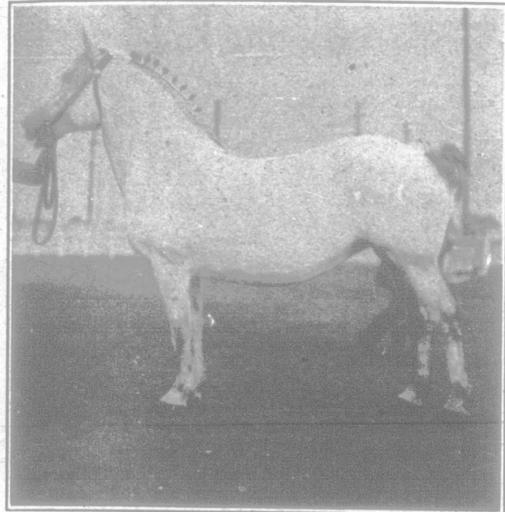


THE HORSE.

The Clydesdale Judging at Toronto.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In your report of the Clydesdales at the Canadian National, in your issue of September 11th, you used these words: "The Clydesdale Association have got some housecleaning to do around the Toronto showing, and the sooner they do it the better for the breed." I am at a loss to know just what is meant by this statement. If it is inferred that the Clydesdale Associa-



Jourdine.

Champion Percheron mare at Toronto for H.C. Seldon, Hensall, Ont.

tion has the power to control the judges or the judging at the Toronto Fair or any other fair for that matter, I must take strong exception to it. The Clydesdale Association has no such power, nor has it ever claimed to have such power. The Association makes an annual grant to the Canadian National just as it does to twenty other fairs and exhibitions in Canada. In making these grants the only condition imposed upon the exhibitions receiving them, is that all animals winning the Association's specials must be recorded in the name of the exhibitor at the time of the exhibitions, or as in the case of the heavy harness specials, the animals must be sired by a registered Clydesdale stallion.

In the matter of selecting judges, the Association makes no recommendation, unless by special request from the exhibitor or fair. In the case of the Canadian National in 1919 no request came from the Manager of the Exhibition, and consequently no judges were recommended, other than those contained in the general list sent to all exhibitions and fairs receiving grants. This general list of judges is selected by the Board of Directors, which comprises representatives from the various Provinces in Canada, at the time of the annual meeting held in February of each year.

The list of judges for 1919 comprised sixty-six names, made up as follows: British Columbia, four; Alberta, seven; Saskatchewan, eight; Manitoba, twelve; Ontario, twenty-six; Quebec, five, and Maritime Provinces, four. This general list is sent to the fairs and exhibitions receiving grants and medals as a guide to them in selecting judges in the Clydesdale classes, and I might add that the names of the judges who officiated in the Clydesdale sections at Toronto this year were included in this list, and I presume, therefore, that the Manager of the Canadian National, or the Committee that selects the judges, utilized the list recommended by the Clydesdale Association in making the selection.

I might say in conclusion that only one special request has come before the Executive this year to name judges for any particular fair, and I might add further, that the judges so recommended were not those finally selected by this particular fair, but that two other names from the general list submitted were chosen by the management instead.

I trust I have not trespassed unduly upon your valuable space in my effort to place before your readers the exact relation the Clydesdale Association bears to the fairs and exhibitions receiving grants. I have, I think, made it clear that the Association has no control over the methods used by fair managers in selecting judges or in conducting their exhibitions.

J. W. WHEATON.

Secretary, Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada.

NOTE.—We fear Mr. Wheaton has read into our report of the Clydesdale judging at Toronto a criticism of the judges' work on that occasion. We had no desire to criticise the judging any more than is common in fair reporting when differences of opinion always exist, and are mentioned in the comment made in the columns of this paper. What we did regret is the impression abroad, and it is no doubt the outcome of past decisions, that one particular exhibitor is a favorite in the Toronto show-ring. The trouble is that when a decision is made that does not meet with popular approval, favoritism is charged against the judges who may be perfectly sincere and conscientious in their judgment.

