

easy to train. It is not a boy's job to drive a colt for the first Spring; he is not to be depended upon and it is wise to take precautions against any accident which might cause him ruin, for one runaway is never forgotten by the youngster shivering under the harness to which he is ill accustomed and dragging something behind which he knows little about.

Break the colt at two years if he is well developed for his age; feed him well; clean him often and above all things exercise care to work him in reason—not too long or at very heavy hauling.

### Purchasing of Army Horses Discussed.

The question of why the Imperial authorities are not buying army horses in Canada was discussed at some length in the House of Commons at Ottawa one day last week. It has been hinted time and again that the Canadian Government or its representatives have been responsible for the closing of the Canadian horse market against British buyers as long as remounts were needed for the Canadian army. It was alleged by certain members of parliament that this was a fact, but Premier Borden assured the questioners that serious Imperial responsibilities and international complications were involved. The situation is one of a confidential nature, according to the Prime Minister, who offered to explain the matter to the questioning members. It rests on certain arrangements which the Premier stated he was not at liberty to disclose. The war wastage is enormous, as the Imperial authorities with those of the other Allied nations, have entered into an agreement to ensure plenty of horses in reserve for their armies. In reply to a question as to whether or not it was a fact that the English Government had sent agents to Canada to purchase horses and these had been denied the right to buy by the Canadian Government, the Premier said that it was true that the Canadian Government desired to assure a supply of horses for the second and third contingents and to fill the gaps arising from wastage at the front, but that there were other reasons which really caused the British Government to withdraw, and these he could not disclose. As a part of the Allies' plans the export of horses from Canada to any but British possessions is also prohibited.

The Canadian farmer knows his duty in this struggle, and he is ready to do his part. He is not looking for exorbitant prices for his horses, but he would like to see some signs of a chance to dispose of some of them at a fair price. He gets restless when the neighboring Republic is being scoured for horses and no demand exists in Canada. All outlets are closed for Canadian horses at the present time save to the Canadian army, which is not purchasing farm chunks and the heavier classes of army horses on an extensive scale. The Allied armies, we are told, use large numbers of these heavier horses, and horse-men in Canada have thought that they should have a chance to sell these horses to the British army. However, the war office plans, and the people all of whom have every faith in its policy await the results. This assurance that the present situation is the result of a secret agreement to conserve the supply of army horses should explain this vexed question satisfactorily. It is simply a matter of waiting until the time comes, then it appears the market will open.

### Horse-breeding "Business as Usual".

Unless something happens to liven up the horse market situation, 1915 will not be a "heavy year" for stallion owners. Mare owners will hesitate as to the advisability of breeding operations on an extended scale when it is almost impossible to sell horses other than army remounts at anything like paying prices and even the extensive purchases for war have not yet loosened up the stagnated horse trade. The question arises will it be advisable to allow brood mares to skip a season? Not if past history is anything to go by. The South African War, only a skirmish beside this world conflict, caused a keen demand for horses which demand had an affect lasting over a decade. If we are to go by the results of buying horses for that war it would seem that prices must go up and demand become brisk in the near future. But no one seems to know what is going to happen. The safest plan seems to be to go on breeding the mares as usual and make the best of a puzzling situation. "Business as Usual" so far as breeding mares is concerned should be a safe motto to follow. By the time the colt is ready for the market the demand may be keen. It is generally safe to take a chance in the breeding line when the majority are hanging back. Did you ever notice that when pigs are cheap everybody stops breeding pigs and up goes the price? No one knows, this may prove true of horses and if it does the man who sits tight and sticks by his

job wins out. Try staying with the horse breeding game anyway; it is the only road open with a chance of success. There is nothing in quitting at a time like this. Breed all the mares you can.

