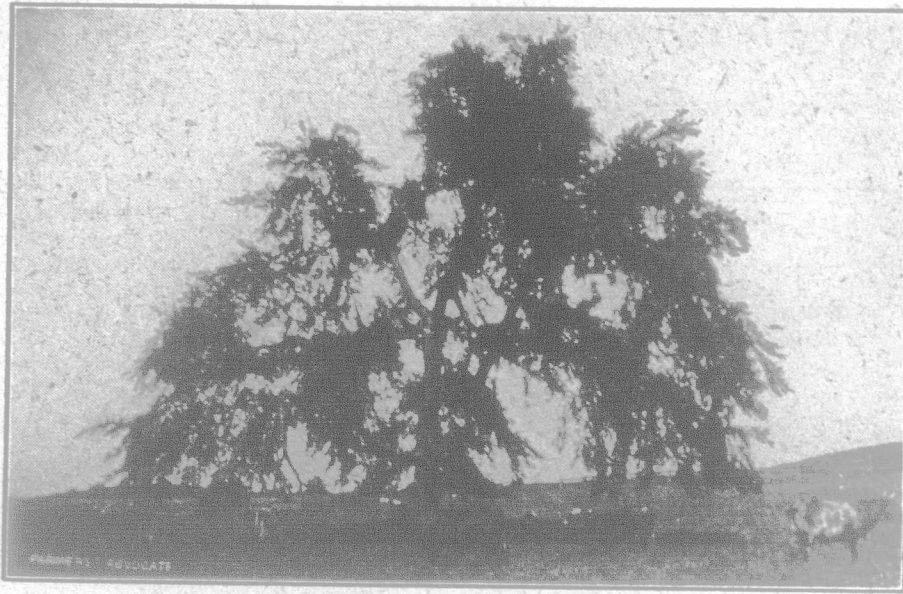


THE HORSE.

How to Show Horses.

The exhibition of high-class horses at high-class shows is practically a business in itself, and in most cases is conducted by those who thoroughly understand the game, hence to the exhibitors of this class we do not presume to dictate, as they are better posted on "the tricks of the trade" than we are, but a few hints to the ordinary horse owner, farmer or farmer's boy who exhibits only at small fairs may be seasonable. It would probably have been more correct to have entitled this article "How to Prepare Horses for Show Purposes." The showing of a horse is a comparatively easy matter if he has been properly prepared. Horses of all classes should receive sufficient education before being taken into the show-ring to enable them to perform the functions demanded from animals of their class in such a manner as to reflect credit upon themselves and their attendants. The exhibitor should always remember that the show-ring is not the place to train or educate his animal, whether he be shown in hand, in harness, or under saddle. Good manners on the part of both horse and exhibitor are necessary for success. The judge knows, (or is supposed to know) how a horse of any class should act on the halter, in harness or under saddle, and, other things being equal, the animal that most nearly comes up to his ideal in this respect is the one that will win the best place. Unfortunately, there is often seen an evident want of training or education of any kind, and this is especially noticed in the classes of young horses shown on the halter. Many exhibitors evidently think that so long as their colts can be taken into the ring in any way it is all right, and nothing further should be asked for. They are not taught to even stand to allow the judge to look them over carefully, and when the attendant is asked to walk or trot his entry the colt often refuses to move without urging (often rather forcibly) from behind, or will commence to rear and plunge in all directions, or in some cases will run around in a circle, the extent of which depends upon the length of the lead-rein, but positively refuses to go in a straight line either from or towards the judge at either a walk or a trot. Others go sideways or backwards, while some can with difficulty be induced to move at all. This provokes the judge, aggravates the audience and disappoints the exhibitor, especially in a case where his entry is really a better animal than the better-fitted and better-trained colt that wins. In such cases the judge is often severely criticized, and credited with either incompetency or dishonesty. He knows that the awards have not gone to the animals that, under more favorable conditions, would probably have won, but he is also aware of the fact that some trouble is necessary to fit and train the colt for exhibition, and that each animal must show his action and gaits in order to enable any person to judge correctly of his relative qualities. He should also thoroughly recognize the fact that his judgment of the animals before him must be influenced by what they are at the time, not what they would probably be under different conditions. The general appearance of the unfitted and untrained colt may indicate that if fitted and trained he would be a better individual, and have better action than those he selects for the awards. At the same time the colt is neither fitted nor trained, and he (the judge) also knows that a colt of good conformation, and with all indications of showing good action, is sometimes a great disappointment when moved, and as he is judging entirely by what he sees, not from what he probably would see under different conditions, he is practically compelled to give the prizes to the colts that show what they can do. Then again, the exhibitor who has spent time and money in training and fitting his exhibit so that he may appear at his best before the judge deserves some recognition over him who has taken no pains, trouble or expense to train his colts, often simply bringing them direct from the pasture field to the show ground to win some "easy money." Such an exhibitor takes no pride in his horses, but exhibits simply for the money he may win, and his winnings seldom reflect credit upon either himself or the

