

### "Queen of the Shires."

The Shire mare illustrated herewith represents the best Shire mare in England so far as the judges at the London Shire Horse Show of 1897 had an opportunity to determine. She is the property of Mr. A. Grandage, Bramhope, Leeds, and was bred by Mr. John Blunt, Breedon-on-the-Hill. Her sire was Harold 3703, and dam 4673 Bonny Lady. In June last at the Royal Show at Leicester she performed a feat similar to the present by winning the gold medal offered for the best Shire mare or filly. She also won 1st as a two-year-old at the London show last year. It will be of interest to compare her with the graphic pen-portrait given elsewhere by Mr. Crossley.

### Clydesdales the Draft Horses for Canada.

BY ROBT. MILLER, ONTARIO CO., ONT.

This breed of draft horses was originally bred from a sturdy, pony-built, shaggy, but sound and hardy class of horses kept in the midland districts of Scotland and appreciated by the inhabitants because of their ability to move heavy loads, to carry heavy weight in the saddle at a fair pace, to pull the plow on hillside or level ground, and to be in readiness for service in the feuds or wars that were continually being carried on between the Clans when they were not fighting a common foe. To answer any or all of these purposes requires a horse put together in an almost faultless manner, and perhaps no breed, except the Shetland, Welsh, and Highland ponies, can claim that perfection of build fitted for work and hardship, but withal that form free to respond to kindness, good usage and liberal food, to such a great extent as the Clydesdales of old.

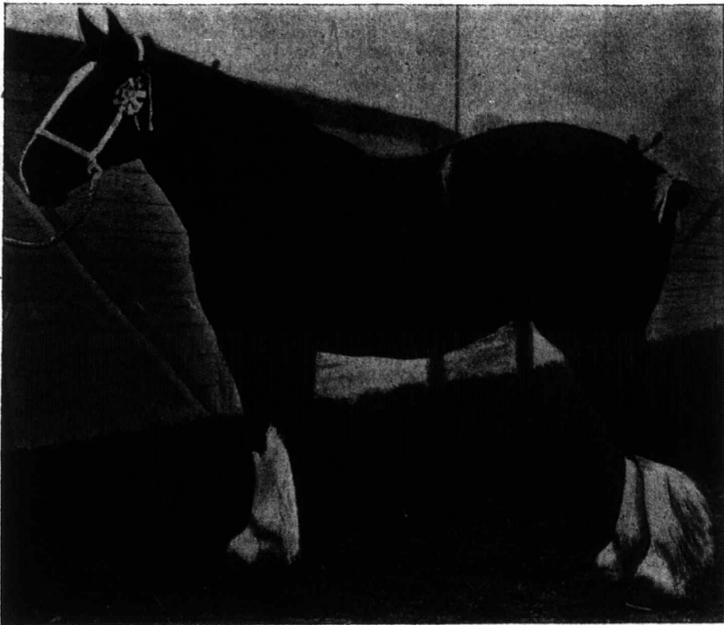
The canniness of the Scotchman is more than an idle dream, and it is not of recent origin. In breeding horses it has served him a good purpose, as it has in nearly all other things. The people in this country would want to change this breed of ponies weighing from 1,000 to 1,200 lbs. at one fell swoop to a breed of giant draft horses; not so with the men to whom this work was entrusted. Their canniness, which would be called extreme conservatism in any other people, allowed no changes in their surroundings to be made hurriedly, so that there was no wish as well as no need to hurry any changes in their system of horse breeding. While there was no hurried change, ages brought about a difference. The growing needs of man made it necessary for heavy loads to be hauled, the greater demands upon the soil and the loss of its virgin strength made deeper plowing necessary, the farm horses were less needed for the battlefield, so that the change of the pony to the draft horse was made, and the chief participants in the work knew not what they were doing, so gradual was the work. More liberal food, together with slower work and better shelter, did their share, with selection, in increasing size. This is how the pure Clydesdale is still a big pony with all the features of the sturdy Shetland: their shaggy hair, their square quarters, their sound, hard legs, and their tough and well-shaped hoofs. Time, in breeding

Clydesdales, like in all other pursuits, does not stand still; its motion is perpetual, and if the work does not go forward it will go backward. For a time before the forming of a Clydesdale Association in Scotland some of the breeders, who were really speculators in disguise, imported large numbers of draft horses from England and sold them in Scotland. Some were sold as Clydesdales, but it was the blood and not the name that did the most harm. We often hear that there should have been but one stud book in Britain. If this is so, then that book should have been the Clydesdale book, and it should have been started sooner and, if possible, the restrictions to entry should have been greater.

