

The Colt After Weaning.

On most farms the sucking colt has recently been, or is now being, weaned, and this is one of the most critical periods of its life. Heretofore, its sustenance has been furnished by its mother, though it has indulged to a considerable extent in supplementing that supply by grazing at pleasure. But when the process of weaning is instituted, the hitherto chief food supply is cut off, and the colt is forced to develop the incidental into its only mainstay. Some farmers have prepared the colt for this critical turn in its manner of living by having it learn to eat oats and fresh hay, and gradually accustoming it to depend largely on these foods before finally taking away the mother. But the great majority of farmers have let the mare and colt run at large on pasture with little, if any, supplementary feeding; and when silo-filling time has come to hand, they decide at once to wean the colt and put the mare to work. Too frequently the colt is turned with other young stock in a back pasture, and allowed to rustle for itself until late fall.

Such a system is essentially wrong. The colt should be taught to eat grain and hay. If it has not learned to do so some time ago, then it should master that accomplishment at once. While it must not be too heavily fed, yet it should be fed liberally and regularly. The one thing to be kept in mind and zealously striven after is to keep the colt thrifty and constantly and rapidly growing. With horses, as with other live stock, we wish them to make the greatest growth possible at the earliest age, and this must not be measured in pounds of fat, but in frame, height, bone and muscle.

Up to weaning time, the colt is very little of a problem, as far as his feeding and growth is concerned, but, from that time on, the making of a colt into a horse lies in the hands of his owner or feeder. If it is starved and neglected for the next six months after weaning, it will take the colt about two years longer to reach maturity, and it is very doubtful if it will ever grow into as large a horse as good care at the proper time would have made of it. That man shows that he knows something about horse production who plans to do his best for the young colt during the second six months of its life.

A moderate amount of clean, fresh, mixed hay, and a grain ration of oats, with a little oil meal, and a twice-a-week half ration of bran, will go far towards supplying the colt's needs. There is nothing better than a moderate amount of milk for the colt at this time. Most farmers can readily supply this commodity, and the user of it will find the returns therefor gratifying. Whole milk may be used, or milk from which half the fat has been removed, or even skim milk. The milk, of course, should be sweet, wholesome, and freshly drawn.

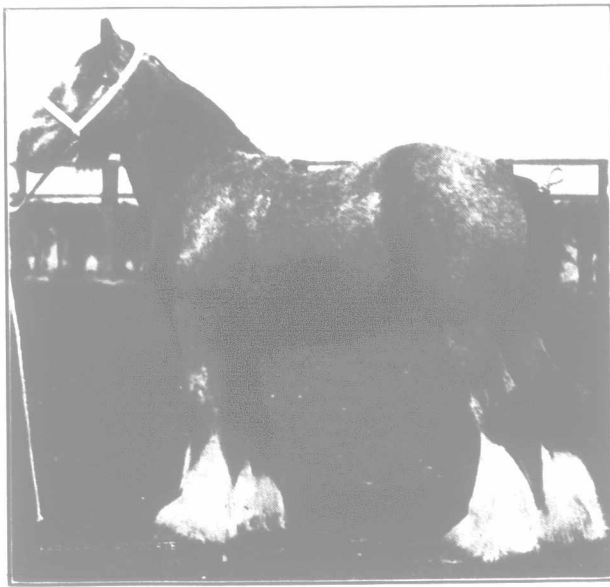
LIVE STOCK.

The Honor Roll Concluded.

Having followed, first, from personal recollection, and later, with the aid of "The Farmer's Advocate" reports, the principal prizewinning records of individual Canadian-bred or owned Shorthorns at leading shows in the Dominion, and at international exhibitions elsewhere, in the more than fifty years covered by the chronicles of the Honor Roll, appearing in these columns during the last few weeks, it has occurred to the writer that, as a sequel, a reference to lessons that may be learned from this history may at this juncture be of interest. And one of the first points that come to mind is the vital mistake that appears to have been made by breeders all along the line in failing to retain in service in their herds bulls which had proven themselves prepotent sires of superior stock, instead of changing, as has been the custom, every two or three years, for a young and untried one, the former, doubtless, in most cases, having been sent to the shambles at a comparatively young age. These records have shown plainly that, in the few cases in which a bull proven a superior sire has been kept in service into his teens, a remarkable success has been the result. The long list of first-prize and champion bulls that have been sold to leave the country while young or in the prime of life, leads one to consider the possibilities in the improvement of our herds had these been retained for service at home. If, in breeding, the bull counts for half or more than half of the herd, as is commonly conceded, the possible influence of those champions allowed to leave our country so early in their career, is incomprehensible.

