

THE HORSE.

An Interesting Paper by a Practical Man.

John McMillan, ex-M.P., an Extensive Breeder, Gives His Experience.

The following instructive essay on horses was read by Mr. John McMillan, reeve of Hullett, an extensive breeder and importer of Clydesdale horses, at the recent meeting of the Farmers' Institute in Seaford.

In treating of the horse I may say that in nearly all ages and countries the horse has been the servant as well as the object of the pride and affection of man. Arabia is generally claimed as the locality from which the horse originally sprung, as it is held by many writers that all the different breeds of horses are sprung from one common stock. Yet it seems a stretch of the imagination to suppose that the diminutive Shetland pony, the massive Clyde of Scotland, the powerful Shire horse of England, and the beautiful Arabian, one and all sprang from one common origin, and although the change has been slow and gradual in a state of nature, under the hand of man the changes have been much more rapid.

The horse is the principal beast of burden in all civilized communities. Each country and district breeds the class of horses best suited to that part of the country, and the kind of work to be engaged in. Some hold that all breeds of horses have sprung from one common stock, and that at some period in the past the primitive horse was striped on the shoulders, legs and on the spine.

The horse has undergone great changes in becoming domesticated. The change still continues in breeding for different purposes. The class I have chosen to breed is the Clydesdale, and of that class I will say a few words. As to the locality in which the Clydesdales originated all are agreed. There are two theories as to their origin. The first is that one of the Dukes of Hamilton, more than two centuries ago, imported a number of the black stallions from Flanders, which he kept at Straloven castle for the use of his tenants. These are said to have greatly improved the breed of horses in Lanarkshire. The second theory is that it is a mixed breed brought out by careful attention in selecting and mating the best animals in the valley of the Clyde. About twenty years ago an old farmer in the upper wood of Lanarkshire, stated that he remembered when a boy, of a dealer named Gibson driving 50 or 60 yearling colts before him into Lanark Green on a St. James' day, all bearing a distinct resemblance to each other. Some time between 1715 and 1720 a Mr. Patterson, a farmer of Lochlyoch, in the parish of Cavanish, went to England and bought a Flemish stallion, which is said to have greatly improved the horses in the upper wood of Lanarkshire. The mares of this breed were generally black or brown, with white faces and little white on their legs. Grey hairs in their tails, and almost always a white spot on the belly, were some of the marks that showed them to be of pure blood. In 1827 the first show of horses was held in Glasgow by the Highland Agricultural Society, and gave a fresh impetus to the breeders of Clyde animals by giving large prizes for the best of the breed.

Horses of the Clydesdale breed should have a broad head, wide between the eyes, with a full, bold eye, sharp pointed ears, a moderately long, well-crooked neck, high in the withers, the shoulder full, and the shoulder blade set well back, which gives ease and freedom of action, with a full, wide chest to give constitution, and a strong forearm, broad knee joints, with good set bone, and the muscles standing out and well-leathered with fine silky curling hair, and with a springy pattern of short and steep, with a large round foot, open in the heel and not flat in the sole, a round compact barrel, short, strong back, and good long quarters, also low set and broad, with muscular thighs and clean, broad locks. From the hock to the foot the leg should be short, flat and clean, with well-defined muscles. The hoofs should resemble the horse's hoofs, and should be a little longer in the body, or as it is called, a little more roony.

Such an animal should be a good mover, with a free, easy step, and should lift the feet fairly high, and move them straight forward, and set the foot to the ground clean and firm. Both mare and horse should be neatly and free from all blemishes, such as windbags, curly houghs, thrushings, spavins, splints, rag bones or side-bones. The eyesight should not be weak, and the animal should be clear of hooves, whistling, roaring or coughing, as only a sound animal can produce sound, healthy offspring.

It is only within the last century that breeding of horses has become so much more a matter of art than of nature. For the practical part of the progress of Clydesdale horses has been adopted. The first volume was published in 1878, although private papers had been kept long before that time.

In buying a young mare or gelding from a dealer you may see a horse that looks and moves to every advantage, especially if fed a great deal of dry grain. Prof. Tanner says the non-impregnation of the female may be generally traced to excessiveness in one or both of the animals, and an absence of constitutional repair. The breeding process are moderate conditions. It is for this reason that great injury results from the present system of showing and exhibiting animals for the showing and exhibiting, this is known to all judges and breeders, with it is almost impossible to show an ordinary fat animal into the show ring against one that is lean with fat.

One of the most important duties devolving on the breeder is choosing a male animal to breed from. First you want the best animal of good constitution, and if possible from some one favorite family, and the longer the line of descent from one family the better of the desirable quality, the stronger the impressive power of the animal. In buying and the other things to be looked for in a horse are:

1. The head should be broad, with a full, bold eye, sharp pointed ears, a moderately long, well-crooked neck, high in the withers, the shoulder full, and the shoulder blade set well back, which gives ease and freedom of action, with a full, wide chest to give constitution, and a strong forearm, broad knee joints, with good set bone, and the muscles standing out and well-leathered with fine silky curling hair, and with a springy pattern of short and steep, with a large round foot, open in the heel and not flat in the sole, a round compact barrel, short, strong back, and good long quarters, also low set and broad, with muscular thighs and clean, broad locks.

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In my experience a mare in foal does best when working moderately down to the time of foaling. Keep a brood mare in fair condition, but do not feed to lead with fat. I would prefer a mare at foaling to be rather lean than to have much flesh. Mares ought to be closely watched at foaling time, as many foals are lost when there is no one present to keep them from smothering. One of the signs of foaling is wax coming on the teats. Some mares will have that on for two or three weeks before foaling; others will not have it until almost any wax being on their teats. After foaling see that the foal suckles in three or four hours, and watch that it gets passage. There is danger to a foal if the mare has a great flow of milk at first. When that is the case I always draw so much by hand until the foal is two weeks old, but after that there is little danger from the cause. If the mare is not a good milker teach the foal either to drink cow's milk or to eat a few crushed oats. Some object to oats for foals, but some of my mares are not good milkers, and we always teach the foals to eat crushed oats with good results. A mare and foal should always, when in the stable, be in a box stall, as foals want plenty of exercise. Young foals ought to be kept warm and dry, as a good deal of the disease among foals arises from exposure to wet and cold. In ordinary circumstances they should be put in at night, and the foal should always be taught to feed freely before weaning. When taken from the mare shut them up for a short time and feed them. Teach them to allow you to handle them freely from the time they are two weeks old. If the mare appears to halter and handle in order to make a kind, gentle animal. When weaning the feed crushed oats mixed with a little bran, together with hay and a few carrots, and if in the fall green corn or clover.

As to the cost of raising a colt, I think a good colt can be raised to three years old for \$100 which will pay the farmer. With respect to the Clyde the late Mr. Houghton in 1880 said, "I consider Clyde horses more profitable for farmers to raise than any other as they can work when 2 years old." Mr. Patterson says the best horse for actual draught that we have is unquestionably the Clyde and they are best adapted for railway lorries, brewers and distillers' wagons. Dr. Smith says, "I prefer the Clyde and north of England horse for draught purposes." Mr. Colquhoun says the best horse in breeding is the Clydesdale. Mr. Butt says, "we breed our own well-bred Canadian mares to Clydesdale stallions and when the colts reach 3 or 4 years old they can be sold readily at from \$160 to \$200.

Not for little of my own experience. I find that it pays to select the best and purest bred horses you can get to breed from. I have mares with four and five crosses that I have been offered heavy figures for. I sold a span of Canadian Clyde mares for in London for \$800; in 1829 I sold a two year old for \$300, and a mare for \$200. In foals I sold in 1882 one for \$195, and more recently I sold one for \$250 and a filly foal for \$195.

