

## LIVE STOCK.

### Utility the Key Note.

All animal breeding which is not based upon utility is of little or no good to the cause. A pedigree may contain some very high-sounding names, but unless the individual animals which bore them were of some real use as milk, beef, mutton or pork producers, they are really meaningless and valueless. The family of animals which shows by actual records of usefulness in some capacity that it has some superior merit, is of more value to the owner than all the "blue" blood of animal history, provided such "blue"

as in this case, special circumstances warrant giving them a trial. Heaves do not, as is believed by many, cause a mare to become barren, although breeders often experience more difficulty in getting a mare with the heaves to conceive than was the case before she contracted the trouble. The advice given by Mr. Smith, "Breed the best mare you can get hold of," is what all horse breeders would do well to follow.—Editor.]

### Keep the Colts Growing.

The foal is, during the first days of life, about the most susceptible of the young of domesticated animals to disease, as a result of bad treatment or unfavorable conditions. Once rightly started growing, a healthy foal under good management makes about as rapid strides as any of these in gaining strength and weight. No colt will make good gains without sufficient nourishment. During the earlier days and weeks, the matter of supplying this is usually left entirely to the dam, and if she is well fed and is a fairly heavy milker, the colt should need nothing further. No mare should be put to work for a couple of weeks after foaling, as in her naturally weakened condition she is not physically fit to withstand the demands made upon her system by the energy required to perform the work and that required in the production of milk for her offspring. To give the colt the best start in life, the less the mare is worked, the better, even during the entire summer. The colt requires nourishment, little and often, and, where his dam is doing duty in the team, this is not possible, and deprives him of one of the essential conditions which nature intended him to have.

The young colt with his dam, either in the stall or pasture, should be taught to eat a little grain as early as possible. Oats are the most palatable concentrate for horses, and, mixed with a little bran, make a tasty and good-feeding ration for the sucking colt. A box so placed that the mare cannot get at it is very convenient for this purpose, and the youngster soon learns to feed regularly from it.

Whether or not, the mare not working should receive grain when the colt is nursing depends largely upon her condition and upon the pasture she is on. When the grass becomes short and parched, a few oats and a little bran would go a long distance towards keeping her in good flesh and maintaining the milk flow for the colt. Of course, where the mare must work, allowance must be made in her ration, for the fact that, besides doing her share of the horse labor, she is called upon to feed a hungry foal. She must have grain in larger quantity than is fed to her working mate.

It sometimes happens that the mare is a poor milker. In such cases, as the colt gets a little older, it is often advisable to use a little cow's milk to keep him going ahead and making the best growth. In feeding cow's milk whole, it must be remembered that it is richer in fat than a mare's milk, and it is better to add a little water and some sugar. What is most required by the colt is an abundance of food rich in protein, the best muscle-forming ingredient. Whether in his mature state he is required for draft purposes, for fast work, for riding or fancy driving, his usefulness depends to a great extent upon his size and muscle development, both of which depend directly upon his feed and care during his early life. It is growth and muscle that is wanted, not excess fat. For this reason, good sweet skim milk (cow's) is often regarded as being of more real value in colt-feeding than whole milk. It must be fed sweet, whether whole or skimmed, as sour or tainted milk is very likely to produce digestive derangements of a more or less serious character in the colt.

Young and tender, susceptible to every little change in conditions surrounding him, the colt, the future horse has his destinies, as far as usefulness and conformation go, largely settled during his first two years of life, and particularly during the first few months. It requires no little amount of skill to hit the "happy medium" in colt-feeding, not overfeeding or putting too much fat on him in early life, and at the same time giving enough to keep him making maximum growth. A colt made overfat seldom makes a large horse, and is very likely, unless carefully exercised, to "go bad" on his legs, ruining him as a show-yard proposition, and injuring his usefulness in any capacity. On the other hand, the starved colt never makes the horse he would under favorable conditions. Growth should be the aim of all horse-breeders in the management of their colts. The bigger the better, provided no injury is done in gaining the size.

