

ALBERTA BREEDERS' MEETINGS AND SHOW.

In the first week in April the annual meetings of the Alberta Horse-breeders' and Cattle-breeders' Associations were held in Calgary. The annual horse show, fat-stock show and bull show and sale was held the same week also in Calgary.

The Horse-breeders' Association met on April 1st, President J. A. Turner presiding. The meeting passed a resolution to affiliate with the National Live-stock Asso., and another memorializing the different Dominion breed associations to hold their annual meetings just after the Ontario Winter Fair at Guelph. The election of officers for 1907 resulted as follows: President, J. A. Turner, Calgary; Vice-President, D. Cargill, Seven Persons; 2nd Vice-President, D. Thorburn, Davisbury; Secretary, E. L. Richardson, Calgary.

In the horse show, Clydesdales were conspicuously in the majority. A few Shires and Percherons were shown, and a strong showing of Hackneys, Standard-breds and Thoroughbreds was made. Mr. John Gardhouse, Highfield, Ont., was the judge, and gave general satisfaction in his awards. In the section for aged Clyde stallions the imported four-year-old, Consul, imported by Mr. Turner, and exhibited by his present owner, F. Bedingford, Pekisko, was placed first; R. W. Meiklejohn's Charming Prince second, and Jas. Jones' Gold Medal third. The contest for the prize for the best heavy-draft stallion any age was between the Clydesdale, Consul, and the Shire, Bramhope Governor, owned by J. R. Henshaw, High River, the Clydesdale eventually winning. The Canadian Clydesdale Association gave prizes for the best Clydesdale stallion bred in Canada, the first award going to Charming Prince, second to Turner's Everard's Prince, and third to Moodie's Exalted. Mr. Moodie's Agility was the winning Hackney stallion, Connell's Alert being second, and Hoodley's Glenlyon (imp.) third.

The judging of the sale bulls, and of all the fat stock, was in the hands of Mr. A. W. Smith, of Maple Lodge, Ont., who has been in Alberta all winter regaining his health. The classes of sale bulls were large and required exceptional judgment to place them satisfactorily, and the fact that the prizewinners in most cases afterwards brought the highest prices in the sale speaks for the sagacity of the judge.

There were some one hundred and fifty Shorthorn bulls of all ages shown, as many as twenty being entered in some classes. The Alberta champion and grand champion was the red senior yearling, Farmer, bred and shown by Jas. Sharp, Lacombe. In the sale

he brought the highest price of the day, \$170, and went to the herd of P. M. Brett, Regina.

In Herefords the championship went to the five-year-old American-bred bull, Hamilton, shown by S. M. Mace, Pekisko. Five of the prizewinning bulls in this class in the sale brought from \$100 to \$135 each.

There was only one class for Aberdeen-Angus bulls, the first prize going to Lew Hutchinson's two-year-old, Black Beaver; second to Jas. McNicol's Blackfalds, and third to Wm. Greer's Canton Don. The four bulls of this breed sold averaged \$73.

For the sale there were 241 bulls catalogued; 50 head of Herefords averaged \$76; 4 Aberdeen-Angus, \$73, and 120 Shorthorns, \$75 each.

The Cattle-breeders' Association met on April 3rd, the President, Mr. R. K. Bennett, presiding. The Secretary, Mr. E. L. Richardson, reported a steady increase in the average price for bulls at the sales from 1901 to 1906, from \$85 to \$108, and of the highest price for a single animal, an increase from \$250 in 1901, to \$365 in 1906. After a lengthy discussion as to the best date for the annual sales, a motion, authorizing the executive to arrange dates after May 20th, was carried. The election of officers for 1907 resulted as follows: President, R. K. Bennett, Midnapore; 1st Vice-President, J. Sharp, Lacombe; 2nd Vice-President, Jas. Wilson, Innisfail; Secretary, E. L. Richardson, Calgary.

At a meeting of the directors of the Eastern Ontario Live-stock and Poultry Show, on April 17th, it was decided to limit entries of live stock (excepting poultry) to Eastern Ontario, i.e., Hastings County, and counties east of that. In past years the stockmen of Eastern Ontario, for whom this show is especially intended, have hesitated to compete with those from Western Ontario, which is acknowledged as a better beef district. It is not anticipated that the western men will raise any objections, as nearly all of them who have exhibited at Ottawa have gone there on special solicitation, with the object of helping the show. There is, of course, another side to the matter, for if entries are confined to the Eastern counties there will be color for the inference that the class of stock at the Eastern show will not be as good as at Guelph. Before any action is taken in the direction indicated, the proposed plan must be laid before the Minister of Agriculture, and it is by no means certain that the rule will be allowed.

