

The Record Cattle Season.

The end of this month will practically see the end of the cattle shipping season of 1906. When statistics are all compiled it will be found that this season's shipments have been the largest on record. They will in all probability amount to over 65,000 head between the beginning of August and the end of November. The volume of trade has been unexpectedly large. Close observers of the movement of cattle had predicted that cattle production on the ranges had been on the decrease during the past four years; that settlement by farmers was curtailing the ranching industry and that the large number of cows and heifers sold in past seasons would have its natural effect upon supplies. But it is evident that all these agencies have not operated as expected. True, several of the larger ranches have been divided and their stock dispersed, but all of this stock has not left the country and the natural rates of increase among the thousands of breeding cattle in the range country is equal to an enormous drain upon their numbers without diminution. Under the present status of cattle ranching it is safe to say that 25,000 more cows will contribute to the quota of range cattle next spring than raised calves during the present season, and each year will see more and more breeding cattle employed. The fact is, no matter what disposition is made of the land in the cattle country, there will be no decrease in the production of this staple.

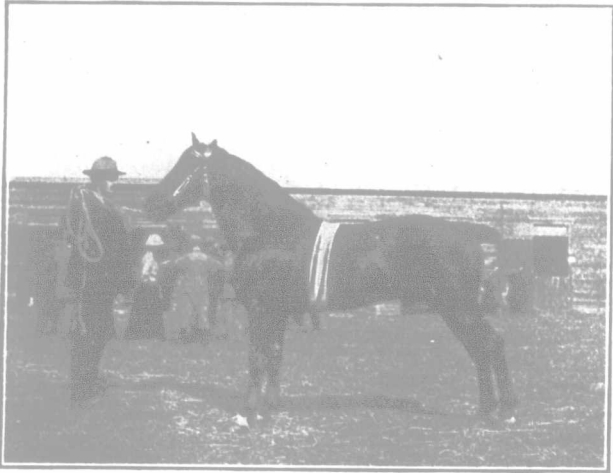
And not alone is the quantity destined to increase but the cattle business has now reached such a position that there cannot fail to be a steady increase in the quality of the cattle raised. Closer application to the business due to the lesser numbers on each ranch will result in a gradual supplementing of the less suitable breeding stuff by earlier maturing, thicker fleshed kine.

HORSE

One hundred and twenty head of Clydesdales were shipped in one day from Scotland, practically all of them were destined for Canada.

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Japan spends 200,000 yen per year in the interests of horse breeding. That means about as much money as though it were expressed in dollars. A yen is equivalent to 99.5 cents.



CHAMPION LIGHT HORSE AT NEW WESTMINSTER 1906
G. H. Hadwen's (Duncan's) Hackney stallion.

For a long time the Secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain has issued duplicate certificates to Canadian importers. One of these certificates was supposed to be retained by the customs authorities and the other by the importer. In some cases the custom officials returned the duplicates to the owners with the result that a man might have two certificates for the one horse, and what he could do with one of them would not be above suspicion. This year, however, the Ottawa authorities have ruled that but one certificate is necessary and this must be shown, checked and stamped at port of entry. This is a great saving of work for the secretary in Glasgow.

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Competition in the horse business runs high in the States. Importing firms make use of every possible opportunity of getting their stock before the public. One of the methods is to loan horses to the agricultural colleges for

class work purposes. While in the class rooms the horses are scored before the students and if the professor is plausible and feels generously inclined some astonishing scores are recorded. Of course the public would ordinarily know nothing about these high scores, except what it learned in casual conversation, and consequently the full value of the demonstration is lost to those not attending the classes. But an enterprising firm has had published in one of our most esteemed exchanges the detailed score, of their best horse, given by the "authorities" of the Iowa Agricultural College. The score of 97 1/4 indicates how the "authorities" regarded the horse and the fact that the score in detail was published is a high tribute to the enterprise of his owners. It is now up to other firms to have their best horses scored by college or other authorities, as it would be a great assistance in making sales. Notice is given that the score must be over 99 1/4 for 2 1/4 points have been explained onto the total of 97 1/4 in the cases referred to above. This is not written to encourage the scoring of horses by "experts" and the publication of their scores. Personally we must plead an excuse from the task of scoring, on the ground

THE experience of old and new settlers alike has been that they cannot bring their friends at "the old home" to a realization of the agricultural and industrial conditions of our great new land. Descriptive letters are received with considerable skepticism and the significance of reports is invariably lost in a maze of misconceptions. Everyone has an acquaintance whom he wishes to interest in the opportunities of Western Canada, and in order to impress these upon him let us suggest that he be sent a copy of the special Christmas Number of the Farmer's Advocate. This special issue will contain articles dealing with western industry, agricultural development, present day problems, and stories full of local color and incident. The number, to be published December 19th, will be sumptuously illustrated from photos of western scenes and the whole makes one of the most appropriate gifts one could send to an absent friend. Orders to mail this number to any address in the world will be executed upon receipt of 25 cents. Order early as only a limited number will be printed.

of the exigencies of other affairs, and as for the publication—well we would not take the risk of being understood to agree with the figures handed in.

