

African experience the Canadian horse was superior to the English, American, Australian and Argentine production.

The Improvement of the Golden Hoofed.

The sheep industry in the West is declining, looking at the matter from one standpoint, viz., the desire of so many owning sheep to sell out and go into cattle. As is the case when extremes in dealing happen, sheep are going up steadily in value, and hold out very good prospects to the person who will stay with them. In this connection it is interesting to note the satisfactory work being done under the efficient management of Mr. D. H. Andrews, of the Canadian Northwest Land and Ranch Co., with headquarters at



GOING INTO ACTION—COL. DENT AND MAJOR ORMSBY-GORE, BUYING ARMY HORSES AT CALGARY.

Crane Lake. When the gentleman in question took hold, five or six times the number of sheep were kept, and the profits were nil. Under the new management, the flock was reduced to 1,000 ewes, inbreeding done away with, and rams of good mutton form used, with the result that the weight of the yearling wethers has been raised from 90 lbs. to 137 lbs. apiece. The original stock were Merino grades from Idaho. A cross of the Oxford was used, followed with several crosses of Shropshire blood, with results as mentioned. The sheep are only fed a portion of the winter, a hundred tons of hay sufficing for the band. An absolute necessity to success with sheep is, however, a good shepherd.

A Dangerous Menace.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

My opinion is that the tuberculin test is at its best an unmitigated nuisance, and a dangerous menace to all cattle interests. As a diagnostic tuberculin may be of some use, but its value for that purpose is now as much disputed as the use of the serum for a consumption cure was years ago. It is too open to abuse from ignorance, error or fraud to be reliable. I do not believe that the great authorities agree or can prove that tuberculosis in man and beast is identical—any more than anthrax and blackleg, till recently believed the same. I see no particular objection to the Government testing their own cattle, or, for that matter, their own veterinarians, and quarantining both lots. They will none of them be missed. That the Government has any serious intention of resurrecting a tuberculin crusade—an idea long killed by all the agricultural press of England, U. S., and Canada, and as dead as Queen Anne—would indicate that some more discredited politicians are willing to risk their health *pro bono publico* (freely translated—for what they can bone from the public).

Middlechurch, Man.

W. S. LISTER.

The Tuberculin Test.

A DAIRYMAN'S DECLARATION.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I am glad that you have so vigorously taken up the matter of the tuberculin test, as I believe it to be nothing but a humbug and an imposition upon the breeders of Canada, and the sooner steps are taken for the abolition of it altogether the better. Better that the Government pension those promoting it, or isolate them until they are fully tested and no danger of a reaction taking place. We might better not sell to the Americans at all than to have our herds discredited by being subjected to such an imposition. What is Mr. Fisher doing that he doesn't abolish it altogether? I am sure there is hardly a breeder of any importance in the country that will not back him up in doing so, and fight the thing to the bitter end. As conducted it is misleading to the people of the country, and an abominable outrage upon our herds and the breeders in general.

WM. STEWART, JR.

Northumberland Co., Ont.

