

The Live Stock Speculation.

Complaints are made by Western breeders of the poor quality of imported cattle. It is charged that runty, inferior, refuse animals, culled from foreign herds by speculators, are sold at public sale to greenhorns in the stock business, who wrongly believe that an animal's value is directly proportionate to the length of its pedigree, and the amount of its price; and who quite ignore the fact that the pedigree of any one of these animals has no more solid foundation than the mere word of its owner, who of course is an interested person and profits by any mistake, unintentional or otherwise. The present rage for imported cattle exists among the speculators and not the breeders. The breeders are well supplied by their own importations and have sufficient material to support their herds and meet all the demands of their experienced customers.

But a large speculative business is done in imported cattle, which are gathered up here and there; put in quarantine for ninety days; got up by feeding, brushing and various tricks of the jockey, and then sold to the greenhorns who are enthused by some previous puffing, and so lose their heads as to bid against each other, and pay enormous prices for cattle whose reputation depends upon the mere statements of the speculator. It is a marked feature of this speculation that every month or so a new strain or family comes to the front; the old favorites being forgotten, and the new favorites exceeding in price all previous records. And very soon these in their turn are displaced by a new one, and so the little game is kept up to the very great advantage of the speculators, until the bubble will burst by its extreme expansion.—[Modoc, in N. Y. Tribune.]

HOW TO TELL WHEN A COW IS PREGNANT.—In these times of high-priced Jerseys, and especially of the service of bulls of desirable strains of blood, it is a matter of great importance to know whether the cow has become pregnant; otherwise valuable time may be lost, which may vary the desired time fixed for her next calving. This information may also prove of value as to the condition, also, of the bull's verity; should this prove defective much inconvenience, or loss both of time and money, may result. A short time after a successful union the milk of a pregnant cow will indicate her true condition: get a drop of fresh milk drawn from the cow whose condition it is desired to know, let it fall into a glass of clear water, let the glass stand upon the table between the light and the observer, and if it readily disseminates itself through the water it is an evidence that the cow is not in calf, but if, instead, a drop of the milk of a cow served a short time previous and who is pregnant, falling upon the water, sinks to the bottom without making the water look milky only to a slight degree and distance, it is the result of the residuity and the increased specific gravity of the milk of a pregnant cow.—*Exchange.*

SHEEP EXPORT.—Mr. Robert Balderson, of Perth, has shipped within the past two weeks thirty-three hundred sheep to the American market. He sent away from Ottawa one day recently two carloads.

Work Horses on Grass.

W. D. Boynton, in the *Indiana Farmer*, says: Many farmers claim that it is better for horses to be out on grass while they are not at work during the summer. If there was a period of a month or more when the horses were not needed, I should say turn them out in a good pasture; but I know that few farm horses can be idle that length of time. Usually they are needed every day or two, either on the farm or on the road; if, indeed, they are not needed more or less every day. To turn horses out on grass when they are caught up and used frequently, in this way, is an injury to them. There is nothing that will run a horse down quicker than to be worked on grass in this way. You may feed them grain while working, but that does them but little good when their bowels are in a loose condition, as they always are while running out to grass. Grain goes through them with no apparent benefit, and it is a waste to feed it to them under such conditions. Horses cannot stand hard driving or hard work when they are taken from the pasture full of grass. I have noticed that it takes several weeks to harden horses up for fall work after they have been in the pasture through the summer.

Not a few men claim that they cannot afford to keep a team up in the stable all summer for a few days work. A man might avoid feed a little through the summer by turning them out in the pasture, and catching them up as he wants to use them, but would he not lose as much in some other way by the means?

In the first place he cannot do a full day's work with a horse that he has caught up from the grass in the morning. If he is cultivating, he will have to give them a long nooning and quit early at night. This is quite an item, especially if he has hired help and wants to get in full time. Then, too, it won't do to lag with the work while the weather is uncertain. It is an easy matter to lose \$25 in the crop by slack cultivating, and that would go far towards keeping a team through the season. And again it will take an extra amount of grain to get them up into working order in the fall. Everything considered, I think it economy to keep the team up through the summer if there are many days' work to be done.

