

Horse Breeding from a Western Farmer's Standpoint.

BY "CLAUGHBANE."

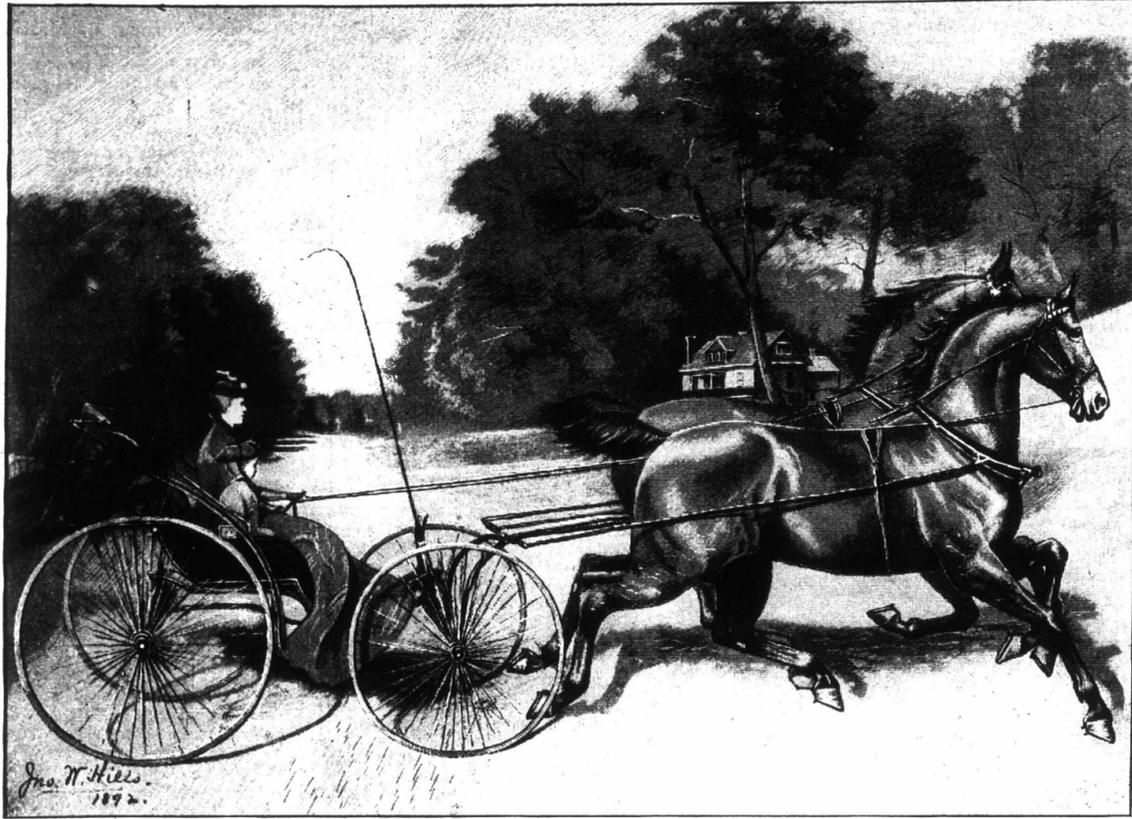
The Hackney, as a sire, is one of the best farmers can use. He is exceedingly handsome, and the high action for which he is noted has become hereditary with him, and while he can go at a good pace, he is not nearly so speedy as the Standard-bred horse, but being very stout and powerfully built, with stout bone, is capable of covering a great distance in a day. Mares with much cart blood in them are not generally suitable for mating with the Hackney. He will be useful for a lighter class of mares, those of trotting blood often being very suitable, as he will give rotundity to the form of their progeny as well as giving them strength and action. The Hackney will also be a good sire to use on really good pony mares, for ponies, if of the Hackney type and having good action, are valuable. One thing that can generally be looked for in the get of the Hackney stallion is that they will pick up their feet prettily, a most important point, and one the Canadian farmer, as a rule, does not give sufficient attention to. Beware, however, of mating him with large, coarse mares; it is all right to breed large mares to him, but they should have plenty of

the horses shown at our Agricultural shows as such are not general purpose horses, but ought to be classed as agricultural light draught, or something of that kind; they have all, more or less, cart blood in them, and would look quite out of place before a buggy. Now, the Coach horse, while not a perfect light driver, is by no means out of place in that capacity, and is quite at home when required to make good time with a good load behind him; he is, moreover, a right down good horse on the plough, being good-tempered and having plenty of weight for the work; and though some may think he is not large enough, the scales will show that he weighs as much as many horses that look heavier, being upstanding and clean legged, giving him this appearance. Then, again, while not a perfect saddle horse, he is not out of place when carrying a man, but will do it well and with ease to himself. In his purity he is, all things considered, the beau-ideal of a general purpose horse. But we have very few mares suitable for mating with him to produce this class of animal, for the small class of mares I have spoken of as suitable for breeding to the Coach horse will not, as a rule, produce horses big enough to come under the head of general purpose horses. Under these circumstances we must rely on the Thoroughbreds to beget our general purpose horses, and this he is most capable of doing when bred to large, cold-blooded mares.