The Remount Officer at Calgary

Pursuant to the arrangements made by Lieut.-Col. H. F. Dent, the horse-breeders of the districts surrounding Calgary brought in a large number of horses, and submitted them to his examination. The local arrangements were in charge of Capt. Inglis and J. A. Turner, of the Horse Breeders' Association, whose arduous labors helped to facilitate matters very much. The horses submitted were of a character that suited the Colonel's wants, and, as a consequence, in the two days he procured 130 head, at the price of \$80 for infantry mounts and \$100 for cavalry and artillery. At the beginning, the proceedings were nearly queered by the peculiar methods of one horse-breeder in trying tactics so ably described by David Harum, and whose conduct, on detection, was most reprehensible. Later on, however, the quality improved, and, as a result, a free movement in horseflesh resulted, and the coin of His Majesty was transferred to the ranchers' pockets. The prices paid were about \$20 a head higher than the same class of horses had hitherto fetched. Some of the added money, however, would go in the outlay for the necessary halters, which were very strong and new, and also for shoeing; all had to be shod in front. A large number of the horses were not brought out in as good a shape as they probably will be later on in the season, and in a number of cases were hardly as well broken as they might have been. The buying was conducted on the exhibition grounds. The horses were first brought before the purchasing officer and tried with measuring stick; then were looked over by the remount officer and his veterinary officer, Dr. Bowhill. If satisfactory, the horse was trotted under the saddle, and if all right, accepted, after seeing that saddle galls or sitfasts were absent. A description of the animal was written down and a number pasted on it later. It was conducted to the branding spot, where a number was branded on the off fore foot, and the crow's foot (broad arrow) placed on the near thigh. As was to be expected, the horses didn't all stand quiet for the branding. Bays, browns and chestnuts were the prevalent colors, an occasional black and iron gray also being taken, and also some duns, which are lucidly described by some of the wide-breeched, leather-legged riders of the ranches as "custard-pie color." The horses all had pretty good feet and limbs, their wind being beyond reproach, as is only to be expected in this country of grass and no clover. Those most approved were of the deep-chested type, with good breadbaskets. The tucked-up flank fellow was always turned down, and the "take him away" pronounced his doom. The rejecteds on the score of unsoundness were not many, several being refused on account of lack of years. A horse had to show all its permanent teeth or it would not be taken. The breeding of the horses is of all kinds. The greater number showed Thoroughbred blood, others Hackney and Standard-bred blood, some even Clyde, the artillery horses especially, and others were of entirely unknown breeding. It is, however, forced upon one that there is a crying need for first-class stallions on the range and a change in the method of handling the colts, which, instead of having to rustle their first winter, should be kept up, well fed, and halter-broken. In conversation with some of the ranchers, one gleans the fact that their opinions are similar to those advanced by the writer.

How to Raise Good Litters.

After the pigs are farrowed we give the sow nothing for twelve hours. Then begin with water and bran, gradually increasing the feed for a week, when, if the sow has done well, she should be on full feed. What I mean by full feed is not all the sow can eat, but enough feed to produce all the milk the pigs can take without injury. Sows differ in their characteristics, and to feed them intelligently the feeder should be acquainted with these characteristics. Many pigs receive a backset early in life, that they never fully recover from, because of the careless way their dams were fed.

Just as soon as the pigs manifest a disposition to eat, we let them into a place where the sow cannot follow, and give them some fresh skim milk with a little shorts added. As soon as they have learned to eat, we feed them quite liberally shorts and barley chop mixed and fed dry, with plenty of water to drink in a separate trough. When the pigs are two months old I shut the sows up in another building, and feed them nothing but dry grain and water for a week. By this method there is generally no trouble with their udders, and it also allows the pigs to keep their own pens and all the outdoor exercise they have a mind to take. We then feed wheat and barley, ground fine, with a little flaxseed meal added, and soaked from one feed to another. Care must be taken to regulate the grain feed to suit the wants of the pigs. When the pasture is plentiful they will need less, and *vice versa*, but when the pastures are over-succulent, as they are sometimes in wet seasons, an increase in the relative

quantities of meal fed will be found an advantage. The meal and grain are fed in the pens morning and evening, but not at noon, and when pigs cannot be let out on pasture, they should get a portion of green food every day, selecting, of course, from what may be in season. When it is not convenient to feed them green food twice a day, it may be given as the noon meal.

