

### How to Oil Harness.

As a preservative of leather, oiling the harness is a very useful thing. But there are many ways in which harness is oiled, and not all are good ways. The following, however, may be vouched for to be all right: Take the harness to a room where you can unbuckle it and separate the parts completely. Wash each part well in lukewarm water, to which has been added a little potash. Scrub well with a coir brush until all grease and dust has been removed. Work the pieces well under the hand until they become supple. It won't do to oil it until it becomes so. Let the parts dry in a place where they will do so slowly. When just moist, oil. For this purpose use cod liver oil. It is the best for the purpose. Besides, if you were to use neat's-foot, the rats and mice are your enemies at once, while they will not touch a harness oiled with cod liver oil. Give a good dose of oil to all parts, then hang up to dry. When dry, rub well with a soft rag. You will have a splendidly-oiled harness.—[Horse World.]

### The Spring Stallion Show.

When the heavy horse breeders and dealers broke away from the Spring Horse Show in the Armories at Toronto, three years ago, it was given as a reason that the show was too late in the season, consequently the first separate show of heavy horses was held in March, 1903, but that was not early enough, so this year it was held in February, while for the coming year it is announced for January 26th, 27th and 28th, at the Repository, Toronto. This brings it within eight weeks of the Provincial Winter Fair at Guelph, and, naturally, anticipates the time when the two shall be held simultaneously under one management. The seasonable adjective, "spring," had better be dropped from the title of the show before it becomes too firmly fixed, and there is no excuse for such a misnomer in connection with this important event. This year, it is expected that upward of two thousand dollars will be distributed in prizes.

### The Fall Market.

Dealers have been rather disappointed in the general trend of the horse market this fall. The lumbermen, who generally take a lot of horses, have not been buying heavily, largely because labor troubles have curtailed the consumption of lumber. It is expected, however, that after the new year, when the Northwest trade begins to operate, there will be a better tone to the market. For the present, those having horses on hand are advised to either meet the buyers half way, or to retain them and fit them up well for the almost certain movement that is expected to take place during winter and the coming spring.

## STOCK.

### Winter Feeding of Cattle.

The fattening of cattle is carried on under such widely different circumstances that it is impossible to lay down any hard-and-fast rules and say that these are right and all others wrong. There are, however, three conditions essential to success in the stall feeding of cattle, viz., good cattle, an abundance of cheap winter feed, and good management.

With the proper beef type in mind, it will not be difficult to recognize a suitable stocker. To find him is a more difficult matter. Owing largely to the great expansion of the dairy business during the past fifteen or twenty years, it is becoming more and more difficult to procure good stockers for feeding. To get satisfactory animals a farmer is almost compelled to breed his own. In case he does so, too much importance cannot be attached to the selection of the sire. It should never be forgotten that he is half the herd. Good grade cows are all right to breed from, but the bull should always be pure-bred. It is poor economy to save fifty cents or a dollar in the first cost of the calf, and lose from ten to fifteen dollars when the finished animal is placed on the market. Besides this, the price at which pure-bred bulls can be obtained in these days leaves no excuse for the use of an inferior animal.

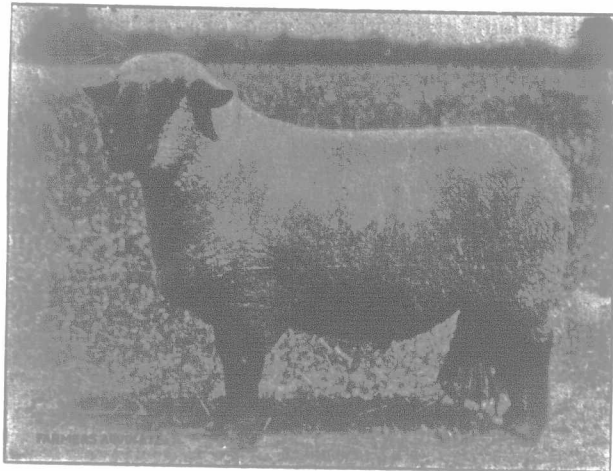
An abundant supply of cheap feed is essential to success in winter feeding. Cattle that receive liberal rations of succulent feed, such as roots and ensilage, will have the sleek, thrifty appearance of grass-fed cattle, and there will be little trouble with indigestion or having them go off their feed, as is often the case with cattle that are fed exclusively on dry fodder and grain.

The grain ration depends so largely on circumstances that it will not be discussed here. It is always well, however, to commence with a comparatively light ration and finish with the more concentrated grains. Water and salt should always be within easy reach, and the cattle should be kept free from lice by the use of some of the proprietary dips, or other remedies.

