandry at Washington, D. C., and has been issued in the form of an attractive bulletin. As the information is reliable, being got "right on the ground," the following excerpts will undoubtedly be of interest to our readers:

WHAT CONSTITUTES A MARKET CLASS?

By a market class we mean the demand that exists for a horse of certain characteristics definitely specified. We find the requirement that certain work shall be done in certain ways. This requires a horse of certain size, conformation, style and action, and becomes more exacting as time goes on and the demand for such a horse increases. For this reason it is readily seen that classes on the market at one time may be cut off by reason of a change in the kind of work to be done or a change in the method of doing it; such, for instance, as the substitution of electricity for horses as a motive power for street railways. On the other hand, we have an illustration of the creation of new classes in the opening up of the English demand for the omnibus horse. The increasing demand for hunters for both the local and export trade and the brisk trade in polo ponies are also instances of such conditions. The kind of work and the manner in which it is to be done, therefore, develop the buyer's demands, and thus create the market class.

WHEN WILL A HORSE SELL WELL?

The question naturally arises, When will a horse sell well? An animal will be in good demand when he meets the qualifications of a market class; the more clearly he does so, the greater demand there will be for him and the higher will be his selling price; and a horse that goes into a class because his breeder was successful in breeding him for that class is much more likely to sell profitably than one that drops into a class as the result of an accident in breeding, handling or fitting for the market. A breeder must determine for himself whether he can produce such a horse and dispose of him at a profit; that he will find a good demand for animals of the right type is certain. The individuality of the horse himself, then, will indicate his class.

AGE.

Mature and well-broken horses are always the best sellers. A year or two spent in waiting for a horse to develop, and educating him, means an expenditure of time and money on the part of the purchaser which is, as a rule, undesirable, unless the horse is bought specifically for the purpose of fitting him for the finished market. The ideal age is five years, buyers usually purchasing animals ranging from five to eight. The classes vary somewhat in this respect. A horse intended for draft purposes may be marketed somewhat sooner than a harness horse or saddler.

BREEDING AND SEX.

The breed to which a horse belongs has very little influence on his selling price. All that is required is that he be a good individual of his class. A good horse always sells. Geldings are preferred somewhat generally to mares.

COLOR.

Color does not figure so strongly as many would lead us to believe. Almost any color, with excellence to back it, will sell well, except white, flea-bitten grey, "mealy" bay, or any other color that might be termed "washed out." Among drafters, no special color seems to have a preference; with harness horses and saddlers, bays, browns and chestnuts have first preference, but greys and blacks sell readily if "good." Well-matched teams, both in harness and draft classes, usually bring higher prices than if sold singly.

CONDITION.

Condition is very often overlooked. It is absolutely essential that a horse be in good condition (well fed) to bring what he is really worth. This is particularly true of animals of the draft type. Whether it increases the animal's real value as a worker, it is not necessary to consider. The market demands high condition, and pays those men well who cater to it. The great lack of condition is shown by the fact that many horses are sent in for sale only to be reshipped to the country for further feeding. Condition is almost as essential as fat on a steer, and its absence cuts from 25 to 50 per cent. from the selling price of a horse. The requirements of the market in this line are well worthy of notice.

DISPOSITION AND INTELLIGENCE.

Every class calls for an animal of intelligence and good disposition, willing to pull at a good rate or set a fast pace on the driveway, and capable and cool-headed in an emergency. The use of horses on crowded streets, often among

