

HORSES AND CATTLE.

A RIDE AND DRIVE HORSE.

"The horse for export to England," says Mr. Patteson in his evidence before the Ontario Agricultural Commission, "is at present produced entirely by accident, being what is called a 'chance' horse. He is of a different mould altogether from a horse generally considered valuable in this country; in fact, those horses which I have sent to England, and out of which I have made most money—getting guineas where I paid dollars—have been horses upon which the farmer or breeder set comparatively little value, and which they regarded as being worth much less than some straight-shouldered cross-bred machiner in their stable, or a shelly, weedy and often ugly animal, able to go at a 2:50 or 3-minute gait.

"These horses are generally picked out of farmers' teams, and have been got by a thoroughbred horse out of a pretty well-bred mare, partly of trotting and partly of coach blood. An English dealer will give you most money for a 'ride-and-drive' horse, with the qualities of a good hunter about him, and many of our farmers' horses are of just such a class.

"I will try to describe a model horse of this kind. He should weigh about 1,100 pounds, stand from 15-8 inches to 16 hands high—anything under 15-8 being classed as small—girth about six feet—the tendency in girth being to depth rather than width; should be short in the back, with very oblique shoulders, level quarters, high set tail, and legs planted well under him; of a good colour, with no objectionable markings; not more than six years old, and of course sound, and free from vice. Such an animal, up to 14 stone, would be worth 120 or 130 guineas, and can often be bought first-hand here for \$120 or \$130. Of course there are not many horses in this country which really come up to the standard I have indicated, and such as do exist have been bred entirely by chance.

"If I wanted to buy twenty such horses, I should go into those districts where, six or seven years ago, was located a thoroughbred stallion of fair size and substance, with good bone, flat legs and two good ends, and I should be quite sure to find there some horses of the class I have described. The stay, dash and thoroughbred characteristics in the progeny would come from the sire, while the mare herself, say half English coach horse, and half roadster, with no actually cold blood, such as that of the cart horse or the Clyde, would give additional weight-carrying power, and mares of this kind are plentiful throughout the country."

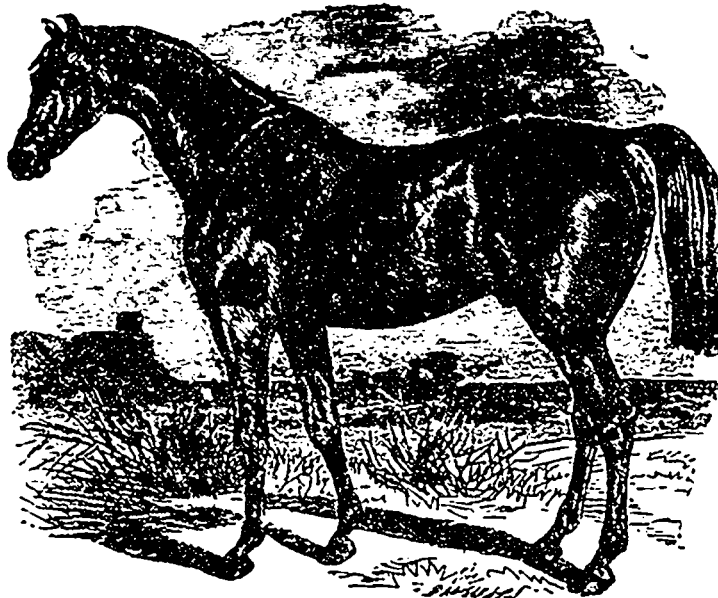
Such a horse as the one described as an English hunter will be likely to come very near to the one Mr. Patteson has in view. For a lighter saddle horse, however, one more nearly approaching to the cut given on this page will be much appreciated.

The field for action in this respect is a wide one, and enough has probably been said to direct attention into certain remunerative channels, and to utilize all the several classes of horses previously described. The farmer, if he attempt horse breeding, should make it a rule to breed for a distinct purpose—to bring together no incongruous elements—to use no horse that is not thoroughbred, or capable of transmitting the characteristics of a distinct breed, and to be content with nothing less than the best of its kind. By this means a superior description of every class will be identified with the horse-breeding interest of Ontario whether it be the heavy draught, the general purpose or roadster, the park horse, or the hunter and saddle horse. The standard of value for Canadian horses generally will be raised, with the possibility at times of large prices being obtained for those possessing speed, or form, in a more than usually marked degree.

TURNING HORSES TO GRASS IN THE FALL.

