

EDITORIAL.

The spring is the most critical time of the year with most farm stock, coming out of a long winter on dry feed and still waiting for the first appearance of new grass. Calving time, too, is at hand. Of course much of the success of this season's calf crop depends on how the dam was cared for during the past winter; if she has been well wintered, there is little danger of her going wrong at calving time. Linseed cake will be found of great value if fed in moderate quantities to coming-in cows, regulating the bowels and keeping the system cool. Mr. John Boyd, a noted American breeder of Jerseys, has been very successful in the use of linseed meal as indicated. His treatment is as follows:—"Three weeks before the cow is due to calve commence to feed one handful of pure linseed meal in each regular feed, gradually increasing the amount until she gets about twice or three times as much the day or day before calving. As soon as the calf is dropped and before the cow 'cleans,' give a warm mash, very thin, nearly as thin as gruel, made as follows: Four quarts coarse bran, half pint linseed meal, one tablespoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of arnica, warm water to suit. If the cow does not clean readily, give her from four to six quarts of whole oats, dry."

After the calf arrives on the scene, care must be given it if good results are expected. We quote the following excellent advice from the Farming World:—"A prime requisite in successful calf-raising is regularity; let the calves be fed at the same time and in the same order every day. Next to regularity, regard the amount of milk fed; while 15 lbs. to 18 lbs. of full milk is a ration, with skim milk from 18 lbs. to 24 lbs. may be fed, depending upon the ability of the calf to assimilate its food. More calves are killed by overfeeding than underfeeding. Milk should be fed at blood temperature, say 98° to 100° F., and a thermometer should be used to see that it is right. The feeding pail is often neglected; it should receive a daily scalding, and be kept always scrupulously clean. Scouring, the bane of calf rearing, usually indicates indigestion, and is often brought on by overfeeding, irregular feeding, giving the feed too cold, or the animal getting chilled or wet. To check indigestion, a tablespoonful of lime water in each feed is very satisfactory. Successful management of the calf lies at the very foundation of the live stock business, and calls for regularity of attendance and watchfulness, discerning at once all the little wants of the animal, and a general disposition to supply every need as soon as apparent."

Every breeder, whether of cattle, horses, sheep or pigs, will sometimes be called upon to assist at the birth of the young, although generally speaking all animals get along better when left to themselves, unless something is radically wrong; when it is deemed necessary to assist in these cases, the operator should exercise the greatest care to have hands and arms perfectly clean and well smeared with carbolic oil (which can be procured at any drug store at small cost); the floor should be well covered with clean, fresh bedding. Many seemingly unaccountable deaths occur from blood-poisoning, carried into the system of the dam from the dirty hand of the careless operator, or absorbed into the system of the young animal through the navel cord coming in contact with the same dirty hand or a foul stable floor.

By the time this issue reaches our readers seeding will be well underway, and as a larger area of land was plowed last fall than usual, doubtless the work will be completed in good time. Owing to the heavy snowfall throughout Canada and the heavy rains of last autumn, the land should be well supplied with moisture. Now it remains for each farmer to do his part, and if he uses the best seed he can procure, of the varieties that have proved suitable to his locality, treats his seed wheat with bluestone, sows with a drill, and sows all spring plowing the same day it is plowed—doing all his work thoroughly, even should he not cover as much ground as usual, he will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that he did his best, and can look forward pretty confidently to a profitable return for his labor.

The Secretary of the Southdown Breeders' Association of Great Britain has kindly sent us a copy of the Constitution and By-laws which govern this society. This data we print in another column. Canadian and American breeders and importers of Southdowns will do well to carefully read and digest these rules. Many Canadian buyers of imported stock of all sorts seem satisfied if their purchases have simply crossed the Atlantic. Something more than this is needed. It would be better if all other British Live Stock Associations would take similar steps. Well conducted records are a benefit to the country at large, preventing the unexperienced buyer from being imposed upon, and preventing unscrupulous dealers and feeders from stealing the trade that justly belongs to reliable and experienced live stock men.