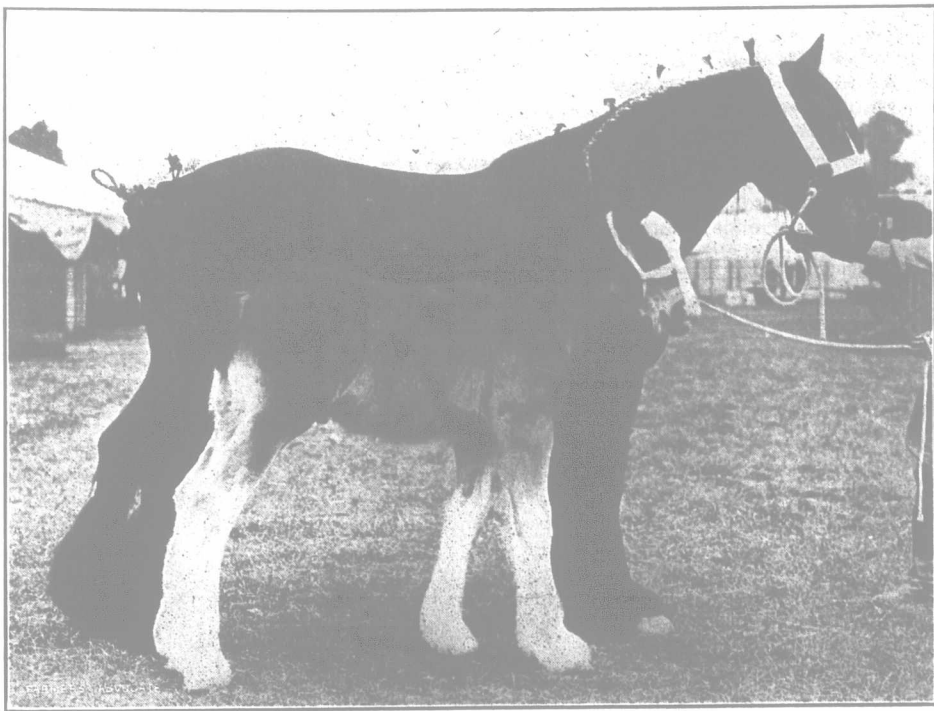
### The Stocker to Buy.

The cattle feeder who operates on any considerable scale is not able to produce his own stockers from year to year, and is forced to rely upon the open market or upon the surrounding country. The right class of cattle for fattening purposes are none too plentiful in Canada; in fact, they are scarce, far too scarce, and, in order to get a stable full of choice steers, it is often necessary to scour large areas of country, and then take some cattle of an inferior type. This being the case, it will pay all those who have the pasture and contemplate feeding steers next winter to locate and purchase their necessary cattle early in the season. The longer it is put off, the greater will be the percentage of inferior and cull cattle offered. Owing to the high prices paid for cattle the past spring and the demand for first-class finished steers at the present time, it is more than likely that there will be an increased demand for stockers, as high prices for the finished product invariably exert an appreciable influence upon the raw material, giving the market an upward trend.

There is a profit in steer-feeding, but there are several conditions governing the game. Steers must be bought right; that is, a price must be paid which will leave sufficient margin of profit when the finished animal is disposed of. This involves a knowledge of conditions upon which the market hinges. The buyer must be a good judge of what

