

Islington are typical. A straight-goer in front was scarcely to be seen. Some were strong, big horses, but the mystery of judging these stallions is beyond me. The Hunter championships were all won by Mr. Stokes, Market Harboro', a popular hunting-horse owner. "SCOTLAND YET."

### Developing Action.

I have a pair of Hackney fillies, three and four years old. How should I train, exercise and care for them in order to develop action? A. M. R.

The art of developing action in horses, in order to get the best out of them, cannot be acquired all at once. It requires practical experience and great patience, and it is quite possible that if a man without experience should attempt to do it, simply acting from instructions, he might practically spoil horses that under different handling would have made good actors. The peculiarities of each animal must be studied, and the animal treated accordingly. This applies particularly to the weight of shoes to be worn. Most horses act better with heavy shoes, but some require much heavier than others, and the trainer must study and experiment with shoes of different weights in order to ascertain just how the subject should be shod, in order to enable him to do his best. Then, again, a horse that does not go straight in front, that either paddles or rolls, can be improved by careful shoeing, and the trainer should understand these points, and be able to give the shoeing-instructions.

On general principles, in order to develop action, it is necessary to shoe with rolling-motion shoes, both fore and rear, and the shoes must be of that weight which suits the individual. It is usually safer to commence with a shoe of about one pound weight in front, and, say, twelve ounces behind, and as the animal becomes accustomed to going, gradually increase the weight, until, in some cases, nearly twice this weight is worn. Exercise is usually given on the louncing rein, and the practice of exercising through deep straw, snow or water, reaching about to the knees, causes him to flex both knees and hocks, and gets his feet high, and at the same time tends to develop shoulder and stifle action, and increases the length of stride. He should be given exercise twice daily, but should never be given sufficient to tire him, or cause what is sometimes called "leg-weariness," as a tired horse will not act well. Trotting horses in a stream of water about the depth named has given good results, but where this is not convenient straw does well. Some recommend logs or other solid objects, but I do not like it, as if the horse makes a mistake he may bump his leg sufficiently hard to cause lameness, and possibly leave a permanent blemish. It is claimed that if he hits himself and it hurts, it will cause him to go higher and not hit again, but I am of the opinion that such radical measures are better untried, and that action had better be gradually developed in safer ways. When the trainer has not the time or the inclination to train the horses on the line, but wants to do the training in harness, he should get them shod as stated, and drive them with Liverpool bits, with a little curb, sufficient to cause the mouth to be slightly drawn towards the breast. He should drive them a little twice daily, make them drive up well all the time, teach them to walk well, and, when trotting, keep them well in hand, and bearing slightly upon the bits, and never, under any circumstances, drive far or long enough to tire them. V.

### Stumbling.

The horse that stumbles should not be whipped for the accident. He may stumble because he is badly shod. He may have a nervous disorder that occasionally causes him to lose control over one or another part of the nerves that are used in his complicated work of walking, trotting or running, while pulling a load or holding it back. Whatever may be the cause of his stumbling, whipping the stumbler will do no good. The horse does not stumble for pleasure or through design. Stumbling is painful to him. Just why he should be tortured with a whip after his whole nervous and muscular system has been wrenched in a stumble and a struggle to keep his feet, no one can tell. The whipping comes after the accident. The horse does not understand that the stinging lashing is a warning to him not to stumble again. He regards it merely as an added torture.—[Farmer's Guide.

### The Soundness of Hackneys.

The exceptional soundness of the breed may be judged by the following figures. At the London Hackney Shows, from 1890 to 1904, inclusive, 4,946 stallions, mares and geldings have been thoroughly examined by the veterinary inspectors, and of this number 4,704 have been passed as sound, only 242 being rejected, the larger proportion of these being horses entered in the half-bred and harness classes. The examination is a most stringent one. Since the 1896 show every animal present

in the show has been submitted to the vets. Such a favorable result needs no comment.

This general soundness is frequently quoted by Continental buyers as one of the most prominent characteristics of the breed.

