

Why England has been supreme in the breeding of animals, has never been determined. But with the progress of scientific inquiry, it becomes clearer every year that English sheep, English cattle, English horses, even English pigs, poultry, and pigeons, owe as much to the soil and climate as to the breeder. What the quality is, no one can determine. It exists in high measure in Ireland, and, it is thought, in parts of Australia. Some English counties have it, some have not. Cattle proper to South Devon lose quality when transferred to the north. Southdown sheep deserve their title because the South Downs are the making of them. Cart horses flourish from generation to generation in the fen country of the Eastern Midlands.

"One is driven to the conclusion that in the air of England and Ireland is a something which tends to fix species and maintain quality. Can it, for example, be an accident that, since athletic contests became international, Irishmen, whether living for the time in Ireland or America, have jumped further and higher, and thrown weights further, than all other people; and that, at the same time, nearly all the more famous jumpers among horses, with recent exceptions from Australia and Canada, derive from Ireland? In Belgium, the school of horse-jumping, Irish is a recognized synonym for lithe. Other breeding centers are found, of course, and some—in Hungary, for example, and even Russia—have great qualities; but it remains that practically all the great flocks and herds of the world are forced to come to England if they wish to maintain the strength and purity of their stock. Generally speaking, the breeding of pure species has failed. The heavy horses by which the Argentine at one time set store, proved, when exported, miserably short of stamina and endurance. No country has produced any horses at all comparable with our prize Hackneys or the best of our ponies. Especially have South America and North America, up to the line of lakes, failed to keep their stock true. The American trotter, supreme in its way, is not, of course, a set and standard breed.

"Will any better fortune befall the 'Amgreys,' or will the first consignment, already transported to New York, need a continual flow of recruits from England? The founders of the breed are beyond reproach. We know the excellence of the Clydesdale and Shire when crossed. We know that good specimens have been bought. But it has to be proved whether they keep their peculiar qualities and features on an alien soil, and whether the color will prove a permanent attribute. The whole problem of color is mysterious. It is curious to notice that black, the color of the old heavy war horse, has tended to disappear. No black has ever won the Derby, and the color is one of the rarest among prizewinners in any class. White has also retired before bay, brown and chestnut, now the master colors.

"Accident may have much to do with this, but in any case the attempt of the American Government should be watched with great interest; and it would be to the good if the Board of Agriculture would follow the Americans in the form of attention paid to the breeding industry in England and Ireland. It is a source of wealth at present not rated nearly high enough in this country."

THE TROUBLESOME FEATHER.

It is to be hoped the ideal of the breed concurers at Ames, Iowa, will include clean—i. e., featherless—limbs. It may not be easy to breed feather off the legs of Clydesdales and Shires without sacrificing quality and quantity of bone, but the attempt should be made. The useless and troublesome long hair on the legs of the British draft breeds is a severe handicap to their popularity in many sections. On heavy clay land feather is an abominable nuisance, and the worst of it is that, with breeds to which it is natural, it may seldom be clipped off, for fear of scratches. Give us a clean-limbed, well-bottomed, flat-boned, free-moving draft breed, with as much scale, quality and muscling as can be combined with the above essentials.

In an article on "The Triumph of the Horse," the Economist recalls the predictions of the extensive disuse of that animal made when railways first became common, and points out that every new railway gave fresh employment to horses, as, for every horse taken out of a stage coach, two of them were required to cart to and from railway stations produce that had not before found a market. Equally falsified has been the later predictions as to the supersession of the horse by the motor vehicle. The Deputy Chairman of the London General Omnibus Company is mentioned as having declared at a recent meeting of the Company that no motor-omnibus has yet been invented that can be made to pay.

HORSE - JUDGING PROGRAMMES.

It is becoming quite a fad in the horse departments of our leading Canadian exhibitions to arrange the judging on the society horse-show plan. Whereas it used to be the custom to call first for the aged stallions of a breed, then the three-year-olds, and so on to the colts, after which the aged mares would be brought on, followed by the fillies, disposing of all the classes in the breed in one or at most two days, the new plan adopted provides for the judging of but two or three classes of each breed per day. Thus, taking the 1907 Toronto programme, we find a representative day's schedule as follows:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29th.

