

## The Gaited Saddle Horse.

What is known as the gaited saddle horse is becoming very popular in the West and South-western States. The following description of this horse is given by a Western breeder:

"The gaited saddler goes all the gaits of the hunter and the walk-trotter, but he is not so reckless as to jump fences, hurdles and bars, and he is too modest to sport a short tail, and he looks breezy enough without having his mane plucked. In addition to the walk, trot and canter, he goes at least two more distinct gaits, and he often goes four more, making in all seven distinct, clear, clean, unmixed gaits. The gaits required to entitle him to recognition as a gaited saddle horse are walk, trot, canter, rack and running walk, fox-trot, or slow pace. He has his choice of either of the last three named for his fifth gait, but he must go the first four, and he must have the proper breeding or he cannot be recorded in the National Saddle Horse Association."

The slow pace or amble is the least desirable of the seven gaits, and, except as a ladies' saddle horse, is seldom chosen as the fifth gait. The running walk and fox trot are business gaits and are valuable for long distance rides. The walk (flat-foot) should be regular, spirited and quite rapid. If a horse walks four and a half or five miles an hour he is good enough at this gait. The running-walk is faster and easier than the flat-footed walk, but not so fast as the fox-trot. A horse of good endurance and clever at this gait will make from six to seven miles an hour and travel sixty to seventy-five miles a day without great fatigue to himself or rider.

The fox-trot is quite similar to the running walk, but has a distinct loose-jointed motion. This, too, is an all day gait. The trot of a gaited saddler should be quite similar to that of a harness horse but not so extended. The rack is probably the most fascinating gait, and if well done is the hardest on the horse. The canter is the most graceful of all gaits and one that is quite easy for both horse and rider. There is quite a difference between a canter of a gaited horse and the gallop of an unrestrained horse. The gaited horse will go from a walk or a stand still into a canter while the other is forced into it from a trot.

## Advertising 80 Years Ago

The art of advertising is not altogether a product of the latter part of the nineteenth century. In the early years of this century horse breeders seem to have had ideas of their own in regard to what constituted an advertisement as the following description of a horse which is said to have been circulated at the Epsom races in 1820 will show.

"On Saturday next, at twelve, will be sold by auction, by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, at the sign of the High Mettled Racer, in Skibberton, the strong, staunch, steady, stout, sound, safe, sinewy, serviceable, strapping, supple, swift, smart, sightly, sprightly, spirited, sturdy, shining, surefooted, sleek, well sized, well shaped, sorrel steed, of superlative symmetry, styled 'Spanker,' with small star and snip, square sided, slender shouldered, sharp sighted, and steps singularly state's, free from strain, spavin, spasm, stringhalt, strangury, sciatica, staggers, scouring, strangles, sallenders, surfeit, stams, strumour, swellings, scratches, starfoot, splint, squint, squirt, scurf, scabs, scars, sores, scattering, shuffling, shambling gait, or symptoms of sickness of any sort. He is neither stiff mouthed, shabby coated, sinew shrunk, spur-galled, saddle galled, shell-toothed, shine gutted, surbated, skin scabbed, short winded, splay-footed, or shoulder slipped, and is sound in the sword point and stifle joint, has neither sick, spleen, stiffness, snaggle teeth, sand crack, starron, coat, swelled sheath, nor shattered hoofs, nor is he sour, sulky, surly, stubborn, or sulien in temper, nor shy, nor skittish, slow, sluggish, nor stupid; he never slips, trips, strays, stalks, stops, shakes, snarvels, snuffles, snorts, stumbles, or stocks in the stables, and scarcely or

seldom sweats; has a showy, stylish, switch tail, and a sale, strong set of shoes on; can feed on soil, stubble, sainfoin, sheaf oats, straw sedge, or Scotch grass; carries sixteen stone with surprising speed in his stroke over a six foot sod or stone wall. His sire was the Sly Sobersides, out of a sister of Spindle-shanks by Sampson, a sporting son of Sparkler, who won the sweepstakes and subscription plate last season at Sligo. His selling price—sixty-seven pounds sixteen shillings and sixpence sterling."

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Commercial Fertilizers

#### Alberts' Thomas-Phosphate

To the Editor of FARMING:

I have been a good deal interested in the remarks made by Mr. George Wright in regard to his experiments with Thomas-Phosphate. I can scarcely conceive it possible that a dressing of phosphate, and particularly of the durable Thomas Phosphate, would not have some beneficial effect, yet I can readily understand, and especially under such circumstances as Mr. Wright describes, that this effect might easily escape ordinary observation. For instance, in the corn crops, wheat, oats and barley, a difference of yield of a few bushels per acre need not necessarily make any appreciable difference in the appearance of the crop. And, indeed, under certain circumstances, the poorer crop would be very likely to make the more attractive showing of the two.

And again in the matter of quality, I have frequently seen a dressing of phosphate improve a sample of wheat, and also of barley by several shillings per quarter, and yet make no perceptible difference in the crop, except by special examination immediately before harvest. This I saw in particular last summer at the two leading experimental stations, the famous Rothamsted, presided over by Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert, and the farm of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at Woburn. The crops dressed with ammonia looked decidedly more vigorous than those dressed with phosphate, and there was no particular difference noticeable in the grain until entering upon the ripening stage; and then the nitrogenized grain began to shrink and shrivel, while that fed with phosphate continued to fill out and complete its development into a perfect sample.

But the particular circumstance I notice in Mr. Wright's case is that he tells us *all* his crops were *excellent*, both where phosphate *was* applied and where it was *not* applied. This shows that his land was already in a high state of fertility, so much so as to be, for the time being, scarcely amenable to further manurial influence. This principle is thoroughly recognized in England, and land for experimental manuring purposes is systematically impoverished by a course of exhaustive cropping before being considered a reliable index to the action of the various manures.

This principle was fairly well defined in the December number of the Royal Agricultural Society's *Journal* for 1897, and the question appears to me of sufficient importance to your readers to justify the giving of a short résumé of it. Certain errors of results had been attained in one series of experiments, of which the report says. From this it appeared that, even with the poorer manuring, crops of wheat and barley about as heavy as the land could produce were actually obtained. This being so it would not be possible for the richer manure to give more than the maximum yield for the land, and accordingly the difference between the richer and poorer manuring could not be brought out. It is well known that land in high condition is unsuited for experimental purposes, just for the reason that a moderate dressing may produce on such land the maximum crop the land can bear, and so give just as good a result as a more liberal and expensive application."

This was light sandy land, and by some previous tenant had been allowed to get foul with weeds, that it had been