

FOUNDATION LINES OF CLYDESDALES.

In a recent issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," of Winnipeg, John Graham, of Carberry, Man., takes exception to some points in a previous letter in that paper by Mr. Bradshaw, anent the origin of the Clydesdale breed, the alleged "impurity" of its breeding, and the extent to which it is considered to be indebted to Shire foundation stock. Having been born and raised in the Borderland, Mr. Graham claims to know something of the matter in dispute. We quote from his letter as follows:

"If Mr. Bradshaw will admit that the Canadian standard of admission to the studbook—four crosses on the filly side, and five the stallion—constitutes a pure animal, then his whole conclusions are in error, and based on a false assumption. But in case he does not admit this, let us treat of his statement in a general way.

"First of all, then, to anyone not versed in the individual characteristics of the breeds, there is an apparent resemblance between the Shire and the Clydesdale, but not more so than with some other pure breeds, both in horses and cattle, and many other animals. To make comparisons, wherein lies their likeness and their distinguishing characteristics: First, both are breeds with feather or hair on their limbs, although the Shire has most; second, both are heavy-boned, although, again, the Shire is the heaviest; third, both are alike in color and white markings, although, generally, the Clydesdale has most white. When the foregoing characteristics have been stated, the whole ground of similarity has been covered, and, to a trained eye, their conformation, weight, etc., are sufficient to stamp distinctly to which breed they belong. To follow up this comparison among other distinct breeds, let us see how an untrained eye is apt to go astray, as far as in the case of the breeds under dispute. Take the Hackney, Standard-bred and Thoroughbred, mix them all up together, and to one not a judge, it will puzzle him to pick out each one and name the breed he belongs to. Take again the Percheron and Suffolk, two breeds that possess many characteristics in common, and yet, even Mr. Bradshaw will admit, they are entirely distinct, and always have been, in blood lines.

"In the cattle world, let us take the Short-horn and the Devon, or even the Hereford, without their characteristic white faces. How many, not versed in cattle knowledge, would distinguish them? I might go on and multiply the comparisons, but a few now will suffice. In the world of swine, take the Yorkshire versus Chester White, the Berkshire versus Poland-China. In the sheep world, the Leicester versus Lincoln, etc., etc.

"Secondly: Take the common stock argument of the Shire origin, of what has been termed the corner-stone of the breed, the famous horse, Prince of Wales. I need not take up space under this head, as, even admitting Prince of Wales was half Shire, which he was not, that does not say that the Clydesdale of to-day has a drop of Shire blood in his veins; to admit this, would be to deny all our well-formed opinions of what amount of breeding-up makes a pure-bred animal.

"But to the point: Prince of Wales was a short-pedigreed horse, which, like all others of his day, was of necessity, he being among the first to get a place in the newly-started studbook. Among all other stud, herd or flock books started, it was a necessity that the early entries had short pedigrees, however good their individuality or breeding. Prince of Wales had for his two grandams two gray, English-bred mares. It is not even admitted they were Shire mares. It is less of Shire origin, simply they happened to come from England, and many critics of the Clydesdale have jumped at the conclusion that the mares must have been Shire when they came from there, and that Prince of Wales must have been a Shire in descending from them—a theory that is based on a doubtful foundation.

"The horses, Prince of Clay and Mains of Airies, are practically in the same position as Prince of Wales, being descended from the famous mare, Pandora, whose breeding, it is claimed, carried much of Shire blood. There are many others who constituted the foundation of the Clydesdale breed, and who, perforce, had all short pedigrees, that might be traced to other sources. If we were to be strictly logical, we could base our theory on the same stock arguments of Mr. Bradshaw and others of his school. There is not such a thing as a strictly pure-bred horse in the world, but all are full of the blood of one another.

"In conclusion, I would like to say that I am a firm believer in keeping the studbook open to admit of fresh blood being added from time to time, and I believe the greatest drawback to the Clydesdale of to-day is too much inbreeding, and following out exactly what Mr. Bradshaw thinks constitutes or ought to constitute a pure-bred Clydesdale.