## LIVE STOCK.

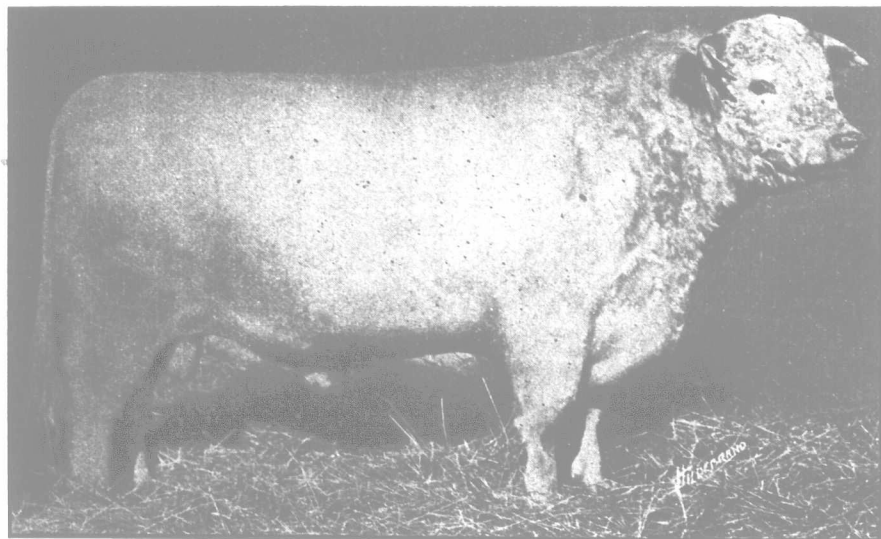
### These Steers Were Not Fed at a Profit.

The following conclusions were arrived at from an extensive steer feeding experiment carried on during the past winter at the Pennsylvania Experiment Station. Results were not very encouraging, as a financial loss was incurred in every lot, and had it not been for returns from pigs which followed the steers would have been rather discouraging. No account was taken of manure, which was figured to cover bedding and labor required to feed the stock. "It should be kept in mind that when farm-grown feeds are fed and home market prices are asked for such feeds, the labor in handling this feed when fed to live stock is no greater than the amount required to haul it to the mill or car." It must also be remembered that while the cattle were fed at a loss they got considerable roughage not saleable, and this is the case on most farms. Corn silage also proved its place in the economical ration of a feeding steer.

The conclusions were:—

1. Corn silage at \$3.50 per ton is slightly more economical when used as the sole roughage for steers, than a combination of mixed hay and silage, in which the silage is limited to 20 pounds per head daily when hay, costing \$12.00 per ton, is freely fed.

2. A ration of mixed hay and corn stover as roughage, with broken ear corn, or corn and cob meal, and bran as grain, when fed throughout the entire feeding period, is not economical. The



Archer's Hope.

Shorthorn bull owned by W. A. Dryden, Brooklin, Ont., and one of the sensations of last year's show circuit.

cattle fed this ration through the entire feeding period produced 100 pounds of gain at an average cost of \$12.97, while those receiving no grain during the first 56 days except cottonseed meal, and what grain was present in the silage, made 100 pounds of gain at an average cost of \$10.48. Wheat bran as a source of protein at \$25.00 per ton is much more expensive than cottonseed meal at \$34.00 per ton. The additional cost of grinding corn is not repaid by greater gains from steers.

3. Alfalfa hay at \$15.00 per ton, when fed at the rate of 5 pounds per 1,000 pounds live weight in combination with corn silage, is not so efficient as a source of protein as 2½ pounds of cottonseed meal per 1,000 pounds live weight daily at \$34.00 per ton. The feeding of 5 pounds of alfalfa hay with 2½ pounds of cottonseed meal per 1,000 pounds live weight daily as a source of protein, in a ration of corn silage and corn, is not now economical. Alfalfa hay, fed in combination with corn silage during the first 56 days with corn added to the ration for the balance of the period, reduced the cost of gains, but also decreased the rate of gain, as compared with the ration differing by the addition of cottonseed meal.