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD BURN ASHES.

The sensation of last week was the discovery of the Pennsylvania cobbler's recipe for burning ashes. The method is to dampen coal ashes with brine made by dissolving two handfuls of salt in a pailful of water. The salt, moisture and ashes produce a lye, which, upon the application of heat, gives off oxygen and thereby brings about a rapid and more complete combustion than is otherwise possible or likely. The addition of a small amount of oxalic acid to the brine is said to result in a second and more valuable chemical action, by which a carbide is formed. This intensifies the heat and makes the combustion more perfect. To use the treated ashes, it is advised to mix with coal, in the proportion of three to one. Experimental tests by many householders, among them one of the editors of this paper, have seemed to substantiate the claims of the inventor, in part at least. But along comes the skeptical scientist, who asserts that it is an absolutely established fact that pure ash will not burn, and that no possible treatment can make them produce heat. Ashes which can be made to burn are the product of incomplete combustion, so that, after all, the experimentation simply conveys a lesson to be more careful in the use of fuel. One serious objection to the ash-burning scheme is that the salt tends speedily to rust the iron utensils, and probably would have the same effect on the stove grates and pipes. Finally, it appears that the reputed discovery has not even the virtue of novelty, for a substance, consisting of roasted salt, was exploited in Toronto as far back as 1895.

A SIMPLE HOMEMADE LINIMENT.

Geo. Lill, an esteemed subscriber, living in London, Ont., while calling at our office recently left the following prescription, which he said years of experience have proven to be an excellent homemade liniment. It is 2 ounces ammonia, 2 ounces turpentine, 2 ounces sweet oil and 6 ounces water.

Everything is waiting for spring, wrote a correspondent last week from King's Co., N. S. April beats the record for cold and snow, so far. It has been much the same in Upper Canada. The illusions of March's genial promises were dispelled by Easter's chills, and the chills have seemed to last a good while.

GOSSIP.

SUCCESSFUL SHORTHORN SALES.

The gratifying success attending recent Shorthorn sales in the United States augurs well for the future of the breed on this continent, and is decidedly encouraging to breeders, both in that country and in Canada, as good prices in the States are sure to have a reflex influence on values in this country, since American breeders logically look to Canada for supplies when values rise in their own country. A striking feature in the report of the most successful sale of the recent series on the other side of the line, that of Mr. F. W. Harding, of Wisconsin, on April 10th, is that half a dozen of the animals selling for the highest prices were bred in Canada in the Pine Grove herd of Hon. W. C. Edwards, of Rockland, Ont. The highest-priced animal in the herd was the roan 2-year-old Lucy of Pine Grove 3rd, by Missie Champion, taken by Mr. Thos. Johnson, of Ohio, at 1,075. Pine Grove Mildred 3rd, by Marquis of Zenda Imp., sold for \$800, to W. H. Earles, Wisconsin; Lily of Pine Grove 3rd, by Village Champion, to the same buyer for \$700; Zoe of Pine Grove 6th, by Marquis of Zenda, for \$600; Pine Grove Clipper 11th, by Missie Champion, to F. O. Lowden, Illinois, for \$605; and Missie of Pine Grove 7th, by Marquis of Zenda, to Thos. Johnson, Ohio, for \$855, an average price for these six Canadian-bred cows of \$772 each, and an outcome which cannot but be gratifying and encouraging to Canadian breeders generally.

The highest price for a bull at this sale was \$900, for the yearling, City Marshal, by Whitehall Marshal, taken by Flynn Farm, Iowa. The average for the 48 head sold was \$375.

At the annual sale on April 9th of a draft, from the herd of Mr. H. F. Brown, Minneapolis, Minn., 38 head sold for an average of \$317, the highest price being \$1,025, and the second highest, \$1,000, while a dozen others sold for \$300 to \$900 each.

At the dispersion sale on April 11th of the herd of H. S. Bright, Versailles, Ky., 32 head sold for an average of \$250, the white 2-year-old bull, Lion Brand Sultan, by Whitehall Sultan, being taken by Mr. Thos. Johnson, of Ohio, at \$2,025, and the cow Amarant, to the same buyer, at \$810.

The 19th volume of the American Shropshire Sheep Record has been issued. It is a ponderous book of 1,897 pages, the pedigrees numbering from 190777 to 211122, making 20,345 sheep recorded in it. This is, we believe, the largest volume, and contains the largest number of recorded pedigrees of any ever issued of any breed of live-stock. Much of this success is due to the energetic work of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Mortimer Levering, of Lafayette, Indiana.