Training a Horse for Saddle Purposes.

As the value of a saddle horse depends greatly upon his mouth and manners, and as mouth and manners are largely due to his early training, it will readily be seen that the man who undertakes the making of a saddler out of a colt should be a man of some experience in handling green horses under the saddle. A green man and a green horse make a combination from which good results cannot reasonably be expected. In order that any man may be able to make a satisfactory saddler out of a colt, the animal must have the necessary individuality; he must have quality, spirit, ambition, and the desirable size and weight. He must have Thoroughbred blood close up, and the nearer he approaches the Thoroughbred in general conformation and action, the better. The man about to train or school a horse should have experience in handling green horses; he should be able to ride well, and have both good hands and a good seat. Supposing the colt be perfectly green, the first thing to be attended to is to give him a mouth, or, in other words get him accustomed to a bit. This should be well done before the colt is mounted, else his mouth is very liable to be spoiled, and

he will either become afraid of a bit or become a puller, either of which is very undesirable in any class of horse, and cannot be tolerated in a saddler. His first lesson should consist in putting an ordinary riding bridle with a plain, jointed snaffle bit on him, and he should be allowed to run in a paddock or large box stall a few hours each day with the bit in his mouth. This should be continued until he ceases to fight the bit and feels quite at home with it in his mouth. Special bits, which are quite large, jointed, and have dangling from the center several pieces of iron which hang down over the tongue, are manufactured for this purpose, but our experience has taught us to favor the plain snaffle. After he has become accustomed to this, gentle pressure should be put upon it to teach him to press slightly upon it and yield to its restraint. This can be best done with a dumb jockey (a contrivance made especially for the purpose). It consists in two pieces of wood or gutta percha, crossed somewhat like an end of a sawhorse, such as is used by a busksawyer. This is attached to a back pad, which is buckled around the girth, a strap passed backwards from each stick to a crouper, to keep the jockey in position. On the front aspect of each stick are several large screw-eyes. The reins should have about a foot of rubber or spiral wire at each end to which a snap is attached. The snap is snapped into a screw-eye well up, passed forward through the ring of the bit, brought back and snapped into a screw-eye lower down. The reins should be adjusted so as to give very gentle pressure, and the colt allowed to run in the paddock for a few hours. The next day a little greater pressure should be given. This teaches the subject to yield to pressure upon the bit, arch his neck, and incline the mouth slightly towards the breast. The elastic ends on the reins will allow the colt to stretch his neck and protrude his nose, but will fetch the parts back to the desired position as soon as pressure is released, and gives him the habit of arching the neck nicely upon slight pressure being exerted upon the bridle reins.

If a dummy cannot be obtained, a handy man can make one, or it can be substituted with reasonable satisfaction by an ordinary surcingle, with a strap from each of the withers to the bit; a single strap will do, but it will give much better satisfaction if it or a part of it be elastic. It is generally considered good practice to lunge a horse every day during this part of his education. That is, besides the bridle, put a strong halter on his head and attach a long rein to the noseband, and lead the colt out to a lot and drive him either straight away or in a circle. It is better to have



CHAMPION HEAVY DRAFT SALLION AT VICTORIA 1906
Owned by J. A. Evans Chilliwack.

the lunging rein attached to the noseband of the halter than to the bit, as the former does not worry his mouth, while the latter will. When he has got sufficient education in this way, the next thing is to mount. We think that the plain snaffle bridle should be used and great care should be taken in mounting in order to not frighten him, as a good saddler must stand still to be mounted and dismounted. It is good practice, in most cases, to get him accustomed to having a boy or a man on his back before a saddle is used. This can be done by gently lifting a boy on and off many times while he is undergoing his preliminary education in the paddock or stall. When the saddle is on, the man about to mount should give him a lesson or two in having weight put upon the stirrup on the near side, by putting his foot in the stirrup and gently putting weight upon it, but not attempting to mount. When the colt will stand for this, the trainer should mount slowly and carefully. He must not get in a hurry, but slowly lift himself into the stirrup,

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