

CLYDESDALE JUDGING AT TORONTO.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

I have read with interest and, I must confess, a good deal of surprise, your criticisms on Mr. Jas. Weir's awards in the different classes of Clydesdales at the Canadian National Exhibition. You seem to think that the judge should follow the same stamp of horses right through, no matter whether they are set on a right foundation or not. A Clydesdale may be as round as a barrel (as you say), and have a fine arched neck, but than won't please an Old Country judge. Why not begin at the foundation? A Clydesdale, to begin with, must be right on the ground; he must have good open feet and well-sprung pasterns, otherwise he will be like the house built on the sand—he will not stand the everyday tear and wear of work. You are most severe upon Mr. Weir on his award of the male championship. I am quite sure that if Sir Marcus and Landsdowne were put up to public auction to-day in the Old Country, public opinion would most emphatically support Mr. Weir's award.

I have known Mr. Weir for a lifetime. He has acted as a judge of Clydesdales for at least thirty years, and to-day his services as a judge are in such requisition at the different shows that he is quite unable to accept them. This of itself is proof-positive that the breeders have implicit confidence in him as a judge.

Mr. Weir did not come to Canada to judge the exhibitors at the Toronto Exhibition; he came to give his awards to the various Clydesdales placed before him, and I am proud to think that my old friend has as much Scotch pluck within him as to give his awards according to his judgment, irrespective of anonymous letters or of your so-called adverse criticisms from the grand-stand.

I am quite sure I am expressing the sentiments of the exhibitors at Toronto, and also of all the breeders and lovers of Clydesdales in the Old Country, when I say, "Long may Mr. Weir continue to be in the future, as he has so worthily been in the past, a breeder and judge of our favorite Clydesdale."

Brant Co., Ont.

WEANING FOALS.

Foals, as a rule, had better be weaned at five to six months old. They should be used to being kept in a box stall with the dam part of each day for some time before weaning, and, while the mare is tied, some chopped oats and bran kept in a box or manger for the foal to nibble at. If the mare is needed for work, she may be returned to the foal twice or three times a day, and then less frequently each day, thus drying her gradually, or, as some prefer, the foal may be weaned by taking it away from its dam at once, for good and all, provided it has previously learned to eat and drink, in which case the mare should be kept far enough away to prevent her hearing the foal call, and milked twice a day at first, and later once a day, to avoid trouble from mam-

continued through the winter, the amount of grain and other feed being gradually increased as the foal grows older. Attention should be given to his hoofs, which will be liable to grow long and unshapely unless trimmed and rasped occasionally to keep them in good shape.

LIVE STOCK.

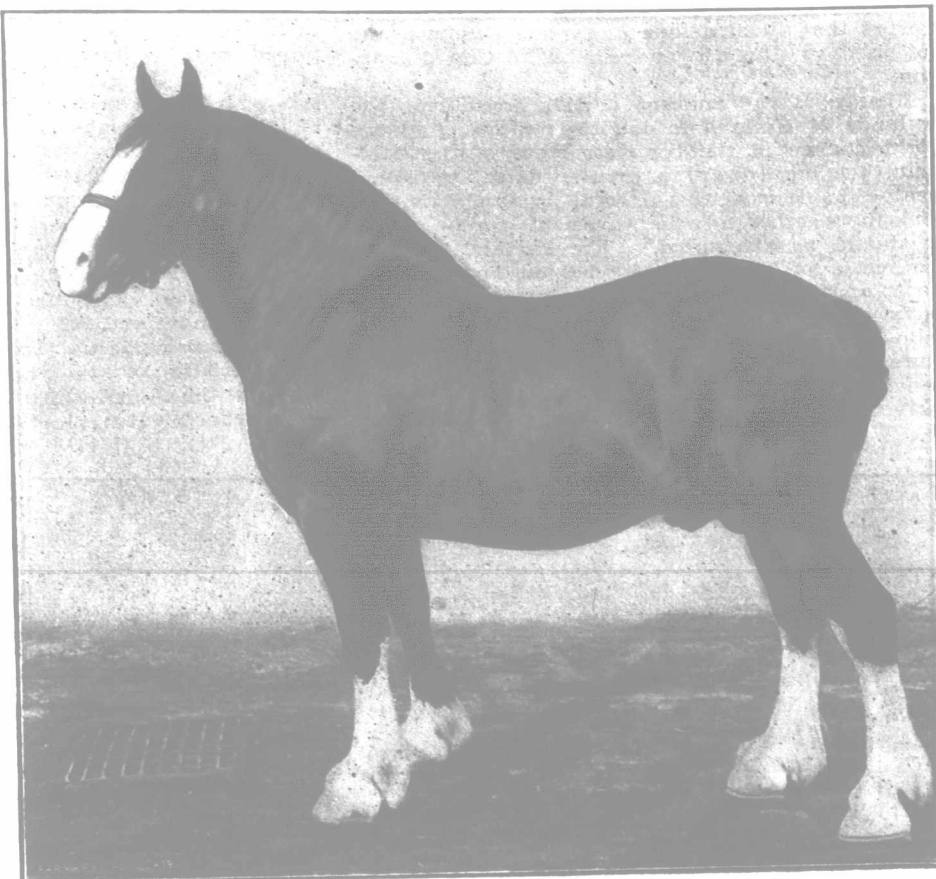
SPECIALLY-TRAINED JUDGES.

Ontario Farmers' Institute representatives have decided that something should be done to guarantee satisfactory judges at the live-stock exhibitions. The something is said to be an examination for those who feel qualified to act in that capacity, the test to be conducted by Professor Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College. Will such an examination render aspirants capable of passing judgment that will meet with the approval of even the majority of exhibitors, or of those who are interested in the placing of the ribbons? That it would be a move in the right direction, seems probable. The more training under expert tutelage, and the greater uniformity resulting in show-ring awards, the better for all concerned. But before reasonable satisfaction can be guaranteed, this uniformity of ideal and type must go beyond the men who pass judgment on the entries. The breeders must be acquainted with the breed characteristics and the particular type of the breed that is considered by expert judges to be best suited to conditions, and to the objects for which the animals are reared. Ideals arrived at, the next thing is to reproduce them in the living animal, and this is a perennial problem that taxes the most skillful conjurer with types. Until uniformity of type in the different breeds of the various classes of stock is agreed upon, difference of opinion is bound to exist at stock shows; and even when all breeders and exhibitors have common ideals, there will be room for difference of opinion in rating the candidates that approximate it.

It must be recognized, too, that absolute adherence to an arbitrary standard on the part of all its breeders might hamper the cause of stock improvement. Who knows, peradventure, just what is the best type for a purpose? Many a stock-breeder who departed from orthodox standards has proven a true friend of his breed by demonstrating a type of greater value and usefulness. Out of the chaos of conflicting opinions our highest ideals gradually evolve. However, it is well for every judge and breeder to be fully cognizant of what is the latest and best to date. And in this regard there is admittedly room for further improvement.

One breeder of Clydesdale horses selects the strong, rugged type, while a neighbor decides that the finer-boned, compact horse is the best; one Shorthorn man claims that the massive animal that develops into the greatest number of pounds of beef in the shortest time is the one he wants, while his brother breeder desires a strong beef type, with fairly-developed milking propensities; an enthusiast with Yorkshire hogs agrees that, to be in the front ranks, he must select the bacon type, but his fellow breeder chooses a type that he considers develops more rapidly, and makes greater returns in dollars and cents for the food consumed. Under such conditions, how can a judge please the mass? As a rule, the awards made by a recognized, competent judge are accepted by exhibitors without protest, but not infrequently the discussion at the ringside shows the trend of feeling among the prominent breeders, who, perhaps, know as much about the classes in question as the judge does.

