

Clydesdale and Shire Standard of Excellence.

In "Farmer's Advocate" of Feb. 1st appears an article by "Whip" under the above heading. The points of excellence as there described are good, and a horse possessing them all would be a very desirable animal; but I think the writer is a little out on the relative values of the different points. For example, he places more value on neck than on head. A head of his own description not only indicates an excellent temperament, but also strong character and constitutional vigor, very important qualities in a sire. Then, again, he places 62 points on limbs and feet, while on withers and back, and chest, two headings under which, according to his description, comes the whole seat of life, or the organs of respiration and digestion, he places only 16 points. This difference is, I think, very wide of the mark.

It is frequently said, "No foot, no horse," and I quite agree with this saying, but my limited experience and observation lead me to believe that a sound, healthy foot cannot be produced and retained without a good vigorous constitution; thus the body, or seat of life, should score at least as many points as the entire score of legs and feet.

Below is given revised valuation of points, with some reasons for changes. [Note.—First column contains values taken from "Whip's" article, while in second column are my revised figures.]

HEAD.....	4	4	α Nelson
Have added 4 points to head, as it is one of the most important parts of horse, as a good head indicates a good temper. It is very important that a horse have a good temper; a bad-tempered horse should be shunned as much as a bad-footed horse.			
NECK.....	5	5	
WITHERS AND BACK.....	8	25	
My change on this point may seem a very wide one, but I believe that I am not over-valuing this point, as it might well be subdivided: Withers, Back, and Loins; and placing on each division a value equal to value placed on other points of similar importance would quite make up the 25 points.			
CROUP.....	4	4	
CHEST.....	8	30	
Have placed much more value on this point, or combination of points: Breast; Floor of Chest; Side of Chest; and Abdomen; placing values as follows:			
Breast.....	6		
Floor of Chest.....	4		
Side of Chest.....	10		
Abdomen.....	10		
	—30		
SHOULDER.....	5	8	
A good, well-shaped, well-muscled shoulder, one of the most important points of a draft horse, and should score equal to most points.			
ELBOW.....	2	2	
FOREARM.....	4	4	
KNEE.....	5	4	
Equal to forearm.			
KNEE TO FOOT.....	10	5	
FOOT.....	10	8	
HAUNCH.....	4	4	
STIFLE.....	2	4	
Have added two points; stifle is more liable to injury than many other points, therefore very necessary that it should be strong and well-muscled.			
GASKIN.....	4	4	
HOCK.....	5	5	
HOCK TO FOOT.....	10	5	
FOOT.....	10	8	
COLOR.....	3	2	
SKIN.....	4	4	
TEMPERAMENT.....	4	4	
STYLE AND ACTION.....	10	10	
WEIGHT.....	6	6	
Weight should not be less than 1,900 pounds in a matured stallion, and that at a good serviceable condition.			
HEIGHT.....	6	6	
Should be 16 hands and upwards, in proportion to weight and thickness generally.			
SYMMETRY.....	10	10	
	143	175	

I submit this criticism in hope of drawing out more on this subject, as it is an important one at present.

NELSON.

Halton Co., Ont.

STOCK.

Camera Competition.

Last year the "Farmer's Advocate" conducted a camera competition, which proved decidedly popular. The large number of amateur photographers who sent in samples of their work and the artistic excellence of the photographs indicated in a surprising degree the progress that has been made in that direction. Many of the photos were quite equal in artistic excellence and execution to the work of professionals, the subjects selected showing great variety and interest. So encouraging were the results, that we have decided to announce another competition open to amateurs, and to offer much larger prizes than we did in the competition of 1901. We now offer eight prizes, as follows: 1st, \$10; 2nd, \$7; 3rd, \$5; 4th, \$3; 5th, \$2; 6th, \$1; 7th, \$1; and 8th, \$1; for the best photographs of country homes, individual animals or groups, gardens, field scenes, orchards or fruit trees, bits of scenery or anything of that nature, subject to the subjoined rules:

All photographs must be not less than 4 x 5 inches in size, mounted, and be the work of amateurs.

All photographs must be clear and distinct in detail and well finished.

They must reach the "Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont., not later than October 1st, 1902.

The name of the competing photographer and post-office address, and the name and location of the scene, must be marked on the back of each photo.

Any person competing is at liberty to send more than one photograph if desired, but only one prize will be awarded to the same individual.

All the prizewinning photographs will become the property of the "Farmer's Advocate" for the purpose of illustration. We reserve the right to purchase, at 25 cents or 35 cents each, according to size, any photographs that do not win a prize.

No photograph is eligible to competition from which an engraving has previously been made, and photographs must be the work of competitors.

Judging at Shows.

