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FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

VOL. XXXVI

TORONTO, ONT., OCTOBER 18, 1917

No 42

The Type of Horse That the Market Demands

The Draughter Need Not Fear Gas Truck or Tractor Competition

WHILE much is heard these days of the advances being made in our rural districts by farm tractors, as well as of the replacing upon the city streets of the draught horse by gasoline trucks, it will be many years before the draught horse will be a drug on the market. The principal reason why the truck and farm tractor have made the progress they have, says W. H. Peters, of the North Dakota Agricultural College, has been the failure of horse production to keep pace with the demand, and the consequent inability of prospective purchasers to secure horses suitable to their needs. There has never been a time when good horses have been in greater demand, or when they have fetched more satisfactory prices.

The farmer who would make a success of breeding and marketing horses must have in mind the market requirements and must breed to the type that is in greatest demand at the best prices. To sell well a horse of any kind, must be sound, present a good appearance, have plenty of quality, good action, a mild disposition, desirable color and above all he should be offered for sale when in the pink of condition if the breeder is to reap the reward of his labors. If the farmer will study his market and will properly develop his colts, he will find a ready market for all the surplus horses he can produce, and will find in their sale a substantial profit. The chief market requirements as given by Mr. Peters in Bulletin No. 8 of the North Dakota Agricultural College, follow:

Requirements of Market Horses.

"First among general qualifications is soundness. All horses bought for breeding purposes should be sound in every way, while all horses bought for work should be serviceably sound as distinguished from a blemish or unsoundness as defined as any malformation which does or is likely to interfere permanently with the usefulness of the horse, while the blemish is merely an 'eye sore' which does not interfere with the actual usefulness of the animal. A horse is spoken of as serviceably sound when he carries some minor defects, such as a small spint, a small curb, windpuffs or knees a trifle weak, which in no way lame him or interferes with his ability to do a good day's work. The most objectional unsoundnesses, and those which disqualify a horse from winning a prize in any show ring are, weakness of the wind, unsound hocks, blindness, weak knees, side-bones and ring bones. The extent to which an unsoundness reduces the value of a horse depends upon the seriousness of it, but the presence of the unsoundnesses above mentioned will lower the value from \$25 to \$100.

"All horses should possess to a marked degree the indications of durability, particularly of toughness of feet and bone, which indicates that

they will wear well and long. Quality is indicated chiefly by a clean cut head, clean limbs with large, flat, dense bone, covered with a thin skin showing silky hair and tough waxy appearing feet.

"Style, beauty and symmetry of form should not be overlooked in buying a horse, though they are usually of more value to the seller than to the buyer. Go into any market you wish and you will find the good-looking horses selling for more money than horses of even superior merit and usefulness, but not so well fitted and prepared for sale. Style and beauty are worth more in the carriage and roadster types, but are of sufficient importance to receive attention in all classes.

"No matter what work a horse may be called upon to do, to make a desirable servant he must have a good, intelligent, kind, quiet disposition, not sluggish but wide awake at all times while in the harness or under the saddle. It is important that he be free from vice or bad habits, for there are many habits to which a horse's dis-

position is subject, and once acquired they are difficult to cure.

"Condition, age, color, sex and breed will all influence the value of a horse more or less, depending on the purpose for which he is wanted. Buyers commonly demand market horses in medium to fat condition. They sell best at from five to eight years old, almost any color is desirable, though oddly marked horses sell at a discount."

Draught Horses in Demand.

The horse which is in most constant demand is in the draught class. He will stand from 15.3 to 17.2 hands high, and should weigh from 1,600 lbs. upwards. This is the type of horse that is used in our large cities to deliver heavy loads of merchandise. He is also considered by many of our best farm managers to be the ideal type for farm work. Weight in the collar, together with a free, long step, are the chief things to look for in this class. It is estimated that every 100 lbs. above 1,600 is worth from \$25 to \$50 when the horse is being marketed. Pictured thus, it will be seen that fattening heavy horses before marketing, will pay better than fattening any other animal. The draught horse should be deep and wide, short in the back, strongly coupled, set on medium short legs with a good sloping shoulder and pastern. The rougher, longer-legged horses find a market with lumbermen and railway constructors, and are usually known as "loggers."

The type of horse that is usually considered the most popular on the farm is that obtained by crossing a draught stallion on one of the common 1,200 to 1,500-lb. mares. The offspring do not usually attain sufficient size to put them in the draught market classification, weighing but 1,400 to 1,600 lbs. They are known as light draughts. These horses may have a slightly greater length of leg and should have a brisk step, particularly at the walk.

The general purpose horse, which on the farm is used to do almost any kind of work, depending on where he is needed most, is not usually the most profitable for the farmer to breed. Usually he attempts to fill too many places in the horse market and fails at filling any. Farmers have found it more economical to keep draught horses for the heavier work about the farm, and to do their driving with a light horse or an automobile. Some of these horses, however, find a good market as delivery or express horses. For these occupations they must exhibit considerable style and must be able to get over the ground fairly rapidly. A limited demand is always found for these with the fire departments of our cities. Horses for this purpose should be a little more rangy than those required for delivery or ex-

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Hay May Go Higher

THE Breeders' Gazette, Chicago, has the following comment on the hay situation in the United States: "American farmers face the worst shortage of hay ever experienced. They do not realize it. It will cost some of them dearly before grass comes green next spring. All over the country a large proportion of farmers plowed up meadows to plant corn, and they plan to buy hay to feed their stock next spring after the stalkfields and strawstacks are utilized. A surprisingly large number of farmers who always harvest hay for their own use did not this year put up any even for their horses. They say they will buy hay for their horses when field work begins next spring. Several of these men in Illinois canvassed together the situation a few days ago and finally concluded that they would probably be compelled to pay \$35 or \$40 a ton for hay before another crop is harvested. They therefore decided to buy their hay now while it can be secured at \$20 to \$25."

There is a tip here for the farmer in Eastern Canada. Hay here is cheap and abundant. But with a keen demand from the United States, prices would surely advance. It may pay to hold hay for export later in the winter.