

**THE CANADIAN BREEDER****AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.**

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Advertisements of an objectionable or questionable character will not be received for insertion in this paper.

**THIS PAPER** may be found on file at GEO. P. ROWELL & Co.'s Newspaper Advertising Bureau (10 Spruce Street) where advertising contracts may be made for it in **NEW YORK.**

**OUR ILLUSTRATION.**

The Merino Ram Vengeance, the subject of our illustration, is the property of H. V. Pugsley, Plattsburg, Mo., and was bred by H. T. Brookins, of Richville, Vermont, is of the Atwood and Robinson blood, sheared 37½ lbs. this year.

**MR. DOUGLAS ON THE CLYDESDALE CROSS.**

Last week Mr. Douglas replied to our criticisms on his presumed newly discovered cross for the production of carriage horses and heavy weight hunters. Notwithstanding what he says to the contrary, we still maintain that the experiment has been tried many times both here and in the United States. Speaking as a dealer, of course Mr. Douglas, like other dealers, is apt to attach undue importance to his individual judgment as to what is good and bad among draught horses. Now THE CANADIAN BREEDER is not the mouthpiece of any clique of breeders and importers, and occupying such a position it cannot permit such attacks as Mr. Douglas makes upon the Normans or Percherons and the Suffolk Punches to go unchallenged. As a dealer in Shires and Clydesdales, he may think it wise to attack the wares of other dealers, though his "say so" may not altogether wipe the Suffolk Punch and Percheron men from off the face of the earth.

Without wishing to injure anybody's business, we will state our views once for all on this question of big horses. Extremely heavy horses are fashionable for certain services on both sides of the Atlantic, and for the purposes to which they are usually devoted they are doubtless all right, though for anything except show there are very many of them unnecessarily heavy and clumsy. So long as these animals are kept by themselves and in their own class the breeding of them may prove an

important and profitable industry, but the breeding of Clydesdale stallions on common mares has given rise to a lot of ungainly brutes that are in every way objectionable. They have all the dullness, all the coarseness of coat and tissue, the flat "brashy" feet and the sluggish action of the draught horse without the redeeming features of size and substance. Such crossing we shall always do our best to prevent. It is unnatural and can only be productive of evil. What Mr. Douglas proposes certainly looks better on paper, but it would be much more promising if he would for the time drop the prejudices of the dealer and look at the subject as one who had no axe to grind rather than as one who could see no good outside of his own shop. The experiment involved in such a violent cross is risky enough under any circumstances, but it becomes doubly so when hampered by a prejudice likely to warp his judgment. If this cross must be tried, the mare should be of a type no more widely different from the male than is necessary to impart the required size and substance, and this was why we were inclined to recommend either Percherons or Suffolk Punches. As regards Mr. Douglas' supposed descriptions of what he deems the leading characteristics of these breeds, they may be very amusing, but they can only be regarded as the prejudiced expressions of a dealer, and can carry no weight with men who really desire to breed good horses regardless of the cross that produces them. Any one who had an opportunity of comparing Mr. Walker's little band of Percherons, and the Suffolk stallions of Mr. Sadler and Mr. Carson, which were shown at the Industrial Exhibition last fall, with the other heavy horses on the grounds could not attach the slightest importance to the descriptions already alluded to.

There are good and bad individuals in every breed of horses, and some wretched specimens have been sold in this country from time to time. Not long ago breeders must have size regardless of everything else, and in those days many ill-shapen, unsound, worthless brutes were imported that have done very great injury to the draught horse interest in this country. Among the Clydesdales now in the country there are many gummy-legged, loosely coupled, flat-footed, ragged hipped animals, the progeny of which any good horseman must be sorry to see perpetuated; but at the same time we are happy to say that there also some excellent animals in the country, including native as well as foreign-bred Clydesdales. To compare the breeds of big horses, fairly the Percherons or the best specimens of them that have been shown here are not extravagantly heavy. While they have plenty of bone for the proposed cross, they have also good action, strong coupling, good feet, handsome crests, and a certain compactness and smartness of outline that is just what is wanted under a thoroughbred cross. Now, we do not pretend that these smallish Percheron mares would be as good for producing heavy draught horses as the "wide" Clydesdales which Mr. Douglas so greatly ad-

mires, but any horseman of common sense, not blinded by prejudice, can see that such mares being nearer to the character of the thoroughbred sires must make a less violent cross, and consequently they will be less liable to produce monstrosities. In the produce of such mares as we have seen among the Percherons there is not the cleft rump, the hairy legs, the very large flat feet, the slack loin, and the sluggish action usually found among what would be regarded as average horses of the very heavy draught class.

We commended the Suffolks for similar reasons, though, owing to their great size, many of them might be found too heavy for the purpose.

Mr. Douglas' objection on the ground of color is another which would carry but little weight save with a breeder. Let people discover that they could find the best form, action, style, and substance among the greys, and the silly prejudices against that color would rapidly disappear.

**HIGH KNEE ACTION.**

Writing from London, England, on June 4th, "C. I. D." takes us to task for differing from what he terms the prevailing fashion. We wrote condemning excessively high knee action, but our correspondent rather illogically finds fault with us for condemning, as he supposes, a wholly different thing. We never found fault with "action," and the more graceful it is the better, but what we criticised was the folly of those who on this side of the Atlantic were striving to ape the follies of English flats. It is very probable that true horsemen are much the same the world over, and that which is ungraceful and awkward is not likely to find favor with them, either here or in England. We were striking, not at graceful action and horses showing plenty of quality, but at just such coarse-headed chuckle-throated, awkward-gaited brutes as we described, and which were being picked up here very eagerly a few years ago by "flats" who "knew all about the home market you know" for shipment to England. There were many such buyers in our market a few years ago, but though they were in their own estimation connoisseurs as to the tastes of English horsemen, they soon found their efforts at cultivating untutored Canadians and Americans as to the style of horses "gentlemen" should drive much too costly to be maintained on the means within their reach, while several unpretentious but practical horsemen made a very good thing out of sending over the much-abused long-tailed trotters. It was at the follies introduced here by those who talked the slang and aped the general style of English horse-dealers that we aimed our arrow, and we are not without hope that it may have landed somewhere near the mark. On the other hand, we cannot see why "C. I. D." should ask us to champion the cause of "overchecks," toe weights, "knee boots," and "brutes blundering along" because we regard "docking,"