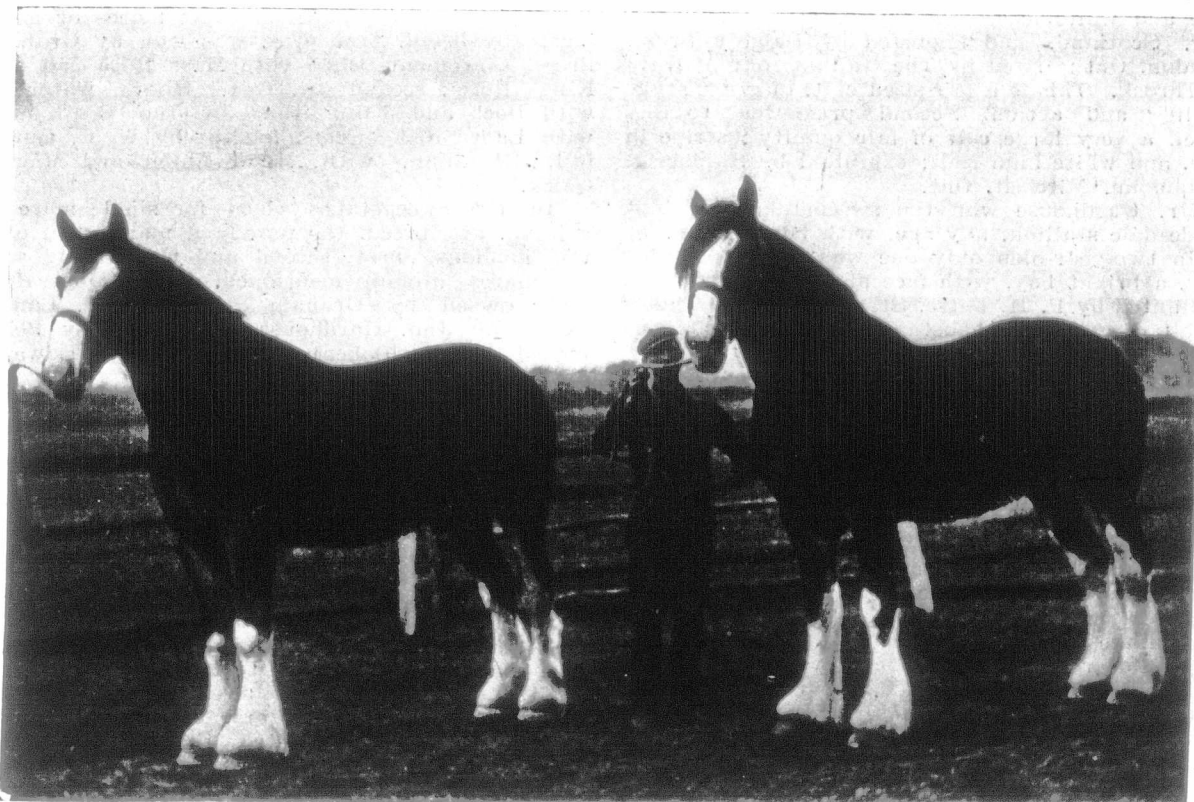
a large number of pedestrians, makes the latter particularly essential. The need of these qualifications is more important in some classes than in others.

SOUNDNESS.

The most important requirement of a market horse is "serviceable" soundness; that is, he must have no chronic disease that will unfit him for work of a general nature. He must be sound in wind and in limb, able to do a reasonable amount of work without undue fatigue or premature breakdowns. The majority of the horses sold from a great market go to the city trade, and are compelled to do their work on hard, unyielding pavements, pulling heavy loads, or developing speed that is an even greater strain on the feet and legs. The average period of usefulness on city streets of a horse that was sound at the start is more than five years, and it is manifestly evident that this time will be materially decreased if he begins this work in an unsound condition. Broken wind, sidebones, unsound hocks, and all the various other ills that a horse is heir to, should be strenuously guarded against, as they greatly diminish his value.

Forecasting the Future in Foals.

The ability to tell how a colt may be expected to turn out is a quality much envied by horsemen. With some men such a possession is almost intuitive; others may put themselves in a favorable position by studying the foal's formation. Depth of body and closeness of that body to the ground are good indications to go by. If good height is desired, it must be got, not by extreme length of leg, but by depth through the middlepiece. The way the legs are set on and the development of the joints, large size and squareness being desirable, will afford some indication at least as to future form.



