

because it bespeaks a healthy animal, which means a durable animal.

Quality is shown in the hocks of the horse. Horses that are unduly full in the front of the hock or in the web of the hock, are possessed of undesirable quality. While drafters are not as clean in the hocks as light-harness horses, yet the same standard is sought, and the farther a horse departs from that ideal, the less desirable he is. Coarse-skinned horses, with a tendency to meatiness in the legs frequently show a tendency to crack or crease in the angle of the hock. This is very undesirable, and, like scratches, is held against the animal as a lack of quality.

The feet, too, give unmistakable evidences of quality. Coarseness in the texture of the hoof, accompanied by brittleness, are undesirable in the feet themselves, and are taken as indications of similar faults in the bone.

In judging quality, no judicious man will accept the evidence of one point alone, but will carefully consider every part which in any way contributes to the sum total of indications of quality, since few horses approximate perfection in all parts.

Cost of Shipping Horses West.

In comparing the Western Canada versus the Eastern States market for horses, the following estimate of the cost of shipping draft geldings to Winnipeg in carload lots, furnished "The Farmer's Advocate" by Jas. McCartney & Son, horse-dealers, of London, Ont., are of interest. Cost for an ordinary car, with a load not exceeding 20,000 pounds' weight, \$141; feed en route, \$24; attendant's wages, \$16; attendant's board, \$12; attendant's return fare, at one cent a mile, \$14; total, \$207, not allowing for insurance.

This figures out to practically \$13 per head, figuring on a carload of 16 head. A palace car comes higher. To Calgary, an ordinary car would cost \$200, with other expenses proportionately greater. Would it not be better to have a market nearer at hand?

LIVE STOCK.

A Good Stable of Cattle.

The Wingham (Ont.) Times of recent date contained an item stating that on Tuesday, January 31st, 25 head of the choicest cattle that ever left Wingham station were shipped from that point. They should weigh a little over 1,300 pounds, and had been fed by W. F. Vanstone. Concerning them, Mr. Vanstone informs "The Farmer's Advocate" that part of the steers he raised, and the rest bought last spring, and grassed all summer, stabling them on the 28th October at nights till Nov. 12th, then tied in, and they were never out till driven to the station. He has good stabling, and water in every stall. Thirteen head were Aberdeen-Angus, and the rest Shorthorn, all well bred. The first month he fed cut oat straw and lots of roots, mangels and turnips; meal at noon. Then six weeks on about 25 pounds silage each, with meal morning and night, and clover hay and turnips at noon. These cattle were very good going in about 1,150 pounds, and he could have got then about 5½c. for them. They went out weighing 1,300 pounds, at 6c., and dollar a head over. They were curried about twice a week, and they looked very sleek and fat. Last year he had just as good results without silage, but with more clover hay, and let them out a couple of times a week; but, if curried, and lots of water, they get very contented in all the time. No flax, meal or powders of any kind were fed, but the steers got a little salt every other day. Mr. Vanstone feeds lots of hogs, and has fed them profitably the last few years.

Co-operative live-stock insurance by local mutual companies appears to be worked successfully in France and Germany. Such insurance is applicable to cattle principally, those under three months and over twelve years being eligible. The average yearly loss on such is 2 per cent. On horses, the rate is double. Sheep and pigs are dangerous risks to touch.

Some of the principles on which some of these companies do business may be briefly stated:

1. The local society must be limited to a small area where the neighbors all know each other.
 2. The farmer must declare all the cattle he possesses, as well as those he actually wants to insure, and all must be examined and valued.
 3. Indemnity must never exceed 80 per cent. of value.
 4. Local societies are autonomous, and may modify rules, subject to approval of central union.
 5. Local societies must affiliate with central union, and must re-insure with it a portion of their total risks.
 6. A member must join for one complete year.
- Premiums are calculated at a figure to provide for losses much greater than the average, and, when a reserve has been accumulated, rates can be lowered.

