

### Points of the Shire Horse.

In that excellent English treatise, entitled "Heavy Horses: Breeds and Management," edited by James Sinclair, and published in 1894, the characteristics of the Shire breed are thus described:

The Shire stallion should stand 17 hands or over; his legs should be as big and massive as it is possible to obtain them consistent with flat bone, which should measure at least 11 to 11½ inches below the knee, and 1 inch to 1½ inches more below the hock; the hair should be plentiful at all seasons, not wiry, but strong and decided, without any tendency to wooliness. The action should be most particularly noticed in the walk, which should be straight, level and true, and should be the walk of a cart horse, forward and free, but partaking in no respect of the jauntiness of the nag. The hocks should at all times be kept together, and in position. The feet should be wide and open at the heel, with wall of sufficient depth to avoid any resemblance to flatness of foot; the pasterns all round should have sufficient slope to enable the machinery to work smoothly, but long and consequently weak pasterns are to be avoided. The head in the stallion is of vast importance. It should be thoroughly masculine in character, and all trace of "ponyness" should be studiously avoided.

With regard to the attributes of the best type of Shire brood mare, it is perhaps correct to say that breeders and judges are possibly somewhat at variance, because the mare that usually produces the best results to the breeder is but seldom the animal to catch the judge's eye in the show-ring. On the female side, great size, or, in other words, height, is not only not an essential, but is usually detrimental. The typical brood mare should rather be long, low and wide, standing on short legs, with well-sprung pasterns and strong open feet, while the bone should be as

wide and massive as can possibly be had, and the hair should be very abundant, and worn at all seasons; the depth of both the heart and short ribs should be conspicuously present, and the walk should be true and level, without any symptoms of rolling; this latter point, of course, applies equally to both mare and stallion. This type of animal being somewhat unpretentious in character, and wanting possibly in gay carriage and dash, often fails to find favor with the judges, but the breeder of experience will have little difficulty in selecting such animals for the purposes of their studs.

In former days, our forefathers for years struggled to foster and encourage the weighty element. Within the last fifteen years, however, a gradual lessening of weight has, to a certain extent, taken place, owing, undoubtedly, to the tendency of judges at shows to encourage quality. That the horse of former days was in certain instances coarse and somewhat fleshy-legged, is undeniable, but the result has been, as is often the case, that a proportion of breeders have occasionally gone to extremes, and bred for quality, without regard to weight. The consequence of this innovation has been that the weighty element is becoming once more in demand, and signs are not wanting that a revulsion of feeling is again taking place in regard to this question, and that stallions that possess some of the characteristics of the old-fashioned type will be sought after, in order to cross with mares of quality. Another outcome of the prevalence of shows has been that a great desire has naturally been cultivated among breeders to gain distinction in the show-ring, and this feeling has again stimulated the turning of studs in increasing numbers principally for showing purposes, which has entailed the maintaining of a large number of animals in a state of idleness. This, however, is one feature of the Shire-horse question that has been of very doubtful benefit to the breed at large. The end and object of all Shire breeding must eventually resolve itself into endeavors to produce the type of animal that will be the most profitable to the farmer, and experience has taught us that with-

out weight we are nowhere; for if we present to the dealer the nicest-turned and handsomest animal in the world, with sloping pasterns, and all the requisites that of late years have been so much sought after, what do we find? Why, that the price offered for such in the open market hardly repays breeding, and but little exceeds half the price readily obtainable for one with the requisite weight. There was also another circumstance that inflicted temporary injury on the breed, and that was the excessive demand for Shire stallions that for several years existed. This trade was "boomed," after the usual American fashion, and everybody jumped into it, expecting at once to become rich. While it lasted, certainly vast numbers of Shires left our shores, but it must be confessed that in many cases the quality of the animals so taken was quite a secondary consideration. A few importers then set up a certain standard of horse that was very far removed from the best class of Shire. This type of animal was cleanly-legged, up-headed and flash. For such stallions fairly good prices were given, until some English breeders almost began to imagine that, after all, probably Englishmen were mistaken in their type, and that the Americans were right. Those who took this view of the case, and acted on it, found themselves overloaded with horses that were almost unsalable, and their condition was certainly not to be envied. A little reflection should have taught these gentlemen that one single stallion that is up to the proper English



Tatton Dray King (23777).

