

THE HORSE.

Study type at the ringside.

If at first you do not win, try again.

A fall colt may be valuable next year. Late October is a good time to breed the mare.

Study action in the drafter. Upon the way the horses go hinges the award in many classes.

There is more honor in breeding and fitting prize-winners than in purchasing "ready-made" champions.

Do not over feed the colt. Too much fat is often more injurious than not enough, and above all do not forget exercise.

Do not grumble if your horse does not lead his class. The other fellow also thinks he has the best horse in the world.

The war has kept some good horses away from Canadian exhibitions this year. Those importers who landed early in the season are congratulating themselves.

Decorations do not make the horse, but good grooming and a little fixing up so that the horse is "well brought out" go a long way in appearance before a judge.

The successful winner generally combines size, substance and quality. It is not enough that a horse should be large, he must also have the kind of bone and feet that wear well.

The real value of a strong show of horses is the stimulus it gives horse breeding through educating the people to the kind of horse desired, and giving them the incentive to return home and breed that class of horse.

The European war may cause a shortage of imported horses for some time. If it goes on for some time thousands of good horses will be killed or rendered almost valueless, and the Governments of European countries may place an embargo on the export of breeding animals for a time.

The Horse Judge in the Show-ring.

The horse judge in the show-ring has many opportunities for studying human nature, and he is often astonished to discover, that (even among horsemen) there are many exhibitors who cannot be called "sports." Someone may ask, "what do you mean by 'sports'?" By a "sport" we mean a person, man, woman or child, who plays the game, plays to win but plays fair; who is anxious that the best horse may win, regardless of ownership, and who is a good loser. Any person can be a good winner, but it requires a "sport" to be a good loser. Making reasonable allowance for the fact that an exhibitor can see more good points about his own entry than either the judge or those at the ringside can, and when comparing his entry with the others is naturally somewhat prejudiced, we cannot help but notice that in many cases he cannot fail to realize that his horse is not good enough to win, and at the same time he tries to make himself believe that he should win and he wants to win, notwithstanding the fact that he knows he is out-classed by others. If from any cause, either by incompetence, favoritism or failure on the part of the judge to carefully compare the merits of the entries he should win, he is highly pleased, and tries to make himself believe that he has a better horse than he thought he had. He is a "good winner."

Probably the next week he is again exhibiting in the same company, but before a different judge, who is more careful in comparing the merits of the entries, and he places the previous winner down in the list, or probably does not place him at all. They are placed about as this exhibitor really thinks they should be (provided he is really a horseman), but he won in the same company last week and thinks he should win again. He looks sour at the judge, mumbles something unintelligible, in some cases tells the judge what he thinks about his judgment; in some cases refuses a second or third prize ribbon, and at all events is quite anxious to let his friends outside the ring know that he has been given a "raw deal." He is a poor loser, hence not a "sport."

Even when an exhibitor gets less in the ring than he deserves, if he is a "sport" he will try to look pleasant, and at all events pass no un-

complimentary remarks in the presence of the judge or other officials. He is a "good loser." If this failure on the part of the judge to realize in the proper manner, the merits of his entries continues in other classes, the exhibitor is justified in withdrawing his entries or refusing to exhibit further before that judge, as he may rightly conclude that for some reason he is not getting a "square deal," but he is too much of a "sport" to make a public demonstration of his feelings in the matter.

