



The Clydesdale Stallion Celtic Laird, owned and imported by The Graham-Benfrew Co., Ltd., Bedford Park, Ont.

About Live Stock

Notes from the Horse Investigation

At a meeting held at Sittsville, Ont., on October 27, Mr. W. F. Kydd, one of the Commissioners securing information in regard to the horse industry, stated that in one county visited, 30 out of the 39 stallions in the county were unfit for service. In Carleton county there are 44 stallions, 32 draft and 12 light. Out of these the commissioners found 9 that were unsound. The estimated number of mares bred this year was 2,800. In Carleton county only 19 of the heavy class and four of the light are registered.

Mr. Kydd also stated that the two things to be discussed were the inspection of horses by the Government and the licensing of horses to travel for service. If licensing were enacted a large number of horses now on the road would not be eligible to travel. This question, however, was left for the farmer to decide.

After some discussion Mr. R. H. Grant, Hazeldean, seconded by Mr. T. Jinkinson, Sittsville, moved the following resolution, which carried:—That in the opinion of this meeting the Government is justified in imposing a license fee on all stallions eligible for service in the county.

Mr. Campbell Smith, Hintonburg, brought up the question of grade sires at the fall fairs. He said that in no other class of animals were grade sires given prizes, but in horses, and he did not think it fair to the breeders of cattle, sheep, swine and other animals, who exhibited, that this should be allowed. He thought the matter should be brought to the attention of the Provincial Government.

A motion carried, disapproving of agricultural societies offering prizes for grade stallions.

Feeding Horses by Weight

It has long been the custom to prescribe rations for cows and other cattle according to their live weight, and it is only natural that the same system should be proposed for horses. In large studs belonging to carriage

companies, for instance, where the horses are looked on as dividend-earning machines, a very slight saving per head weekly may amount to a large sum on the total per annum, and so the rations are very exactly made out. In the case of a farmer with six, eight, or ten horses there is not the same need for such exact work, more especially as, say, half the feed of each animal is grass or forage, which cannot be exactly measured; still, some attention should be paid to the different needs of different horses. A French authority has been investigating the relation of feed to weight, and after examining about 30,000 horses of all kinds, he gives the following figures: It requires about 4½ lbs. of mixed food (say oats and hay) for every 220 lbs. of live weight. A heavy draught horse will on this scale require about 20 lbs. of oats and 1½ lbs. of hay daily, or at the rate of 3 lbs. of oats and 1½ lbs. of hay for every 220 lbs. live weight; or, in other words, two of oats to one of hay—with "lighter" horses in proportion. These figures pretty well reverse our ordinary ideas, for the usual allowance of 2½ bushels per head per week works out at 14 to 15 lbs. daily, with hay ad lib. It is argued by some of our authorities, however, that the former figures are correct, and that we are in the habit of giving too few oats and too much hay. The idea with most farmers has been to give a restricted quantity of oats, and then to let the horse "fill up" on hay or grass, as the case may be, but the new idea is rather to reverse this. Where there is a weighbridge there is a ready way of testing a horse just at hand. When in full work he should be weighed from time to time; if his weight remains steady, or increases a little, then his food is sufficient for him, but if he loses weight, then he ought to have his rations increased with more oats, or—better still—beans. Constant under-feeding will very soon show itself in his condition, but the weighing is the most sensitive test. In the country weighing a horse is a most unusual occurrence, but in the States the

weight of an animal is one of the items of information usually given when it changes hands, and it is often a useful thing to know.—English Exchange.

Profitable Fattening Age

F. B. Mumford, Professor of Animal Husbandry, Missouri State University, writes:

"It requires about one-half as much grain to produce a hundred pounds of gain on calves as on 2-year-olds. The work of the Missouri agricultural college has definitely demonstrated that the most profitable age to fatten cattle is while they are still young. The older the animal, the more food is required to produce a given gain. Other stations have also investigated this question and have arrived at the same results.

The central experiment station farm at Ottawa, Canada, found by comparing one thousand pounds live weight in the case of calves, yearlings, 2 and 3-year-olds, that the profit for each one thousand pounds was: Calves, \$31; yearlings, \$27; 2-year-olds, \$9.10; 3-year-olds, \$12.80.

When all of the cattle of all ages were purchased at 4c a pound, and sold at 5c a pound, the profit on \$1,000 invested in feeding cattle was: Calves, \$557.50; yearlings, \$284; 2-year-olds, \$198.75; 3-year-olds, \$177.50.

Nine-tenths of all the cattle fed in the middle west are 2-year-olds at the beginning of the feeding period. When these cattle are in thin condition at the beginning of the experiment, they are often fed with profit; but starting with calves in the same condition it is unquestionably true that the calves return more profit for each thousand dollars invested than the older cattle."

A Good Sheep Year

Flockmasters will probably find some reason to challenge the opinion expressed in the title, but on the whole the "man in the street" in this case will probably be right. Lambs and wool have been selling extra well, and the closing great sales of ewes reported last week repeat the tale current, in the main, since the Inverness market gave the tone to the trade of 1906. Of course, prices are not everything—that is to say, it does not follow that because prices generally have ruled high, profits will be proportionately great. The lambing season was not too favorable, and numbers have been short. While the demand for lambs for short keep has been excellent, the price has been raised by the scarcity of the article in demand. It is said that this shortage ranges from 10 to 30 per cent., and it takes a considerable advance in price to square such a deficiency. Cast ewes have sold well and there has been less indication of shortage in their numbers than in that of lambs.

Wool has now got back to its former position of pre-eminence. It must this year, in most cases be doing a good deal more than paying the rent. The rents of sheep farms have fallen to such an extent during the past decade that there is more room for margin in the price of wool than there was for many a day. In 1899 half-bred wool was reported selling at from 7d. to 8½d. per lb.; for 1905 the average price quoted was from 11½d. to 12½d. per lb. White Cheviot wool was quoted in 1899 at 4½d. to 4¾d. per lb.; in 1905 it ranged from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb., and 1906 has witnessed a further advance.

The two factors in bringing about the improved condition of the flock-