

An American Coach Horse.

Horse-breeding in its purest sense, or breeding towards some high ideal, is a noble art. The present is a day of ideals. Every breeder of live stock, if he has his work at heart, is striving, year by year, to place his animals upon a higher plane, or, in other words, he is working with the idea of improving his animals. He has an ideal animal in his mind's eye, the form and quality of which he molds into the offspring of his flock or herd by scientific selection, mating, care, and feeding. He has been untiring in his efforts to reach a standard higher than that attained by his fellow breeders.

Such rivalry among breeders of fancy horses, especially across the Atlantic, has developed two distinct types of the heavy-harness horse—the German Coach and the French Coach. These two breeds have become established and fixed in type, and well represent many years of careful breeding and selection. They have been imported to this country in large numbers, and have been used to improve the horses on this side of the world.

The development of every great breed of horses has been based upon the native stock of the particular country in which it has sprung up. For example, take the Percheron, Clydesdale, Belgian, French and German Coach, and other well-known breeds. These have been developed within certain countries, amid certain environments suitable to the production of the various types, and have, through proper selection and scientific breeding, been changed into their modern forms.

The Standard-bred trotter is an American breed. It has been evolved and developed mainly for the purpose of speed, without due regard to the desirable points of conformation and style and beauty of action looked for in the high-class carriage horse.

Because of this craze for speed, the American trotter, as a breed, has become very undesirable for high-class driving purposes. There are, however, a few outstanding horses of this breed that are brilliant performers, and have achieved distinction in the show-rings as high-steppers. These animals appear to be results of accidents rather than any attempt to produce this class of horses by scientific breeding principles.

The demand for suitable carriage horses is rapidly exceeding the supply, and, unless something is done to fill the demands of the public, there will follow the inevitable result of a horse famine. Realizing the condition of affairs, and what might follow, the chief men in the Department of Agriculture of the United States set out to solve the problem. They discovered two alternatives: The first, that of importing the breeds already well established in type and action from Europe; the second, that of developing a distinctive American breed of more desirable conformation from the Standard-bred trotter, native of this country.

Many noted breeders and horsemen have condemned the action which the Department of Agriculture took in choosing the latter course, their reasons being that it would be many years before a suitable type could be established from the now depleted trotter, and also that it is the present generation which should be supplied with good horses. Various opinions have been expressed,

but in the face of these, it has been decided to develop, even though it take a long period of time, a class of horses unsurpassed in points which lend to their durability and usefulness.

With an appropriation from Congress of about \$20,000 for experimental horse-breeding purposes, the Department of Agriculture has set out, in conjunction with the Colorado Experiment Station, to produce a breed of American Coach or heavy-harness horses. Much trouble was experienced in the selection of animals suitable in type. The foundation stock consists of eighteen mares and one stallion, all selected strictly in accordance with a chosen ideal of type. The ancestry was considered in the selection of these animals, to be sure of their being of a similar conformation, thus insuring blood lines that would breed reasonably true. Life, spirit and energy,

tended to build up these characteristics to the highest degree, rather than towards the development of speed. Such prepotent animals as Robert M'Gregor, Abdallah 15, Mambrino Chief, and the Morgan and Clay bloods, have left an indelible impression on Carmon, and have helped to produce his handsome head and neck, his straight croup, and full quarters and stifles.

It is from such blood as has been described that this new breed of horses is to be developed. Rigid selection will be followed, and no animals will be retained in the stud which do not conform to a high standard.

No definite method of distributing these horses over the country has yet been decided upon. It will take several years before any benefit can be derived from this experiment, because of the fact that none of the horses will be used outside of

this stud until a fixed type has been secured. When such a time comes there will be ample use for all the good breeders which can be produced. There are many trotting-bred mares and stallions in different parts of the country of sufficient size, good conformation, and all-round high-class action, that, if properly mated, will produce the type of animal in such great demand.

The fact that brilliant performers and animals of the desired type have been produced from purebred trotting ancestors, is evidence showing what the blood of the trotting horse alone is capable of accomplishing, and it is hoped by every lover of high-

class horses that much may be realized from this Government breeding experiment. If the plans of its projectors be carried out in every detail there is little doubt but that a breed of American Coach horses will be established in the near future which will be more serviceable and desirable, and which also may be procured for less money than any of the foreign breeds.

