

THE HORSE.

Mistakes of Exhibitors.

The exhibition of high-class horses at "high-class" horse shows is practically a business, and is conducted in most cases by those who thoroughly understand the game; hence, to exhibitors of this class we have nothing to say, as they are well posted on "the tricks of the trade." But a few hints to the ordinary horse owner and exhibitor, who exhibits only at local fall fairs may not be out of place.

The too common practice of taking untrained colts or horses into the show-ring is a mistake. It is a common practice among exhibitors to pay no attention whatever to the fitting or training of their colts, but to take them to the fair absolutely green and unfitted, except that they have been taught to lead in a manner. They are brought before the judge in this condition, he looks them over and then wants to see them in action; but they have not been taught to lead properly, hence go sideways or backwards, or in some cases can with difficulty be induced to move at all, or may plunge and rear or do anything except lead. This is provoking to the judge, sometimes dangerous to all in the ring, annoying to the audience, and disappointing to the exhibitor, especially when his entry is probably superior to the better-fitted, better-trained and better-mannered colt that wins.

The judge in such cases is often severely criticized and credited with not being able to recognize a good colt. He is doubtless aware that the awards have not gone to the animals that under more favorable conditions would have won, but he is also aware of the fact that some trouble and pains are necessary to fit and train a colt for exhibition, and that each animal must show his action and gait to enable any person to correctly judge of his relative qualities. He should also thoroughly recognize the fact that his judgment of the animals before him must be influenced by what they are at the time, not what they probably would be under different conditions. The general appearance of an unfitted and untrained colt may indicate that if fitted he would be a better animal, and if trained would show better action than those he selects for the awards. At the same time the colt is neither fitted nor trained, while the others are, and he (the judge) also knows that a colt of good conformation and all indications of showing good action is sometimes a great disappointment when moved, and as he is judging entirely by what he sees, not from what he probably would see under different conditions, he is compelled to award the prizes to those that show what they can do. In other words, he does not want something that "has been" or "will be" but something "that is." Then, again, the exhibitor who has spent time and money in training and fitting his exhibit so that it may appear at its best before the judge, deserves some recognition over him who has taken no pains in this respect, but apparently brought his animals to the show with the hope of winning prizes without much effort or expense. Such an exhibitor takes no pride in his horses, but exhibits simply for the money he may win, and his winning seldom reflects credit or glory to either himself or the society.

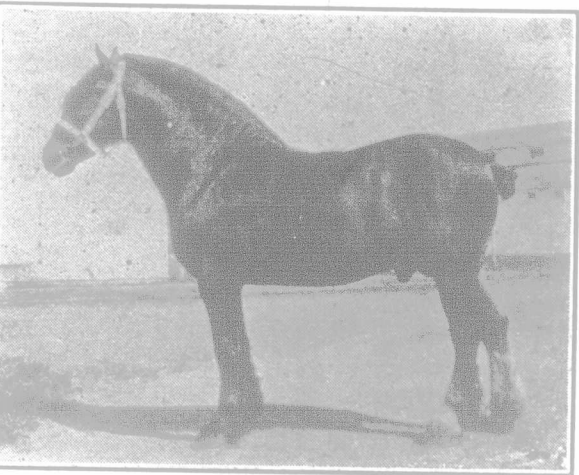
Even sucking colts should be taught to lead, and stand well on the halter. When this is done there is less danger of accidents, it gives the judge a much better opportunity to judge correctly and the exhibit a better opportunity to show to advantage. It will be noticed in this class that the colts that are trained to halter usually win.

Another mistake often made is entering horses in the wrong classes. This is particularly noticed in the roadster and the carriage classes. A good roadster entered in the carriage class is often beaten by horses not worth nearly as much money, while a good carriage horse shown as a roadster will or should meet the same fate. Here again, the judge is often unjustly criticized. The most valuable horse cannot justly win unless he be properly classified. There are horses that are hard to classify. While reasonably valuable and serviceable, they have not the special characteristics of either class sufficiently well marked to make them reasonably typical, hence the owner is undecided how to enter them. In such cases it is not uncommon for the prospective exhibitor to enter in both classes, and, after getting as good an idea as possible what the competition will be, exhibit in the class in which he thinks he has the better chance of winning. Horses of this kind cannot win in fair company in either class, although they may have greater market value than those that win. If they have sufficient size they may properly be called "general purpose horses" and show in that class, but if too small they simply "have no class" for show purposes. It should be remembered that exhibitions are supposed to have an educational value, and it is the duty of the judge to be consistent in making awards, and stay as closely as possible to type and general characteristics in the different classes.

