

Condition Spells Profit.

Condition makes price much faster than value. That is to say, the increase in price that may be received as the result of a little time and feed devoted to fitting will usually amount to a great deal more than the increase of intrinsic value, as represented by the cost of labor and feed. No one is in a better position to fit horses economically for sale than is the farmer, if we except, perhaps, the manning and training of light-harness, carriage and saddle horses, though even here an ordinarily good horseman can do much to improve the appearance and get-up of his team by feeding them well, and driving smartly in neat, clean, black harness before a respectable-looking rig. Many a plum is picked up at a bargain by professional dealers and exhibitors merely because the owner never realized what condition and proper appointments would do for them. It is, however, in conditioning draft horses that the easiest money lies. Probably more than half the horses sold by farmers are sold without any sufficient or reasonable attempt being made to put them in proper selling condition; and they sell sometimes for a good deal less than they are worth on that account. The farmer with one or more horses for sale cannot turn his time and feed into money more easily than by properly fitting his animals for market. If he sells them out of condition, someone else is bound to be the gainer. It never pays to sell farm stock before it is in market condition. It pays least of all with horses, especially in a season when every prospect is for sustained or advancing prices.

Some of the best practical men are poor writers. There are, for instance, plenty of horsemen who can train colts successfully, but could not sit down and write how they do it, yet perhaps they could explain their ideas clearly enough to someone who could write them in good form. Experienced colt-trainers who would like to compete in the essay competition on the subject of training colts, but feel their lack of language, may enlist the literary assistance of a son, daughter, or friend, getting him or her to polish and re-write, or even to write it all out in the first instance at the competitor's dictation. But the man who has the practical experience must sign the article, and assume responsibility for the accuracy of all statements made. It must, in short, be his contribution, though he is at liberty to secure any needed assistance in composing his article.

The Studbook of the Arabian Horse Club of America has just been certified by the United States Department of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Treasury as the official book of record for Arabian horses, and H. K. Bush-Brown, of Newburg, N. Y., is designated in the order as custodian of the records.

LIVE STOCK.

An Australian Budget: Progress of the Land Industries.

[Written for the "Farmer's Advocate"]

HIGH-PRICED MERINO RAMS.

The recent sale of a Merino ram in Victoria for 1,250 guineas marks the high-water record for Australia. The previous best, 1,200 guineas, caused some stir. The tall figure of 1,500 guineas was asked last year for a ram by one owner, but there was no sale. Both the above rams are from the Wanganella flock. There is no dearth of high-class stud animals now in Australia, even amongst the small breeders. It was thought, a few years ago, that the breaking up of some large estates would mean deterioration in types, but, as a matter of fact, many of the blue ribbons at recent shows have been carried off by owners of flocks under 2,000 head. At the big Sydney Show sales, the largest fair of the kind held in any part of the world, 6,273 sheep disposed of realized £43,116, or an average of £6 18s. 5d. This average is far short of bygone years, when a few studs held all the prime stock. The highest average was £32 7s. in 1877, but the total sheep was only 647. The British breeds this year made an average of £3 13s. 10d.

MUTTON SLUMP AND A FINEWOOL BOOM.

A condition bordering on consternation exists amongst the mutton-breeders in Australia and New Zealand. For the last few years the export trade has grown wonderfully, because of the payable prices ruling in London. All at once there has been a slump, which has robbed the trade of its gilt, and the prospects of the next season are gloomy, more especially when there are two million carcasses lying in cold-storage in London, without buyers, and many millions of sheep in these countries which must be got rid of during the next six months. The trouble is that no one can understand the real cause of the glut, because the retail prices are as high in England, as they were during days of prosperity. Some people have blamed the American Beef Trusts' operations,

while others declare that the depressed state of trade generally is the cause. But whatever solution is right, the producers in Australia are not solaced. They are not helped over the difficulty. New markets are suggested, but European countries have not learned to appreciate the value of refrigeration, so that outlet remains unopened. The Orient requires educating to the use of meat, although there is more consumed there now than formerly. One of the Canadian delegates to the Chamber of Commerce Conference suggests possibilities in Canada and America, and if there is a field there, plenty can be sent during the next six months. This slump, for the time being, has checked the breeding of mutton crosses, and Merinos are again in favor, for the wool market was never more buoyant, with promises of good seasons ahead for some years. There are more Merino sheep now in Australia than there have been for the past twelve years, with every district enjoying the most prolific season experienced for the past twenty years. It was hoped, a few months ago, that the American Parliament would reduce the tariff on coarse wools, so that the American buyers could buy those sorts here, as well as the Merinos, but this change has not been made. Nevertheless, Australia regards America as one of the very best buyers for fine wools, for which Australia has no peer in the world of production.

THE AUSTRALIAN IRRIGATION BOOM.