KING ROSE AND MOSS ROSE 2ND.

Sweepstakes heavy-draft team, open to all breeds, Canadian Horse Show, Toronto, 1902. Moss Rose 2nd was sweepstakes Clydesdale mare at same show.

OWNED BY GRAHAM BROS., CLAREMONT, ONT.

How the Imitation Hackney is Made.

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery" is an old adage, the principle of which seems to be observed even in the horse world. At that great mart for all classes of live stock, Chicago, the process of turning Standard-breds into high actors for carriage purposes is continually going on. The writer has assisted at some phases of the operation, which is as follows: A speedy, well-crested Standard-bred stallion is procured, castrated, and after a certain length of time is docked and the tail set up by nicking, cutting those muscles on the underside of the tail whose action is to depress that organ. Later on, with the aid of plenty of iron (shoe) and lots of foot, and several drillings to the accompaniment of whip-cracking music, the transformed trotter goes high and nearly touches his chin with his knees. So far the imitation is a good one, but have the horse pushed a little in speed, and instead of giving that hock action so frequently seen in the Hackney, he exhibits the wide type of going so frequently exhibited by the sulky-drawing track horse. To people that don't know the imitation from the real article such horses sell at good prices, profitable to the dealers engaged in the business. There is a demand for coach and carriage horses which could not very well be met unless in the manner above described: the demand has brought the method into being.

The Canadian Horse Show.

The eighth annual Canadian Horse Show, held under the joint auspices of the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association and the Toronto Hunt, was held in the Armouries, Toronto, on April 10th, 11th and 12th.

The date was nearly three weeks earlier than usual, which gave the farmers a better opportunity to attend, as spring work on the farm had not yet commenced. As a result the attendance of visitors from outside the city was noticeably larger than usual. The show this year may be said to have been essentially a "Horse Show," there being only enough of the military to vary the monotony. Both in the point of attendance and in number and quality of exhibits, the affair was an unqualified success. In all harness and saddle classes the entries were numerous and of high class. Admirers of the fashionable high-acting harness horse were gratified and delighted with what they saw. He is hard to please who could not have chosen one or a team to suit. Noticeable in this class was the veteran half-bred Hackney mare, South Africa. This mare won in all classes in which she was exhibited, but she had a very close call in class 12 when she went up against Mr. A. Yeager's Derby Sportsman, a five-year-old bay gelding with size, quality, speed and action. After considerable delay and argument among themselves, the judges awarded the red ribbon to the mare, although many of the horsemen at the ringside thought the decision would have gone the other way. The quality and performances of saddlers and hunters of all classes were above the average, probably the best ever seen in Canada. In the breeding classes the number of entries in some cases was not large, but in most cases the quality was good. The active condition of the horse trade and the demand for stal-

lions explains the absence of some of our best breeders from the show-ring. As usual, some complaints were heard by exhibitors who did not think they had been fairly used, but with few exceptions the complaints were groundless.

CLYDESDALES.

In stallions four years old and over, there were nine entries. This was a class of grand horses, probably not so heavy individually as has been seen on former occasions, but the quality, style and action was exceptionally good. It is noticeable that the fashionable Clydesdale or Shire stallion must have style, action, clean bone and good feather, even though this be to a certain extent at the expense of weight. The coarse, beefy legs with an abundance of wavy hair of a few years ago is, fortunately, seldom seen now.

In this class, H. G. Boag, of Churchill, won first with Lyon Stewart, a bay with hind feet white and possessing in a marked degree all the qualities mentioned, and weighs about a ton. Second place went to Lord Minto, a chestnut with white hind feet, a well proportioned, blocky horse, bred by J. W. Kennedy, Milliken, Ont., and exhibited by R. Canning, Hagerman, Ont. Third prize was given to Sherlock Holmes, a brown horse, with star and hind feet white, exhibited by Crake & Linstead, Queensville, Ont. The fourth prize went to Balmedie Marquis, a bay horse with stripe in face, hind and