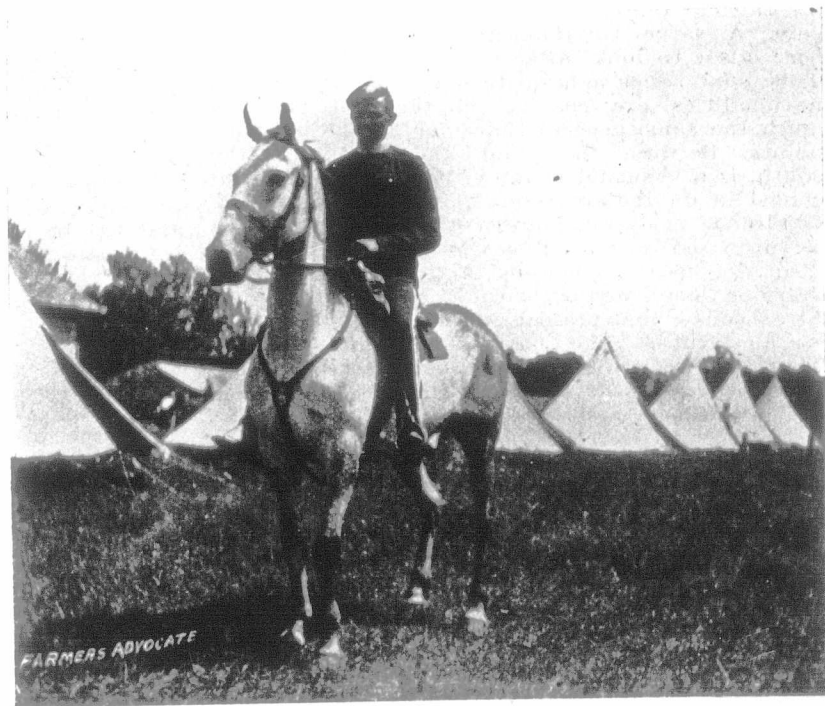
By having good stock to start with, not keeping too many together, using good grain, common sense in caring for them, and feeding liberally, as above indicated, it is no trouble to make young hogs weigh from 175 to 200 pounds at six or seven months of age.

W. L. TRANN.

Crystal City.

The Cowboy and the Range.

However entrancing to the tenderfoot the profession of cowboy may seem, it takes some time before the raw recruit becomes the matured expert. Few of them withstand the vicissitudes of the weather beyond the age of forty, the stiffening of the joints with rheumatism, due to exposure, causing them to quit the saddle for the small farm or ranch. The remuneration is not big, running about \$35 a month and board, the employee furnishing his own saddle and bedding, the employer the horse. The gradual fencing of the ranching country is tending to abolish the long drives of olden days. In those times a greenhorn could lose big money for his employer, especially if driving a beef herd to a shipping point, sudden movements or poor generalship tending to unsettle a drove of cattle quickly, with the consequence that they would be uneasy and ready to stampede at a moment's notice. Let such happen and a few hours' run would melt off beef enough to mean a difference of hundreds of dollars in a short time in a herd. Should cattle be inclined to go the wrong direction, the expert cowboy never rides up to the leaders to turn them off; if he did so a stampede or a turning back into the herd of those leading would result, with great confusion. Instead, he rides out at right angles some distance, and then gradually works forward until the leaders see him, when they immediately bear off in the direction required, grazing as they go. Many of the ranchers on the plains to-day started life as cowboys, investing their wages in a few head from time to time, and then let them out to a friend, until after a few years they had sufficient cattle to render them independent enough to become ranchers themselves. Great Britain has furnished a large number, some of whom had considerable money, which they generally lost, owing to inexperience, a result that gave rise to the ranchman's adage "that a greenhorn had to lose his money before he could make it!" The gradual disappearance of the cowboy can be looked for as the country settles up. More people are coming into the West, consequently more fencing and small ranches, until ranching becomes a level everyday business and less of a speculation. In the past, and at present with



A GOOD SORT—ONE OF THE PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE TROOP.

many, even ranching is a speculation on the weather and the amount of feed on the range. If a mild winter and plenty of feed is there, the profits are big; if the reverse, the losses are heavy. The tendency is more and more to cultivate some land and grow feed for the cattle, horses and sheep through the winter; and this, although meaning greater expense, will ensure the profits being regular.

Good Mixture for Flies on Cows.

W. F. Stephen, Trout River, Que., writes: "I have found the following mixture very good to protect the cows from the horn fly: One quart tanner's oil, one pint West's Fluid, half a gallon of coal oil. To be sprayed on every 24 hours, or every 12 hours if flies are very bad. One man with a hand sprayer will go over about 18 to 20 cows in 10 minutes."