A Wigtownshire correspondent of the Scottish Farmer writes a vigorous letter on the vagaries of judging at shows in that country, and amongst other things complains of the appointment of the same men year after year at the same show or at a number of shows in the same season at which the same exhibitors desire to exhibit, and says: "What is the result? The ruling can hardly be expected to have changed with the locality, and, be the judgment as glaringly in error as possible, the decision follows the ruling precedent, and the animals follow the previous order. An outsider might naturally infer that the capability of judging was a monopoly in the hands of a select few. But there can be no scarcity of unprejudiced and competent men capable of judging the merits of the stock before them. This being so, how is it that the names at so many shows bear such a striking similarity? The same men ought not to be allowed to judge at more than one show in each season. Mistakes do occur, and many attenders at shows have had reason to deride the judgment given; therefore, to all desirous of seeing the best animal of its kind or class come out at the top at the end of the season, it must appear most desirable to have the most varied expert opinion. A cure, to a great extent, for the existing state of matters would be found in a healthy and vigorous criticism by the press when required; but many reporters seem afraid of the judge's shadow, and, after the tickets are distributed, ingeniously fits the animal's condition to the place assigned, regardless of the actual merits of the case, and without a single observation on the justice or injustice of the award. One would imagine, almost, that they got the reports sometimes dictated by the judges. This is not as matters should be, and until the members of the press fasten upon and show up any unfair awards in the show-yards, matters will, I suppose, remain as they are."

Our Scottish Letter.

The month of May is closing, and not often has it so clearly upheld its reputation for climatic treachery as in 1902. Everything is at least "three weeks late," as farmers express it. In other words, so far as vegetable growth is concerned, May has been a blank. Cold, biting north-east winds have generally prevailed; not infrequently there have been sleet showers; grass is not further forward than it is in ordinary seasons in the beginning of May, and many who have large herds of stock to carry find themselves hard pressed to carry the cattle through. On the other hand, there has been quite a revival in the price of fat stock, and beef and mutton have been making prices to which farmers in recent years have been little accustomed. Speculation is rife as to the cause of this, but it must be due to scarcity, although that may be intensified by the operations of the so-called Beef Trust. Sometimes it is said that this combine can do little; beef, being a perishable article, cannot be "held up" as other articles are until it please commercial magnates to part. On your side this will be better understood than with us, and it is useless to speculate.

More interesting is the new policy of our Government in respect to tariffs. It has been decided to impose duties on wheat and flour, and the attitude of the public generally to this proposal is surprising. For a country generally supposed to be thrilled to free trade as the first article of its creed, there is something sublime in the equanimity with which the new departure has been received. I should say that this state of matters is largely due to a sentiment of resignation on account of the war. We have had that costly enterprise on hand. The bills are now coming in, and the question is, How are they to be paid? They must be paid, and the Chancellor says he can only get revenue by taxing things the people must use. They must eat bread, and, therefore, he can see revenue by levying rates on wheat and flour. The Chancellor is a sensible man. The agricultural community is not unduly elated by what he has done. The country is not now corn-growing to the extent in which it was so in 1850-60, and quite as many farmers now want cheap grain for feeding purposes as want dear grain for cropping purposes. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach understands this as well as most men and he was no doubt thinking about it when he put a tax on flour as well as registration duty on wheat. Not many farmers of any class would object to a heavy tax on flour. Some who have been life-long Free Traders have boldly advocated the levying of such a desirable alike for revenue purposes and in order to bring our American friends to their senses. Nothing would do more to prevent further depopulation of the rural districts than the re-starting of the silent mills. No more pathetic sight meets the gaze of the passer-by than the silent houses in which was wont to be heard the music of the grinding-stones. For myself, I believe the best policy for the world is Free Trade, but in order to be free it must be universal. Great Britain can never be a protectionist country—she can never levy a prohibitive tariff on foodstuffs—but she cannot indefinitely give away everything and get nothing in return, and now that her supremacy in the mercantile marine is threatened, men are being compelled to take a different standpoint from of old and are endeavoring to find out the weak points in our commercial armory, as South Africa has taught us the weak points in our army.

A very large trade has been done this spring in Aberdeen-Angus cattle for the United States, and equally extensive purchases of Ayrshires have been made for Sweden and other Continental countries. Colonel Judy has been buying up Ericas wherever they could be found, and is loud in his praises of the "doddies." He has been saying that no one who begins with them ever gives them up, and this witness is certainly true in the home trade. Whatever other breeds may be displaced or supplanted, the black cattle hold on their way. They are making conquests in Ireland, and a fine show of them was seen at the Royal Dublin Society's spring meeting. Our observation is that the "doddie" flourishes best in a dry climate and that not much can be expected of them in a wet climate. For countries with a heavy rainfall, amongst beef breeds the Galloway and the Highlander are easily first, and the history of Aberdeen-Angus cattle in the West of Scotland, while not disappointing, has not been very brilliant. For grazing purposes the pure-bred will not be as useful as the cross-bred, but the latter, inheriting the best properties of the black sire or dam, is a very valuable animal indeed. The high prices got for black polled calves is one of the phenomena of agriculture on this side, and there is a small ransom in such to the man who can rear them successfully.

Horse-breeding is exciting considerable interest meantime. The South African war has had the curious effect of leading men to think more highly of the smaller-sized horse than was their wont. The extraordinary revelations regarding the purchase of horses for the army in Hungary has also had a good effect. Of course, the man who persisted in shaking up officialdom has not received