

THE HORSE.

Fitting Horses For the Show-Ring.

The success of horses in the show-ring depends upon different factors, such as type, condition, style, action, speed in certain classes, and manners. The prospective exhibitor must first decide the class in which he will exhibit. This depends upon the horse's type, size and action. The only difficulty the exhibitor has in classifying his horse of any of the draft types is to decide whether his colt, single horse, or team should be shown in the agricultural or draft class. The horses of these classes are identical except in regard to weight. In the larger shows 1,600 lbs. is considered the minimum weight for a draft horse, and those between 1,400 and 1,600 lbs. are agricultural horses. In many of the rural exhibitions the minimum for the draft horses is 1,500 lbs., and below that to 1,300 lbs. are agricultural. In these classes it will easily be seen that a few pounds more or less of flesh may change a horse from one class to the other. In the lighter classes of horses it is often more difficult to classify. In classifying between the *light harness* or *road horse*, and the *heavy harness* or *carriage horse*, more difficulty is often experienced. In such cases action is the main factor. Of course we recognize certain types as roadster type and certain types as carriage type, but we often see two horses of similar type and probably of similar breeding that while standing look like a well-matched team, but when in action one shows fairly typical carriage or heavy harness horse action, and the other fairly typical roadster or light harness horse action. In each case action must decide irrespective of type and size. In the saddle class, type will, in most cases, decide, as a typical saddler seldom disappoints us in action. He has action peculiar to his class, rather close to the ground, elastic and springy, not the flash action of the heavy harness horse, nor the speed of the light horse, but an easy, graceful, rather low but safe action at all paces. The combination horse is a medium between the saddler and the heavy harness horse in action, hence he gives reasonable satisfaction in either saddle or heavy harness.

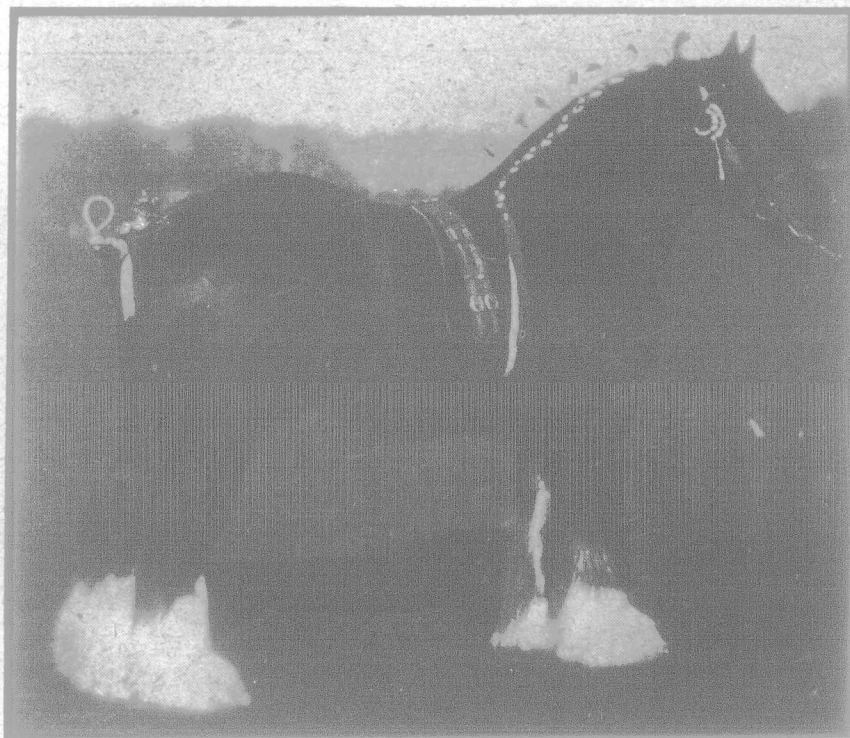
In preparing a horse or a pair for show purposes it is necessary to decide the class, and during the preparation the driver or rider should endeavor to intensify the peculiar characteristics of style and action demanded in the class. The general condition of the horse, as regards flesh and coat, can be acquired by careful feeding and regular grooming, provided he is not ridden or driven enough to keep him low in flesh. Excessively fat horses, even in the heavy classes, do not show as well as those in only moderate flesh. The too-common idea that it is necessary to give drugs to horses in order to properly fit them for show purposes is a mistake, and its practice often harmful. A healthy horse needs no drugs to put him in show condition. A reasonable amount of good hay, oats, bran and a little linseed meal, thorough grooming at least twice daily, and regular exercise, but not sufficient work or exercise to tire him, will soon get him in condition with a good coat and sufficient flesh. During exercise pains should be taken to make him as perfect as possible in the desirable style and action demanded in his class. In the heavy classes, of course, it is important that he be a good walker, and go well at a slow trot, that he backs well, and stands well.