### Fads in Horse-breeding.

We would be remiss in our duty if we refrained from pointing out the dangerous doctrine to breeders and workers of farm horses, that the limbs, especially the part below the knee and hock, were the only important parts in a horse; in other words, the breeder of horses for farm work must be careful to avoid going to the extreme in demanding quality and action in the draft stallion he uses, and he must not overlook a quality just as important, viz., good digestive capacity.

No horseman will claim that any one breed of draft horses is perfect, or that one breed only is useful for grading up farm horses, yet the acceptance of the theory that quality of the lower limbs is the only essential, limits the farmer-breeder in the breeds he may use, and also limits him in the choice of stallions.

A marked deficiency in many stallions of the Clydesdale breed is the shortness of the back ribs or flatness of ribs, especially the former. This deficiency is a very serious one in a work horse, because the possessor of such a weakness is invariably a hard feeder, wears out quickly, and is frequently a candidate for the attentions of the veterinarian. A bread-basket is essential to the Western farm horse, and is, in our opinion, of more importance than extra quality in limb, when the nature and locality of its work is considered, such as long days, short time to feed, errors in feeding, etc. In spite of the well-known handicap that many a Shire horse in Western Canada labors under, viz., a lack of the so-called Clydesdale quality in his limbs, the fact remains that the horse bred south of the Tweed—the Shire—has, on account of his substance and ample dinner-basket, due to his depth of flank, proved a valuable sire of tough, easy-keeping work horses. It is doubtless, owing to the above qualities that the popularity of the Percheron is due.

The demand for quality in legs and feet cannot be condemned, especially if work on city pavements is considered, yet we must not overlook an equally important point, namely, a good middle piece, with its accompanying deep flank, indicative of a roomy bread-basket, easy-keeping and good-wearing qualities.

Prejudice should not be allowed to bias one's judgment in the selection of live stock out of which he hopes to make money.

## STOCK.

### The Birmingham Bull Sale.

At the annual spring show and sale of Short-horn cattle at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, on March 9th, there were 696 entries, 537 of which were bulls, and 159 females. Of the latter, practically all were purchased for home herds, the top price being 100 guineas, for Mr. J. Colman's two-year-old heifer, Ada, purchased by Mr. R. P. Cooper. Of the 537 bulls, 352 were sold, the average price being \$258, and the highest price \$2,887, for Mr. Jolliffe's eleven-months Primrose Earl, by the Duthie-bred Primrose Pride, by Pride of Morning, purchased by Mr. Rodger for South America, and the same price for Mr. Roland Ward's Clapton Reliance, purchased by Mr. McLennan, also for Argentina. Thirty-four animals made over \$500 each—thirty-three bulls and one female.

### Ration for Fattening Cattle

We are feeding a load of exporters. Night and morning we feed timothy hay, and at noon clover, all they will eat; grain ration consists of two-thirds corn, balance principally oats, a little peas, wheat, and barley. Feed a little salt every morning, and sulphur once a week. Some of the cattle are very loose; can you tell me something to regulate them? Should they get sulphur oftener; some of them are very scurvy in the skin? What quantity of grain mixed as above should be a ration? Am feeding between eleven and twelve pounds a day, in two feeds; have no turnips. Would like to finish as soon as possible. Kindly advise. Oxford Co. A. W.

Ans.—When feeders are anxious to hurry their cattle on there is always danger of overfeeding. The quantity of grain you are giving should be about right, and yet it may be too much for some of your cattle, and you might try if a lighter ration would not mend matters. You are likely giving plenty of sulphur; a table-spoonful each once a week is about right. We would recommend two changes in your meal ration: First, add oil cake to it, at least a pound a day for each animal, to balance the excess of corn meal; we think it would improve the health, and increase the laying on of flesh. Second, mix the meal before feeding with some sort of roughage, as cut straw, chaff, short straw, or even long hay. We know of cases where there was a tendency to scours, where this simple change has worked wonders.