exhibition. Even nursing colts should be taught to lead and stand well before being taken into the show-ring. When this is done there is less danger of accident, it gives the judge a much better opportunity to judge correctly, and the animal a much better opportunity to show just how good he is. It will be noticed in this class that the colts that are trained to the halter usually win over those that run loose. In horses of all ages and all classes action is a most important factor, and in order that a judge may be able to correctly judge action he must see the animal go from him and come towards him in a straight line at any gait he may ask for. Hence the person who expects to exhibit colts, or horses of any age on the line, should teach them to go well in this way before taking them to the exhibition. Colts or older animals of the heavy classes should be taught to stand well to attention, allow themselves to be handled, and to walk and trot well. Of course, where convenient it is well to have two or more colts take lessons at the same time, in order to get them accustomed to company, but this is not always expedient, and we notice that the colt that has been taught to perform well when alone seldom



A Tree is an Asset in a Pasture Field.

causes much trouble in company. The too-common practice of teaching a colt to go around in a circle is of no use for show purposes. He should be taught to go straight, at any gait required. Colts of the lighter classes should, of course, be taught to show the peculiarity of action demanded in the class to as great a degree as possible. Especially in the heavy harness or carriage class, shoeing helps action, and it is often noticed that the colts that are properly shod generally win over those that are not shod, even though their general appearance does not indicate that they should.

In fitting and training horses to show in harness or under saddle the same remarks apply as to the necessity of training and fitting before the day of the show, in order that when the animal or animals are taken before the judge in the ring, he or they may be able to



A Shorthorn Steer which Was a Cup Winner at the Last Christmas Fair in England.

show the very best that is in them. In the heavy classes, in either single or double harness, a good walker is essential; hence they should be taught to walk well, go at a slow trot, stand well and back well. Many horses that look well while standing (probably out-look all others in the ring) have such a poor way of going, at all gaits, (in many cases largely due to want of training) that they must be placed behind their competitors.

Proper classification of heavy horses should be carefully observed. There are, of course but two classes, viz., draft and agricultural. The general type and characteristics of the two classes are identical, the difference being only in weight. Some agricultural societies make 1,600 lbs., and others 1,500 lbs., the minimum for a draft horse, and 1,300 or 1,350 lbs. the

minimum for an agricultural horse. The horse of draft type that is below the minimum for the agricultural class has no class for show purposes. He may be a serviceable and valuable animal, but is not "a show horse." Many claim that he is "a general-purpose horse," but this is a mistake. A general-purpose horse is a clean-limbed fellow, reasonably active, that will give reasonable service, and not look particularly out of place hitched to a plow, binder or other farm machine, a heavy wagon with a reasonable load, a carriage, buggy or cart, or under saddle; a horse, we may say of the heavy carriage, heavy road, or heavy saddle type, one that is not good enough to win in good company in the class for which he has been bred, but is good for general work. Under no process of reasoning can an under-sized horse of the draft type be properly called "a general-purpose horse."

