

Favors the Coach Horse.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Being a subscriber to your excellent paper for a number of years, I thought I would try to give the little experience I have had in regard to horses for general farming. We bought a farm when I was twelve years of age. Father being a blacksmith and following his trade, the farm was let on shares for some two or three years, after which time we undertook to work it ourselves. I started with what were called Indian ponies, and kept on changing till we had them up to the heavy draft. I have had for the past seven years a pair of French coach mares, standing about 15 and 15½ hands high, and weighing about thirteen and a half hundred pounds when in good working condition. They are nine and ten years old in the spring, and I have never had to call in the veterinary to them yet (but cannot tell how soon I might). I think they are a hardier breed of horses than the heavier classes, and I can do just as much work on the farm with them as any heavy ones we ever had, and they are much better on the road. I have a pair of colts from the one mare, and by a German Coach horse, weighing about fifteen hundred pounds, which I think will make a fair general farm team. Now, some will think I am all one-sided, but it would not do for all to think the same. In raising horses for the market, I will admit that the heavy class is more profitable, as there seems to be more demand for them, but I think fair profit can be had by raising the right stamp of coach horses. I noticed in January 7th issue a writer, signing himself Horse-shoer, and having a little experience in horseshoeing, as I do our own, I agree with his idea of fitting the shoe. Wishing "The Farmer's Advocate" and its staff of employees a Happy and Prosperous New Year. FARMER BOY. Lambton Co., Ont.

Quality with Size Essential.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice an article in a recent issue relative to Clydesdales, "Is Substance Lacking in Clydesdale Horses?" I think your correspondent brings out some very good points. I certainly would say with him, as regards action and quality, but the horse that has those qualities generally has fair weight, say from 1,500 lbs. upwards. A horse of the right quality, weighing up to 1,500 lbs., in fair condition, will, when he is matured and fitted, make an 1,800-lb. horse, and, in my limited experience, that is large enough for all practical purposes. The horse built on those lines, and up to 1,800 lbs., is of more value in any country than the horse your correspondent speaks of as of sufficient size, but defective in a few points, as they usually are if up to 2,000 lbs., they generally having softer bones and being looser built, and if they are owned by good feeders they may be brought out to look well, but they, as a rule, will not stand the work that the firm, blocky, 1,800-lb. horse will. Of course we all know stallions forced by feed may come to 2,000 lbs., but they, as a rule, are overfed. I judge your correspondent has not tried the importation enough, or he would know which kind is hardest to buy. In conclusion, I would say with him, get the quality and all the size possible, then we have what we want. ROBERT NESS. Howick, Que.

LIVE STOCK.

Live Stock Worth \$530,000,000.

According to the Bureau of Census and Statistics, the average value of farm land for all the Provinces of Canada is \$35.70 per acre. In five Provinces it is placed under \$30, being \$27.30 in Manitoba, \$25 in Nova Scotia, \$21.10 in New Brunswick, \$20.40 in Saskatchewan, and \$18.20 in Alberta. In Prince Edward Island, the average is \$33.70 per acre, in Quebec \$41.90, in Ontario \$47.30, and in British Columbia \$76.10. The high valuation in the latter Province is explained by the fact that a large percentage of the farm land is in orchards and small fruits. The average value of horses in the Dominion is computed to be \$16 for those under one year, \$100 for those one to under three years, and \$143 for those three years and over. Milch cows average \$31, ranging from \$29 in Prince Edward Island, to \$36 in Ontario, and \$18 in British Columbia. Swine are estimated at \$5.86 per cwt. live weight, and sheep at \$5.23 per head. The total value of farm animals in the Dominion, computed on the foregoing averages and the number of animals on the farms in June, is placed at \$530,000,000.

"The Farmer's Advocate" to "Do Things."

I received answer to my questions regarding a grant, and want to thank you for your promptness and promptness regarding same. It certainly makes "The Farmer's Advocate" to "do things." FRED WELLS. Co., Ont.

Sheep Husbandry in Canada.

Such is the title of an exceptionally able, useful and interesting treatise, prepared by J. B. Spencer, B. S. A., of the Live-stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, published by authority of Hon. Sydney A. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, and printed for distribution as Bulletin No. 12.

Mr. Spencer is well qualified, by training, experience and observation, for the preparation of such a treatise, being brought up on a farm on which sheep-husbandry was made a specialty and a success, graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College, and having an extended experience in agricultural journalism previous to entering upon his present position. This production is, in character, quite beyond the usual style of Government bulletins, being a work of 125 pages, filled with helpful information, and liberally illustrated with over seventy high-class photogravures of representatives of the principal breeds of sheep, plans of sheep barns, dipping plant, pens and tanks, etc. In the introduction, the various reasons advanced for the falling off of sheep-keeping in Canada are dealt with. From this we quote: "No end of effort has been made to assist the hog industry, and the keeping of cattle, but sheep are so easily kept, and so harmless, that they have been allowed to drift with the current of indifference. . . . The sheep that is able to return two crops in a year, under semi-neglect and poor housing, has not called for a fight for its perpetuation, and has suffered in consequence. There is probably no country in the world better adapted than Canada to sheep-raising, and no country offers greater opportunities for the development of the industry. The physical features, the soil, the climate, and the agricultural population are all favorable to the production of mutton and wool of the highest quality."



