

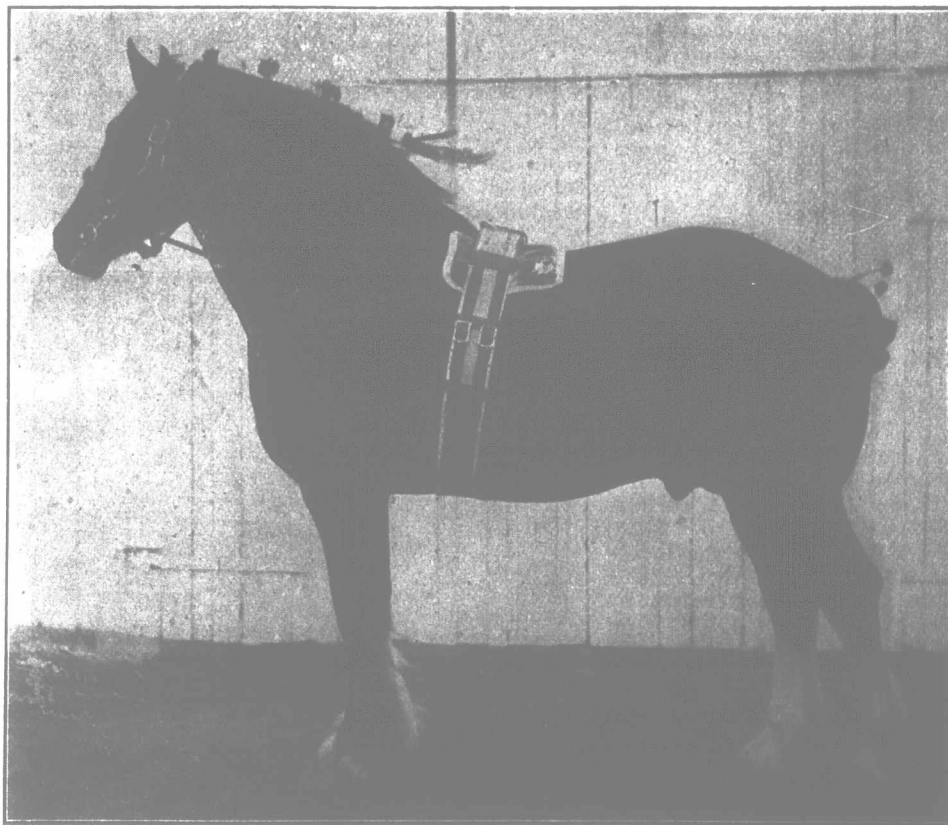
backwards through the cleft of the frog, and continue on backwards exactly the same distance apart as that at which they started. A horse that, while standing, turns his toes outwards, will, when in motion, roll his feet; that is, each foot will roll or wind itself inwards towards the opposite limb, and in many cases strike the fetlock, cannon or knee, according to the height of action. This is called "speedy stroke," but it is not by any means an indication of speed. This peculiarity of conformation and action is, in some cases, due entirely to the feet, while in others it is due to a deviation of the limb from the fetlock down. The latter form is the most undesirable, and usually indicates weakness. From whichever cause it arises, the defect is very hard to correct. Various methods of shoeing have been tried, with indifferent results. In a horse that strikes his knees, it can often be rectified by shoeing very light, in order that his action may be lower. In some cases, where a horse strikes lower down, relief is given by applying a shoe heavy on the inside of the foot, in order that when the foot is elevated this extra weight will keep the inside of the foot lower, and thereby deflect the foot outwards as it is brought forward. In many cases little can be done to rectify the defect, as it requires a great deal to change the action caused by malconformation. What will answer in some cases will not in others, and usually the only safe plan is to drive slowly or wear boots.

