

THE HORSE.

England's Light Horse and Pony Shows.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Despite the depression—for these are serious days in England—the usual round of light horse and pony shows have been held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, at Islington, and it must be said that while entries were much smaller, compared with other years, quality was good and the spectators at the gates were many—the majority in khaki. The Hunter show was robbed of the usual big array of geldings that make their appearance at that show. They are on sterner duties—at the front. The champion Hunter in the breeding section was A. J. Dorman's Golf Ball, a bay three-year-old son of Tennis Ball, and a stately, well-muscled-up sort he is, big in the barrel, and standing on the best of legs. F. B. Wilkinson's filly, Repeat II., was reserve for the honor and it was appropriate that the son of Mr. Dorman, a big iron master in Cleveland, North Yorkshire should receive the silver champion cup from the King, attired in an officer's uniform. A number of the officials at the show were in khaki. I will not weary you with details of the breeding classes—suffice it to say that although the war has depleted our Hunter stock, we have much valuable breeding stock left in the country.

Polo pony breeding—now helped by the government with premiums for suitable stallions—flourishes in a quiet way, and the National Pony Show produced a fine array of polo-bred stock, and batches of nice stamps of Welsh, Shetland, Mountain and Moorland ponies—some types you have never seen over in Canada. The champion polo stallion was Stephen Mumford's (Rugby) Spanish Hero, a miniature racehorse and was sired by Kilwarlin, a Doncaster St. Leger hero, who won that race after being left behind at the post and giving quite 200 yards start away. We are breeding our playing ponies on the line of miniature Thoroughbreds, which means that we are raising them for speed. They must have a clean look out, plenty of rein, and stand on good hard bone. The champion polo pony mare was George Norris Medwood's (Chester) Lady Primrose, a blood-like matron throwing quite the right type.

The champion Welsh pony stallion was Mrs. H. E. Green's (Salop) Bledfa Shooting Star, for which she paid 260 guineas at the Gilbey sale, and is sure to earn all that in fees and prizes when the summer shows are resumed. The champion Welsh pony mare was the same lady's Nant-y-ham Starlight and Miss Calmady—Hamlyn, (Devon) provided the champion Moorland pony in Junket, a beautiful stamp of weight-carrying pony with sturdy shoulders and bone.

At the Hackney Pony Show the champion pony stallion in hand was Robert Whitworth's Fusee, a three-year-old bay by Melbourne Fame. This youngster has some rare paces and is well made up, at both ends and has a real nice look out. He beat in the final trial Enoch Glen's ten-year-old Torchfire, which had won the honor twice previously and is a pony with a history, for he has been to America and when in the possession of Judge W. H. Moore won the Hackney pony championship at Madison Square Gardens. Glen brought him back to England and has made him into a sensational goer. It was very hard to be "done on the post" by a short head, as it were by Fusee, which has been bought by Alexander Gemmell, a Scots solicitor, who is not unknown among Hackney men on your side of the water. When trade resumes with abroad it is quite likely that Fusee will find his way to the States.

Torchfire, however, won the £50 cup for pony stallions in harness and he took it home for his owner for good, for this was his third victory in that competition. But Torchfire had to knuckle under to still another in the class for ponies in harness open to all sexes. Here the honor fell to W. W. Bourne's (Watford) Tissington Bauble, a beautiful sort which you could not buy for £1,000 if you tried. Tissington Bauble's motion is perfectly balanced fore and aft, and there is no trick work in her display.