A Corner in Southdowns.

Chapters in this bulletin are devoted to the origin, development and characteristics of the leading breeds of sheep, with illustrated scale of points for judging; establishing a commercial flock; types of mutton sheep; handling sheep, feeds, feeding and management; sheep barns; diseases of sheep, their prevention and treatment; the Canadian wool industry, etc., the whole making a very important and valuable contribution to the available fund of information upon an industry in which Canadian farmers generally should evince greater interest, and which has proven profitable beyond any other branch of farming to those who have given it intelligent attention and stayed with it. This bulletin is for free distribution to those applying for it to the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, by letter or post-card.

A Heavy Yearling.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice in your issue of January 7th, the report, as given in "Scottish Letter," of the winners in the fat classes at some of the late English and Scotch shows, to wit: The British champion at London and Birmingham, and champion at the Highland and Smithfield in the feeding classes, was an Aberdeen-Angus; that at 2 yrs. 8 mos. and 3 days of age weighed 1,680 lbs.; also, that the reserve champion at London, an Angus-Short-horn cross, at 9 days less than 3 years of age weighed 1,696 lbs. Now, while we probably expect a great deal too much from the motherland, my own experience of late entirely overshadows the

above in feeding results. At Christmas we sold to a gentleman from Montreal a Duchess of Gloster bred Shorthorn steer, 1 year and 11 mos. of age, that weighed, after a five-mile trip to the station, 1,770 pounds.

Ontario Co., Ont. DAVID BIRRELL & SON.

Michigan Stockmen Discuss their Problems.

Eighteen years ago the breeders and feeders of the State of Michigan formed an organization for the purpose of improving the live-stock industry of the State. Like many similar organizations, it has had its ups and downs, but is now firmly established. The meeting held at the Michigan Agricultural College, Lansing, on January 12th and 13th, was a large and enthusiastic one. Some 500 persons were in attendance on the second day, chiefly, so I was informed, farmers and breeders from various parts of the State. I was also told that this organization does not receive any grant from the State Legislature, but is entirely self-supporting, which is a hopeful sign. When farmers free themselves from Government grants, we may expect more progressive and independent action, whereas, in any association depending on legislative money grants, the tendency is to do and say those things which are likely to have the least adverse effect upon the size of the grant.

The two most important discussions of the meeting were those relating to the tuberculosis problem, and to the breeding and feeding of live stock, together with a brisk and short tariff-reform debate.

The former question was introduced by Dr. Marshall, of the Bacteriological Department of

the M. A. C., followed by a spirited address from J. J. Ferguson, of the Swift Co., Chicago, who is a graduate of the O. A. C., Guelph, Canada.

Dr. Marshall gave some startling figures regarding the ravages of tuberculosis among humans and animals in the United States. He pointed out that the State of Minnesota had spent in one year over \$60,000 in testing, disinfecting and compensating for the disease. He was doubtful if a law of compensation was practicable in the State of Michigan. He also said that very few persons or animals escaped the disease in some form. This was corroborated, with reference to animals, by Mr. Ferguson, who said that most animals slaughtered showed signs of the disease, past or

present. Mr. Ferguson gave a brief account of the work being done by his firm in co-operating with Federal and State officers in eradicating the disease. He said that the "Packers" welcomed the fullest investigation and inspection in their work. He told how they were in constant touch with State officials, and when they found a large number of infected animals coming from a district, their inspectors at once "got busy." A carload of hogs, received at one of their plants, was found, on slaughtering, to have over 50 per cent. which had to be "tanked." They traced the hogs to a district where the skim milk from a certain creamery was being fed to the hogs. He said that hogs were very liable to contract the disease from contaminated dairy by-products, and also where hogs followed cattle to consume undigested grain. The pasteurization of skim milk, buttermilk and whey was necessary to prevent contagion.

Other practical suggestions were the use of the tuberculin test, the prevention of the entry of animals from another State unless tuberculin-tested, and more sanitary laws, to be enforced through a State commission, with power to quarantine infected farms.

On the question of compensation to owners of destroyed stock, a very warm discussion took place. The Holstein Association passed a strongly worded resolution recommending State compensation, and this view of the case was very forcibly presented to the Convention by a member, who argued that, taking human nature as we find it, unless the State paid for slaughtered stock, little or no progress would be made, because it would be asking the individual to con-