THE HAVEMEYER SALE.—The public sale of the increase for 1883 of Mr. Theodore A. Havemeyer's Mountainside herd of Jerseys and several head from the herd of Mr. F. C. Havemeyer, at Westchester, was held recently, with a good attendance of breeders. Mr. F. C. Havemeyer's Mary Hinman 17619 (two-year-old heifer) went to Miller & Sibley, Franklin, Pa., for \$800; Pedro's Georgie 25664 (heifer calf) to J. A. Harris, of Florida, for \$660. Mr. T. A. Havemeyer's Mountain Berry 26057 (heifer) to Valancey E. Fuller, Hamilton, Ont., for \$600, Compo 4th 26013 (heifer) to W. H. Corning, Cleveland, O., \$500, and Coomassie Carlo 12180 (bull) to John A. Bennett, Danville, Pa., \$425. Four sons of Dr. Howe's Gilderoy sold for \$425, \$435, \$455 and \$270, respectively. The bull Silver Sheen 9017 (son of the \$15,000 bull Black Prince of Hanover, dam Satin 10339 by Duke of Darlington) was not sold. Mr. W. H. Corning, of Cleveland, O., secured several of the best things.—[Breeder's Gazette.]

The Mouth and Bit.

The *National Live Stock Journal* says:—Yet the bars of the mouth on which the bit rests are as amenable to culture as are the fingers amenable to improvement in sensitiveness of touch. This is a matter of training which can only be carried on successfully by gentleness from a delicate hand, the lessons being repeatedly given, and all the time alike. The idea that the horse can be made to mind the bit and become tractable under it by jerking and roughly forcing him to whirl round, or go from side to side under strong pressure from the lines, is an error. Such treatment causes callosities, thickening of the delicate gums upon which the bit rests, and, in proportion as this rough treatment is persisted in, does the mouth part with its sensitiveness and the horse pass beyond a reasonably fair stage of susceptibility to training. The curb bit should be used with great care, as it is in every sense a lever, and a very free going horse may rush forward upon the bit with such determination as to bruise through the delicate tissues covering the bone, and it not infrequently happens that the bone becomes injured to the extent of splitting off pieces, which, adhering for a while to the soft parts, slough loose, causing great suffering, and eventually leaving a depression at the point from which they become detached. Few realize the hazard that is incurred by using a long curb lever to the bit, taking away all pliability of this by unduly tightening the curb chain or strap.

The sensitiveness of the bars upon which the bit bears is very great. Covered with a delicate velvet-like mucous membrane, with a highly sensitive structure beneath this and over the bone, we are admonished that we have in this sensitive structure an efficient agency in bringing the horse under our rule. To get the full benefit of these sensitive bars, we must preserve their sensitiveness. This is done by using a bit that can be borne easily and without injury, and by using gentle force. When these precautions are neglected, thickened, indurated bars, are the result, and as this condition increases the horse loses his tractability, and if he be naturally headstrong then the calloused mouth will render him doubly so, because in proportion to the thickening and hardening of the parts upon which the bit bears, in that proportion is he able readily to resist the driver's will, asserting his own. This condition is sometimes produced upon one side of the mouth, the other side not being callous. Where this occurs the horse will be addicted to pulling upon the rein of that side, and his power to resist turning to the right, if the thickening be upon the right side, or to the left if it be on that side, will be great, and all this may be, and often is, attributed to having what men see fit to call a stiff neck. All efforts to change and improve the forward carriage of the horse by manipulation through the bit and lines, should be put into force very gradually, and in place of doing violence to the horse's natural formation, as is too commonly done, the utmost ingenuity and judgment should be exercised, looking to improvement rather than to a violent change.

Don't inaugurate a system of feeding which you cannot continue with unflinching regularity.