### Prof. Grisdale's Stock-feeding Figures Criticised.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I notice in your issue of March 9th, an article by John Kennedy, of York Co., Ont., on the beef situation. Mr. Kennedy has seen in print, and I suppose heard from the lips of Prof. J. H. Grisdale, that it costs seventeen cents to produce a pound of beef on a steer from two to three years of age. I remember hearing Prof. Grisdale make that statement at our Fat-stock Show, at Amherst, in December last, and I have seen him reported as saying the same thing before audience after audience in the Dominion of Canada. I heard him state at Sussex, N. B., at a meeting of the Farmers' and Dairy-men's Association, in 1903, that the only heavy milking herd of Shorthorns in Canada was that of A. W. Smith, of Maple Lodge, Ont. I have pondered these things over in my mind time and time again, and have come to the conclusion that the Professor is, like the majority of men, only human, and, therefore, liable to make statements that some of us cannot digest.

Let us "reason together" for a little. He says that it costs five cents to make a pound of gain when the animal is one year old; or, in other words, an animal that is sold at five cents per pound when one year old is paying back to the owner what he actually cost to date. The Professor says it costs eight cents per pound to make a pound of gain from one to two years old; or that a beast sold at eight cents per pound at two years old is simply paying expenses. Again, he says it costs 17 cents per pound to make a pound of gain from two to three years of age; in other words, the animal would have to be sold at 17 cents per pound or the owner would be in debt. These are the figures that appeal to us when these gentlemen are making the speeches, but of course they do not expect the animal to sell for 17 cents per pound at three years old to actually pay expenses.

Let us assume an animal to weigh 900 pounds at one year old; 900 pounds at five cents amounts to \$45.00. Now, allow a gain of 300 pounds for one year, or at two years old the beast would weigh 1,200 lbs.; cost per pound, of 300 pounds gain, 8c.=\$24.00. Again, allow a gain of 300 pounds until three years old, at 17 cents per pound=\$51.00, cost to keep steer from two to three years old. We will now see the cost, according to the Professor's reckoning, of raising a steer to three years of age:

900 lbs. weight, at one year old, at 5c.....	\$45 00
300 lbs. gain, from one to two years old,	
at 8c.....	24 00
300 lbs. gain, from two to three years old,	
at 17c.....	51 00
1,500 lbs.....	\$120 00

Now, Mr. Editor, these are the figures that are given to us by the teachers of to-day. According to this we have actually got to sell at these figures or we are losing money, and even if we sell at three years old at these prices we are only getting pay for what the animal ate.

Can you tell me how I am to raise a family of a dozen, give them a first-class education, and enjoy all the modern improvements necessary to be an up-to-date citizen? I will make the assertion that if the Maritime Provinces were gone over, from north to south and east to west, a carload of cattle could not be got one year old any time in the year that would bring five cents per pound. I think I am well within the mark when I say two cars of two-year-olds could not be got that would bring five cents per pound. We are certain that three carloads of three-year-old cattle cannot be found at any time during the year that would bring five cents per pound; and yet four-fifths of the population of this country are farmers, and the most of them raising some beef cattle. What a sad, sad picture for agriculture—actually four-fifths of the farmers are working year in and year out, and losing money constantly? If we lose on the steers, what on earth do we gain on?

Strange to say, it is possible to hunt up a hundred farmers in 24 hours who have been in this business for a quarter of a century, with excellent farms, fine barns and houses, and a bank account to settle on their children, and this is perhaps the case, and has been all over the Dominion, long before Prof. Grisdale was born, and yet he says a three-year-old steer weighing 1,500 pounds will need to sell for 8c. a pound, or \$120, to actually pay expenses!

We farmers are put on this earth to feed the multitude. Beef we must have. If we cannot raise it in these provinces at a profit, we must give that duty over to Alberta and sections where it costs practically nothing. Then we must turn our attention to pork-raising, and if we get the market overcrowded, as this year, and the pigs get the rheumatism, we will have to flee to the dairy business and milk the Jersey cow. The P. E. Islanders will need to vacate the Island, or build a tunnel, and we in New Brunswick, who have been in the beef business, must seek an existence on the railroad, or in the civil service, and end our days in peace. Westwardland Co., N. B. BLISS M. FAWCETT.

### Our Premium Knife.

Dear Sirs,—Thank you very much for the premium knife. It is a splendid and useful article. ORLANDO LEWIS.