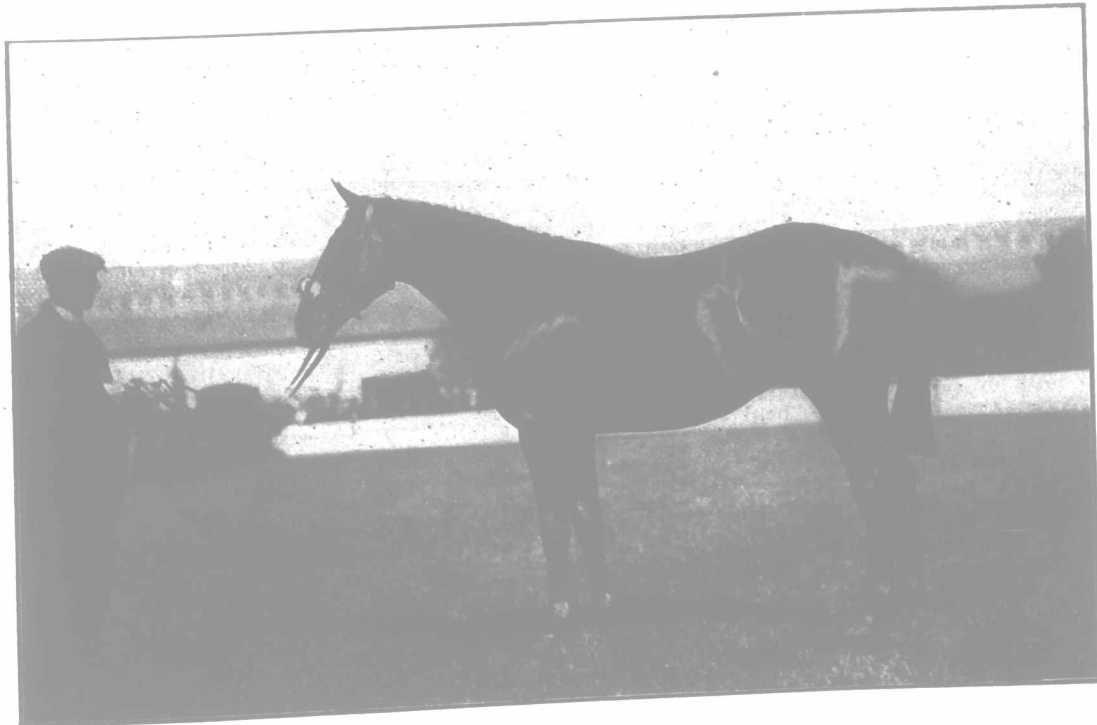
By all means train the judges, and if need be, have them stand examination. But, in addition, nothing must be left undone that will result in the development of greater uniformity of type among the breeders. To this end, agricultural colleges lend their best services not only in training regular students, but also those who attend the winter short courses in judging. To this end, the exhibitions themselves have contributed immensely, as is apparent to those who have watched for a generation or so the gradual approach towards uniformity in type. Exhibitions, however, are not perfect, being but human institutions, and it is unreasonable to expect that expert judging will be secured at all the local exhibitions in the countryside; but, in the main, steady progress in judicial knowledge and efficiency is registered from year to year. If an examination of judges will do anything to promote that improvement, well and good. The examination, if adopted, however, should be but the conclusion of a special course of training.



Sir Marcus [7790] (imp.).

Clydesdale stallion; bay; foaled 1903. Grand champion, Toronto and Chicago, 1907; first at Toronto, and champion at Western Fair, London, 1908. Imported and owned by Graham-Renfrew Co., Ltd., Bedford Park, Ont. Sire, Sir Simon, by Sir Everard.

mitis, till she is sufficiently dry to be safe. If there are two foals on the farm to be weaned, it is better to keep them together for company, as one is likely to worry from loneliness. After the fly season is over, it is good practice to allow the foal the run of a yard or paddock daily for exercise, and it should be fed regularly a fairly liberal ration of a mixture of chopped oats and bran, and, if available, a carrot or two, in addition to what good sweet clover hay it will clean up between meals. This treatment should be



Redshank.

Champion Hunter, Dublin Horse Show, 1908.