

for alas they are not here. They have existed only on paper. He may be all that the wildest enthusiast may claim in point of hardihood and power as indeed he is, but he is not beautiful. His head and neck join like two parts of a hammer, his legs are as fine as a deer's tho' not with the flat knee-cap and broad cannon bone of the English ideal. His barrel is a veritable tun, made so by the bushels of grass which he consumes in order to satisfy nature. His quarters are apt to run suddenly back from the hips, and the rear view is decidedly mulish about the hocks. The mane and tail are apt to be light, and I find that the curly-comb of the groom has a good deal to do in deciding on which side of the horse's neck the mane shall fall; for on any Indian pony it is apt to drop on the right and the left and to stand up in the middle in perfect indecision.

The Indian never devotes any stable work to his mount, although at times the pony is bedecked in savage splendor..... In intelligence the bronco has no equal, unless it is the mule..... His greatest good quality is the ease with which he stands any amount of hard riding over the trail; and this is because of his hard stomach! He eats no grain in the growing stage of his life, and his stomach has not been forced artificially to supply a system taxed beyond the power of his stomach to fill. The same general difference is noted between an Indian and a white man. You may gallop the pony until your thorough bred would "heave and hump" and "go wrong" in a dozen vital places, and the bronco will cool off and come through little the worse for the experience.

As a saddle animal simply, the bronco has no superior. The "lope" is a term which should never be applied to that motion in any other breed of horses. I have watched a herd of cow ponies being driven over the prairie where the undulations of the moving throng were as regular and easy as the rise and fall of the watery waves. The fox-trot, which is the habitual gait of all plainsmen, cowboys and Indians, is easily cultivated in him, and his light supple frame accommodates itself naturally to the motion.

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