Another mistake frequently made by exhibitors when there is something wrong with their horses is to explain to the judge that the animal met with an accident very recently, that caused the swollen leg, bunch, blemish or lameness, etc., and that he "will be all right in a day or two." Now, the judge cannot be held responsible for the accident; he did not cause it, neither could he have prevented it; but, here is the horse, lame or unsound. The lameness or unsoundness may be of only a temporary nature but in most cases the probable termination of the trouble is simply problematical, and he must judge the horses as they are, not as what they were before the accident, or probably will be in an indefinite time. There are other animals in the class that have not "met with an accident," but are sound,

and unless decidedly inferior to the injured animal they should win. There are cases in which the judge may be justified in giving the horse "the benefit of the doubt," but he must be very careful not to abuse this privilege. Of course, in the breeding classes such things are looked upon from a different standpoint. So long as an injury or blemish does not interfere with the animal's breeding qualities, and there be no danger of him, or her transmitting to the progeny a predisposition to trouble, it should be overlooked.

In conclusion, we may say that one of the greatest troubles at the ordinary, small agricultural fair is the failure of the exhibitors to be on time with their animals. More time is often spent in waiting for the classes than in judging them, and often, even after waiting a long time after notice has been given, or where there is a program, if a class be judged and the prizes awarded and a tardy exhibitor appears afterwards with his entry, there is a great cry. He blames the judge, the directors, the exhibitors and everybody, and wants the class called again and re-judged, for, of course, he knows "he should win." Exhibitors of this kind make things very unpleasant and uncomfortable for everybody, and, in our opinion, no notice should be taken of their complaints, or reasons for being late, and a few lessons of this kind would teach them to be prompt. WHIP.



Major Mascot.
A Western Clydesdale champion stallion, owned by Vanstone & Rogers.

LIVE STOCK.

It is the number and quality of calves raised that determines the success of a herd.

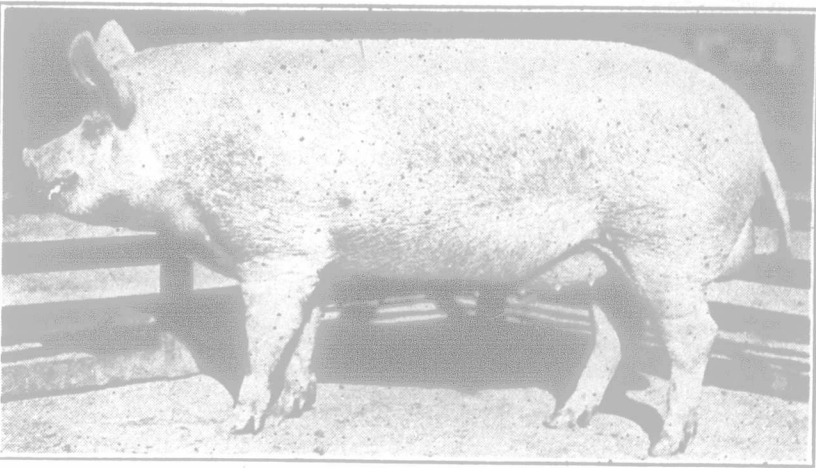
It does not pay to buy a ewe with a poor mouth. Examine carefully before buying.

The quality of feed stored will partially determine the profit from live stock feeding next winter.

It is not advisable to crowd live stock in cars or crates during hot weather. Give them breathing space.

At this time of year the water trough should be cleaned frequently. Stock do not like drinking from a scum-covered trough.

There are records of 4,264 Aberdeen-Angus cattle passing through American sale-rings the first six months of 1920 at an average of \$756.73.



Oak Lodge Cid.
Highest priced male in the Brethour sale, going at \$400 to A. Welstead, St. Catharines.

Old ewes, poor milkers and shy breeders, should be culled from the flock and marketed. It is by culling and judicious breeding that the flock is improved.

Prof. Sackville, of the O. A. C., finds that getting the sows away from their litters for a couple of hours each day relieves the sow a good deal, and does not hurt the pigs.

Why is it some people cling tenaciously to mediocre stock when at a little added expense their crops could be marketed to greater advantage. The breedy animal is a more efficient machine than the scrub.