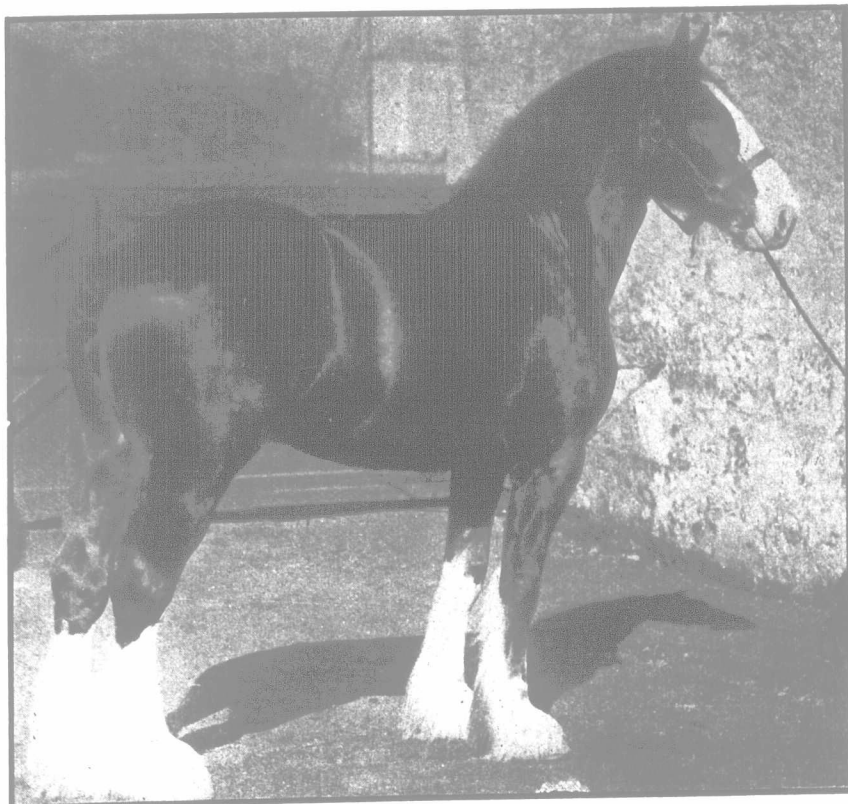
The champion Hackney pony mare in hand was also a Tissington—to wit, Hoiden, a free-moving sort owned by Henry Gilding, a Lancashire enthusiast. So, Sir Gilbert Greenwell bred two of these pony champions. It is to be regretted that he has broken up his stud of runabout horses and ponies. He has gone in for blooded stock i.e. Thoroughbreds and Shorthorns.

And now one comes to the London Hackney show, for which while the prize money was well restricted, a very creditable entry was received. There were not a gay lot of yearlings or two-year-olds out in the breeding classes. The Hackney as he is bred in England to-day seems very slow at developing. However, the champion stallion in hand was a three-year-old to wit, A. W. Hickling's (North) Adholton Kingmaker, a son of King's Proctor from Adholton St. Mary. Now both the sire and dam are double champions in

London and in Kingmaker we have proved to us the value of submitting a mare of real parts to a stallion her equivalent in merit. Breeding (or blood) always will out. Adholton Kingmaker is quite a nice young horse with a smart action but there were those who thought he was lucky to beat, W. W. Rycroft's (Bingley, York) Hopwood King, a five-year-old son of Admiral Crichton. This horse had the greater bulk and at times the nicer action, but the judge went for youth.

The champion Hackney mare in the breeding classes was Sir Howard Frank's (Wimbledon) Terrington Modish, an eight-year-old daughter of Copper King (which is in South America) out of Terrington Modesty, which was a Goldfinder 6th mare. Modish is well-named, for she is full of quality, and was bred by Sir Gilbert Greenall in Norfolk, and although she wants the bulk and size of previous champion mares seen at this show, she fills the eye as a mare of beautiful outline. The reserve was Henry Gilding's Cudham Marjorie, a mare of rugged matronly appearance, and quite one of the wide and hefty old-time kind. She might have her day at this show yet; although the judges are a long time in seeing that hers is an ideal outline.

The champion harness Hackney was Philip Smith's (Cheshire) Adholton Black Prince, recently bought from A. W. Hickling, who bred him. He is a slashing great goer, and uses himself well at both ends. The champion novice in harness was Robt. Black's (York) Carlowrie, a Lancashire-bred son of Mathias which gave a stylish show. A class-winner in harness was W. W. Bourne's small Hackney Brickett Brilliant, whose action is indescribable. The like of it has seldom been seen in England: it is perfectly impossible to describe the acrobatic motions of the horse.



As Seen in Scotland.

Royal Fern, winning aged Clydesdale stallion at Glasgow, 1915.

In the produce group classes, for three offspring each, the get of Leopard won in stallions; of Beckingham Squire in mares: of Mathias in harness horses, and of Tissington Gideon in Hackney ponies. Leopard is a newcomer as a stallion at this show. He has got some good stock which are now in the United States, one filly, The Whip being a stormer.