How impossible it would be to compute the amount of harm done to the Clydesdale breed by the Shire blood that was introduced by a few men! Everything under the sun calls for the two breeds to be kept distinct. The likes, the fancies, and the needs of the Scotchmen and their country demand Clydesdales. The tastes of the people are the result of the same measure of evolution as molded the form and features of their horses. The soil, the food, and the work have stamped their influence on the Clydesdale. While the men of England have bred for size, they feed for size, and their soil encourages size to such an extent that all other qualities are lost sight of in a great degree. The comparatively small gain in size over Clydesdales is made at great loss in other ways. The muscle is not so firm, the bone is not so hard and tough, the legs are more spongy and soft, and their feet are small and weak.

I will not undertake to advise the people in England what kind of horses they should have, but I will advise the people of Canada to make this country come more nearly being equal to the "land of the mountain and the flood" in breeding Clydes-

dales. We are far in advance of all others in the race. We have men with experience and enterprise. Our farmers have the judgment and the perseverance to select, to breed, and to rear horses of the first quality. We have a market established that never fails to pay a good price for a good article. During the past years of depression in all countries, and in mostly every business, good geldings, with the size, the brightness and the quality of a well-crossed Clydesdale, have been making good prices and good profits. In the general advance in horse values that is surely taking place now good horses will increase in value in greater proportion, for they will surely be hard to find. Four-year-old horses are scarce, younger horses and colts cannot be found. Farmers have at last arisen from their lethargy, and will breed again. Let me warn them to avoid the rocks that have done damage to their business before. Try to breed from good mares—sound and smooth—a rough female never produces first-class offspring; rather lack in size than in quality, though size is very important. Breed to a good stallion, one that in the fullest sense shows descent from the pony foundation; one that traces through the straight road to that foundation. That road is through the veins of McGregor, Lord Erskine, Darnley, Old Times, Victor, Lochfergus, Champion, and only a few other horses. Quality is the feature of such breeding, but size is not lacking. Horses bred from such ancestors will surely have quality; they will have uniformity, clean legs, good bodies, fine heads and necks, with not too much hair on their legs, the best of feet, and no signs of uncleanness at the heels. A peculiarity in breeding from a good horse bred in the way mentioned is that the colts will weigh more than the stock from one of the overgrown horses sometimes imported. The reason is not far to seek. The purer



SHIRE MARE, "QUEEN OF THE SHIRES."

Clydesdale has had for sires and dams horses and mares of his own stamp for many generations; he is no accident, and the power of transmitting his qualities to his get is fixed. He gets them uniform in size, never a monstrosity eighteen hands high, with rough head, body and legs, like the horse shown as a freak in Toronto some years ago. The owner said he weighed a ton, and if he was fat he would weigh two tons.

An overgrown horse is himself an accident; he could not have sires and dams like himself, so he cannot reasonably be expected to produce his own kind. Then what can you expect? You cannot expect anything but horses all colors, sizes and shapes. Let us not trifle with this business any longer, but let us profit by experience, and breed to horses that are well bred and that show it. More than half the horses imported to this country have been lost by people experimenting with them to learn the business. Millions have been spent in the States teaching the people to breed draft horses. Perhaps the fire of depression which we have just come through will do more than anything else to show them how to take the corn from the chaff. In the past four years the draft horses we have sold from our farm for working have averaged \$182.50. Our district has been favored by having many enterprising breeders, and the quality of the horses cannot be equaled outside of Scotland. So that horse breeding has always paid many of our farmers; and now no business will pay better than that of the successful horse breeder.