W. A. CLEMONS.

### Hampshire Down Sheep.

The Hampshire Down originated in the counties of Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire, and is the outcome of the improved Southdown crossed upon the old Wiltshire horned sheep and the old Berkshire Knot. Both the Wiltshire and Berkshire breeds were strong limbed, had Roman noses, and were hardy, enduring folding closely in large numbers, but were hard feeders, and somewhat slow in maturing. About the beginning of the nineteenth century their improvement was commenced by the use of Southdown rams upon native ewes; but sometimes native rams were used on South-



Hampshire Down Ram.

down ewes. A careful selection followed, and, after a time, cross-bred rams of the progeny were chosen. In this way a breed was formed which combined the hardihood of the old native breed with the good-feeding qualities of the Southdown. To Mr. William Humphrey, of Oak Ash, Newbury, is due, in great measure, the perfecting of the breed. His work commenced about 1835, and he used, with excellent results, some of the largest and best Southdown rams from the flock of Mr. Jonas Webb, one of the principal improvers of that breed, paying as high as £60 for the service of a ram for a season. The new breed were exhibited at the first show of the Royal Agricultural Show at Oxford, in 1840, as West Country Downs, a name they retained for some time, but were soon after recognized by the Royal Society in the prize list as a pure breed, under the name of Hampshire Downs. They are, perhaps, more popular with the average farmer of a larger area in England than any other breed for folding on green forage crops and turnips, being especially suited for that purpose, gaining rapidly in weight, while enriching the land, and making it more productive of all farm crops. The rams are also much sought after for crossing upon long-woolled ewes for raising early lambs, the lambs growing rapidly and maturing earlier for the market, either pure-bred or when crossed, it is said, than

in Great Britain and America. The Hampshire Down Breeders' Association of America was organized in 1889, of which Mr. C. A. Tyler, Nottawa, Michigan, is at present the secretary. The first volume of the Record was issued in 1890, and over 9,000 have been recorded. Hampshires are now distributed in twenty States of the Union, and small flocks exist in Ontario and Quebec. In size, they are second only to the Oxfords among the middle-woolled breeds, and they are a close second to them in average weight, which for rams at maturity, in good breeding condition, may be put at about 250 lbs., and for ewes at 200 lbs. Their feeding qualities are excellent, as has been amply proven by their winnings at the leading fat-stock shows in Britain. The quality of their meat is of the best, being juicy, tender, and the lean and fat ordinarily well mixed. The ewes are regular breeders and excellent milkers, bringing their lambs along rapidly. The wool is nearly as fine as that of the Southdown, and they shear somewhat heavier fleeces, averaging probably seven to ten pounds unwashed wool. The color of their face and legs is dark brown or black. The head is rather large, and the nose Roman, the ears moderately long and thin, the body long, the back straight, quarters long from hips to rump, broad in hips and rump, with full hams, the inside of the thigh also being full. The Hampshires are worthy of more general adoption in this country, being a good, substantial, prolific and useful breed, either as pure-bred or for cross-

### Our English Letter.

#### MARKET TENDENCIES.

The splendid weather of the past month has kept farmers in good heart, and the agricultural situation to-day is more hopeful than it has been for a long time. If for winter crops more moisture in the soil was desirable, the advantages of plowing land for spring corn and roots in dry condition far outweigh the disadvantage named, apart from the great benefit of a dry time for getting potatoes and mangels off the fields.

The farmers started wheat sowing so early this year that fields may already be seen which wear the green tinge that indicates a new crop in being. There is little doubt that the grain has germinated very favorably; the color, the main guide in this earliest stage, is very satisfactory and healthy.

The wheat market has remained in a quiet state during the greater part of the past fortnight. The unfortunate dispute between this country and Russia over the North Sea tragedy has been so far satisfactorily settled, and the war cloud no longer hangs over Europe. Last week's tension, however, led some wheat operators to buy a little more freely for distant arrival, feeling confident, war or no war, the future of wheat prices is inclined to an upward rather than to a downward tendency, because of the obvious scarcity and high price of wheat in America, notwithstanding the present abundance of supplies in this country. It is, in fact, impossible to suppose that the abnormal position in America can have no more effect upon Europe than that so far witnessed. For the moment, No. 1 northern Manitoba, landed, is quoted at Mark Lane, \$9.48, and No. 2, \$9.24.

There is very little change to note in the flour market, which has remained generally in a quiet state, with buyers slow to operate and sellers slow to give way, in face of the relatively high price of all wheats except Indian. American flour remains very scarce, especially finest spring patents, for which needy buyers pay \$7.92 ex store for small lots; for shipment, \$8.10 c.i.f., has been asked. Some first bakers', however, are selling at \$5.80, ex store terms. Canadian flour is quoted \$7.68, and Australian — of which we are receiving about 4,000 sacks a week — \$6.25.

Maize is quiet, La Plata making \$5.00, ex ship. Oats have relapsed into quietness, with the supply exceeding the demand. Canadian, \$4.30 (per 320 lbs.).

The live-cattle trade at Deptford throughout the week has been very dull, and a complete clearance has not been effected on any of the market days. On Wednesday we had 1,768 States cattle in the lairs, but



Derby (Imp.) = 32059 =.

Five-year-old Shorthorn bull. Recently sold by Hudson Usher, Queenston, Ont., to W. J. Shean & Co., Owen Sound.

any other breed. Hampshires were imported to Canada in limited numbers as early as the sixties of last century, but have not been widely diffused in this country, which is hard to account for, as in these days of demand for juicy, lean meat they should fill the bill admirably. Associations in the interest of the breed have been formed, both