This is the last Hackney show that will be held at Islington. The 32nd will be decided in Olympia, next March and towards making it a great show—a sort of spring pup off the International—40,000 enthusiasts have subscribed £4,500 and will do the thing well. The whole trend of the modern British Hackney is towards a harness type—a neat and small-made, quality-like horse that must go like wildfire, flex his hocks and snap his knees like something demented or else the judge will not look at him. Things have changed since the Hackney was a fine, upstanding horse with a noble look out, a well-set-on head and neck, a big body piece and plenty of bone and substance. All these hard-wearing qualities are being superseded by a pretty-as-a-picture kind of gee-gee, which motor car owners have put on to a pedestal to worship. Twenty years hence, we shall be paying wide-eyed wonder visits to the Zoo or the British Museum to see the last 'of Zoo or the British Museum to see the last 'of the race of what was once the world's best roadster and the world's best high-class carriage horse. Well, if it should be so, the breeders are themselves to blame. They have encouraged to a most undue extent, that something called quality and have overlooked altogether that very essen-

tial something else called substance. There is talk in horse circles in England of reviving the Hackney as a remount. Where is the man who can sit upon the back of the modern Hackney with a jumping, stylish action which can only move to the accompaniment of strange yells, and loaded canisters rattled with pebbles?

BREEDING ARMY HORSES.

British buyers of army horses in Canada, having returned and expressed themselves well pleased with the types raised there, and having also spoken particularly flatteringly of the useful mares that are raised in your country, I feel tempted to tell readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" something more about how light horse rearing is conducted, under Governmental assistance, in Britain. As I have said in these columns recently, British army horses required under peace conditions are bought from those farmers and other sport-loving breeders who yearly mate a Thoroughbred stallion to a clean-legged farmer's mare, the offspring being a Hunter, or, if not quite high-class enough for that, an army horse. Such efforts as these are resultant in a sufficient number of high-class riding army horses to satisfy the country's requirements when peace rules. But the Government has long since recognized that it must do something to help these sporting farmers and others who are good enough to attempt the cross-breeding. Fox-hunting is at the back of it all, it is true, but other continental nations are so keen upon these hunter-like army horses that there is never any difficulty experienced in selling army remounts: indeed France, Germany and Russia have cleaned out British breeders for years at about £10 per head better prices than the home governmental buyers give when they are in the market. That is all by the way, and is no business of mine, but I state it to show that if Canada took up remount breeding upon the same lines as it is carried out in England, Canadian farmers need never fear of wanting customers from the continent, the Atlantic, notwithstanding.

The British Government gives stallion premiums to encourage the breeding of Hunters and army horses. A show under the auspices of the Board of Agriculture has just been held at Islington, London, and 50 King's Premiums of an approximate value of £300 each: 12 super-premiums of £100 each, or a sum total of £16,200 was offered for Thoroughbred stallions, to travel England and Wales, while five premiums of an approximate value of £205 each were offered for Scotland, or in all, £17,225 given from the funds of the nation to aid these sporting farmers who dabble in a yearly deal with nature. Under the scheme by which these horses tour the country,

it is possible for the English and Welsh stallions to earn £374 and for the Scottish stallions to bring in £295 to their owners, which is not bad money for horses that have only proved themselves just above the average cut on the British turf. These stallions are old racehorses; one had won the Cambridgeshire Handicap at Newmarket; another had won a big hurdle race at Gatwick; others had carried off minor handicaps, weight for age, at Epsom, Stockton, York and other places. They are full of "breediness" i.e. bloodlike appearance, or Thoroughbred outline and had to have a certificate of soundness in every detail ere they came into the ring. This year they made quite a brave show of big-barrelled, nicely-coupled stallions, hard, flat bone, and eight to nine inches of bone below the knee. His Majesty, the King (accompanied by Queen Mary and Princess Mary) visited the show and presented his gold challenge cup to the owner of the champion stallion. This was Birk Gill, owned conjointly by two cousins, T. L. Wickham-Boynton and H. A. Cholmondeley, whose stud is at Driffield in East Yorkshire, a one-time hot-bed of the Hackney. We are getting better stallions each year at this show and if the Government will further encourage poorer farmers by developing the scheme for loaning out suitable mares, on condition that they yearly produce a foal, the progeny of which the government has first call upon, then the whole principle will be upon a firmer foundation than ever.

I see you in Canada are developing a stallion scheme under governmental auspices for light horse breeding. Each country must work out its own