In preparing the heavy harness or carriage horse considerable care should be taken to ascertain the proper weight of shoe, for both fore and hind feet, that he requires to cause him to show in as extreme a degree as possible the intensive flash action desired. In order to do this it is sometimes necessary to change his shoes a few times. The horse that goes high, straight, flash and fast with shoes of ordinary weight is preferable to one that requires a lot of iron to make him go properly, but the function of the trainer is to "make him go right," even if it be necessary to wear heavy shoes. This horse should also be taught to walk well, and he should show the flash action noted when either jogging or going fast, and, of course, the faster he can go the better, provided the quality of action is desirable. Manners in this class are very important, as he is essentially a pleasure horse. He must be taught to back well and stand well, and at all times retain his attractive appearance. The road or light harness horse should also be taught to back, walk, and stand well, and to show as much speed as possible at the trot. He should not wear heavy shoes, neither are boots or toe weights allowable, and he should not show the excessive and flash action of the heavy harness horse; while manners are not so important as in the carriage horse, they always count for considerable in the ring.

Saddlers should be taught to respond readily and promptly to the will of the riders, whether expressed by hands or knees. He must walk, trot, and canter well, and change gaits promptly at the will of the rider.

He must not lug on the bit nor yet appear afraid of it. He must stand well and show good manners. Probably the judge is more annoyed by want of manners in the halter classes than in either harness or saddle classes. This occurs especially in small exhibitions. In many cases, yearlings, two-year-olds, or even three-year-olds, are brought into the ring apparently without having had the slightest education. The animal plainly shows a want of both fitting and training. Conditions indicate that he is not being exhibited with the idea of educating the public, or lending glory to either the exhibitor or the society, but from the fact that the exhibitor has the idea that he can win a little easy money without much trouble or expense. When the judge asks him to lead his entry out to show action, the colt refuses to go, the exhibitor often uses a whip, which usually makes matters worse, and altogether the exhibition of the animal is a poor affair, and inclined to cause the judge to "say things." As a simple matter of fact, the exhibitor who takes an uneducated animal into the show-ring should not be considered in the awarding of prizes, notwithstanding the quality and general characteristics of the animal. It is not uncommon to see an animal of high class type and general characteristics, but very green, and refusing to show what he is capable of doing, beaten by a much inferior animal in a general way, but one that has some manners and has been trained to lead properly. Such circumstances often subject the judge to adverse criticisms, but we do not think that a judge is justified in giving a place to an animal on account of his type and general characteristics indicating that he can perform the functions of his class, but will not. It is necessary that he show the judge his ability to do so, in order that he be entitled to a place above his plainer competitor that performs well.

WHIP.



Marden Dagnum.

Junior champion at the Shire Show, England.

Grade Stallions to be Eliminated.

The Stallion Enrolment and Inspection Act which requires that all stallions be enrolled and come up to a certain standard of quality and that grade stallions shall not stand for service after 1918, has been a good thing for the horse business and has improved the quality of horses raised in many counties. It is rather surprising that in Ontario there were 640 grade stallions in 1917, but this is only about half of the number on the road in 1914, thus showing that they have gradually been replaced with registered stock. There has been considerable opposition from some quarters concerning the enforcing of the Act regarding grade stallions and the question was discussed at a meeting of horse breeders and Agricultural Representatives recently held in Guelph. The general opinion was that the grade stallion must not be permitted to stand for service. It is regrettable that so many owners of mares are so shortsighted, that for the sake of a few dollars they will breed their mares to an inferior horse and then be forced to take from \$50 to \$100 less for the progeny than they could have received had it been sired by a good stallion. The Act may be slightly interfering with certain men's business, but it is to their interest and to the interest of the horse industry. There will, no doubt, be sufficient high quality horses available next spring to replace every grade stallion now on service. Let there be no backing up of the authorities regarding the enforcing of the Act.