"Any alien admission, now or at any time, is merely a drop in the bucket in changing the inherent characteristics of the breed, but such an admission will do much to strengthen the blood drawn from the two present main sources, Baron's Pride and Hiawatha.

"Keep the studbooks open, and breed from the best and strongest constitutioned horses, and no fear for the Clydesdale: as a breed, they will hold their own against all comers."

PURE - BRED SCRUBS.

"There are pure-bloods that have nothing to recommend them but a piece of paper, with a kind of ghost story about their having been related to some great horse in the dim past—perhaps their grandams ate a bundle of straw together," remarks a subscriber of "The Farmer's Advocate," in the course of some recent correspondence. "And to



Bonnie Buchlyvie (14032).

Clydesdale stallion. Bay; foaled June, 1906; sire Baron of Buchlyvie (11263).
Champion Clydesdale stallion, Royal Show, 1908.

my mind," he adds, "the scrub full of blood does more harm than all the other kinds of scrubs put together, as he is in a position to do harm. I have never seen a man breed a good pedigreed mare to a grade horse, as they will tell you it only gives a grade back; but I have seen them breed to some full-bloods that were only fit for wolf bait. It gives them a chance to register the colt, and they will say, 'He may take after the dam, or some of those remote ancestors we hear so much about.' But the real object is that they can stuff him off on some poor fellow on the strength of his pedigree, as he has no real merit. And so it goes on, scrub after scrub, and from mares capable of raising prizewinners. There are only a few men who really have the good of the horse industry enough at heart to use the knife on a scrub, and sell him at 4 years for \$150, when they could get \$200 for him as a yearling, especially if his neighbors sell their scrubs for a stallion. I have no axe to grind either way; am just giving my opinion."



Judging Shires at the Royal Show

LIVE STOCK.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

The great event of the past week (writing on July 4th) has been the Royal Agricultural Society's Show at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Without question this is one of the best exhibitions of stock, implements and produce ever gathered together in the great English show-yard. It is nonsense for any to pretend that there is anywhere an equal to the Royal among shows in this country, and that means that there is none in the world. All the breeds for which Great Britain is famed are represented at the Royal. All may not be, and indeed are not, represented with equal strength, but a visitor can go away from the Royal with quite a good opinion of the special points of individual breeds of British stock. Newcastle-upon-Tyne is one of the busiest hives of industry in Great Britain. Everywhere are

found the tokens of foresight, energy and enterprise. It is the capital of Northumberland, and the center of the great coal-mining area. The Tyne competes with the Clyde in producing the great liners. The Lusitania was built on the Clyde, and her sister ship, the Mauretania, was built on the Tyne. In the development of technical education, Newcastle-upon-Tyne is probably first among English cities. The Armstrong College is an institution to be proud of.

As a center for a great agricultural exhibition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne cannot be beaten. The show ground on the Town Moor, a great public common, is within one mile of the Central Railway station. It is one of the very few show-yards in England which can be reached from all parts of the city

by tramway car. The attendances at the show, which opened on Tuesday and continued until Saturday evening, have been phenomenal. Tuesday was the judging day, when 5s. admission was charged. There was a large attendance of those interested. On Wednesday and Thursday the admission was 2s. 6d., and on the former day nearly 31,000 persons paid at the gates, while on the latter nearly 26,000 paid. On Friday and Saturday the charge was 1s. per head, and the attendances were again very heavy. The weather has been ideal, and their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales, visited the yard on Wednesday and Friday. The management of the yard is all that can be desired. It remains that we now say something about the stock.

Shorthorns were the leading cattle breed. They made a phenomenal entry of 372 head. The females were better than the males. The judges were Mr. James Durno, Jackston, Rothie-Norman, and Mr. Freeman, from Northleach, Gloucester. There have been Royal Shows at which the awards gave greater satisfaction than was given on the present occasion. The