

Good Crops—Good Stock.

The opportunity is about to be afforded the farmer to improve the general average of his cattle stock, or to add to the number of those already on hand. The cattle business has had a period of adversity in western Canada, in spite of the fact that the trade has been active and prices high in all other parts of the cattle raising world. That the situation is improving is felt by most breeders familiar with the trade, as the past winter has witnessed considerable business on the part of the breeders and the general demand for sale catalogues is a present indication of reviving interest. The better conditions are due, not to the extensive embarkation of a few into the pure bred cattle business, but to a general movement among the farming community to secure better stock. The movement is healthy and bears evidence of permanency.

There are several reasons why extensive cattle-raising will not be popular over the greater portion of the country for a few years yet, but at the same time people seem to realize that to be insured against the possible curtailment of revenue they must keep some cattle and there is a growing preference for the best types. Men realize that in the best classes of blooded stock they have a valuable asset, they have something in which they can take a pride, something with which they can test and exercise their intuitive ability, and above all, for utility in the final test, they have a class of stock that most economically performs the functions for which they are kept. Good crops have largely been responsible for this revival in the cattle business, for owing to them, farmers have become able to indulge their preference for stock, the first cost of which is somewhat above the average.

That good crops and good cattle should not be disassociated seems to be the growing impression, and we look for pronounced evidences of this policy at the forthcoming sales.

Should Allow Perfect Freedom to Insurance Against Hail.

The question of hail insurance crops up annually at this time of year and the advocates of state aided insurance bob up serenely with renewed energy.

The state ownership of public utilities is pretty well accepted now-a-days as the correct idea; on the question of the operation of such utilities opinions are divided; briefly, we believe in state ownership and control, but not necessarily in state operation.

Hail insurance, however, is outside the pale of the above, and should not be considered in the same light, it is not a public utility, as such is usually understood, neither is it confined to one company or one system. Some people complain they were not paid their losses last year; if so, why not patronize another company? Because one bank fails, it does not follow that other banks are unsafe to deposit savings in; not at all. The fact of the matter is, too many people are inclined to let the state do everything for them; that fine old spirit of independence so stimulating to initiative is dwindling away, fostered by some shrewd politicians, who care not one tittle for the people but who are out for what they can make.

We quote from a letter in our hands regarding state aided hail insurance: "The figures show that your informant was in error in thinking that there has ever been a surplus in the hands of the government in connection with this business. In the year 1902, there was a deficit of \$9,722.95; in 1903 another of \$1,755.04, making a total deficit for the two years of \$11,477.99. In 1905, the deficit approximates \$37,000; in 1904 the balance was the other way, but for the four years the net deficit was just about \$30,000." This journal has always been of the opinion that each man should have perfect freedom to insure his crop with whom, or how he pleases, consequently we are not in accord with the suggestion that companies, either joint stock or farmer's associations, should be debarred from doing business in the new provinces.

If you take a scholar and a gentleman and make him do the work of a nursemaid for the wages of a bricklayer's labor coupled with the treatment of a dog, you then get that finished product of civilization, the assistant master at an English private school.—Barry Pain in the *Tattler*.