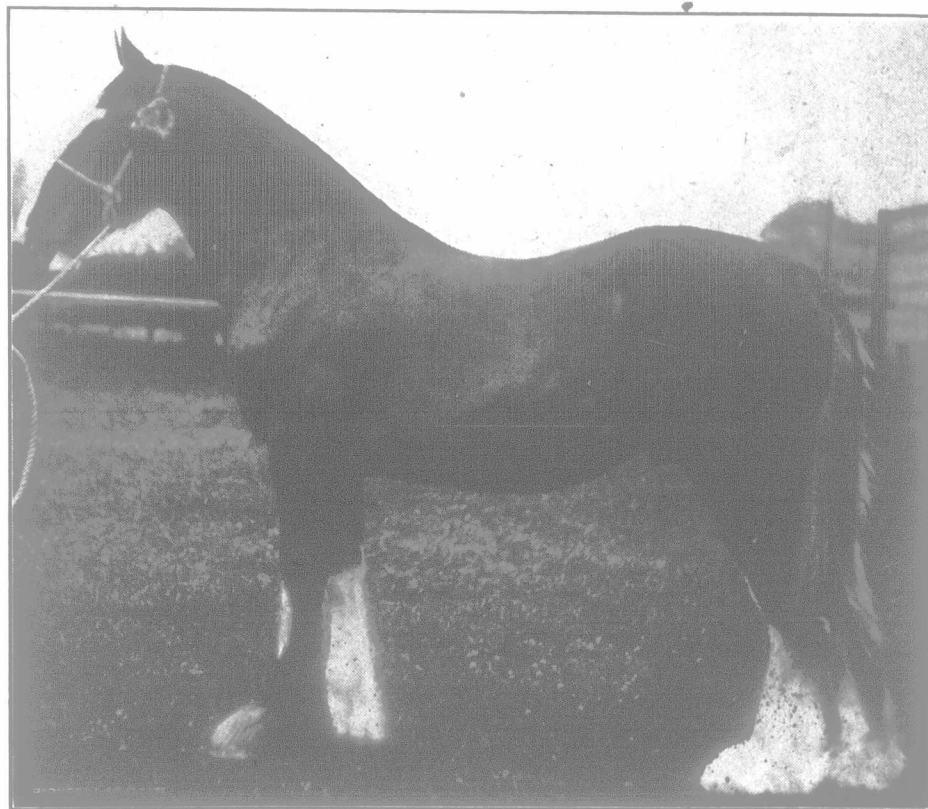
Horses in the show-ring, like men in all classes of sport, have their "on days" when they look well and act well, and their "off days" when they neither feel look nor act well. A high-class horse that may have won at a series of shows in high-class company, may be competing some day with entries of lower class, and on account of it being his "off day" be rightly beaten by an animal that he could win over when feeling and acting at his best. Under such circumstances the judge is often accused of either incompetence or dishonesty. The exhibitor of the beaten horse cannot properly compare his merits with those of his competitors, and fails to notice that he is not doing himself justice. He thinks that having won over better horses than he is up against on this occasion that he should win again. He thinks that he cannot be fairly beaten. In fact he thinks he should win on reputation if for no other cause, and horsemen at horse shows cannot fail to notice that occasions in which horses do win on "reputation" are not uncommon.

The judge who expects to please the exhibitors, the directors and the spectators has set for himself an impossible task. There will be those in all these classes who will decide that he is not qualified for the job, but he has the satisfaction of knowing that in all cases, no matter what his decisions may be, he has made some one happy and impressed him and his friends with

money that he knows properly belongs to another man.

The show-ring is not without its humor. If an exhibitor should be acquainted with the judge or should have met him on a previous occasion he is often very anxious to tell him how well he is looking, enquire after his family and friends, tell him how much he is pleased with the work he is doing, enlarge upon the merits of his entry, etc., etc. It is also, in some cases, very amusing to hear the explanations of how a horse had received an injury that caused a blemish that the judge is looking at or examining, and the assurance that he will be all right again in a few days. A friend of an exhibitor will often go to considerable trouble to interview the judge before the show commences and tell him that in a certain class a certain person will have the best horse, and will describe the horse and exhibitor minutely in order that he may not make a mistake and award the first ribbon to the wrong animal or possibly fail to put the proper winner in the money at all. In rare cases the exhibitor or his friend will intimate that the winning of first place in a certain class by a certain horse will be worth something to the judge, and in some cases name the amount. He will assure the judge that the animal under discussion is really an easy winner, but he wants to make sure that he will not be overlooked. He has not the slightest doubt about the judge's ability to pick the proper winner, but in order that no mistake or "oversight" may occur he wants to impress upon his mind that it will be worth something to him. It is rather amusing to lead such a man on to find out just "what it will be worth" to make a definite offer. Fortunately there are few who will go quite so far as this. It is probable that the reason such suggestions or offers are so rarely made is the fact that men are afraid that the judge will expose them to the directors.

There are cases in which the director in charge of the ring will draw the attention of the judge to a certain entry made by a certain person who is and has been a great friend of the society by giving special prizes or in other ways, and intimate very strongly that the awarding of the first ribbon to this animal would be very popular with the directors and the people in the town. When asked if it would be quite honest and fair to the other exhibitors, the answer generally is that it would be all right, that the horse should win, but he was simply drawing the attention of the judge to the case in order to make sure that the merits of the animal should not be overlooked. While all cases of this nature really imply a want of



The Eirkenwood.

The highest-priced Clydesdale colt in the world, and champion at the Royal Show.

confidence in the ability or honesty of the judge, they have a humorous side, and he is usually inclined to look at them in this light.

In conclusion we would say to exhibitors be "sports," and to judges "be honest." Be sure you are competent before you undertake to judge; then be careful; use your own judgment; do not be influenced by the wishes of the exhibitors, their friends or the directors; do work with which you will be satisfied when it has been done, and you will find that you have made few mistakes, and that your work in the show-ring has given as general satisfaction as is possible.

WHIP.

When selecting the winner from a class of horses from the ringside, a form of entertainment which many visitors to the fair indulge in, choose first the animal that has characteristics possessed by the breed in which it is showing then it must have sloping pasterns with good firm feet. He will be well muscled on the arm and forearm and also possess sloping shoulders. Stand at the end of the ring and when the horse moves to and fro watch that he moves straight and does not throw his feet in or out. If he is well coupled and well muscled on top and has a good type, intelligent looking ahead you have probably chosen the winner. Eliminate all those standing on straight pasterns and boggy joints.