JOHN L. DINSMORE, Grey Co., Ont.:—"Canada's Glory" to hand. Many thanks. I think it is just grand. Did not expect anything so good; and as for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, I would not be without it."

### The Origin and Development of the English Thoroughbred.

Great Britain possessed a fine race of horses at a very early period, due, no doubt, to the suitability of the climate and the characteristic passion of the inhabitants for a good animal. Although no improvement can be directly traced through the Thoroughbred to the introduction of Arabian sires until the reign of James I., attempts were made to acclimatize Eastern blood as far back as the Roman occupation. While racing records have been handed down from the time of the Anglo-Saxon era, it is not, however, until the reign of King John that we find any direct reference to running horses. It is recorded that King John was a large importer of Eastern-bred horses, which, no doubt, effected a marked improvement on the native breeds.

This improvement, directed by wealthy barons and aided by further importations of Arabian sires, continued during several generations until interrupted by the disastrous conflict of the houses of York and Lancaster. These wars caused the dispersion of the best studs, many of the best animals being secured by foreign royal houses. When peace had been restored some of the best of their descendants were re-imported in the reign of Henry VIII. This monarch took a personal interest in breeding by establishing a number of studs at Eltham, Windsor, and Hampton. Many presents of fine Thoroughbreds were received by Henry from abroad, among which special mention may be made of mares sent to him by the Marquis of Mantua, accompanied by a horse, then termed a "barb" or race horse, of Mantuan breed. The Marquis was offered his weight in silver, but preferred presenting him to Henry VIII.

In the reign of Elizabeth racing progressed rapidly. The Queen had breeding studs established at Greenwich, Hampton Court, Richmond, Windsor, St. Alban's, Waltham, and other places. During the reign of James I. racing received the regular attention of the court and nobles as a representative pastime. In Scotland at this time the sport is said to have prospered to an even greater extent than in England.

There was an equine nomenclature then as now, but few names have been preserved. One writer mentions a horse who was never conquered, Gray Valentine, while Childers, Eclipse, and Puppey were also referred to as unbeaten horses. Other noted performers were Whitefoot, Franklin, Peppermint, and Gray Dallavell. The Helmsley Turk was among the great lights of Newmarket.

It must not be assumed that the best horses were all of foreign importation, because, as a matter of fact, numbers of the native breed, including hobbies, were never surpassed in fleetness by the very best Arabs raced against them. The breed was British because it was Britain that produced its excellence, and it retained the native characteristics in a paramount degree despite any Eastern crosses that may have been in it.

An important introduction of Eastern blood took place in the reign of Charles I. in the stallion, The Helmsley Turk, the sire of Bustler, Hutton's Royal Colt, and Vixen. Bustler's blood has been chiefly transmitted to our time through Old Merlin, Blunderbuss, The Bolton Starling, The Bolton Sweepstakes, and The Blacklegs Mare. The name of Hutton's Royal Colt is to be found in many of the best pedigrees, while from Vixen have descended so many good horses she must ever be held in high esteem by breeders. Although she was foaled in England, her parentage on both sides may be traced to Eastern importations, her dam being the natural Barb, mare brought into England in foal to Dodsworth.

The revolution of Cromwell caused a ruthless upheaval and irreparable damage. A great many of the best sires were snapped up by foreigners, but their valuable blood returning through the purchase of some of their best progeny after the Restoration aided in the establishment of the British stud. The peace of the Commonwealth was marked by some importations of lasting influence, chief of which was the White Turk, who chiefly owes his fame in the stud to his great-granddaughters, who severally produced Gray Ramsden, Windham, Cartouch, Whitefoot, Tormond, Alcides, and Sweepstakes; also, The Widrington Mare, Lady Thigh, Woodpecker, and Matchem, through whom the blood of White Turk has been transmitted to many of the present day.

After the Restoration Sir John Fenwick was sent abroad to procure high-bred stallions and mares for breeding purposes. There is no account extant of the countries to which Sir John went to procure them, but whether they were Arabs, Barbs or Turks, they were of very high caste from the improvement that followed this importation. The mares thus secured by the king's interest and at his expense were called royal mares. Among