J. F. INGELS.

Sharp Shoes or None.

A sharp shoe or none should be the rule from now on. Feet of colts that have never been shod acquire a toughness that enables them to stand a great deal of wear without breaking or cracking, and it should be the rule never to shoe farm colts unless absolutely necessary. It saves expense, and is better for the feet. It is time enough to shoe them when they are put on roads or pavements. We have had Clydesdale colts doing all the work on a hundred-acre farm, including a share of road work, that never had a shoe on till sold at the age of five years. No farm horses should be shod in winter except those intended for use on the roads or on ice, and these should be shod sharp. A smooth shoe is treacherous.

The wise horseman is trying to find odd jobs for his teams, that he may prevent the bad consequences which arise from sudden stoppage of hard work and heavy feed.



Wisconsin Queen in Harness.

with moderate speed, were considered. Although conformation was not sacrificed to speed, both characteristics with good action were regarded as an advantage.

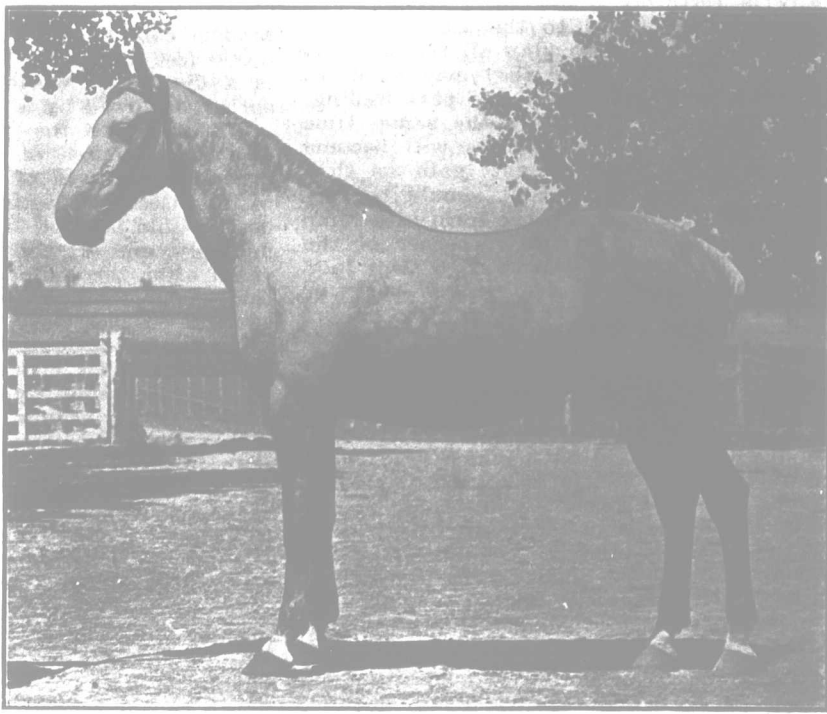
The type for mares, as outlined in the 1904 yearbook of the Department of Agriculture, was one standing about 15.3 hands, weighing 1,100 to 1,150 pounds, bay, brown or chestnut in color, with stylish head and neck, full-made body, deep ribs, straight back, strong loin, straight, full croup, muscular forearms, quarters, and lower thighs; good, all-round action insisted upon. Any tendency to pace or mix gaits was regarded as ground for disqualification. In some cases mares of more than 15.3 hands were purchased, and in others they were less than this. All, however, conformed closely to the type.

The principal difficulty was still left unsolved—that of selecting a stallion suitable to head the stud. Many trotting horses suitable to get carriage horses were submitted, but were not considered because of some defect or digression from type. An excellent animal was finally selected which was deemed suitable in all particulars. This horse is Carmon, 32917, American Trotting Register, 16 hands, weighing 1,200 pounds, in fair condition; bay, with black points and no white markings; bred by Hon. Norman J. Coleman, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Carmon, of excellent conformation, quality, substance and action, traces to blood which has



Colorado State Board of Agriculture inspecting Carmon.



One of the Government Experiment Mares.