

THE HORSE.

Judging from the increased interest shown in the Hackney horse classes at the recent exhibitions, and the larger entry forward, the high-stepper is going to "come back."

That colt which has just been weaned is just at the age where the right kind of care means a good horse at maturity, and where neglect and careless handling are most likely to cause his ruin.

The end of September or October is the time which most horsemen, who have tried it, recommend as most suitable for the fall colts to be dropped. It will soon be time to breed the mare for next year's autumn colt. If mares which have been suckling foals come in season again after the colt is weaned, as they sometimes do, it might be advisable rather than miss a year to breed her late and get a fall colt in 1914.

A heavy-draft horse requires an abundance of muscling. So often otherwise suitable horses seem to lack in this important requisite. This lack seems to be closely associated with narrow and shallow bodies and very fine bone, all of which combine to make the light-muscled horse more of a general-purpose animal than one best suited to move the heaviest loads day in and day out.

A regular reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" speaking of a certain team of light horses shown this fall, said that he much preferred them to an automobile. Well he might, for they are doubtless valued at a price higher than that asked for the horseless carriage. If wealthy people desire costly outfits the horse still is in the running, and can furnish the much-sought-for satisfaction derived from having something just a little better than the other fellow has.

Give the team which is every day on the plow a liberal supply of oats and well-cured hay. It is a crime to delay threshing the season's crop, and expect the horses to do the fall work on the bite of watery aftermath which they must pick from the pastures. Working all day and foraging all night gives the animal little time for rest, and to aid as much as possible give oats and allow the horse to eat hay for an hour or two each morning before going to work, and each evening before turning out, or, better still, stable nights.

Cool nights are now with us. Many are still turning their work horses out nights, and will continue to do so for some time. Where green feed is abundant in the fields and none too plentiful in the barns, there may be some reasonable excuse to continue the practice later in the season than otherwise would be the case, but care should be exercised not to turn the animals out in a heated condition. It is best to let the horses cool down in a stable if they must be turned out, but, if they are working hard and get very warm each day, doubtless they would be more comfortable in the stable. At least avoid turning them out in cold rains.

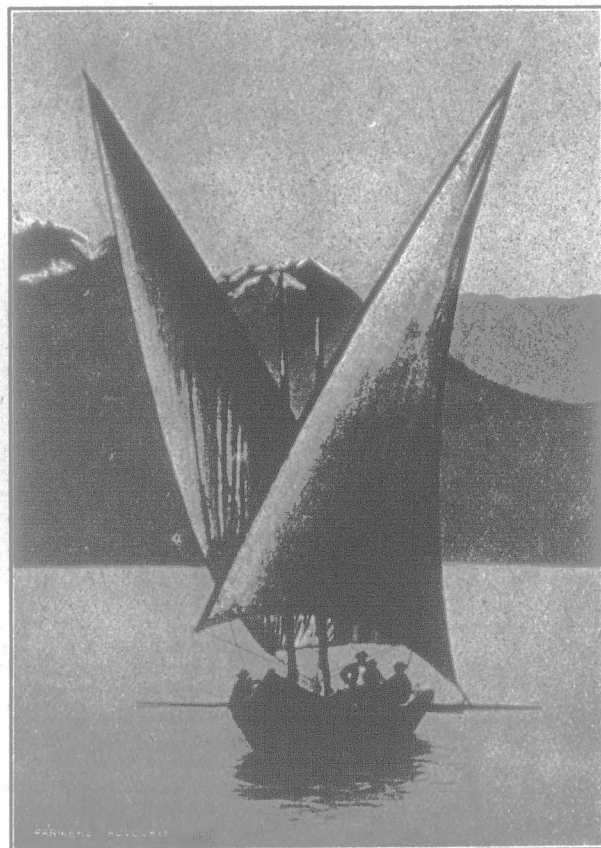
General Purpose and Agricultural Horses.

Time and again is the question asked, "what constitutes a general-purpose horse, and what constitutes an agricultural horse, and what is the difference between them?" Picking up the prize list of one of our largest fall exhibitions we read: "A general-purpose horse is understood to be a clean-legged horse suitable either for wagon, buggy or plow. Mares or geldings four years old should not exceed 1,400 lbs. in weight; three years old, 1,200 lbs.; two years old, 1,000 lbs." In describing agricultural horses this list says: "Stock shown must be sired by a registered draft stallion any breed."

On many farms in this country the work is done by general-purpose and agricultural horses, and no more useful animals could be found as far as work is concerned. There is a place for the clean-limbed, comparatively heavy-bodied horse and also for the "agricultural" horse, which, in reality, is nothing but a small drafter. He has the form of the drafter, but there is scarcely enough of him to call him a heavy-draft animal. Many would not care to have their general-purpose horses and agricultural horses replaced by those of other types.

While we must admit that these two types, almost indistinguishable in many instances, have their place and are very useful animals under many conditions, there seems to be no really good reason why prizes should be given for breeding classes of these horses at exhibitions, and more particularly is this true of general-purpose animals. Remember we say "breeding classes."

It might not be advisable to cut out the harness classes, for these breeds, if they may be called such, although, as a matter of fact, they are no particular breed. The very fact that geldings are permitted to show in the breeding classes is sufficient evidence of the weakness of these classes. Breeding classes should be composed, in every case, of animals of one sex or the other, and capable of reproduction. If it is thought advisable it might be well to transfer the money, or part of it at least, from the classes shown on the line to harness horses.



Sailboat on Lake Geneva.