It is a popular idea that a horse kept up on a plank floor, and fed on dry feed for a considerable time, needs "a run to grass," and he will be improved in condition by such a change. It is not generally sufficiently considered that such a change is violent: rendered so by the sudden change from dry, nutritious food, to which the system had become accustomed, and has done well on, to a surfeit of grass, which distends the digestive organs, ferments, unduly loosening the bowels and taking of firm flesh which can hardly be restored under a month or two of careful feeding.

Changes in the food given to farm animals, with proper restrictions, are proper to be made, but such as are made through recommendations by ignorant persons, no sound reasons existing for them, are not likely to prove beneficial. A horse is frequently turned out for the purpose, in the language of the groom, of taking the fever out of him, while, if he has been properly cared for, and driven with discretion, he will have no fever in him. It is frequently better to make partial changes in the stable, giving, in place of all oats, an alternation of ground feed, so apportioned that it will be slightly laxative, provided



FOR THE SADDLE.

the horse needs to have his bowels loosened. But to do this in the stable, or by turning to grass, on the assumption that it is good for the animal to be occasionally "loosened up" is wrong.

If the horse owner would apply this principle to himself, he would not be likely, when in the best possible state of health—the digestion good and the muscles firm—to listen to a suggestion that he leave of his bread, meat, potatoes and coffee, and confine himself to greens, soup and water for a month or two. All such changes, whether in man or beast, disturb the functions, diminish the proportion of red globules in the blood, render the muscular fibres flabby, that they tire soon on exertion, overstimulate the kidneys and skin, because these excretories are called upon to release from the system an excess of fluid, green grass being largely made up of water. This excessive action impairs, lets down below the healthy standard, and it takes time, feed and care to replace wasted tissues and restore lost tone.

But it is not alone the sudden change referred to which causes risk. The horse accustomed to a dry stable, protected from wet above and beneath, is poorly prepared to stay out in the cold rains of autumn, much less to lie in the wet. This exposure makes a greater impression than it otherwise would because of the change from grain to grass, the power of resistance being lessened

in proportion as the blood has parted with its globules. Loss of condition and a staring coat come from this exposure; and if the horse be at all susceptible to lung trouble, he may contract this. Hence, for these reasons, the idea of turning a horse out to get him into condition, is a very erroneous one.

If, for any reason—and this should not be an imaginary one—the horse is thought to require green food, or a change, for a time, from the habitual dry grain, then give him bran mashes and roots. But while this experiment is being tried the horse should be relieved from work, as the moment this course is entered upon the system is weakened; the effect being precisely upon the muscles of the horse as upon the steel spring when the temper is taken out. The English farmer feeds roots, not because of any supposed high nutritive value, as they are well known to be made up of three-fourths and over of water, but because, in the case of fattening animals, especially cattle and sheep, roots maintain, in stock confined in the stall or pen, a condition akin to that enjoyed while upon grass. But these reasons do not at all apply to the horse; for if, while kept either for work or speed, he is made to accumulate fat from soft or green food, in proportion to the fat so laid on, in that proportion does he part with his ability to do bodily labour.

But very few know any thing of the value of oil-cake meal for horses. Its use in fitting fine-bred cattle has long been common, and its value fully appreciated. The same can be said of swine, for no other feed will cause a pig to gain and put him in show condition so speedily as oil-cake meal, giving him a glossiness of coat not obtainable so well in any other way. What oil-cake will do for cattle and pigs, it will do equally as well for horses. A horse appearing to be bound up, as the term is understood in the stable, can, by the use of this feed, be relieved of this condition as promptly as by turning out to grass, involving none of the contingencies which attend the latter, the full strength and vigour being maintained in the meantime. Nothing so quickly improves the coat of the horse as the use of a little oil-cake incorporated with his feed, while turning out to grass in sun and rain fades and roughes the hair in a week's time. In addition to this, oil-cake loosens the bowels, the degree to which this is done being entirely under control, while the effect from a run on grass is largely a matter of chance.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

THE BEST COWS TO RAISE.

The best breed of cows under all conditions has no existence, as so much depends upon the adaptation of the peculiar qualities of each breed to surrounding circumstances. The *National Live Stock Journal* says, however, that, if the production of milk for towns is the leading object, then selected Ayrshires, Holsteins, or Shorthorns will give satisfaction. If they are intended for butter-making, then the Jersey, Shorthorn, and Ayrshire would be the best, taken in this order. If for cheese-making, then the Holstein, Ayrshire, and Shorthorn. It does not, however, approve of pure breeds for dairy purposes; but advises a cross of a Jersey bull on a deep-milking Ayrshire cow, as the delicate Jersey will be much improved by crossing on the hardy Ayrshire, while the grade will yield more milk than the former, and of a richer quality than that of the latter. A square cross of a Jersey bull upon selected common cows also generally produces an excellent dairy grade.