

ity and action, eliminating choppy and irregular gaits, and any tendency to coarseness, heavy withers and low backs. The work at Colorado is rather different, being, as one might judge from the style of the stallion Carmon (formerly shown as Glorious Thunder Cloud), an attempt to develop by the use of judicious selections from the Standard-breds, a real carriage horse of good size and fine appearance.

The Farmers' Horse Show.

The annual season of the agricultural fairs, exhibitions and expositions is near at hand. Their harbingers, the spring and summer horse shows, are already amongst us. Our city friends have washed their vehicles, cleaned their brass mountings, groomed and beribboned their teams, and have paraded them with great pride. A little later, or a little earlier, maybe, the owners of those draft teams have put on their smartest clothes, and have driven their stylish, game drivers and coachers singly, in pairs, tandems, and fours, upon parade at the light-horse shows. At our agricultural fairs, the breeders of these drafters, drivers and coachers will bring their best ones forward in their best finish and fettle, and with much eagerness contest for the coveted honors.

These things all help, and help mightily. The city will have better draft horses, making a more attractive appearance, due to her work-horse parades. There will be more, neater, handsomer turnouts in the cities and towns consequent upon their light-horse shows. The breeders will be augmented in numbers, and their efforts will be greater, due to the stimulus of public competition. And the end is not yet; for, extending from the cities, the towns, and the farms of the breeders, is a permeating force, felt to the extreme borders of the country, making for more beautiful, more useful horses. This is the general farmer's share in the horse shows. It is not as conspicuous, neither is it as valuable, as it might be. If our farmers generally could participate in these shows, as do the present exhibitors, the stimulus would be greater, the benefits more immediate and transparent. But very few farmers can participate, even in a county or township exhibition.

Yet, every day of the year our farmers are taking part in a horse show. Their horses, singly, double, in threes and fours, are seen, scrutinized, commented upon by more people than attend any of the great horse shows of the country. These horses are driven the country over; visit neighboring villages, towns and cities, and always, even when at work in the field, are observed and compared with those of the countryside. The farmer has overlooked and neglected this, his horse show, because it occurs every day of every year, until it has become his routine.

Yet, view it from what angle we choose, this is an important show for the farmer. There is a greater pleasure and satisfaction in working good horses, in desirable harness, which fit and are clean. On the road they do greater work, and in no uncertain voice bespeak the calibre and thrift of their owner. In the town and city they typify their driver, and as surely open the doors of the mart for all his produce as does the great team of the city merchant. In this daily draft-horse parade, the farmer may well see to the trappings, the wagon, the team, the harness, and the driver, for in so doing is his life sweetened, and his success won.

Horse Business in Australia.

There is great controversy in Australia about stallion certification. At most of the shows during the past two years the animals were obliged to pass a veterinary inspection before entering the arena. The results formed a startling proportion, up to nine out of every ten at some shows. So far, the State Governments have not made certification compulsory, preferring that the reform should be developed through the agricultural show committees. At a big conference, held at Sydney, the only agreement that could be arrived at by the representatives was that "all stallions offered for public use be examined, and that the Government report of each horse be advertised with the owner's stud advertisement."

Horseflesh is the heavy, it is dealer now in Australia than it has been for twenty years. Good farm sorts are selling at a low price. The demand is due to the rapid expansion of the wheat industry. The signs are that the wheat mark in 1913 has not been reached, for the plowing season in April, 1913, and the large area of new land is being prepared for next year.

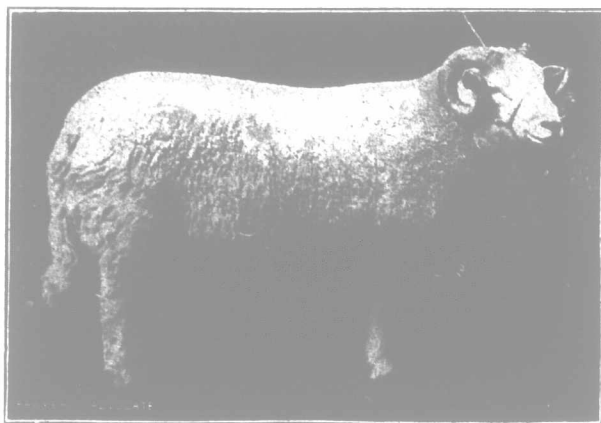
LIVE STOCK.

Dorset Sheep.

By A. S. Forster.

General good times and prosperity are creating in Canada a wealthy class, who have the desire to procure luxuries, and the means to pay handsomely for what they want. There is no delicacy of all the year more sought after and more keenly relished than a leg of dainty spring lamb. The host who procures this first in the season is considered a nobleman in his circle of friends. This makes the cost of small consideration if the right quality of lamb can be procured at the right season.

To satisfy this ever-increasing demand, there is a capital opening for farmers who have the facilities to raise these "hothouse" lambs. That means no elaborate equipment, but simply a comfortable



A Typical Dorset Ram.

stable, and the right breed of sheep. The Dorset Horn has proven itself to have superior qualifications for this purpose. The ewes drop their lambs early, are prolific milkers, and their lambs develop rapidly. The Dorsets have many other good points, but their outstanding feature is furnishing early lambs, which command such fancy prices.