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In breeding light horses, unless you get speed or fine style, as in the case of the horse, they are not profitable. If they do not exceed the Clyde in price. If you breed Clyde size and muscle will always command a good price. The Clyde horse has tall and the legs as the best stock or moving heavy loads, the most patient and the most enduring of the heavy breeds.

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Second summer's pasture, ..... 10 00  
Second winter, ..... 15 00  
Summer, ..... 15 00  
Third winter, two years and four months, ..... 20 00

\$100 00

See an animal, if a good one, will bring \$180 or \$200. There is another reason for raising this class of horses in Canada. A Canadian horse is worth more in the United States than one of their own raising. The reason given for this is that their horses are raised in a purer blood than those raised in the States.

not build up a good, strong, tough, muscular system in the same manner that oats does. Our horses are therefore more healthy and lasting than theirs. On this subject the market in the United States are, likely continue favorable for our surplus heavy horses.

About management: One thing must be observed particularly in raising horses, and that is, kind, gentle treatment combined with firmness. There are two classes of men who should never handle young colts or brood mares: First, the vicious, ill-tempered individual, who has not learned to control himself. One of the first requisites is kindness, and a friendly feeling, so to speak, between the animal and the groom. The other is the timid, nervous individual who starts whenever the animal moves. I had an example of a man of the last kind, a good faithful fellow, but always afraid, and if the least unusual movement occurred would yell at the animal. I had a young horse of a nervous temper put into his care. He was perfectly tame and quiet, but on going into his stall about a week after, instead of the animal coming up to me as usual, he ran into a corner and seemed very uneasy, and would not allow me to put a hand on him. I asked the man if he had been striking him, and he said no, and I believed him, but he said he had spoken loud to him. I said nothing but took the horse and put him in charge of another man, and three or four days after went into the stable, when the horse came up to me at once and put his head against my breast to be kissed. Never allow an animal to be teased, as it leaves bad habits. When I go to a farmer's place I want to see his horses and other stock come to him and trust out their heads to be petted. Kindness is the great law with all kinds of stock. The secret of success in horse breeding then, is judgment in selecting and sticking to one breed, and as near as possible to one family. This will prove one of the surest roads to success.

It is popularly admitted everywhere that McGregory's Speedy Cure is the safest, most reliable and by far the cheapest remedy for Constipation, Liver Complaint, Indigestion, Impure Blood, Loss of Appetite, and all similar troubles. It is not necessary to take a great quantity before any result is produced. A few doses will convince you of its merits. Trial bottle given free at Geo. Rhyms' drug store. 1m

NOTES OF THE SESSION.  
Bodies of the Ontario Local Parliament.

Mr. Gibson, M.P.P., for East Huron has signified his intention of asking for a full statement of the timber-grabbing operations carried on in north-western Ontario under the auspices of the Dominion Government. He does not seem to accept Mr. Meredith's view that the Ottawa authorities have merely been guilty of petty larceny. The country will very likely agree with Mr. Gibson.

Mr. Waters, of North Middlesex, has again put on the order paper his resolution of last year protesting against the seizure of our Provincial railways by the Dominion Government. He will ask that the amount of money already paid and the amount of scrip issued on account of these railways shall be added together in one capital sum, and that this sum should be assumed by the Dominion as a debt due to the Province, on which the Province shall receive 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly, until such time as the whole amount is paid to the Province to have the scrip cancelled. These roads were built by Ontario as local roads for purposes of local traffic. They were seized by the Dominion, and declared to be roads for the general advantage of Canada. Either the Dominion shall surrender the roads to the Province and the municipalities must be recompensed for the heavy expenditures incurred.

Hon. A. M. Ross's bill to amend the Act respecting the Agricultural College, passed that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint an Advisory Board of practical Agriculturists to advise and assist the Commissioner of Agriculture in the management of the College and farm, and may, by order-in-council, prescribe its duties and powers. Such Board shall consist of such number of members as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may think fit, and shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and shall be paid for attending the meetings of the Board an allowance not exceeding \$4 per day, and also their actual necessary travelling expenses in attending said meetings. It is not likely that serious exception will be taken to this bill. Its whole tendency is to popularize the Agricultural College and extend its benefits to every section of the Province.