The horse that stands intoed, with his toes turned inwards, will, when in motion, paddle; that is, his feet will wind outwards, he goes wide, the feet describing a segment of a circle outwards at each step. This defect, while very undesirable, is not as bad as rolling, as there is no danger of him injuring himself. While perfectly straight and true action in front is what we look for, it is not often found, especially in horses with extreme action. It is seldom we see what we might call perfection in this respect. It will be noticed that the feet of most high actors deviate a little either one way or the other. Some go straight when going fast, but either paddle or roll a little with one or both feet when going slow, and vice versa, even though when standing the defects may not be suspected. Horses whose limbs deviate considerably downwards and outwards, and stand with toes turned outwards, will often, when viewed from in front, when in motion, appear to have almost straight action. They stand with feet wide apart, and when in action the rolling motion of the feet fetches them sufficiently inwards to give them about the proper appearance, without striking the opposite leg, but just before touching the ground the toe again turns outwards and the foot is planted wide. On the other hand, a horse whose limbs deviate downwards and inwards, and whose toes turn in, will not show the paddling gait as much as one whose limbs are perpendicular. The true fore action is when the foot is lifted from the ground without the slightest deviation laterally, and brought forward in a straight line, maintaining the same distance from the center of the opposite limb that it has from the center of the opposite foot when standing.

Another defect of action is "forging"; that is, the striking of the shoe of the fore foot with that of the hind foot on the same side. This makes a click, click, click that to a horseman is very annoying. Some horses forge when jogging, but do not when at a faster pace; others forge at mostly all gaits. The tendency to forge is indicated by a very short back, especially what is called a "roach back," where there is quite a noticeable elevation in the region of the loins. While all short or roach-backed horses do not forge, we seldom see a forger who is not well marked, in at least having a short back. The defect can often be remedied by shoeing heavy in front and light behind. This gives greater length of stride to the fore feet, and shortens, to some extent, that of the hind, and it also causes the animal to lift the fore foot higher, so that the hind shoe will not strike it. In other cases, shoeing with the slips or half shoes in front, will answer. Like many other defects, different individuals require different methods of shoeing to rectify the defect. While a back that is too short is undesirable, too long a back is probably worse; the former may cause defective action, but indicates strength, while the latter not only indicates weakness and want of constitution, but also defective action. A very long-backed horse has usually slovenly, awkward action. It must always be understood that, while certain conformations indicate certain action, there are always exceptions, and it is necessary in all cases to see a horse in motion in order to verify our suspicions or indicate our mistake. In some cases, from reasons that we cannot explain, well-marked indications are at fault, and a horse in whom we expect excellent action is very defective, and vice versa. On this account, it is often impossible to classify a horse, especially between the heavy and the light harness class, without seeing him in motion. As regards the conformation of croup, we, in any class, want one rather long

and not too drooping. A short, drooping croup indicates defective, stilty hind action, with lack of flexion of mostly all joints. Where the croup is of fair length, too much droop is not so serious. (By the croup, we mean from the termination of the loins to the tail, including the whole width of the animal.) The conformation of the hocks is also material. A horse should stand with his hocks fairly close together, the points rather closer than the anterior surface; that is, with a slight deviation forwards and outwards. What is called "cow-hocked"—that is, with the hocks quite close, especially the points, and the limbs deviating downwards and outwards—usually causes ungainly action and rather a shuffling gait, while the opposite, the hocks wide and the feet close together and somewhat intoed, indicates a cross action in the planting of each hind foot towards the opposite fore foot. A well-marked angle at the point of the hock indicates good hock action, while a poorly-developed angle indicates the reverse. The well-formed horse stands with his hind feet fairly close together and the toes deviated slightly outwards. Too much of this deviation is not desirable, as it usually indicates too wide action, and the reverse indicates too close action and a tendency to interfere or strike the opposite fetlock with the shoe of each foot. Wide action with the hind feet is undesirable in most classes. It is allowed to considerable extent in the roadster, and we often see horses of this class whose conformation is nearly or quite correct, who, when going fast, will go quite wide behind, but even in this class closer action is now generally preferred.

Interfering in horses is often hard to correct. In many cases colts do it when first worked, and



Baron Leven (12831).

