

Range Stock in Southern Alberta.

The past winter has been exceptionally favorable for all kinds of stock on the ranges; spring coming in gradually and exempt, for the greater part, from the occasional cold, sleety "Nor'-wester" which is sometimes experienced in April. With the breeding stock in good condition, calves are coming well forward, strong and hearty, and from all appearance the calf crop will be larger this year, in most cases, than previously. Taking things all around, the present prospect is encouraging. The price of beef has had an upward tendency this last few weeks, and the indications are that present prices, if not improved, will sustain themselves long enough to give the rancher the benefit of the rise on grass-fed range steers. Grass is a good fortnight earlier than last season, which, taken in conjunction with the fact that steers have come through the winter in good condition, means an earlier and a more lengthened-out market—a condition of things more favorable to the shipper than when all the saleable cattle are forced on the market inside a month or six weeks to swamp it and lower prices. The general supposition is that the number of beef steers fit for export will be lighter this year. Late in the spring of '92 the country experienced one of the worst storms known for that season of the year, which proved especially hard on cows and calves, and accounts for this slight shrinkage; for another reason, five and six-year-old steers that have been allowed to run, as lacking in quality or condition, have been well drawn this last year or two and disposed of for what they would bring. Cow beef is getting more plentiful, but on account of the distance to market and the poor returns for that class of animal, unless they are comparatively young and have quality and condition, it does not pay to ship. It remains to be seen, why there would not be a financial inducement for some one with the necessary capital to start a canning establishment at some shipping point contiguous to Manitoba and Northwest Territories, for the class of cattle just referred to are bound to accumulate. Instead of fostering some sickly "infant" industry down East, let the Dominion Government come forward and grant a substantial bonus to start something of the kind out West, for the benefits accruing from such would be of no small magnitude. Raising beef is, and will be, one of the principal mainstays of this Western country, and the industry deserves encouragement on every hand. Nor is the question or cry for improvement undeserving of attention. Last year, with nothing but the 49th parallel between us, American steers with age, quality and condition similar to ours, were making close on \$10 more to the "breeder" than stock on this side; and moreover, being sold, at least some of them, in an English market on equal terms. There is something radically wrong somewhere. The Montana Stockman reports three-year-old steers selling as high as \$60 this spring, and good ones hard to get at that. Hay-fed steers in Calgary have been selling as low as three cents, live weight, by the carload, which would give us an average at three years old of \$40 at the most. Of course, local consumption and demand has to be taken into consideration in the last comparison of prices quoted, and the subject is brought forward as simply an item of interest; but, with reference to the export trade, there should certainly be no discrimination in prices on account of an imaginary line.

There is little or nothing doing in the horse trade; a few having got so discouraged as to give up breeding altogether. There has been a limited amount of local trade done with the Northern country this spring, and two or three shipments were made last fall to the seaboard, but returns are not very encouraging, for the present at least. Still, those that lay claim to being "level-headed," and *they own the best*, are going to stay with it, and trust in Providence for a rise in horseflesh. With reference to horse-flesh, there are numerous equine specimens running at large on the prairies, the value of which would not pay the cost of a five-hours' ride by rail, not to mention an *Eastern market*. They are of no earthly use, and only monopolize the grass that would raise and feed an export steer. Why should not the Government beef for Indian supplies be drawn from such a source, or have it figure on our own butcher bills, as far as that goes? On the Continent the idea seems to be getting prevalent amongst a certain class that a good horse-steak is better than a similar cut from an old cow.

Sheep Industry in Manitoba.

BY WM. WALLACE, NIVERVILLE, MAN.

The past winter, with its exceptional freedom from stormy weather, has been a favorable one for sheep stock. There have been few days on which they have not been able to spend a great part of their time at the straw-stack—a double advantage in economizing feed, and conducing to health and hardihood. No greater mistake can be made than to coop up sheep in a close stable, so that the wool is always damp and steaming, under the mistaken idea that they must be kept warm. A large, airy shed, cool, but free from draughts, with liberty to go out and in at their pleasure, is what they require.

Sheep have come through the winter in good health and condition. As a rule, after the long spell of cold weather and dry feeding, ewes as they approach lambing time have no superfluous flesh, but if they are in moderate flesh and vigorous condition the flockmaster is well satisfied.