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See an animal, if a good one, will bring \$180 or \$200. There is another reason for raising this class of horses in Canada. A Canadian horse is worth more in the United States than one of their own raising. The reason given for this is that their horses are raised in a purer blood than those raised in the States.

not build up a good, strong, tough, muscular system in the same manner that oats does. Our horses are therefore more healthy and lasting than theirs. On this subject the market in the United States are, likely continue favorable for our surplus heavy horses.

About management: One thing must be observed particularly in raising horses, and that is, kind, gentle treatment combined with firmness. There are two classes of men who should never handle young colts or brood mares: First, the vicious, ill-tempered individual, who has not learned to control himself. One of the first requisites is kindness, and a friendly feeling, so to speak, between the animal and the groom. The other is the timid, nervous individual who starts whenever the animal moves. I had an example of a man of the last kind, a good faithful fellow, but always afraid, and if the least unusual movement occurred would yell at the animal. I had a young horse of a nervous temper put into his care. He was perfectly tame and quiet, but on going into his stall about a week after, instead of the animal coming up to me as usual, he ran into a corner and seemed very uneasy, and would not allow me to put a hand on him. I asked the man if he had been striking him, and he said no, and I believed him, but he said he had spoken loud to him. I said nothing but took the horse and put him in charge of another man, and three or four days after went into the stable, when the horse came up to me at once and put his head against my breast to be kissed. Never allow an animal to be teased, as it leaves bad habits. When I go to a farmer's place I want to see his horses and other stock come to him and trust out their heads to be petted. Kindness is the great law with all kinds of stock. The secret of success in horse breeding then, is judgment in selecting and sticking to one breed, and as near as possible to one family. This will prove one of the surest roads to success.

It is popularly admitted everywhere that McGregory's Speedy Cure is the safest, most reliable and by far the cheapest remedy for Constipation, Liver Complaint, Indigestion, Impure Blood, Loss of Appetite, and all similar troubles. It is not necessary to take a great quantity before any result is produced. A few doses will convince you of its merits. Trial bottle given free at Geo. Rhyms' drug store. 1m

NOTES OF THE SESSION.  
Bodies of the Ontario Local Parliament.

Mr. Gibson, M.P.P., for East Huron has signified his intention of asking for a full statement of the timber-grabbing operations carried on in north-western Ontario under the auspices of the Dominion Government. He does not seem to accept Mr. Meredith's view that the Ottawa authorities have merely been guilty of petty larceny. The country will very likely agree with Mr. Gibson.

Mr. Waters, of North Middlesex, has again put on the order paper his resolution of last year protesting against the seizure of our Provincial railways by the Dominion Government. He will ask that the amount of money already paid and the amount of scrip issued on account of these railways shall be added together in one capital sum, and that this sum should be assumed by the Dominion as a debt due to the Province, on which the Province shall receive 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly, until such time as the whole amount is paid to the Province to have the scrip cancelled. These roads were built by Ontario as local roads for purposes of local traffic. They were seized by the Dominion, and declared to be roads for the general advantage of Canada. Either the Dominion shall surrender the roads to the Province and the municipalities must be recompensed for the heavy expenditures incurred.

Hon. A. M. Ross's bill to amend the Act respecting the Agricultural College, passed that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint an Advisory Board of practical Agriculturists to advise and assist the Commissioner of Agriculture in the management of the College and farm, and may, by order-in-council, prescribe its duties and powers. Such Board shall consist of such number of members as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may think fit, and shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and shall be paid for attending the meetings of the Board an allowance not exceeding \$4 per day, and also their actual necessary travelling expenses in attending said meetings. It is not likely that serious exception will be taken to this bill. Its whole tendency is to popularize the Agricultural College and extend its benefits to every section of the Province.

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