The value of a good strain, kept strong by the continuous use of sires well come, has been amply evidenced by the genealogy of Barmpton Hero and his descendants, showing a direct succession of champion bulls for at least six generations. Read in the scale of the Scriptural record of a branch of the human family, and, looking back, we have Tobias and 7th, which was the son of Tobias and 2nd, which was the son of Tobias, which was the son of Stanley, which was the son of Challenge, which was the son of Barmpton

Hero, which was the son of Mimulus, which was the daughter of Champion of England, which was not a champion prizewinner, nor even a first-prize winner, nor the son of a prizewinner, but was a phenomenally prepotent sire, whose quality and influence largely transformed the breed wherever the blood was used. And the progeny of several other bulls figuring in these annals furnish almost equal evidence of the potency of a sire of individual quality, combined with a good pedigree, which does not necessarily mean merely a long list of named ancestry, but a succession of



Lymm Grey.

Yearling Shire stallion. First and reserve junior champion, London Shire Show.

superior sires carrying prepotent blood. The little importance of a long pedigree is interestingly illustrated in the case of Mimulus, the ancestress of the line of champions above named, her pedigree, as it appears in the English and Canadian Herdbooks, showing only four crosses of registered bulls, the only case of a Cruickshank cow with so short a pedigree that has come under our notice. It is but fair to assume that, in this case there were other pure-bred crosses behind the record, as it is said to have been the custom of Booth, of Killerby, to cut the pedigrees of his cattle short, contending that four crosses of bulls of his breeding were of more value than many more that were not. Sanders' History of Shorthorns tells us

pealed to Colling, and his influence sent the breed bounding forward in favor.

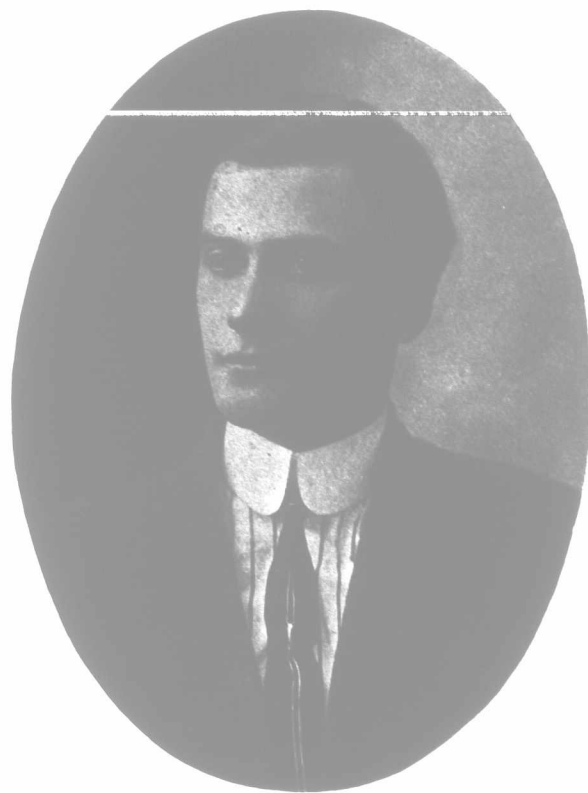
Lancaster Comet, the sire of Champion of England, a small red bull, with anything but short horns, was purchased on a mail order for twenty pounds, by Amos Cruickshank, who was rallied by a neighbor on arrival of the bull with the remark that, "If it was a Highland bull he wanted, he might have got one nearer home." To hide his horns, the bull was relegated to a back field with a bunch of cows that had failed to conceive to the service of other sires, and one of the half-dozen calves resulting was Champion of England, whose quality of hair and hide, and general thriftiness appealed to the Sage of Sittytton as nearer to his ideal than any he had bred or bought. But, when shown at the Royal and two local shows, and getting no higher in the prize list than third, his owner was half inclined to dispose of him; but when his calves came, they were so uniformly of a desirable type and quality that he was used extensively in the herd for many years, and bred to his own daughters and other close relations, with marvellous results in the improvement of the herd and the fixing of a desired type, which has largely transformed the breed, and swept the prize lists in three continents. Two of the most successful sires of the breed in Canada were the imported bulls, Indian Chief and Royal Sailor, neither of them great show bulls, but, owing to their breeding, remarkable as sires of champion winners, as the records have shown.

