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AUGUST 25, 1910

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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LIVE STOCK.

Flushing the Ewes.

The extent of profit from a flock of sheep is very largely determined by the size of the lamb crop. If every ewe in the flock would produce one good strong lamb there would be profit in the business, but if in addition to this a quarter, a third, a half, or even more of the flock, would bring two instead of one, then profits would grow into very attractive proportions. Such a lamb crop is not beyond reason, and, in truth, is aimed at and frequently obtained by the best shepherds.

break training, as it were, and thus suddenly to quit all work. It is contrary to the functions of a draft horse to be kept in enforced idleness, and one cannot expect that health conditions will continue under such unfavorable management. The stallion will not usually take sufficient exercise in a paddock. Other horses coming near may cause him, at times, to work himself into a highly excited and overheated condition, but generally he stands in one corner and takes little exercise. One need not expect him to walk or run about in the lot for exercise any more now than during the season.

Work insures maintenance of vitality in the stallion. Too often stallions are handled like athletes, who train for three months for a series of events which cover a few weeks, then for the balance of the year they lie about in indolence, next year going through the same programme. Not many athletes can physically "come back" for many successive seasons after such a course. Yet we expect a stallion to come back year after year under such management. It cannot be done. As a result, we have stallions getting from forty to sixty per cent. of their mares in foal for a few seasons, and then being relegated to dray work as worn-out, sterile brutes.

There is every argument in favor of working the stallion. It keeps him docile, keeps him well, normal, virile; it makes him useful, develops his muscle, and proves his title to the claim of being a really serviceable draft sire; and it occupies his mind, preventing him from forming vicious and ruinous habits. By all means work the draft stallion between seasons.

Breeding Policies.

In horse-breeding, as in most other things, only to a greater extent, a continuous policy has marked advantages. Breeding this year to a Clydesdale, next year to a Percheron, and next to a Hackney stallion, then reverting to the Clydesdale again, produces so many ungainly misfits that the man who has been pursuing such a policy is likely to abandon horse-breeding with disgust. And perhaps it is as well that he should, if he cannot see more clearly than to think that the fault is with the business, and not in the way in which it is conducted. Cross-breeding may be carried on, and to great advantage by those who are skillful enough to control to a large extent the nature of the output from such a course. But, for the average farmer, who has not had the opportunity to benefit by the experiences of many others, the policy is a poor one. Undoubtedly, for the good of the individual producer, and for the improvement of our horse industry, employment of the same type of horse, the same breed, and, as far as possible, the same type within the breed, for successive years, as sire in each community is the best policy to follow. If a community has a good foundation stock of general-purpose draft mares produced by the use of Clydesdale stallions, that community will make more money, greater success, and a greater name, by continuing in the use of Clydesdale stallions, getting better ones always of that breed than by the use of the best Hackney stallion in the world, or the use of the handsomest and fastest of Standard-breds. The use of these would, almost without fail, be a disappointment in the ungainliness of the progeny. They might, with a greater measure of success, use a Percheron, yet by no means would his progeny gratify. A Shire would more nearly nick, but the Clydesdale of superior stamp would almost certainly give the greatest degree of satisfaction with such mares. Similarly, if the stock of a community consists of light horses, the use of a draft sire is far from gratifying. Let a community take stock of its mares, and upon the evidence there presented determine what type of stallion shall be used. Having settled on that type, let them continue to use it, ever building higher upon its foundation, never attempting to grow oranges on fig trees, nor heavy-harness horses from draft dams.

We have in Canada a good horse industry, but we have not begun to make it what it shall yet become. We have not begun good systematic breeding on any extensive scale. We have, to too great an extent, left it to a few to do what scientific breeding is done. That policy must be forsaken; every farmer should become a careful breeder, and with that a careful feeder, that the offspring of good parents may have a chance of development. That every farmer become a successful breeder, communities must form policies like long-term leases, and abide by them.

There are few things that bespeak to the public more forcefully the caliber of a man than the kind and condition of the horses he drives. A man may have poor fences, a rundown farm, poor cows, and other features about his farm that indicate his lack of intelligent effort, yet the fact will not be known save by those who live by his back. But with his horses he travels twenty, thirty, or fifty miles in every direction from his home, and by one good look at the team his weaknesses are pretty accurately taken.



W. D. Flatt.

The size of the lamb crop is very largely regulated by the method of handling the ewes from weaning time till they are mated. Those who are most successful in obtaining large lamb crops each year practice a system in handling their sheep at this period called "flushing."