Time.	Class.
1.00	1—Thoroughbred Stallion, 4 years old and upwards.
1.15	91—Canadian Heavy-draft Brood Mare, with foal by her side.
1.15	92—Canadian Heavy-draft Foal of 1907.
1.30	20—Standard-bred Filly, two years old.
1.45	83—Canadian Heavy-draft Stallion, three years old.
2.00	43—Roadster Filly or Gelding, one year old.
2.15	57—Imported Clydesdale Stallion, two years old.
2.30	48—Carriage Filly or Gelding, three years old.
2.45	88—Canadian Heavy-draft Filly, two years old.



Royal King III. 24580.

Three-year-old Shire stallion, by Royal Warrior, and out of Sedate. One of the horses in the Canadian consignment of R. Moore & Sons, Beeston Fields, Nottingham, England. See "Gossip."

3.00	70—Shire Stallion, one year old.
3.15	8—Thoroughbred Filly, three years old.
3.30	25—Hackney Stallion, four years old and upwards, 15 hands 2 inches and over.
3.45	72—Shire Yeld Mare, four years old and upwards.
4.00	2—Thoroughbred Stallion, four years old and upwards, hunter type.
4.15	61—Imported Clydesdale Filly, three years old.
4.30	17—Standard-bred Stallion, one year old.
4.45	95—Single Horse, Heavy Draft, in harness.

On behalf of such an arrangement, two arguments may be advanced. Calling, as it does, for but two or three classes of a breed a day, and these interspersed among others, it gives the exhibitors' attendants plenty of time to have their horses ready and bring them punctually into the ring at the prescribed hour. This, it is true, expedites judging, although the same end could be attained by spreading the classes of each breed over but two or three days, instead of six days. The second point in favor of the new plan is that where the judging is done in front of the grand-stand, as occurred this year at Toronto, greater variety is provided for the entertainment of the grand-stand patrons. This, however, while important at the society shows, is not called for at the autumn exhibition, because, what with the stage perform-

ance and exhibition of equines in leather and under saddle, the ordinary patron is entirely engrossed, and pays little or no attention to the stallions and fillies on the line.

Against this diversification of the judging programme, several strong points may be urged. The really interested spectators of the judging of breeding classes—the men to whom it is instructive and whose observation is worth money to the exhibitors from an advertising point of view—are not the grand-stand patrons, but practical farmers and horsemen throughout the country, who can seldom spend more than a day or two at the show, and most of whom desire to time their visits so as to see the judging of as many classes as possible of their one or two favorite breeds. Time does not permit them to spend from three to six days around the horse-ring, and the result, especially where a grand-stand admission fee is necessitated, is that they see very little of the judging at all. This is not to the interest of the breeders, nor is it in harmony with the educational purpose of the exhibition as a whole. Various minor objections also present themselves. Not only is the judging awkward and confusing for observers without catalogues, but even for those who have them the judge's work cannot be followed so intelligently by the ordinary observer, who usually needs to watch the judging of a few classes before he really "catches on" to the basis of judicial decision. Again, it is often difficult to secure judges who can remain for a whole week's time, and some of the classes of a breed

are liable to be judged by a substitute, whose work may not harmonize any too well with that of the regular judge. In such cases, too, there is always the possibilities of the regular judge being criticised on the strength of decisions handed out by his substitute. In short, the plan appears unsatisfactory from the standpoint of visitor, exhibitor and judge, while it certainly is awkward for the live-stock reviewers of the press.

It might be well to have the opinions of leading exhibitors expressed through our columns on the points raised, for there is no question but that the exhibition managers are sincerely anxious of promoting the best interests of all concerned. In this connection, it is noteworthy that the intention of the Canadian National Directorate is to practically abolish racing next year, and give the ring entirely over to the exhibition of horses. To judge the harness and saddle classes before the grand-stand is all right, but we believe it were better to divorce the exhibition of breeding classes from the grand-stand programme, except for a daily parade. The place to judge them is in the small ring behind the Manufacturers' Building, where it always used to be done.

EXPERIMENT HANDICAPPED BY A COLOR FAD.

Canadians will watch with considerable interest, though not, perhaps, with oversanguine anticipations, the draft-horse-breeding experiment being conducted at Ames by the Iowa State College, in conjunction with the United States Government. The attempt is to develop a new gray breed of drafters, by blending the blood of some of the best gray Clydesdales and Shires that could be found in Britain, possibly adding a strain of gray Percheron stock later on. While there is a reason to expect that systematic admixture of the blood of the two British draft breeds, which already have many ancestral blood lines in common, will not be attended with such heterogeneous outcome as would follow the crossing of less closely-related breeds; still, enough diversity of type and characteristic will doubtless result to give great difficulty and require many generations to fix a satisfactory