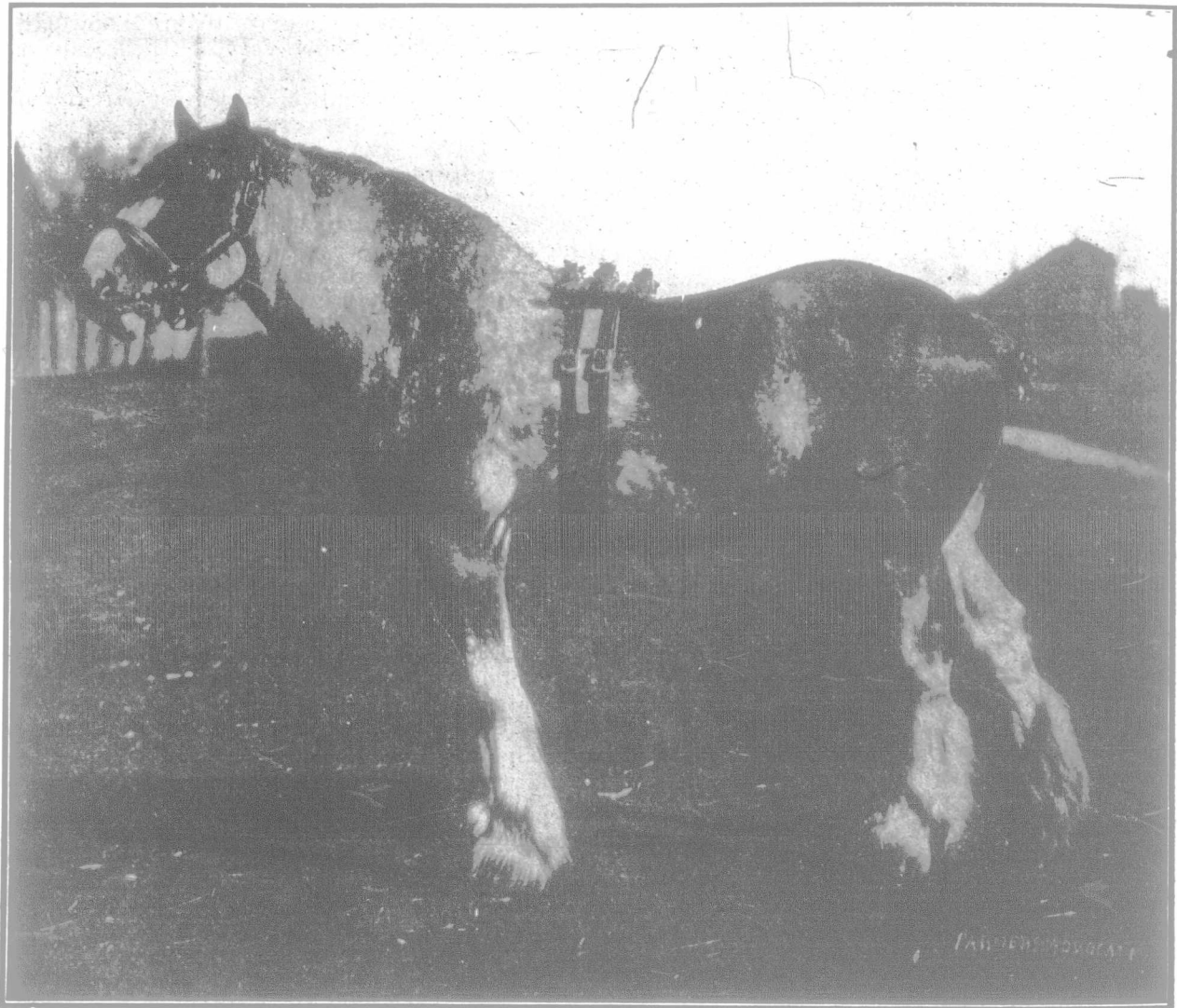
HORSE

The Hackney in England and Elsewhere.

PART 4.

Some writers have contended that it is the harness properties that have brought the modern Hackney to whatever popularity it enjoys to-day. Here, again, I join issue with those knights of the pen. A few years ago the parent society instituted classes for Hackneys in saddle, and until a few years back five sixths of the South-Country shows had similar classes. But, of late, another element has crept in, and to-day in the South, and in the London show schedule, classes for Hackneys shown in saddle are conspicuous only by their absence, whilst in the North of England those same classes are made quite one of the leading features of the shows. Some societies in the North go to the length of giving the highest prize money of any in the exhibition to such classes, i.e. for Hackneys in saddle, and I may add these draw, not only excellent entries both for breed and quality, but also command the closest attention on the part of the visiting public.

the larger North of England shows where correctly bred typical Hackneys are shown in saddle, e. g. Otley, the Great Yorkshire, Malton, Driffield, or any of the East Riding exhibitions, and if he is a riding man himself, let him get up and try any of the prize winners, and he will soon be satisfied that the true bred North of England Hackney, in his original home, is unquestionably a riding, as well as a driving horse, and that his shoulders are better laid, and finer, than many a Thoroughbred, whilst his head, neck, and outlook, are all that can be desired, giving plenty of length and reach in front of the saddle, and powerful quarters behind it, as distinguished from the goose rumped commodity frequently met with at South Country exhibitions. It must stand to reason that if the Hackney, as a harness horse, possesses a special value, that same animal, if he answers the purposes of saddle also, must command a double monetary worth. In breeding, the first principle to be ingrained is that the best pay the best. Unless both sire and dam answer all requirements of a typical Hackney, it is folly, and waste of money, but given these essentials, there is no better paying or more fascinating pursuit, in any department of stock-breeding. Upon this question of breeding, I am most thoroughly convinced that after all my years of experience the acquisition of a good



MASQUERADER, (IMP.) VOL. 28, ROAN, FOALED 1900, BRED BY MATTHEW MARSHALL, BRIDGEBANK, STRANRAER, SCOTLAND.

Sire, Hiawatha (10067), dam Merry Thought Vol. 22, by Wm. the Conqueror (9093)
One of John Graham's importations, now for sale. A very close relation of the great Clydesdale, Marcellas.

So much for what has been alleged to be the unpopularity of Hackneys in saddle amongst the original breeders and their continued patrons. The Great Yorkshire, the Royal Lancashire, the Cardiff, the Birkenhead, Peterborough, and all the most popular, largest, and best managed shows, give handsome prizes for Hackneys in saddle, but the London Hackney Show, being in a large measure controlled by Southerners, now omits saddle classes in toto, notwithstanding the fact that the show was founded as a breeders show. I quite admit that the heavy crested, straight shouldered, thick withered Hackney one sees a lot of, in harness in the South Country shows, is not an ideal saddle horse, but on the other hand, the riding shoulders, easy ride in saddle, and the finest possible action in one and the same animal can be, and is produced, in the North of England, and for such, very high prices are always paid. If any readers of this article do not follow or appreciate the question of the Hackney as a riding horse, I would suggest that should any of them be in this country during the coming summer, let him attend one or more of

dam is the first consideration, and an absolute essential and has, I maintain, more to do with the ultimate produce than has the selected sire. I would sooner use a moderate Hackney stallion upon a first rate Hackney mare, than the best Hackney stallion the kingdom can produce upon a moderate mare, and I should expect better results. I know many persons hold adverse theories, but I believe them to be absolutely erroneous. I have seen men over and over again paying a high service fee for a pure bred Hackney stallion to use upon an animal whose lineage would probably be unworthy of a cockle cart; and yet they expect to breed, as a result, Hackneys—not shrimps. This opinion is based upon experience, and practical tests extending over nearly twenty years.

Type, action and lineage are the three essentials of both sire and dam to be considered. As to type, this has altered very considerably, even in the last ten years to the manifest advantage, and improvement of the breed. As to the dam, things to be avoided as much as the devil avoids holy water, are the short heavy-crested neck,

the thick steep quarter hocks, the spreading side avoid never use plenty of and seen, fee of as practically and you ha these I wo ten pound Just the sa nents. W with a heifo unknown Registratio sine qua n animals mu bring about blood.

These q carried ou studied line a delusion. my friend has owned in England.

STORM

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It may sa have a clear owner now.

Western t to attend t some of th think that the range of understand parison, and