

Breeding Quality of the Hackney

As was the case a few years ago with the Clydesdales, when it was thought that a stallion, in order to produce good sized stock, must himself be an overgrown brute, so there seems to be a sentiment abroad today among many prospective breeders of light harness stock, that the majority of the Hackney stallions lately imported, are not of sufficient size to produce from the medium sized, breezy mares with which the Hackney stallion is preferably mated, a horse of the inches required by the popular demand. That this is nothing more than a cry raised by those who are either prejudiced or interested at the present time in persuading the owner of such a suitable mare to continue breeding her in a way that brings a few more dollars to his own pocket is amply proved by the results in places where good, well bred Hackney stallions have stood for past years. Talk

Over two hundred years ago there was imported into England from Arabia the Darley Arabian and one of his most famous colts, when crossed upon the running stock of England was Flying Childers, a staunch and speedy runner himself, and the sire of many others. A son of Flying Childers, Blaze, was bred to a large number of the trotting mares of Norfolk, producing superior harness horses. One of these, a sturdy stallion called Marshland Shales, developed into a famous long distance trotter, who, in a matched race with another horse of similar breeding, trotted 17 miles in 58 minutes under the saddle. There are numerous records closely approaching this, and the fastest time we have record of having been made in those days was achieved by a horse called the Norfolk Phenomenon, who went the distance of two miles in five minutes and four seconds, a rare

land, among them being such well known sires as Lord Derby, Goldfinder and Danegelt.

Thus it will be seen that the Hackney horse is, next to the Thoroughbred himself, the most carefully bred and oldest breed of any of our domestic animals. Type, conformation, manners, quality, size, action and style, have all received the most careful attention. Unlike him, the trotter has been bred for one thing only, to pull a feather-weight sulky over a mile of artistically constructed roadway in two minutes, and herein lies the superiority of the Hackney, for having been bred for ages to type, he will be far more likely to produce typical carriage horses. Not only is conformation and style assured, but the flexibility of action which gives style and dash, also adds to the pleasure of handling the reins, the high, trappy gait and style of carriage making them more responsive to the bit than can be the case with the long, low swing of the Hambletonian.



Imported Clydesdale Stallion, Baron Gartley, sire Baron's Pride, dam by Royal Gartley. Won 2nd prize in a strong class at Toronto Exhibition, 1904. Owned by Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont.

of this kind is to be met everywhere. A short time ago the writer, while in conversation with one of these "kickers," was calmly informed that as the Hackney was only a mongrel bred cross between the Welsh pony and small Clydesdales he was a horse whose get was liable to be anything.

How much of this sort of surmise and conjecture, not to say invention, may be aloft it is hard to say. As a matter of fact, the Hackney is bred along very similar lines to the oldest families of the American trotter, and in his breeding has this advantage, that, while the latter has been bred almost for speed alone, the former has comprised action, style, conformation and substance and stamina as well. Like the trotter, his origin was in the crossing of Thoroughbred blood upon the old light harness horse of England, the Norfolk trotter.

for the distance of 232. A mare of the same name is recorded to have trotted 17 miles in 53 minutes. Of this same blood was the horse famous in American horse lore, the imp. Bell Founder. His dam was a Norfolk trotting mare who was called Velocity, and who figured in the trotting contests of her day, and, while never approaching the fastest time made, could trot 16 miles in an hour. Bell Founder had made similar time while still a young horse before his importation to America.

Thus, while Bell Founder, in America, was laying the foundation of the standard bred trotting stock, Marshland Shales, a faster trotter in his day, was laying the foundation of the Hackney in England. Marshland Shales was the sire of Driver, and the grandsire of Fireway, and to this horse trace nearly all the noted Hackney stock of Eng-

land. Bred to a suitable mare with some hot blood in her veins, the Hackney is impressive, and will get foals of good size, type and conformation, but care must be used accordingly in looking over the stallion's pedigree, for this fact often leads to the colt from this cross being kept for a stallion. And it does not follow that because the cross blood is as handsome as his sire that he will be as potent and impressive. The contrary is usually the case. There is nothing so uncertain as the breeding line as the cross bred.

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Heaves in Horses

Dr. Alexander, veterinarian of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, and an accepted authority on matters pertaining to the care and well-being of the