4. Corn silage at \$3.50 per ton as the sole roughage is more economical than corn silage and alfalfa hay combined, when alfalfa hay costs \$15.00 per ton.

5. The cost of producing a pound of gain was considerably less during the first period, when roughage only was fed, than during the second period, when grain also was fed.

6. Cattle receiving no corn silage, but fed corn from the beginning of the experiment, consumed more dry matter daily than those fed corn silage without corn.

### A Record Price Should Be Favorable To Sheep Breeding.

Last week the price of yearling lambs soared to \$12.00 per cwt. live weight on Toronto market. This set a new high record, which should turn the eyes of farmers in this country toward sheep as a profitable acquisition to the live-stock farm. All kinds of sheep products are high in price at the present time. Sucking lambs have been selling at from \$5.00 to \$15.00 each, according to quality. Wool is in demand and likely to be so. Sheep have decreased in numbers in this country for a number of years, until not enough breeding stock is left to produce enough meat to supply the moderate demands, and it has been necessary to import frozen mutton in large quantities, especially in the West. We would like to see a large number of the farmers not now keeping sheep take up this branch of live stock either as a speciality or as a side line. A small breeding flock would work in on the average Ontario farm to good advantage, and yet in driving along our country roads summer or winter one sees very few sheep indeed; in fact, in most localities nine out of every ten farms have no sheep whatever, and these farms are in most cases well adapted to sheep farming on a small scale. There is a mistaken idea abroad that where sheep are turned loose on the pastures no other stock can get its share of the feed. While it is a fact that sheep crop the grass down very closely, it is also a fact that they may be run with a herd of cows, either dairy or beef, with horses or pigs in the large pasture field, and no very bad affect will be noticed on the other stock, provided a large enough acreage is set apart for grass to provide plenty of pasture for the extra stock kept.

There seems to be good times ahead for the sheep farmer and the man with the small flock reaps in largest measure the benefit arising from the keeping of sheep. The flock lives in a good many cases largely upon feed that would otherwise go to waste, for they may be allowed early

in the spring to pick around fence corners of sown fields before the grain is up, and during the fall, provided it is not a show flock or a pure-bred flock containing individuals for sale, they may be allowed to feed on stubble fields to good advantage. They should be kept off new seeds. Stubble, however, wears the wool from the forelocks of sheep and spoils their appearance for showing or for sale. During the winter it takes very little to feed a breeding ewe. Six or eight may be kept on the feed of one cow. If a man has clover hay and a few roots he can winter his ewes very well until close to yearning time, when they should get a little grain, preferably oats and bran. From twelve

to twenty-five breeding ewes could be very profitably kept on a large number of Ontario farms devoted to mixed farming, and the high price now prevailing should put sheep in favor with many of the farmers who in the past have looked upon this class of stock as more or less of a nuisance and altogether unprofitable.

### The Live Stock Situation.

Perhaps never before in the history of Canada has the live-stock industry been standing on such a narrow ledge as at the present time. Horses are waiting in many stables for buyers who do not come. Beef cattle have been fed at a loss in many cases, due more to the high price of stockers and the almost unprecedented high price of feed rather than to low prices of finished cattle on the market. Milk and cream have not been very profitable this winter, and pigs have been shot in Alberta to save feed, and where fed under favorable conditions in Ontario have not always returned a fair profit. The sheep industry has been going back numerically for years. On top of all this came the newspaper call for more wheat. Canada's newspapers, on the outbreak of war, became wheat crazy and the high prices of grain have turned the heads of many producers away from live stock, which was just beginning to prove its real worth, to growing grain for sale. The big noise should now be made for live stock rather than for more wheat, because the wheat depends upon live stock. What will happen? Just what has been happening all winter. All kinds of unfinished stock have been sent to the shambles to save feed. Breeding herds have been depleted, and the rush is toward grain growing. Live stock cannot be got back in a day nor in years. Once the damage is done

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