In the lighter classes of horses we have the "heavy harness or carriage horse," the "light harness or road horse," the "saddle horse," and "hunter." In high-class shows there are other classes as the runabout, the combination horse, etc., but the classes first mentioned are usually all that are mentioned in the prize-lists of the smaller exhibitions. Proper classification of the light classes is as essential, and often more difficult, than in the heavy classes. In some cases action counts for more than breeding and general conformation in classifying between the heavy harness and the light harness horse. This is particularly noticeable in some standard-breds, which, of course, are by breeding and should by conformation and action be light harness or road horses, but they have the excessive action both fore and rear that is demanded in the heavy harness horse and undesirable in the roadster; hence for show purposes they must go in the carriage class. Some horses have the desirable action of each class to a limited extent, but that of neither marked to an extreme degree, hence the owner is at a loss to know how to classify them. Horses of this kind cannot be expected to win in good company in either class. Hence it is necessary for the prospective exhibitor to study the desirable characteristics, both as regards general conformation and action, of the different classes to enable him to properly classify his horses for show purposes, and then he should endeavor to intensify the action to as great a degree as possible before taking his exhibit to the exhibitions. He must also remember that in these classes manners count for a great deal; this particularly applies to the carriage horse, as he is essentially a pleasure horse. He must have good manners and act well under all conditions. He must stand well, back well, and show flash, high and straight action both fore and rear, and the faster he can go the better, provided he retains the quality of action.

The light harness horse or roadster should also have good manners. He should be a good walker, and when trotting should go straight and reasonably high, but the excessive action of the heavy harness horse is objectionable. He must show his ability to go fast, not necessarily at racing speed, but the faster he can go the better, but must require boots of some kind.

The saddle horse should be largely of the thoroughbred type, with good manners, the gaits required being the walk, trot and canter; all of which should be performed with a light, springy tread, and rather close to the ground, but not low enough to cause danger of stumbling. Many judges now want more flesh and height of action than the thoroughbred shows, but this must not be too well marked.

As regards the hunter, the nearer he approaches the thoroughbred in type and action the better, and in addition he must be able to carry weight according to whether he be a light, middle or heavy weight fellow, and be able and willing to negotiate obstacles of different kinds. He must be able to go fast over practically all kinds of ground, and stay and like other classes have good manners. A saddler or hunter should promptly obey the wishes of his rider, whether they be expressed by word, heels, knees or reins, and no horse of any class should bear too heavily on the reins, but at the same time go with a reasonably tight rein.

In a few words, the prospective exhibitor should know what is required in horses of different classes, and should teach them to perform the functions of their class in the highest possible degree, and when in the show-ring avoid getting them rattled or excited, in order that they may perform as they have been taught.

WHIP.

Replacing the Grade Stallion.

Some concern is being felt for certain districts of Ontario where the elimination of the grade stallion may interfere with breeding next spring. Grade stallions have been more numerous in a few sections of Ontario than elsewhere, and these districts will probably suffer a dearth of horses during the coming breeding seasons if something is not done to relieve the situation. The Horse Breeders' Association and the Live Stock Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, are attempting to obtain information regarding stallions for sale anywhere in Ontario, and in the near future owners will be circularized asking them to submit information concerning pure-bred stallions they may have for sale. These will be catalogued and the list made available to the public and prospective purchasers. Time is passing and the Secretary of the Horse Breeders' Association is anxious to get an early reply to these enquiries in order that arrangement can be made for seasonable and adequate distribution of the horses which may change hands. The replies returned will place the owner of a stallion under no obligations, neither does the Association guarantee to sell the horses. This step is taken only that districts requiring suitable stallions may find out where to obtain them. Plans, however, are under consideration which may lead to some scheme that will bring buyer and seller closer together.