Clydesdale stallion; foaled in 1902. Winner of first at Perth, first at Crieff and highly-commended at the H. & A. S. Show in Scotland. Imported and owned by James Dalgety, Glencoe, Ont.

cease after becoming stronger and accustomed to shoes. In other cases the fault continues, and, while various devices and methods of shoeing have been tried, the manner of shoeing depending much upon the particular part of the foot or shoe that strikes, there are some cases that cannot be rectified by shoeing, and the only means of protection is boots.

A Selling Argument.

"Well broken, a perfect gentleman in every way," is the best selling phrase in a horseman's vocabulary in many towns of the West. This is true of nearly every kind of horse, but more especially of that type which we recognize as the family horse. He may possess no particular merit in speed, or even in style, but he must be quiet to ride or drive. A well-mannered horse is a treasure, and buyers are willing to pay the price.

Newcomers to the country are always on the lookout for well-broken horses, ready to take hold of a load and work. A man who means business must get his work done; he can't take time to break horses, but the farmer or small rancher will find it profitable work in the off season of the year. There is, in this, a winter's work at good pay for many a farmer. It needs patience and common sense; that's all. If you possess the combination, do not sell an unbroken horse.—[Winnipeg Farmer's Advocate.]

LIVE STOCK.

The Sheep Industry Reviving.

The keen interest in sheep manifested by farmers at the fairs this fall, and the many purchases and sales of breeding stock effected, together with the scouring of the country for sheep by United States breeders and dealers, reminds one of the former times, when this class of stock was more plentiful than now, and the flock was acknowledged to be the most profitable branch of farming. It is easily possible of demonstration that, considering the amount of money invested, cost, of keep and care, sheep, even in times of depression, pay more profitable returns than any other farm stock, and now that values are up to a high level for mutton and wool, and for breeding stock, and the supply shorter than for many years, the prospect for a steady demand and good paying prices is such as to give assurance that, with reasonably good management, there will be more money in sheep for years to come than in any other class of stock.

Now that the question of help and its cost is so serious, it behooves the farmer to adopt, in part at least, the class of stock-raising requiring the least labor, and in this respect sheep have undoubtedly the advantage over all other stock, requiring no expensive housing, no daily cleaning out of stables, little expensive feeding, pea straw and clover hay furnishing the principal fodder necessary during the winter months, though, to the best success and profit, a few roots and a light ration of oats, especially for the lambs, should be provided. Sheep will do well on the shortest

pasture, preferring a short nibble to the flushest forage, and will consume many weeds that other stock refuse, thus helping to clean the farm and keep it clean. It is not advisable, in farming, to put all one's eggs into one basket, and one having had no experience in handling sheep will do well to commence on a small scale, by purchasing a few young ewes and a good ram of the breed he fancies, retaining the best of the female increase to add to the breeding flock or to take the place of aged ewes which may not be profitable to keep longer. There is a good demand now for sheep and lambs of all the principal breeds, both Long-wooled and Medium-wooled, both for breeding purposes and the meat markets, and one can hardly go far astray in choosing the breed that appeals to his fancy, of whichever variety. The principal point is to select strong, sound young female stock, with a fine, even quality of fleece, and a ram of vigorous, masculine appearance, with a strong neck and back and a good set of limbs well placed under him. If young ewes cannot be purchased at a reasonable price, older ewes, whose teeth are in a fair condition, may be risked for a year or two, the female progeny being kept to take their place, and thereby a vigorous flock built up. For a flock of forty or more ewes, a yearling or older ram is preferable, but for twenty or less a strong ram lamb will suffice, and the offspring may be quite as good as from an older sire.

With the aid of a wind-shield and two pace-makers, Dan Patch was able to do a mile in 1.55 at the Minnesota State fair.

New South Wales, one of the commonwealths of Australia, has passed a stringent anti-betting law. Betting in clubs, shops or upon the streets is made an offense, as also is the publication in newspapers of bets previous to the events upon which odds are laid. The law does not attempt to govern action upon racecourses or grounds devoted to sports, but empowers the proprietors to remove betters and restrict the number of race-meetings.