On April 19th, Colorado lambs of last year made the record price of \$8.80 per cwt., at Chicago Stock-yards. Eight dollars and fifty cents was paid for lambs of choice quality to take back to the country to feed. When the wool is secured, and the ewe lambs are held for breeding purposes and the wether lambs put in prime condition for slaughter, the transaction may prove a profitable one.

TRADE TOPICS.

PEA MEAL.

The well-known and reliable milling firm of Walter Thompson & Son, Limited, of London, Ont., is offering through our advertising columns a quantity of pure pea meal at \$26 per ton in bags, F. O. B. London. Peas are the richest feed of all our common grains, ranking almost with linseed and cottonseed meals, and pea meal at \$26 per ton is good value at the present price of other millfeeds. Write for free samples, mentioning this paper.

TREES, SHRUBS AND FLOWERING PLANTS.—Those who follow the special series of articles on the "Adornment of Rural Homes," commencing in this issue, will be wondering where they can obtain trees, shrubs and flowering plants with which to adorn their homes. In our advertising columns will be found an announcement by C. Baker, Nursery, General Delivery, London, Ont., who has had long experience and can supply the trade in all parts of Canada. Mr. Baker may be contacted has complied with the Government regulations regarding fumigation, and his customers may be assured of getting the best of the trade.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

3rd.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

4th.—When a reply by mail is required, it is urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

STALLION'S NUMBER.

Please give me number of Clydesdale stallion Craigen Darrach, imported by John Dryden, Brooklyn, Ont.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—We do not find this horse in the Canadian Clydesdale Studbook.

LOOKING FOR POLAND-CHINAS.

Are there any breeders of Poland-China hogs in Ontario, as I desire to communicate with them?

H. C.

Ans.—Breeders of Poland-China swine, for which we are from time to time receiving enquiries, should not allow their modesty to prevent them making the fact known through our advertising columns.

RETENTION OF AFTERBIRTH.

1. Clyde mare, at foaling last year, retained the afterbirth. In about six hours after foaling we removed it. Some say it should be taken away before the mare rises. If so, in what way would you proceed?

2. Is there any way to feed a mare to prevent her running out her milk?

T. J. M.

Ans.—That the mare retained the afterbirth for six hours was no cause for alarm. While retention of the afterbirth for longer than an hour or two is not common in mares, still we should allow 20 or 24 hours to elapse before undertaking manual assistance. Blanketing the mare and warming her drinking water at parturition tends to a normally prompt expulsion of the foetal membranes.

2. Withholding milk-producing foods such as bran, oats and clover hay, would probably have some effect on preventing leakage of milk, but would not be advisable as general practice. An easy milker is liable to lose a little milk if she is secreting as much as she should.

COAL ASHES.

I have a big pile of coal ashes. Had I better have them hauled to the garden, the soil of which is rather heavy clay, or to my lane to improve the road?

J. H. K.

Ans.—Coal ashes are of little or no value upon the soil for garden purposes. In fact, if they have not been screened and contain clinkers and unburnt coal, they are an injury rather than a benefit to the soil for garden purposes. The best place to make use of them is on the roads and drives.

H. L. HUTT.

MISCELLANEOUS QUERIES.

1. Would you give information of how to treat sheep having trouble to lamb? The sheep I am mentioning is about seven years old, has had twins a number of times, and never had any trouble before.

2. Could you give me an idea of how to make a stand, with drawers, for holding tools, wrenches, nails, etc.; just want it plain.

3. Could you give recipe for making shoe-thread wax?

4. Please tell how to tie up a horse's tail so as it will hold without shaking out. Have been a reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" for five years, and I consider it one of the best, if not the best, in America.

R. L. C.

Ans.—1. This subject was treated pretty fully in a seasonable article in "The Farmer's Advocate" of Feb. 28th, 1907, page 338. Look up this back number on your file.

2. It would be difficult to describe on paper how such a stand of drawers should be made. Better consult a carpenter, who could no doubt describe in words how to do the job, then learn to do by doing it.

3. Shoemaker's wax is made by melting together the best Swedish pitch and tallow in a vessel over the fire, the quantity of tallow must be determined by experiment. Keep well stirred while melting, pour into cold water, grease the hands and pull to mix well, and roll the wax into balls. The right kind of pitch is of a brown color when broken.

4. Plait the hair in three separate three-ply strands, then plait these three together, tie in a single bow, pass the ends through the loop of bow and pull down tight.