The meeting was presided over by Wm. Smith of Columbus, and Dr. Grenside, Peter Christie, W. Richardson, Prof. Toole, C. F. Bailey, W. Jackson, W. Smith and W. J. Bell were among those who spoke on the question. Mr. Bell confined his remarks principally to the formation of horse breeders' clubs. He has had experience in organizing a club and claimed that they have proven to be a splendid help to horsemen in his district. The speaker emphasized the importance of clubs getting a good horse.

LIVE STOCK.

Canadian herds are carrying off a share of the honors on the Western show circuit.

Going in debt to secure a good herd header has started some breeders on the road to success.

At the Shorthorn sale of D. Warnock & Sons, at Loveland, Col., an average of \$1,281 was made on 37 head.

Owing to shortage of shipping, Great Britain is reported to be somewhat behind her schedule of meat shipments to France.

Don't allow the lambs and shearlings to lose in flesh at this season. It will take less grain to keep them up now than it will require to put on the flesh in a couple of months' time.

According to information sent out by the Canada Food Board, the Allies' live stock has been decreased to such an extent as to mean 27.7 per cent. of home resources in meat.

Wool growers of Manitoba have taken advantage of the co-operative marketing plan more this year than in previous years. Upwards of 400,000 pounds of wool will be marketed, as compared with 168,048 pounds marketed in the same manner in 1917.

Prof. Barton, of Macdonald College, Quebec, has tried a number of fly repellents on the College herd, but has not found any of them perfect. However, the absence of the warble fly in the herd is believed to be due to regular spraying of the stock during the fly season.

Thornby Premier, a red roan dairy Shorthorn bull recently sold in England for 2,000 guineas. His sire is Drusus, tracing back to Darlington Cranford 5th and that great cow Dorothy. He is out of Dolphinlee Primrose, a cow which produced 10,238 pounds of milk in her first lactation.

While the brood sows will keep in good breeding condition on fresh clover they require a little grain if the pasture becomes parched or scarce. Strong, thrifty litters will not be produced if the sows are failing in flesh towards the latter part of the gestation period.

It is reported that Denmark's stock of swine has been reduced from 2,500,000 head at the beginning of the war to 400,000 head at the present time. In normal times Denmark was a heavy exporter of bacon to England. Her depletion of stock gives Canada an excellent opportunity to increase her exports to Great Britain.

Train and Condition the Stock for the Fall Show.

It is impossible to properly fit and train an animal in a week or even a month so that it will appear to good advantage in the show-ring. Lack of fitting and training certainly shows stock at a disadvantage. The big breeders whose stock are in the limelight to-day commenced years ago to prepare their animals for the shows. By this we mean that they selected the foundation stock that would make a good impression in the show-ring and that should produce progeny worthy of winning the red and the blue in the keenest of competition. It is necessary that good breeding be behind the show herd if a favorable impression is to be made. Breed type and character are desired in every animal, and to get these the breeder must use judgment in choosing the sire to mate with the females of his herd. Size, substance and quality are also kept in mind by the breeder when selecting his show stock. At the large fairs the stuff is brought out in the pink of condition and is usually well trained. Such is not the case at some of the local fairs, where too many of the animals are only in field condition. The show-ring, to a large extent, sets the standard for type, and it is regrettable that at the smaller fairs such a low standard is so often set. It is an offence against the public who attend the fairs to have the stock brought out as it sometimes is, and it is rather humiliating to the breeder to have high-quality animals and yet lose the coveted prize because he neglected to look after the details in fitting his stock. While preparation for the show-ring should have commenced many months ago, there is yet time to make a marked improvement on the animals to be shown. After selecting the animals to go into competition, the breeder should exercise his ability in fitting and training those animals. It may cost a little in extra feed to put them in show-ring condition, but it will pay, and a few hours spent in leading the animals and getting them to stand just right will be time well employed.

Exhibiting stock at either the small or large show is an education. It permits breeders to compare their animals with entries from other herds. It gives them an opportunity to see more clearly the weak and strong points in their own animals, and so aids them in making improvement for the following year. It very often happens that the weak points in an animal do not show prominently until brought alongside of other stock. Every young man might advisedly look up the prize

REPEATED