Opinion and practice vary as to the time lambs

should come. Among the Mennonites, many of whom have considerable flocks, they have them coming as early as February, but we question the wisdom of this course. It is well-nigh impossible, without a supply of roots, to keep the milk on the ewes, and the lamb fat on the lambs from that period until grass is available. No doubt a few picked lambs for the Easter market may be had at a considerable expenditure for bran, oats, etc., but for a large flock it will be found most advantageous to have them coming during the latter part of April. In a fine, early season, such as the present spring, those that came about the middle of April are doing very well and have never had a check, as the ewes have had a full bite of grass since that time.

If the ewes are to lamb some time before there is grass, they should be allowed oats or bran, or a mixture of these, for a fortnight before they lamb, and thereafter until they get a full bite of grass. After that there is no need for any extra feeding, as there is nothing like the early grass for inducing a flow of milk, and if the weather is at all mild the lambs will rapidly fatten.

It should be the object of the flockmaster to have his lambs fattened either for the early market, or for sale in the fall, as that plan will pay him better than carrying them over winter. He should, therefore, study to have some fall feed for them when the prairie grasses get hard and dry. As has been frequently pointed out in the *ADVOCATE*, nothing is better for this purpose than a few acres of rape, sown upon the summer-fallow, which, along with a run over the stubbles, will keep them gaining in weight and condition until it freezes up, when they should be sold or slaughtered.

The slump in prices of mutton last fall was a great discouragement to sheep growers, although it had been anticipated by many of them. It is quite patent that Manitoba—to say nothing of the Northwest Territories—could raise 100 sheep for every one that is required for local consumption, and unless a satisfactory export market can be found, it is hopeless to expect any great increase of this industry—an industry for which the soil and the climate, and the natural productions of the Province, are so admirably adapted.

In the English markets foreign sheep sell higher, relatively, than frozen mutton; i. e., there is less difference between the prices of home and foreign sheep than there is between home and frozen mutton. The bulk of the foreign supply is frozen—from Australia, New Zealand, and the Argentine Republic. When Manitoba exports it will be on hoof. The States and Eastern Canada send thousands every week to the English markets. For many months the price of sheep has been high in England, leaving a wide margin for freight and expenses from here.

I venture to say that if the Hudson's Bay route were established, sheep would soon be exported in immense numbers from Manitoba. But we are afraid that subject may be *tabooed*, as we observe some of the Winnipeg papers either condemn the scheme, or "damn it with faint praise." Pity that a matter of such supreme importance to the people of this Province should be made the shuttlecock of party politics!

Meantime we advise flockmasters to hold by their sheep, and to raise them to as high a standard of excellence as possible, believing that the day will soon come when a market will be found, and that then only the best will be taken for export.

Canadian Hackney Horse Society.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Hackney Horse Society was held in Toronto on Saturday, May 4th; Mr. Robert Davies, President, in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected as officers for 1895: President, Robt. Beith, M. P., Bowmanville; 1st Vice-President, H. N. Crossley, Rosseau; 2nd Vice-President, Geo. H. Hastings, Deer Park; 3rd Vice-President, A. G. Ramsay, Hamilton.

Vice-Presidents for other provinces: Quebec—Jas. A. Cochrane, Hillhurst; Nova Scotia J. B. McKay, Stellarton; New Brunswick—Hon. D. McLelland, St. John; P. E. Island—C. C. Gardiner, Charlottetown; N. W. T.—W. Bell Irving, Cochrane, Alta.; Manitoba—J. Rutherford, V. S. Brandon; British Columbia—S. F. Tolme, Victoria.

Directors—Robt. Davies, Toronto; Robt. Miller, Brougham; R. Graham, Claremont; N. Awrey, M. P. P., Hamilton; R. Bond, Toronto; John Holderness, Toronto; John Kemp, Toronto; A. E. Major, Whitevale, and Geo. Pepper, Toronto.

Auditors—G. W. Hastings and Geo. Pepper. The Secretary, H. Wade, was appointed delegate to the Industrial Exhibition.

Mr. H. N. Crossley was appointed Inspector for the Muskoka and Parry Sound District. Mr. Wilson was appointed Inspector for Paris and vicinity.

It was decided to recommend the appointment of R. Gibson, Delaware, and Robt. Miller, Brougham, as judges for Hackneys at the coming Industrial Exhibition.

It was also resolved that additional representation for this Society be asked for at the next annual meeting of the Industrial Exhibition, as only four delegates from horse associations are now on the committee.