Re Brood Sows or Cows?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I cannot say how many pigs should be kept, according to the number of cows, as we seldom have any milk for our pigs, but I will try to show the amount of profit in each case, but, before doing so, I will pass a few remarks on "Berk Bacon's" queries. I quite agree with him that one should stay right with the hogs, but the number to keep is very difficult to decide, because we must remember it is supply and demand that regulates the price. Of course, other meats will help to raise or lower the price of pork to a certain extent. At the present price, a man could not do wrong in keeping all the pigs he could find room for, but if everyone did that, what would be the price of pork in twelve months' time? I think about 6 or 6½ cents per pound, dressed. Then, the man who had the most pigs would likely lose the most money. I also think, if double the number of hogs were kept, we should notice a big difference in the price of feed. If every farmer kept three brood sows to the 100 acres, it would be about all that could be kept without putting the price of pork so low that it would be a losing game. He has surely made a mistake in saying a brood sow will only cost \$10 per year. Mine cost over double that amount, but I keep the pigs on them until they are eight weeks old, in the spring, and nine in the fall, which makes seventeen weeks for the two litters; so that makes the sow's keep more than it would be if they were weaned at six weeks of age.

Now, as regards the profit in each case, we keep 15 cows, and send the milk to Hamilton, at 16 cents per gallon, but have to pay 2 cents per gallon for delivery. The cows cost us about \$40 each per year for keep, and say \$12 a year for depreciation and interest, which, together with \$1.00 per year service fee, makes a total of \$53 per year, or \$795 for the 15 cows. We send two cans of milk all the year, and part of the time three cans. Last year's receipts were as follows: Milk, after paying for drawing, \$930; veal, \$94;

lowed for manure or labor in either case, which is, perhaps, unfair to the hog. Still from the above it is very evident there is far more money in hogs than in cows, but it is a business that in many respects needs more care, and the risks are far greater.

C. J. BAILEY.

An Exhibitor's Disapproval.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I was very much pleased that some one from Perth Co. opened a discussion regarding the Winter Fair, recently held in Guelph. I most heartily approve of the statements made by your correspondent. I exhibited a pair of draft geldings at the recent fair. I wrote to Mr. Hamner, superintendent, stating that I wished stalls in the building; consequently, I expected to get them on my arrival. I reached Guelph about eleven o'clock on Friday evening, and put my horses in the Fair Building. Remember that I took the first horse into the building. Early Saturday morning, Col. McEwen came along and told me that I would have to remove my horses, as there was no room for them there, and that if I did not, he would have them removed. I wished to know the reason, but have not yet received any satisfactory reason. I have been showing horses at different local fairs for several years, and I have always received fair treatment. I expected the same in Guelph, but was sadly disappointed. Mr. Westervelt acknowledges that the accommodation is not what it should be, and says that the inference made by the letter is not correct; there was absolutely no intention to favor the large exhibitor, to the disadvantage of the smaller exhibitor. In conversation with President Bright, he said that if I would come to Guelph next year with half a dozen horses, he would guarantee me a place in the building. Would not that be favoring a large exhibitor? Furthermore, where can you find a common farmer who has a half a dozen horses in condition to exhibit at Guelph Fair?

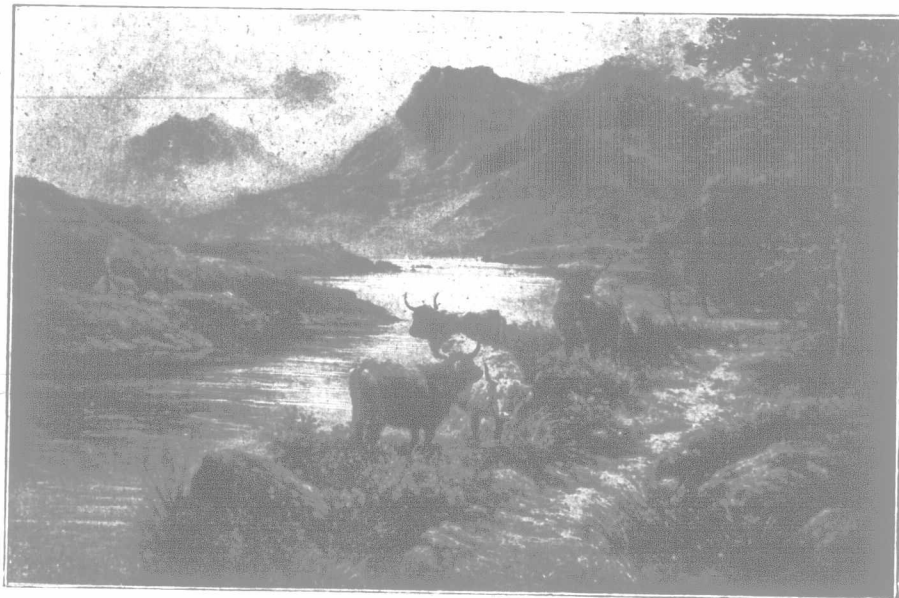
With regard to railway accommodation, it seems unreasonable to load show stock at six o'clock in the morning, and have them standing on the siding for six hours. Why not have them left in the building if they were not going to get any further than the junction?