We furthermore made it plain that much of the dissatisfaction fades away over night, but the impression still exists that the exhibitors mentioned must win. We are aware of the fact that the Clydesdale Association does not run the Canadian National Exhibition, but they have the power, surely, to withhold grants if the Clydesdale judging is not conducted in a manner suitable to the Association. For the sake of the judges who are asked to officiate at Toronto we thought something should be done to clear away the bad impression that has existed for years and which is uppermost in the minds of all when the little differences of opinion, peculiar to any show-ring, arise. As guardian of the breed's interest we were, and still are, of the opinion that the Clydesdale Association should make it their business to see that the Canadian National Exhibition conducts the Clydesdale competition under more happy circumstances.—EDITOR.

LIVE STOCK.

There will be no lamentations when the last scrub bull has been removed from Canadian herds.

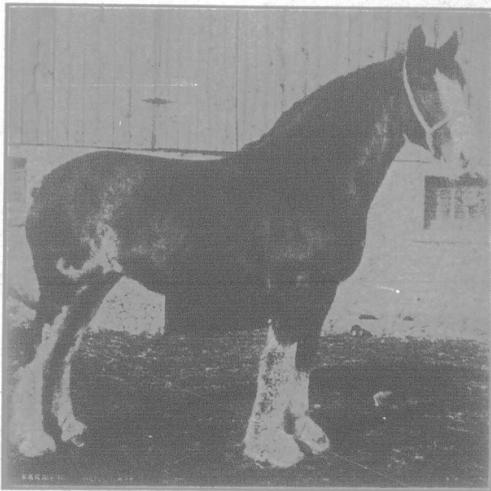
A flock header with a weak constitution is likely to leave that weakness on his progeny resulting in heavy mortality in the flock.

When leading the bull to water or service keep an eye on him no matter how quiet he may appear. It is in the unguarded moment that he is most likely to strike.

Praise your own breed of cattle all you like but don't knock your neighbors breed. There is a place for each breed of cattle. There are good and bad representatives of all breeds.

The summer silo has helped many stockmen to bring their stock through the drought period in good condition. It is not too early to plan on the acreage for next year's corn crop and to consider erecting an extra silo.

The efficiency of the hog is determined by his ability to make a maximum gain on the minimum amount of feed. To do this the young pig must be kept thrifty and suffer no set-back through improper feed or feeding.



Manilla.

Four times winner of the brood mare class at Ottawa for B. Rothwell.

It is a mistake to market unfinished hogs even if the market does appear a little weak. The feeder who markets his stock at near the required weight and finish is usually better off in the end than his neighbor who sells light weights.

Unless stockers reach a lower market level there will be no rush to buy them for winter feeding. In many districts grain and corn and straw roughage are scarce, and few care to risk buying feeders on a high market when the market for finished stuff is uncertain.

It will be some months and probably years before live stock and farm produce markets again become stabilized. In the meantime we can only guess as to how low prices will go this coming winter. That they will lower is generally recognized, but the farmers business is to carry on.

The path of the stockfeeder is by no means strewn with roses. The market for finished cattle is not commensurate with the price paid for stockers last spring. With the high price of feed many are dubious about buying stockers this fall. We are still living in abnormal times. Consumers cannot reasonably expect cheap living and high wages. The law of supply and demand if not tampered with adjusts prices as satisfactorily as can be expected.

The Choice of a Ram.