Messrs. Robt. Beith & Co.'s Stud of Hackneys.

Now that high stepping street and park horses are in such demand to horse the many fashionable vehicles by which men of pleasure about town seek to show their taste for display, more attention has to be paid to the breeding of the horse required for luxury. It is not surprising that in this race for the fittest, the Hackney has come in for a greater share of attention than at any previous time. As a proof of this, at the late London Show there were no less than two hundred and thirty-five entries of stallions and one hundred and forty-eight mares.

The demand for Hackneys from the continent of Europe, together with their increasing popularity since their introduction within the last few years in the United States, has stimulated breeding operations throughout Yorkshire and Norfolk, as well as other parts of England. The prices that are now paid quite eclipse anything ever heard of, except among the choicest strains of racing blood, and Hackney breeding has, therefore, become a leading industry in horse production.

Among those who were first identified with the introduction of this valuable breed were Messrs. Beith & Co., Bowmanville, Ont., and the stallions which they first brought over, together with their proved excellence for crossing with the mares of this country, have not only added to their popularity among horse breeders, but induced the firm to invest in a choice stud of the most fashionable breeding. In our front page illustration for this issue is portrayed the Hackney stallion Ottawa. He was bred by Mr. W. Martin, Scoreby Grange, Gate Hemsley, Yorkshire, England; sired by Lord Derwent 2nd, a horse much used in this excellent stud, and one of the most successful breeding horses of the day, which should be expected when we take the trouble to analyze his blood lines. Sired by Denmark 177, than whom no more successful sire can be pointed to in stud book, which is borne out by his numerous sons, such as Danegelt, Connaught, and his grandson Ganymede, and a score of other good ones, forming an array of winners not eclipsed by any other line of breeding, while Lady May, the dam of Lord Derwent 2nd, herself won no less than one hundred and eighty-one first prizes, and he himself has repeatedly carried winnings.

Lord Derwent 2nd was chosen by the Irish district board for the season of 1892, previous to which he stood at the head of one of the choicest studs in Yorkshire.

Ottawa's dam is Mayflower, a mare of wonderful beauty and true Hackney type, with which she combines more size than is usually found in this sort. She was sired by Highflyer 1648; dam Maid, by Performer.

Ottawa won first in his class at the recent Toronto Spring Stallion Show, also beating his stable companion Jubilee Chief in the sweepstakes, which he won. He is a colt of wonderful promise, and is doubtless as likely for future honors as any horse we know of. Imported in his dam, Mayflower, he was considered backward in development until the last few months, but has made a remarkable improvement, and is evidently growing the right way. In action he moves with free elastic step, with a brilliancy at the knee, and with the addition of a little education he will go equally well all round.

Among the many good ones in the Messrs. Beith's stud is Jubilee Chief 2122, which has been at the head of their stud of very excellent mares since these were first got together. Jubilee Chief was sired by Pilot 1323, by Lord Derwent, another son of the famous Denmark 177. The dam of Jubilee Chief is Queen of the Forest, a famous Hackney mare by Triffith's Fireaway 249, a line of breeding extremely hard to excel. Jubilee Chief is a horse of great substance, and has well high perfect action at knee and hock. He has distinguished himself by winning first in his class on several occasions, notably at the Industrial Show in 1891.

The mares in this stud are of truest Hackney type, and comprise the highest breeding combined with great quality and beautiful action.

The mare Mayflower, whose breeding and description are both given in the mention we have made of her son Ottawa, is one of the plums of the stud, but a number of others closely contesting her in point of merit are to be found here.

The beautiful mare Lizette also deserves more than a passing notice at our hands. She is doubtless one of the handsomest mares ever brought over the water; her true Hackney form and brilliant action form a combination that is sought after by the leading breeders of the day.