In breeding light horses farmers must use their judgment as to which breed is suitable for each mare. There are some mares that could be profit-

The Future Supply of Horses.

"The fact that during the month of January the number of horses sold upon the Chicago horse market amounted to nearly 10,000 head is sufficient to make the intelligent breeder believe that the bottom has not fallen out of the business yet. Notwithstanding that the above figures represent a larger number of horses than were ever placed upon the Chicago market before during the same length of time, the demand was still equal to the supply and the prices paid for good individuals were fairly satisfactory to the seller. When we stop to think that nearly all of these horses came out of this Western country and then consider the fact that at the outside not more than fifty per cent. of the number of horses are being reared as formerly, it is but reasonable to conclude that the demand within a very short time will be greater than the available supply, and breeders who have had the good sense not to yield to the general panic, but have continued to raise good marketable horses, will ultimately reap their reward by realizing once more good prices for their stock. It is a well-known fact that there are not half the number of one, two, and three-year-olds that there was a few years ago, and this means that when these youngsters come of an age suitable for the market there will not be anywhere near enough of them to supply the demand. True, electricity and bicycles have



A PAIR OF GERMAN COACH WORLD'S FAIR PRIZE WINNERS.

quality. There are numbers of mares on Manitoba farms that, if mated with Hackneys, would produce colts that would bring good money for export.

The Hackney is at present so popular that really good stallions of the breed are too high in price to make them plentiful in Canada. There are not so many mares in Manitoba suitable for mating with the Coach horse as with the Thoroughbred; in fact, in my opinion they are, comparatively speaking, few. The reason is this: the Coach horse is, as he stands to-day, the general purpose horse, but at the same time he is not gifted with too much quality, and what he has not got himself he cannot impart to the progeny of mares that have less. The greater number of farm mares have not sufficient quality to nick well with a Coaching sire. I do not say that all Coach horses are deficient in quality, but as a breed they are, when viewed from a farm-mare standpoint. When a farmer has a clean-legged mare with plenty of quality, he might do much worse than breed her to a Coach horse. There are numbers of smallish boned mares in Manitoba, often rather weedy looking, but with lots of quality; such mares will raise fine colts if bred to a Coach horse; and if the mare is roomy and a good milker and the colt well done by, it will often turn out of such a size that one not knowing would never dream that the mother was undersized. I have said the Coach horse is the general purpose horse, and I maintain that

ably bred to the light horse of any one of the three breeds that have been named; and then, again, there are many others that would not be suitable for mating with more than one, as, for instance, these large mares of more or less draught breeding, which the blood of the Thoroughbred alone can modify and give to the progeny that quality which is required in a valuable light horse.

Do not breed a mare at all if she has any glaring defects in conformation, for she may reproduce these in her progeny, when they will be of little value, the aim being to breed something good, and this can not be expected from an ill-formed mare. Then, again, to raise a good colt, a good sire is required, and good sires require good service fees, and money can scarcely be said to be well invested if paid out on the chance of a poor mare producing a good colt.

Aboveall, do not breed mares with any hereditary unsoundness,—they are worse than useless for the purpose.

The Hackney in Rhyme.

"The Shire may grunt, till he gives you the gripes,
The Clydesdale betimes will play the bag pipes,
The Suffolk can raise you a musical breeze,
The Racer will whistle, the Coacher will wheeze,
The Hunter when pressed will play the trombone,
But the true British Hackney gives no note or tone,
Going rub-a-dub-dub, going tal-a-tai-tai,
Hocks, shoulders, and knees going all pit-a-pat;
Not a step out of measure, complete as a rhyme,
Melodious in tune and all perfect in time,
With his one, two, three, four, as if solving a sum,
He beats the tattoo on his loved kettledrum."
London Horse Breeder.

spoiled the market for street car and light draft horses, but the demand for good draft, carriage, or saddle horses, and the price that can be had for the same is still good. Viewed in a sensible light, the horse interests are not in any worse shape to-day than any other business in the country. A great deal, if not the whole, of the trouble has been caused by the change in the class of horse that the market demands—a fact that many breeders have failed to realize—hence many of them have continued to spend money and time breeding horses, it is true, but a style of horse that is away behind the times, and one when placed in the sale ring beside some handsome and good-gaited individual makes but a sorry appearance and sells for a song.—[Iowa Turf.

Clipping Farm Teams.

As soon as spring opens and seeding operations commence, "dispatch" should be the watchword on every farm. Time can be saved and horses given much more comfort by clipping the teams that have anything like a heavy coat of hair. To a horse that sheds its coat early there is little or no advantage in clipping, but these are the exception and not the rule. Not only can the clipped team be kept constantly going while in the field, but the work of grooming becomes a much lighter task morning and night than with a heavy-coated horse. It is not well to clip the legs from the hocks down, especially if the animal be of one of the draught breeds, or there will be a tendency for them to chap by being exposed to winds and moisture.