In this method, the ewes at weaning time are placed upon rather short, dry pastures, and are kept there for a period of about three or four weeks, the length of time being regulated by the contemplated time of breeding. This is, of course, of advantage in the quick drying-off of the ewes. They may be turned upon the stubble fields, where they can do valuable gleanings, and yet not obtain too much feed. It seems to be especially desirable



Cicely at Three Years Old.

for these first few weeks that the sheep be not freely fed. This period of scanty food supply apparently puts the system into such a condition that the succeeding period of generous feeding may produce the most stimulating effects.

About three weeks previous to the time of mating the flock should be turned into an excellent pasture. For this purpose there should have been reserved for them a field in which the second-growth clover has been allowed to come on unmolested. If this is not available a patch of rape should be prepared. It is most essential that the sheep have an excellent pasture at this

time. There may be added to the grazing a slight grain ration, but it is not needed if the grazing is good. By this management of their feeding all the ewes will be brought into breeding season about the same time, thus dropping their lambs pretty well together, and scarce a ewe will miss breeding. In this way larger crops of lambs are regularly produced than has been obtained under any other method of handling the flock.

Honor Roll of Shorthorns.—X.

By J. C. Snell.

In 1901 a stronger display of Shorthorns was seen at Toronto than for many previous years; among the exhibitors being W. D. Flatt, of Hamilton, whose enthusiasm and enterprising spirit in importing and exhibiting did much towards inspiring new life and energy into the business, and who for years brought many superior animals into the country and into the show-ring. This year also came the show herd of Hon. Thos. Greenway, from Crystal City, Manitoba, and that of W. A. Poland, of Grass Lake, Michigan, in addition to the regular Ontario exhibitors. Mr. Flatt showed from his Trout Creek herd in the aged section the roan bull, Valiant =25337=, bred by Harry Smith, of Hay, a rich roan son of Abbotsford, recently purchased from Captain Robson, which was first in his class and senior male champion of the show. A remarkable record for Captain Robson was the ownership of five bulls that were champions at Toronto in five successive years, namely, Nominee, Moneyfuffel Lad, Topsman, First Choice, and Valiant; the latter sold to Mr. Flatt a few weeks before winning this honor. The Trout Creek herd of Mr. Flatt had also the winner in the two-year-old section in 1901, in the dark roan, Lord Banff =36053=, bred by Alex. Watson, of Aberdeenshire, and imported by Mr. Flatt, and which was later sold for \$5,000 by auction in Chicago; the second being the white bull, First Choice, formerly owned by Captain Robson, but exhibited this year by J. & A. Somerville, of York County. Royal Wonder, a red son of Royal Sailor (imp.), shown by J. & W. Watt, was first in the yearling class, and the junior championship also went to him.

The tug for supremacy in the aged-cow class was between Flatt's imported red four-year-old, Empress 12th, of Bates breeding, a first-prize winner at the Royal Show the previous year as a three-year-old, where she was also reserve champion, and Boland's Lady Sharon 4th, winner the previous year of first and the female champion at the Chicago International. She was a big, broad-backed red cow, descended from the Syme of Red-kirk stock, imported by the Millers, of Markham and Pickering, in the fifties; her sire was the Renick Rose of Sharon bull, Young Marshal, and she had a cross of Barmpton Hero in her breeding, having been one of the strong show string of Aaron Barber, of New York State. The imported English-bred cow, Empress 12th, was declared the winner. A sensational feature of this show was Mr. Flatt's imported roan three-year-old cow, Cicely, bred by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, sired by the Willis-bred Prince Victor, of the Princess Royal family; dam a Cruickshank Clipper. Cicely was a heifer of marvellous width and thickness, beautifully blending shoulders and grand quality; her only defect being the shortness of her hind quarters. She had won at Smithfield and other English shows the previous year, and was awarded the female championship of her year at Toronto.

THE PAN-AMERICAN.

At the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, in September, 1901, Canadian breeders of Shorthorns made a very creditable record, the principal herds from this country represented being those of W. D. Flatt, Hamilton,

and Hon. Thos. Greenway, of Manitoba. The former herd had the champion bull of the breed, in the white three-year-old, Speculator (imp.). The same herd had the first-prize two-year-old bull, in Lord Banff (imp.); the champion female, in the cow Cicely, and the first-prize graded herd of the breed. These, together with a number of other class prizes won by the same herd, made a very good showing for one exhibitor in a foreign country. Cicely was sold at Mr. Flatt's sale in Chicago, on November 7th, 1901, for \$5,000, to J. G. Robbins & Sons, Horace, Indiana; and Lord Banff brought \$5,100 at the same sale, his purchaser