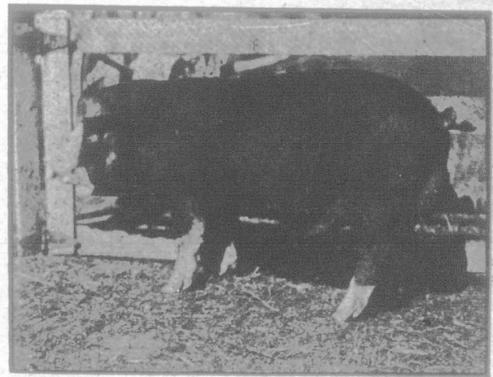
Assuming that the ram is half the flock, the necessity for purchasing a good ram is still further emphasized by the fact that as a general rule only the best beget the best, and that good ewes deserve a good mate. The higher up in the scale of perfection which one's flock has reached, the more difficult it is to purchase stud rams which satisfy the skilled breeder. Going round the sheep pens at the Royal Show at Cardiff brought out this fact very plainly to the writer. Meeting a well-known sheepbreeder whose stock had practically won all they could the problem of stud rams came under discussion, and the following short summary of his remarks shows how careful our best breeders are. He said, "I want a ram, but he must be as near perfection as possible, and I am prepared to pay practically any price that may be asked. I have carefully examined every likely sheep exhibited here, and there is not one which catches my eye." Yet this did not by any means signify that there were no good rams on exhibition, but that the breeder, possessing an almost perfect flock, wanted to get other blood than his own, but any ram to qualify must not introduce anything which would spoil the standard already achieved.

Those who err most of all in the choosing of a ram are generally the ones possessed of a nondescript flock. The spirit of "anything is good enough for my ewes" is far too prevalent, especially in cross-breeding flocks, and it must be admitted as being entirely out of date. The temptation to use a ram because it is cheap is one to be guarded against, and to attend some of our ram sales soon convinces one that pedigree breeders are often at fault in putting these cheap rams on the market. And it must be confessed that very often they do harm to themselves in the long run, especially in the opinions of careful breeders. The black sheep in the flock is the first one to be noticed, so also is a bad ram amongst a pen of fairly decent ones likely to throw discredit on the whole consignment. The same holds good in pedigree cattle-breeding spheres, and some bulls are placed on the market which would never make good steers, let alone trying to propagate their own species. And if breeders but knew the extent to which such animals are held up to ridicule, if they valued their good name, they would be very careful what they put on the market for stud purposes. And there are not a few who require to learn this lesson.

Whatever the nature of the flock, pedigree or commercial, one cannot use a ram which is too good, and within reasonable limits money spent on a good ram will be more than repaid through the increased value of the progeny. Last autumn the writer required two ram lambs, and visited the flock of a leading breeder, and, asking the price of two which he had picked out, the reply was 15 gs. each. The writer, thinking that two lambs at that price was rather a lot for ordinary breeding purposes, set out to find a cheaper ram, and finally got one for 10 gs. But the difference between the lambs got by the 15 gs. ram and the 10 gs. ram was remarkable. They were each used on to fifty ewes, and even at lambing time it was by no means difficult to distinguish the lambs by the two sires. This has been maintained all along, and the extra money received for the wether lambs has justified the purchase of a good ram, besides which the ewe lamb progeny are much superior.

If one possesses a pedigree flock of good breeding, it is equally important to be careful in the choice of sires. But blood is not everything, though in breeds where fashion undoubtedly enters into consideration there is no doubt that to reap rewards it is necessary to cater for the particular fashion especially in ram-breeding flocks. Often fashion amounts to a straight road to ruin so far as the breed is concerned. On the one hand it will be argued that distinctive features and type must be maintained, but more often than not the attainment of this has no good influence on the commercial qualities of a breed. The sooner pedigree flockmasters recognize that sheep were created for the production of wool and mutton the better will it be for most of the breeds we possess. Competition between breeds is becoming more and more marked, and to hold its own in the commercial markets commercial qualities must be the first consideration. Therefore it is to every breeder's advantage only to use those sires which will improve his own flock and enable his ram lamb progeny to meet with a ready market.

It is very difficult indeed to lay down a hard and fast rule as to the type of ram which should be used,



Poland-China Boar.

Champion at London for G. G. Gould, Essex.