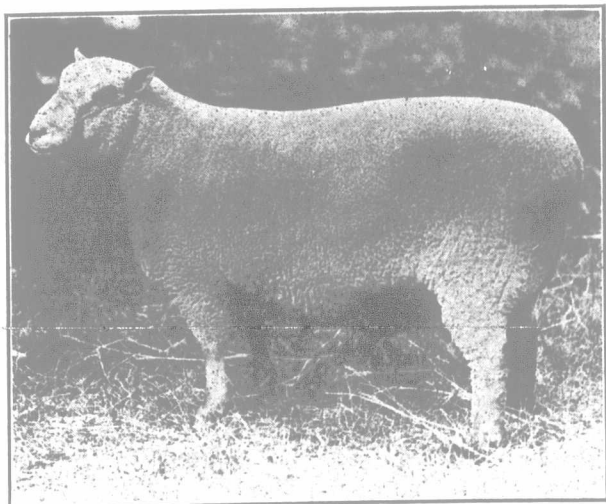
constitutes a profitable feeding steer. The mongrel-bred animal, with the narrow muzzle, long, slim head, coarse, spike-like horns, and wedge-shaped conformation throughout, is never a profitable feeder, and is not a satisfactory proposition from the viewpoint of the raiser of stockers, the feeder, the drover, the butcher or the consumer. He is a misfit. The steer which has seen too many summers is seldom as profitable a feeder as the younger animal. Very often he has been stunted in early life, and has been kept an extra year to make up for the loss. Such a steer does not make as large and cheap gains as a younger animal whose growth has never been in any way impaired. As a rule, a two-year-old steer which has made good growth is the most profitable stocker. The fact that he has not yet finished growing makes it easier to make large gains, although a little more difficulty may be experienced in getting the highest degree of finish on him. One year with another, and taking into consideration all conditions, the steer which is put in as a stocker when a little over two years of age, and marketed as beef the spring or summer that he is three years old, makes as good a profit as any. Of course, a poorly-grown, undersized animal should not be bought, as the profit depends considerably upon the size of the steer when purchased, as the spread in price operates on the original weight, so the greater this weight, the greater the profit from the spread. For instance, if a steer weighed 800 pounds, and was bought at 5 cents per pound, and sold at 7 cents per pound, a spread of 2 cents per pound, the profit arising from the spread on the original weight would be \$16; whereas, if the steer had weighed 1,200 pounds in the beginning, the profit would have been \$24—a difference of \$8. The gain in weight must also be reckoned with, and, provided the steers are the same age, and just in good thriving condition, the heavier steer is likely to make better gains than the lighter one, because he has every indication of being a better doer. The young steer with plenty of weight is the steer to buy.

Some attention must be paid to conformation, quality, and indications of further feeding propensities. A big, rough steer is not desirable. Smoothness must accompany size. The steer should have a strong muzzle and short, broad head, with a great spring of rib and good barrel, indicating a hearty, strong-constituted, good-feeding animal. He must be one which, with feeding, will round into a condition which causes him to fill the eye well, and to be strong at those points from which the butcher gets his high-priced cuts. Size, smoothness and strong constitution are the strong points in the feeding steer.



Rickford Lady and Foal.  
Shire mare. Reserve champion at Royal Counties Show, 1912.

blood has never been a real factor in actual productive value. Fashion has held sway in all breeds of stock at one time or another. Color crazes have come and gone. Shapes and angles of unimportant members have changed with breeders' fancies, but all this is passed or passing. This is the day of the breed and the animal which can do things for the owner. It matters not what color the cow is, so long as she fills the pail with rich milk. It makes no difference whether the steer is black, white, red or roan, as long as he has the beef qualities. It matters not



A Southdown Prizewinner.  
Two-shear ram from the flock of F. H. Jennings, winner of championship at the Bath and West Show, at Bath.

how long or what color the sheep's ears are, as long as she raises good mutton lambs having a fleece which the buyers like. Who cares whether the pig's nose is long or short, whether it turns up or down, or whether his color is red, black, white or spotted, as long as he produces desirable pork at a profit? An animal must be more than good to look at, must have qualities other than those which meet the whims and fancies of a few wealthy breeders, to be of real value to the breed to which it belongs and to the man who seeks to make his living from the perpetuating of the breed.

Seasons like the present afford plenty of object lessons to impress the economy of leaving a good top on the meadows over winter.