

with the smallest diameter behind. The contour of the bone is, however, much more cylindrical than flat and this applies to draft as well as racing or trotting horses. "Flat" bone is then a misnomer, but "flat" as applied to the appearance of the leg is correct and the desirable shape in all horses.

A round appearing leg on a horse does not indicate round bone but a meaty condition, a coarseness of tissues and more than all a lack of development and cleanness of the back tendons. In coarse-bred, meaty legged horses of phlegmatic temperament and sluggish disposition the bone of the legs is not of the close ivorylike texture of the thoroughbred, but has a larger proportion of spongy tissue in its centre, hence it is considered weaker than the bone of finer quality. The appearance of a round, meaty leg, however, does not so much bespeak inherent lack of strength as it does undesirable attributes that generally accompany this type, such as grease, lymphangitis and other diseases of the phlegmatic horse.

Breed for the flat-appearing leg for the reason that the bones of such horses are "flinty" in quality, and accompanied by well developed, plainly seen tendons, and in draft horses by a fringe of long silky hair springing from the back portion of the leg, whereas in coarse-bred, sluggish horses the "feather" so-called is likely to stick out all around the leg and in quality is about as silky as the stuffing of an old-fashioned sofa. Choose the breeding horse that has big, sound joints and well-developed flat legs that properly bear his weight. See that he shows the soles of his shoes plainly as he trots away and it may be taken for granted that his temperament is desirable.

The big, flabby, "over-topped" horse is a poor type to breed. He has not the necessary quality and strength of bone to carry his body or stand hard work and it is usual to find such an animal "throwing out" splints, spavins, ring-bones, side-bones, curbs, etc. Such blemishes constitute unsoundness and seem to be nature's way of branding a horse according to his character as if to say the unsoundness seen is a cure evidence of an unseen source of unsoundness which is hereditary. As a general proposition we may confidently assert that the possession of sound feet and ample flinty bone of the flat-leg sort on the part of a breeding horse insures most of the other desirable attributes of a sire and should be always

considered indispensable in selecting a stallion or mare. —*N. W. Farmer.*

THE UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF THE HOG MARKET.

A great deal of feeling has been expressed by feeders and dealers of hogs in regard to the action of the pork packers in lowering the prices paid for hogs during the last few months. For the first time for some years better prices have been paid in the Buffalo and Chicago markets for American hogs than were given by our packers for what are confessedly a better type of pig for the bacon trade with Great Britain, and yet our bacon sells for a higher price in the Old Country; although we are bound to say that the quality of American bacon and hams is improving so much that the premium on ours at present only amounts to a mere trifle in comparison to what it was a year ago.

But, while the American product has been improving, has ours done the same, or even held its own? We are sorry to say that, so far from doing so, it has even deteriorated. What, then, are the causes of this? The feeders, naturally, blame the packers, and hint at a combination to keep down prices. What have the packers to say in their defence?

THE PACKERS' SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

In response to enquiries Mr. Flavelle, managing director of the William Davies Co., Toronto, has furnished us with the following information on this subject: Canada has pinned her faith on the production of a hog which will make what is known as a "Wiltshire-side" of bacon. This side is cured in such a manner that when it is ready for shipment it must go forward at once, and be sold as soon as it lands in England. The trade in these wiltshire sides in the Old Country is a weekly one. Small trailers there govern their purchases by the amount of their weekly sales, and wholesale merchants are governed by the same conditions. On that account the packer in this country has to regulate the prices paid for his hogs by the probable condition of the bacon market in Great Britain six weeks later, for, bad as the condition of the market may be then, these delicately-cured sides of bacon must be sold on