Monas Queen is a young mare also out of Mayflower, the dam of Ottawa. She is promising, and last year produced the colt South Park Jean, by Jubilee Chief, a weanling that already shows more than ordinary merit. Monas Queen won second in a class of five aged mares in her three-year-old form at the last Industrial Show. She was sired by Dictator 1471, he by Lord Derwent 2nd, described above, and bred by Mr. Wm. Martin, Scoreby Grange.

Another good breeding mare is Florence, a bay mare by Randolph 1123, also bred by Mr. Martin.

A handsome pair of fillies, rising three, are Lady Aberdeen and Winnifred. The former is a brown of great beauty, with all the freedom and brilliancy in action that is the marked feature of the breed, and although she is in our opinion a better mare than her mate Winnifred, still the latter beat her at the Industrial Show last autumn, which shows that she is also a good one.

Lady Aberdeen was sired by Lord Derwent 2nd, and is therefore half brother to Ottawa, while Winnifred was sired by Wildfire, one of the best sires of the day, he by Phenomenon; dam by Triffith's Fireaway.

It will therefore be observed that the best strains of blood have been drawn upon in breeding up the individuals which comprised this stud of Hackneys, and we must hope to hear of the production of a lot of winners at our future shows from the admirable mares of which this stud is composed.

At present the mares are all in foal to Jubilee Chief, and are in the most profitable shape imaginable. We congratulate the Messrs. Beith on having so good a selection on hand.

Report of the Experts on Live Stock for the Chicago Exposition.

The Manitoba Government, acting upon a request made by the Provincial Live Stock Breeders, appointed Messrs. McGregor, of Winnipeg, and Leslie Smith, of Wanwanesa, both thoroughly competent men, to make an inspection of the live stock of the Province, with a view to making a selection for the Columbian Exposition. Following is their report to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture:—

Acting under instructions from your department, and guided by a memorandum giving names of owners of stock of all kinds who had applied to exhibit same at World's Fair, we have been engaged for the past two weeks examining such stock, and have much pleasure in submitting the following report:

In Winnipeg and vicinity we have examined the stock owned by the Arctic Ice Company, Sir Donald A. Smith, W. L. Puxley and W. S. Lister, and found some individual animals that were a credit to the Province, but very many were not in a condition for exhibition purposes, although well bred.

In the Wanwanesa district we visited J. B. Chambers and Smith & Stevenson, and found three very promising stallions, worthy of exhibition at any fair.

In the Brandon district we visited Jno. E. Smith, J. D. McGregor & Co., and J. S. McMillan. Almost a full line of the various kinds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine were found here, all imported stock. Many of these animals have been well selected, and they are in good condition.

We also visited Mr. Musk, near Souris; J. H. Proctor, near Virden; D. McCaig, near Douglas; A. Colquhoun, near Douglas; Mr. Shanks and Mr. Rae, near Rapid City; Mr. Darroch, near Minnedosa; Mr. Farney, near Gladstone. Among these we found a variety of horses, cattle, sheep and swine. A few were good, many could not be recommended; while sheep and swine are not up to exhibition requirements.

In Portage la Prairie district we visited Messrs. Glennie, Bray, McKenzie and Simpson. Here we found some fine herds of Jerseys and Holsteins, and the best province-bred Clyde colt we have met.

We found it impossible to reach a number of points on the list on account of snow. An extra fine Yorkshire coach stallion is owned by a Mr. Knittle, of Boissevain. We are satisfied a selection could be made that would include all kinds of horses, sheep, cattle, etc., which, if kept together at Chicago, would be a credit to the province, but we are aware they would be separated to their respective stables, and by that means Manitoba's exhibit would be lost sight of. From our experience in stock it appears doubtful if a good selection of competing animals for the different classes could be made from those we have inspected. It is hardly necessary to say further that, looking at the matter in every light, we do not at present see our way clear to advise the Government to go on with the exhibit.

We understand the Government intends acting upon the report of the experts, and consequently there will be no exhibit of live stock sent from Manitoba to the World's Fair.