Another thing noticeable in this history is that not all the prominent prizewinners in the list have come, on the dam's side, from scions of the Sittytton or other Scottish herds, but many of the best have traced to good old English families of early importation, to wit: the peerless pair of full-sisters, Fair Queen and Queen Ideal, Mayflower 3rd, and many others that might be mentioned, some of which were bred by comparatively obscure breeders, who were wise enough, or fortunate enough, to secure the services of well-bred and impressive sires, though not strong show bulls. A sire's success in begetting superior stock, of course, depends largely upon the class of cows he is mated with, as to breeding and individuality, but the important characteristics to be looked for in a bull of this breed are a strong masculine appearance in head, neck and chest, smoothly blending shoulders, a medium-length back; a strong, well-fleshed loin and well-sprung ribs; long, level hind quarters; well-placed underpinning; fine, furry hair, and a loose-handling hide of fair thickness.

While, of course, it must be admitted that much of the improvement in Canadian herds has been due to imported sires, the records of the Honor Roll show that they have cut but a small figure in the list of champion bulls in Canada in the last twenty years, the proportions being nine imported to twenty-six Canadian-bred. And if the records of all the prizewinners at principal fairs in the same time were tabulated, no doubt the proportion credited to home-bred sires would be quite as large. The lesson to be learned from this is to not place too much faith in an imported bull because he is imported. Those who have visited and inspected British herds and flocks know right well that first-class individual animals are in quite as small proportion there as here, and many Canadian herds have been damaged by the use of a bull the name of which was adorned with the abbreviation, "imp.," one of the dictionary definitions of which is "little devil." The writer recalls an instance, when the "red" lad was raging, of an imported bull which, highly fitted and skillfully shown, was given first prize at a Provincial fair by bad judgment, and whose progeny damned the herds he was used in to the third and fourth generation, as he was prepotent in stamping his meanness on everything he touched. Neighbor breeders, believing him a wonder, willingly paid a high fee for his service, and got a "goldbrick" every time. The lesson to be learned is to use a good individual of one's own breeding, in preference to an ordinary importation. Read the Honor Roll of the breed in this country, note the record of home-bred sires and their get in the last quarter of a century, finishing with the champions at the National Exhibition this year, brought out by young breeders, and profit by its teaching.

Fortunately, or, rather, sensibly, the color question cuts little figure in this country now. We had our silly season, and are not likely to revert to it. Then, a red-haired arrival was considered a jewel, and a white one a calamity; now, the whites, in proportion to the number shown, win more prizes than any other; while the roans, a mixture of the two cardinal colors, largely predominate in the prize list, because there are more of them shown. In the list of champions, senior and junior, male and female, in the Honor Roll, in the last twenty years, we find 57 roans, 16 reds, and 10 whites—all good Shorthorn colors, whether solid or mixed. Forty-five of these champions were Canadian-bred, and 12 imported.

A correction is due to H. J. Elliot, of Danville, Que., who claims to have been the breeder of the two noted prizewinning bulls at Maritime Province shows, Silver Chief and Robert the Bruce, as



James A. Watt.

A young Shorthorn breeder whose name has figured prominently in the Honor Roll of the breed in Canada.

that the foundation cow of the family of Mimulus at Sittytton was purchased from a minister, who was also a farmer, in the neighborhood, and that she had been bred by Rennie of Phantassie, from a Ladykirk foundation, and the probability is that there was a pedigree behind her, though evidently it was not clearly defined.

Another lesson from the history of the breed is that some of the greatest sires have not been great show bulls. Hubback, one of the earliest on record, was a little yellow-red bull, of no pretensions as a show animal, but his quality of hair and hide, and the thriftiness of his offspring, ap-