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Livestock

The Feed Situation

THE situation at the present time in regard to the feed question in the three prairie provinces has resulted in more or less uncertainty in the minds of many farmers. From reports received at this office it would indicate that there are some sections where feed is plentiful, farmers are anxious to assure cattle to utilize and to get returns from such feed. At the same time they are not in a position financially to purchase stock, and are anxious to get in touch with men, who, on account of shortage of feed, would be willing to come to some arrangement whereby sheep-stock would be fed for them this fall and through the winter. Of course, we are aware that the local governments are taking steps to relieve as far as possible the prevailing conditions, but as stated before there are cases where farmers have feed but no money and would be willing to co-operate to handle stock on some sort of a share basis. In such cases the question is to bring the interested parties together.

We are in receipt of a few letters that appear on another page of this issue. These we are publishing with the idea of bringing the man with the surplus feed in touch with the farmer who is short and may be forced to sacrifice his livestock. The Guide is anxious to serve its readers in every possible way, and it is with this object in view that we decided to use its pages for the purpose mentioned.

Draft Horse Outlook

I have but recently returned from a business trip through the Canadian Northwest and down the Pacific Coast, and have just finished going over my correspondence with horsemen in the Corn Belt States. It occurs to me that you and your readers will be interested in knowing about the horse breeding situation in the districts mentioned.

Northwest Canada believes in draft horses, especially Percherons, as is shown by the fact that her farmers bought more than 1,000 head during the 19 months ending July 1, 1918. They want more good Percherons there, but have been hard hit this year by the drought, and because of lack of feed, grain and money, will not be in as good a position to buy breeding stock this coming winter as in the past two years. I look for considerable trade however, in spite of the partial failure mentioned. On the Pacific Coast the demand for horses standing over 16.2 and weighing over 1,700 pounds is in excess of the supply, but there is a surplus of smaller stuff. Fred H. Bixby, of Long Beach,

California, who has very large ranches at seven different points on the coast, and who is one of the best informed horsemen, says:

"In regard to the horse conditions in the State of California, I am of the opinion that a great deal of the former horse breeding companies have gone out of the business, but this last spring the horse business seems to have begun to look up, and a great many people are breeding again, and I think within a year or two the business will be in a flourishing condition."

"The mule market is improving in rapid strides. I am quite positive that within the next two or three years, regardless of the tractors and motor trucks, the horse and mule business will be back to its normal state.

"We find no trouble in disposing of our big horses and big mules, but the horses weighing from 1,200 to 1,400

pounds and the mules under 1,000

pounds are poor sellers.

"I am of the opinion that the owners of Percheron, Shire, Belgian or Clydesdale stallions could sell them now quite easily on the Pacific Coast, provided they put a reasonable price on their animals.

"I think the day of the \$3,000 to \$5,000 draft stallion for use on grade mares is over for at least the next 10 years. The stallion men will have to get down on earth if they want to do any business, and if they do, they can make a whole bunch of sales."

Miller and Lux, who own 10,000 horses in California alone, believe that heavy draft horses will be in strong demand within a few years, and at high prices. Anticipating this they are breeding every available mare, 1,800 to stallions and 700 to jacks—and intend to be prepared to reap the benefit of the probable demand.

In Utah and Colorado, the best informed horsemen are of the same opinion. In every district visited there was a decided shortage of real drafters, and of foals, yearlings, or two-year-olds that promise to develop into draft proportions. Many men reported that they were even now in the market for more big farm teams and knew not where to get them.

The inclination to swing all attention to grain and meat production has unquestionably cut the breeding of heavy work horses and mules to a dangerously low level. We must not permit our reserves to fall away to a point where agricultural production will be impaired. It is up to each farmer of the Corn Belt to raise the horses and mules he will need for replacement purposes three years from now, and to rear



A Good Team of Suffolk Rams Sold by A. G. Stewart, Stettler, Alta., to G. D. McGregor for a long price.

The Cow

In Southern Alberta have been very steady for the when the set-back was thousands of

In this one appearance of the aged nearly 32 following, the crop fell following that only 3,168 head was practical crop.

The farmers could no longer prospective on to mortgage the cities suffered where were their operations new was affected other so badly depleted

The farm a mules, a few marmots, the crops to feed.

Finally, the flocks started this particular was built an introduced. I came the far raise legumes proved that they were all and build silos.

The next movement of the through which their unprofit grading up p the farmers port by the bales. This sec the farmers than they in Cotton has "Dairy Queen" available. Fu this community by and produced by

What

A trip th stock market year is still quality of the be very much together, food warrant feed best class of will make an consumed sh use of better of the prairies result in a staff coming breeders have as successful line, they ha for the imp their own as the secret of largely to extend wit head their h is true in the uncommon breeder in \$150 for a and \$1,000 ordinary fig pure-bred. It comes firmly rase of the the sweet r no material posted. The a good ram quantity ma enhanced va

In the sel ing points should posse ity, this is bold appen

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A. M. SHAW, Livestock Commissioner, Regina, Sask.

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