Shire stallion; bay; foaled 1904. Recently sold at auction for \$18,900.

standard is worth at the very least as much as several animals of the other sort, while at the same time he is a benefactor to the breed at large, instead of helping to deteriorate it. Englishmen are once more rapidly coming to their senses, and find that in breeding Shire horses they must not turn either to the right hand or to the left; they must not be carried away by passing fancies and fashions, but at all times, and in every possible way endeavor to keep the Shire horse in the position that he occupies—at the head of all the draft breeds—by upholding weight, and by recollecting that what is estimable in a mare is almost invariably a defect in a stallion; that, in selecting a sire, true masculine character throughout must be at all times kept prominently in view, and that it is not always the horse whose showyard career has been most brilliant that is calculated to do the greatest amount of good at the stud.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Pork Commission.

In deciding to send a commission to investigate the methods of Danish and Irish pork producers, as is reported to be the case, Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, has chosen the lesser of two evils. He was asked from some quarters to recommend raising the duty on American pork, to which he wisely replied that it was not, in the long run, in the interests of the agricultural class to clamor for more protection. It is to their advantage, and to the advantage of consumers generally to have customs duties scaled downwards. Feeling, doubtless, that political considerations demanded some show of acceding to the complaints and wishes of hog-raisers, he evidently turned to the commission idea as one which, in the words of one of its champions, "could not do any harm"—that is, it could not harm the pork industry. The objection, of course, is that it is a superfluous expense, and a concession to

the faddists and busybodies who imagine that Government commissions are the panacea for every ill, social, business, or personal, whereas assiduous individual effort is what is really demanded.

There is just one probable benefit we anticipate from the appointment of this commission. If it turns our minds from the profitless controversy with the packers, and focusses attention upon the producing end of the industry, it may prove an indirect benefit. Anything further, it would be sanguine to expect. With what we have already learned from Denmark, Ireland, and other countries, and what our own experience and investigations have taught us, we probably know already a good deal more about hog-feeding under Canadian conditions than our friends the Danes can tell us. It is a case of putting into practice what we know. We can do this without a commission.

### Still Money in Hogs.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Thinking that the experience of the writer, as to cost, etc., in keeping some pigs through the winter might be of interest to some of your readers, am enclosing statement of same.

There were eight in the lot—pure-bred Chester Whites. They were killed off at different times, as the supply of milk grew scarce. They were bought at a time when there was an over-supply on the market of young pigs, hence the low price, \$1.00 each. The usual price in this locality is from \$2.00 to \$3.00 in spring, and \$1.00 to \$1.50 in the fall. Many farmers advocate the killing of pigs when they will dress about 150 pounds, claiming that the first 100 or 150 pounds are put on the cheapest; yet, considering the cost of buying again to start another lot, it seems a question whether it is not quite as profitable to keep them until they will dress from 200 to 225 pounds.

While the profit on these was not large, yet, in spite of the high price of feed, it shows that one is paid fairly well for the trouble of caring for them, besides disposing of our skim milk at a fair price, and leaving, as well, a nice pile of manure for the corn crop.

Would you kindly give your opinion as to the advisability of breeding a pure-bred bull to his own heifers, if both are strong and vigorous?

#### STATEMENT OF PIG-FEEDING ACCOUNT.

Born Aug. 13th, 1908.	
March 9th—Sold four pigs, weight 615 pounds, at 9½c. per pound .....	\$58.43
April 19th—Sold two pigs, weight 405 pounds, at 10c. per pound .....	40.50
May 3rd—Sold two pigs, weight 436 pounds, at 10½c. per pound .....	44.69
Total .....	\$143.62
Cost of eight pigs, at \$1.00 .....	\$ 8.00
Meal, corn and middlings .....	76.91
Milk, 1,139 gallons, at 2c. per gallon.....	22.78
	\$107.69
Profit .....	35.93
	\$143.62
Drummond Co., Que.	T. HARRY EVANS.

[Note.—We would like to publish several hundred detailed statements such as this, not merely the favorable, but the unfavorable ones, as well. It is impartial facts we are after. As to the question asked, except under most extraordinary circumstances, the breeding of a bull back to his own heifers is to be counselled against. Expert breeders may occasionally do it successfully for a specific purpose that cannot well be accomplished any other way, but, generally speaking, the risk outweighs the advantage. Most of our breeds have already had overmuch inbreeding.—Editor.]

A Simcoe Co. subscriber sends us a picture of two white-face September calves, fed on separator milk until stabled for the winter. He says they weigh now 1,200 pounds, and were cared for by a girl, who is seen standing between them in the picture. Unfortunately, the photograph is not clear enough for reproduction, but the figures are instructive, as indicating what can be done raising calves on skim milk, with good care.

The winter-feeding of export cattle in Alberta has grown to large proportions, and buyers for at least three large exporting firms are straining every effort to get cattle. There is reason to expect large numbers of winter-fed cattle exported from the Sunny Province each spring.