As your correspondent has said, the results were very disastrous to me, as one of my horses contracted influenza, which developed into pneumonia, and he finally died. I believe the G. T. R. are responsible for the death of that horse. I think amateur exhibitors will do well to consider carefully the existing conditions before making entries for the Guelph Winter Fair.

Perth Co., Ont.

JAS. SCOTT, Jr.

Col. Robt. McEwen, who, with a good deal of reluctance, undertook the management of the stabling of the horses, writes that he did so fully realizing that, with in the neighborhood of 100 to be located outside, there would be nearly as many dissatisfied as pleased exhibitors to deal with. "That it was a disadvantage and unpleasant for the exhibitor to take his horses outside, I willingly admit," Col. McEwen writes, "but when he states that it was unfair, I believe that others who were equally unfortunate with him, will not support him. During the two days he continued to remain in the building, I explained over and over again my method of the allotment of stalls. All I desire to claim is that I made an honest effort to tide over a difficult situation to the satisfaction of the exhibitors in general, and not to any one particular individual. At the same time, I realize the want of more stall accommodation for horses is a most serious drawback to the welfare of the Winter Fair, whose success in the future depends upon the good will of its supporters, whether as exhibitors or visitors. If their reasonable requirements are not provided for, then their attendance cannot long be looked for. Large sums have been expended upon additional buildings, as this show has yearly increased, until now the directors are at their wits' end to know in what way they can take care of the immense interests which demand attention at their hands. When the latest new addition was made, at an expenditure by the city council of Guelph and the Ontario Legislature, of somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50,000, I be-



"The Sunlit Mere."

8 calves, at two or three days old, \$12. We also made about 160 pounds of butter, which averaged 25 cents per pound, and about \$20 worth of milk and cream used at home, which makes the total receipts from the cows \$1,096, or a profit of \$301 from 15 cows, which is an average of \$20 per cow.

Now, as regards the hogs, I must begin by saying they are fed under very unfavorable conditions, as they get practically no milk, and are never out of the pen until they are ready for the butcher. The sows have the run of the orchard during the summer, and the run of the barnyard for two or three hours a day during winter. Now, it would not be fair for me to take last year's account, as I did in the case of the cows, so I will take the last three years combined, as last year pork was very much higher than usual. I cannot give anything like a detailed account, as it would take up far too much space, so I will simply give the number of hogs, the cost of feed, and the receipts during the years in question. We fed 145 pigs, and fed off 3 sows (the number we keep), at a cost of \$1,405, including the keep of the sows we were breeding; also, during that time, we bought three sows, at a total cost of \$115, which, with \$16 for service fees, and \$24 interest, makes a total of \$1,560. The reason the service fees were only \$16 is one of the sows missed twice during that time. As regards the receipts, the 145 pigs brought in a total of \$2,058, and the three sows \$94.50, or a total of \$2,152.50. Of course, some of the pork was used at home, but that was charged at the same price the butcher paid. So, we see, the three sows, by feeding their progeny, show a profit of \$592.50 for a period of three years, or nearly \$66 per sow each year. You will note there is nothing al-