Rejuvenating the Pastures.

Quite a few permanent pastures become practically run out. Weeds gain the ascendancy, and year after year fewer cattle are carried per acre. Many of these pasture fields are difficult to break up, and the question is how to increase the amount of feed produced. It is important that an effort be made to prevent the weeds from seeding, as many of them will die out if not reseeded. During a wet spell timothy, orchard grass, meadow fescue, alsike, white clover, etc., may be scattered over the ground and the field given a stroke with the harrows. This will tend to put new life in the pasture. Where the soil is comparatively level and a plow can be used it is a good practice to break it up and reseed. The field may be cropped for a year or two with grain or corn to advantage.

The frequent rains this year have made the July and early August pasture better than usual. However, the grass has had a tendency to softness, resulting in the cattle being more or less washy. If a person is able to give a pasture two or three weeks' rest by alternating with another field it helps out materially. The summer silo is also a big help in supplementing the pasture and carrying the stock over the hot, dry season. When one is liable to be short of pasture, due to failure to get a catch of clover or the winter-killing of a meadow, oats alone or oats and peas may be sown in the spring and pastured early in July. If the other pastures exceed expectations, then what was sown for summer pasture may be allowed to ripen. It is a mistake to allow the pastures to be cropped too bare. However, in some instances it is rather difficult to avoid this without encroaching unduly on the hay mow or grain bin. A field that is pastured closely in the fall seldom gives as early pasture in the spring as one on which there is a fair stand of grass when winter sets in.

Yorkshire Sale at Toronto.

A rather unique auction sale was held at the Exhibition grounds, Toronto, on Wednesday, August 18, when J. E. Brethour & Nephews offered a picked lot of their choice Yorkshires by auction. The offering included champions of past shows, and individuals which could successfully go into the keenest competition on the continent this year and win the coveted laurels. It was a splendid opportunity to purchase show stock in show condition, both males and females, of all ages, and fortunate was the breeder who took advantage of this opportunity. The splendid harvest weather detained many at home who had been planning on attending the sale; consequently the attendance was nothing like as large as was expected. Messrs. Brethour had made arrangements with the C. N. E. to permit of purchasers entering the pigs in their own names in this year's exhibition, and further agreed to leave a man in charge of the pigs in Toronto until the exhibition opened so as to save shipping.

In opening the sale Mr. Brethour intimated that he considered the present one of the best periods in regard to the bacon industry, as our bacon is in favor on the British market and there is a possibility that the present restrictions against Canadian bacon will be removed in the near future. The shortage of choice bacon in England has put the price of Irish bacon on a particularly high level, and with decontrol there is reason to believe that Canadian bacon will sell equally high. Professor Toole, of the O. A. C., in a brief address, believed that we need not fear as to the future of the bacon hog, provided a uniform, high-quality product is placed on the market. Mr. Waller, of Swift's Packing Company, said that the packers recognized certain fundamentals, as quality and breeding. "There is too much underbred stuff sold on the market," said Mr. Waller; "quality should be the watchword."

The highest-priced animal of the sale was Oak Lodge Cid, which was a particularly high-class, show individual that was first at Toronto in 1918, and first and champion at London in 1919. He went to the bid of A. Welstead, of St. Catharines, for \$400. The highest priced female was of the Princess family. She is coming two years of age, and already has to her record the red ribbon at Toronto and London in the under-one-year-old class, the championship at the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, and the first prize at Ottawa. Last March she farrowed a litter of twelve pigs and is due to farrow again next month. She was purchased by A. Welstead for \$300. Oak Lodge Princess 422, a year-old pig, was in exceptionally good condition and will possibly be seen in A. K. Featherstone's show herd this year, as she was purchased by him for \$200. Oak Lodge Princess 377 was the second highest-priced sow of the sale. She was purchased by A. Thornburn, of Paisley, for \$260. She has several first-prize ribbons to her credit and also a championship. Another Princess sow was sold for \$230. There were a number of choice pigs of the Fame family offered which showed splendid quality and were picked up at good prices. The Pride family also brought some high prices. Engebretson Bros., of Minnesota, purchased a couple of choice sows. Among the largest purchasers at the sale were A. Welstead, of St. Catharines; J. K. Featherstone, of Streetsville, and A. D. Wallace, Toronto. March pigs of the