The irrigation era in Australia has fairly begun. Two of the States have completed, or have in process of completion, schemes which will supply at least 1½ million acres of land which will produce fruit, cereals and lucerne. The largest of

transferred to the soil, it would sprout and grow. If it is cut down, it comes from the roots with renewed vigor. Birds carry the seed, and spread it further out, and rabbits, which exist in millions, take refuge among its spiny leaves. In the midst of all this gloom there is a ray of hope. A company has ascertained that from it can be produced paper pulp, sugar, a low-grade spirit, and other marketable products. They have asked for 250,000 acres to be given to them for the purpose. Their representative estimates that the pulp alone will give a return of £40 per acre, so that, as they will have the cleared land to sell after, they will make a nice profit. The plant to treat the pear will cost £25,000, and will be erected in some central spot, and the hands employed may go on to the cleared land at once if they choose, so that the pest will not get a chance to make a fresh start.

NAILING THE UNFIT SIRE.

The unfit stallion is doomed. In three of the States he must be certificated for soundness before he can enter a show-ring. The agricultural and pastoral societies have moulded the reform, and they are now asking the State Governments to make it compulsory for all stallions to go up annually for veterinary inspection. The number of animals condemned as hereditarily unsound has alarmed breeders. In some parts, nearly half have been rejected by the veterinarians, and have been passed out. A movement is now growing which asks that mares be treated the same way. The horse-breeding industry in this country has not been successful for some years, for the very reason that so many of the sires were unsound.

During the height of the Dreadnought fever a

proposal was made that one of these modern fighting ships should be subscribed by Australians. Accordingly, the Lord Mayor of Sydney started a fund. After £100,000 had been collected, the interest fell to zero, so it was not quite clear what was to be done with the money. The Lord Mayor has now proposed that £50,000 of it go towards a naval college, and £50,000 towards a farm for the purpose of training British boys to go on the land in Australia. Another donor, pleased by the idea, has now come along and offered £10,000 in addition to the farm fund. The State is to work the institution, and provide for its maintenance.

Lads about the age of seventeen will be brought out, and will be given a course of instruction on the farm, and afterwards assisted to go on the land. The idea has taken on with the public, although many are asking why Australian lads should be excluded, seeing that all the Dreadnought money was subscribed by Australians.

J. S. DUNNET.

Winter Feeding of Sheep.

No farm stock can be housed more cheaply for winter shelter and feeding than can sheep. Any old barn or shed with a roof that will keep them dry answers the purpose practically as well as an elaborate and expensive building, provided the ewes are bred to produce their lambs in April or May, and for the average farmer there is no advantage in having the lambs come earlier. If one chooses to prepare for raising show sheep, or cater to the early lamb market, which latter is very profitable, provision must be made for keeping frost out of their quarters at lambing time, but that need not be expensive, as double-boarded walls, with felt paper between, will make the place perfectly safe, and a cheap class of lumber will answer the purpose. Sheep thrive better in open, airy quarters than in close, warm buildings, and prefer to lie out on the ground, even in winter, as long as it is dry and clean.

No class of stock can be more cheaply kept. The writer for many years successfully wintered a flock of breeding ewes in an open-faced shed, with anthrashed peas, thrown into the rack twice a day, as their only provender, and they kept in good condition, and produced strong, healthy lambs, with never a case of rot, and always plenty of milk supplied for their lambs.

Clover hay is the standard provender for sheep



Heather Queen 3rd.

Dairy Shorthorn cow. First in inspection class, London (England) Dairy Show, 1909.

these schemes is that now being carried out by New South Wales, at a cost of £2,000,000. The Murrumbidgee Valley was so situated that it could only be served by a colossal plan, and the State risked it. A great dam at Banerlach, with a front wall 240 feet high, is being built with all expedition.

A GREAT VEGETABLE CURSE.

Occasionally the Australian hears of the great blessing prickly pear is to the cattle ranchers in Texas and other parts of America. It is strange reading, when this country has to face the problem of how to get rid of the pear on fully six million acres of land which the curse holds unchecked. It is just fifty years since the plant was first imported here, and planted out as a hedge. Now it is absolutely uncontrollable. Every year it adds new territory to its possessions. On miles of country it would cost twice as much to clear as the land would be worth. Along the railway lines intersecting the infested parts, it stands like a wall on the fences, in some places 20 feet high, intertwined in the shrubbery. There are great areas waiting unclaimed which will be given free to any one undertaking to settle on it. A reward of £10,000 for an economically effective method of exterminating it has gone begging. During dry times stock-owners have tried feeding it to the starving cattle, but unless they got some other food with it, they would die on the fare. The settlers read the reports with envy as to how the Americans plant it and tend it as we do here economical fodder plants. The reason of the difference, probably, is that the plant grows here too profusely to gather up nutritive qualities. It cannot be destroyed unless it is burned with fire or sprayed with chemicals. If a leaf was hung on a fence for three months, and then