In Great Britain, during the thirteen weeks ending March 30th, 1,914 animals died of swine fever, and 9,584 were slaughtered as diseased or as having been exposed to infection.

FARM.

Turnip Growing.

While we have devoted much of our space to corn growing and the silo, it would be a grave oversight to neglect the very important turnip crop. If a Scotchman or an Englishman were asked what he considered the most important crop on the farm, we would be surprised if he did not say turnips. They are in Britain the principal fallow crops, occupying the first place in nearly every rotation. In some parts of this continent corn growing has not yet been a great success, but turnips do exceedingly well. They are best suited for moist, loamy soils, but white turnips do fairly well on much lighter land.

There is a difference of opinion even among old and experienced growers, as to whether it is better to manure the land in fall or spring in order to get the best crop. If one has a tight manure yard, so that it does not get the water from the eaves nor have a fall from it, and therefore a drainage, there may be advantages in keeping the winter's manure over the summer, as then it becomes well-rotted and in perfect condition for application, and being ploughed down in the autumn, the work has not to be done in the busy spring.

When manure is put on in the spring, there certainly can be no loss by drainage or volatilization; and if ploughed down say by the 20th of May, it becomes well incorporated with the soil with one more ploughing and cultivating, followed by the harrow and roller.

As to the proper time to sow, we have seen in Eastern Canada grand crops result from sowing on July 1st, but from two to three weeks earlier we consider a better time. We know of some very successful growers who calculate to have their ground ready for the seed by June 15th, and sow as soon after that as other circumstances permit. Even earlier than that would be preferable, except for the turnip fly or beetle, which is generally past the worst by the middle of June.

There are three methods of sowing, i. e., broadcasting, drilling on the flat, and drilling on the ridge. Broadcasting is very little done, and is only suitable for a piece of new, rough land, in which there are no weed seeds. In a case of that sort, it is well to mix the seed along with dry earth, or ashes, which will aid in securing a thin and even enough seeding.

Drilling on the flat, too, has become out of date in the older provinces of Canada, as the flat rows are not so easily cultivated, and there is a tendency for the roots to obtain too firm a grip of the soil to be conveniently harvested.

The ridge system is very suitable for all practical purposes in turnip growing. The width between the drills is usually about twenty-seven inches, but it varies from twenty-four to thirty inches, according to the richness of the soil. The ground must be in a fine state for ridging up. The usual amount of seed is about two and a-half pounds per acre. Owing to the plants being grown afterwards at wide intervals, only a few ounces are really needed to seed an acre; but, when a larger amount is sown, there are more to pick from when singling or thinning, and the crop is not so readily destroyed by the turnip fly.

The subsequent cultivation of turnips is very important. Just after the plants can be seen from end to end of the rows, the cultivator should be run shallowly between the rows, to stir the surface and kill all weeds that have made a start, except on the top of the ridge. It should not, however, be run any nearer than within two and a-half or three inches of the row of plants. When the permanent leaf has made a good start, the cultivator should again be run through a trifle wider than last time. Then the hoeing or singling may commence. Most of the plants are hoed out, only the best being left at intervals of from ten to twelve inches. There are one or two machines used in England for this purpose, but the operation is nearly always performed by manual labor. From a week to ten days after they are thinned, they should again be cultivated and hoed. From this time forward they can hardly be cultivated too often until the plants almost entirely cover the ground.

The question of varieties was fully discussed in our issue for March 15th. Swedes are the favorite; some like Greystones for fall feeding.

Rape for Fall Feed.

In our March 15th issue, among the replies from farmers as to whether certain crops were grown in their vicinity, and with what success, it would be noticed that rape, wherever grown, answered an excellent purpose. We would refer our readers to that issue, instead of repeating what was then said. If we are to have rape next autumn, now is the time to prepare for it. Rape growing resembles turnip growing so closely, that what the article elsewhere in this issue on that subject contains need not be repeated. The points which differ are: The drills need not be further apart than two feet, and they should not be put up so high, or else there is danger of sheep becoming cast between them in the fall, and the plants must not be thinned or singled, but side hoeing and cultivating are quite as important as with turnips.

Besides sowing in drills, from three to five pounds may be sown broadcast on good, strong, well-prepared land, and when about a foot high, turn the stock on, and then later feed it off again; or sow in the same way about the end of June, and