HISTORY OF THE DORSET SHEEP.

For almost a hundred years there has been a breed of horned sheep in the Dorset and Somerset Counties of England. They had white faces and legs, in contrast to the other horned breeds. At first, some Dorsets had black lips, and some pink lips, but the latter seems to have prevailed, and the former disappeared. These sheep were known particularly for their prolific breeding, many ewes dropping lambs twice a year, and often twins at that. The dark, cool atmosphere seemed to be favorable for this, and the same sheep had difficulty in sustaining this record when removed to other climates. They would breed perhaps three



Dorset Ewes.

times in two years. Efforts were made to improve the breed by crossing, but this was abandoned, and the promoters of the breed resorted more to selection from within the breed itself. The first Dorsets were brought to Canada about 1885, and have grown in such favor that now there are numbers of excellent flocks in Canada and the United States, which attract great attention at all the big fairs.

TYPE OF THE DORSET.

The Dorset may be called a medium-size and a medium-wool sheep, with many good mutton qualities, being great foragers, rapid growers and easy feeders, while the ewes are credited with giving an extra large flow of milk.

The male Dorset should have a marked masculine head, with short, thick neck, and heavy bones well forward and with sufficient spread not to touch the head. The nostrils are broad. Special attention should be given to a smooth, level

fleshed back and plenty of heart-girth. The loin is usually strong, and a good full twist, with meat well down the leg, is always desirable. The ram is better to be of square, compact form, set on strong, short legs, with good spread. The fleece should be of moderate length, dense, and fine.

The female is much the same, though longer of neck and body, indicating good milking and feeding qualities. The head should be fine, and the face mild and feminine, and the horns small and well turned forward. The back, legs, twist and loin should be the same as in the ram. An effort to increase the size, if form is not sacrificed, would be in the right direction.

CROSSING WITH GRADE EWES.

The crossing of pure-breds is seldom desirable in any kind of stock. There is no certainty of combining the good qualities of two breeds. There is an equal chance of getting together the inferior points of the two. But for crossing on grade flocks, the Dorset ram cannot be excelled. The ewe lambs from this cross should be kept, and the rams made wethers and sold. These half-bred ewes will breed early, have good size, and be superior mothers. Even if the lambs may not be shipped to the city in the spring, they will have secured a start in the stable, and develop with great rapidity when turned on the grass, being the envy of butchers in the summer, when a light meat, like lamb is more in demand by good customers. There is always a ready market for the early animal of any kind. One part Leicester ewe in our flock has produced a \$9 Easter lamb for two years. Her lambs always do well.

THE EASTER LAMB TRADE.

There is no month better for these lambs to drop than January, and the majority of Dorsets will lamb in that month. One lamb is more to be desired than two, as a ewe cannot force along two lambs so that they both will weigh 45 or 50 pounds alive at two months. The one lamb will sell for \$10 before Easter, while the two might have to be kept till autumn to get \$5 each. In the first case, the ewe would have all summer to build up, and be ready to be bred early again.

The ewe should be fed bran and roots, with clover hay, when the lamb is four or five days old, the quantity being made larger as the lamb grows older. Then, in order to force the lamb still faster, it should have access to a small pen through a hole that will not admit the ewe. In a small trough, a mixture of ground oats, corn and oil cake should be kept. It is better to give this mixture often, and not too much at once, as a lamb is a dainty creature. The oats give growth, the corn fat and a nice yellow tint to the skin, while the oil cake keeps the bowels active and the lamb in good heart. If roots are available, a few finely chopped may be given with profit. Some lambs may not eat them for a couple of days, but they soon acquire a taste, and relish them. A little clover hay in their own pen is seldom passed over. These lambs should start to sell late in February, and bring big prices, until Easter. After that they sell till May 24th, at good, fair figures, but heavier lambs are wanted the later it gets. Be careful to keep lambs quiet and their troughs clean.

When the lambs weigh from forty to fifty pounds alive, and are fat, they can be shipped alive by express to some city butcher who has a good trade, and should bring \$10 before Easter, and some less after.

This will be found most profitable, and all the work is done during the winter, when the average farmer has little to do. The worry of lambing time is all over before spring work begins, and the ewes are ready to turn out without having lambs to support. Of course, there will be some ewes that may lamb too late to sell the lambs as described, but most Dorsets will lamb before April.

Then, there is the October lamb, that is sent to market at Christmas time, but it is difficult to get as high a price then as at Easter, owing to the plenty of poultry. Have had experience with one ewe that gave a \$10 lamb for Easter, and an \$8 lamb for Christmas. No branch of live stock can be more profitable than that. This may be the exception, but every flock of good Dorsets will have a few ewes that will do the same.

QUALITY IN SHEEP.

From my experience, it would appear that Canadian sheepmen should breed more for quality than quantity in sheep, and aim to breed from selected sheep that are well treated at points where the choice cuts are. Symmetry, compactness and thickness are three desirable features in lambs or sheep, with full twists, and thick meat on the loin and leg.

GOOD MUTTON SHEEP.

The original breed was somewhat coarse and long-legged, and not well woolled about the head and on the neck. This has been entirely changed by crossing with the breed in England, while Canadian breeders have been selected to acquire a more compact back, a full heart-girth, with a good twist, and a twist that is full, and