In showing general-purpose horses in the breeding classes, there is a danger that some on-lookers may see just the type of horse they are desirous of obtaining for their work at home, and may go back to their farms decided to breed a heavy-draft mare to a light stallion or a light mare to a draft stallion, feeling sure that the result will be just the type of half-way-horse desired. Such seldom results. All kinds of misfits are very likely to, and more often result than the getting of a really good general-purpose horse. These horses are scarce. Seldom is it that many high-class individuals are seen in the show-ring. They simply "happen" in breeding, and it seems like encouraging hap-hazard, cross-breeding to continue giving prizes for breeding

classes of these horses. Breeding classes should represent a breed. The general-purpose horse is the chance result of crossing, which is never looked upon by stockmen as good practice.

Agricultural horses have, perhaps, a stronger claim for a place in the breeding classes than have general-purpose animals. The very name of the class appeals to the man on the farm. But the class admits grades, and, after all, is only made up as a general thing of horses too small to get in the money in the draft classes—a sort of pony drafter. It does not seem advisable to encourage the breeding of this class of animal on an extensive scale. The market demands the heavier type, and pays a premium on weight. What is the use of breeding inferior types? Agricultural horses have a place and many really good horses of the class are in the country, but it really seems as though the only place which they should get in fair prize lists is in the harness classes. Attractive exhibits are possible in these classes and are often made, but very often the same animals win in the breeding classes, and money might be spent to better advantage in increased numbers of prizes in some of the pure-bred breeding classes than in breeding classes for grades and crosses. This subject is worthy of the consideration of fair managements and horsemen generally.

LIVE STOCK.

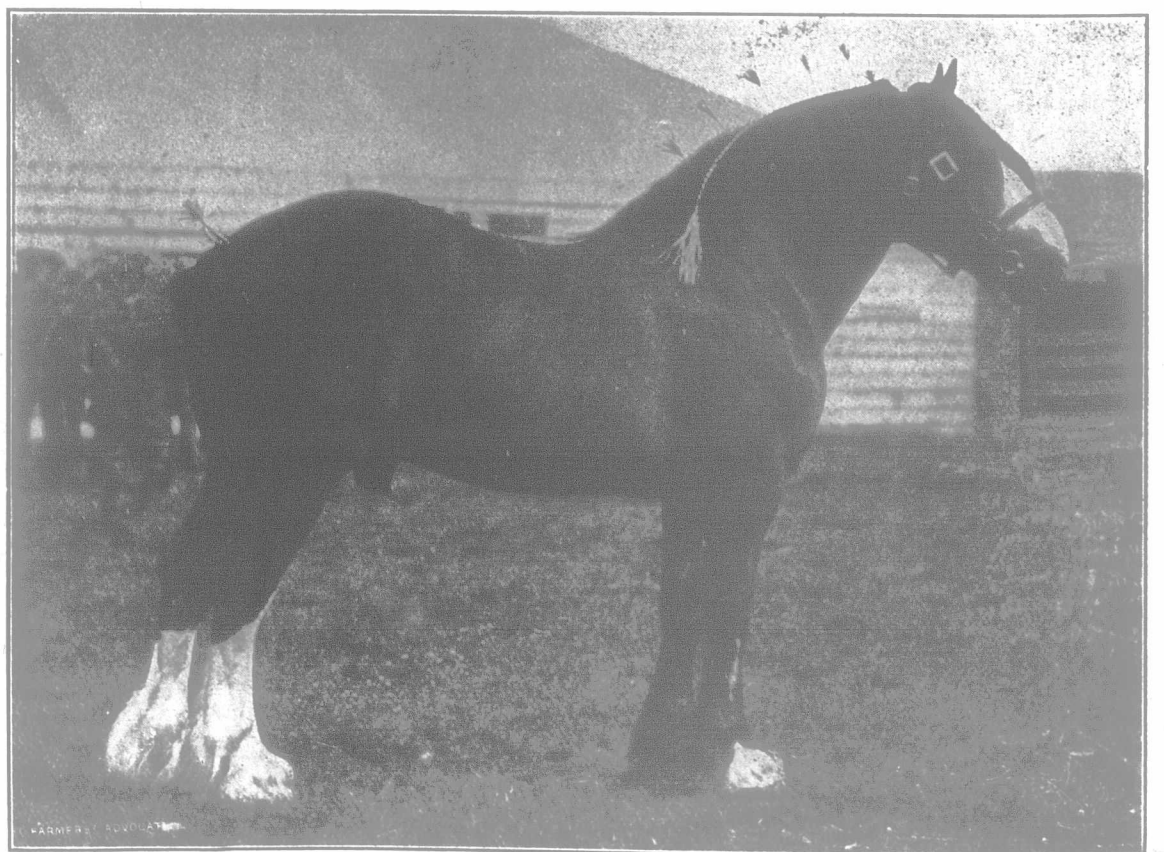
Already Canadian cattle are being bought for shipment to the United States.

Some cattle men of the West estimate that the lowering of the United States tariff upon cattle going into that country, will increase the average price of cattle in Western Canada by \$7.00 per head.

The hog market does not seem to be overstocked yet, although many predicted great drops in prices before this. Ten dollars per hundred-weight alive should assure the feeder a profit if the pigs are rightly cared for.

The increased demand for beef cattle should stimulate breeding. However, the number of this class of cattle has fallen off greatly while prices advanced in recent years. But we must remember that prices for dairy products and many other classes of farm products rose even faster than those for beef cattle, consequently the attention of producers was turned away from rather than toward the raising of beef cattle. Such is not likely to be the case now. Beef cattle will be raised and fed just so soon as the breeder and feeder can make more out of it than he can from directing his energies to other pursuits.

There are many lambs in the country which are still running with their dams, and drawing upon their vitality. Next spring, when weaning



Fyvie Baron.

First-prize aged Clydesdale stallion and champion of the breed at Toronto, 1913. Owned and exhibited by Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont.