

and hardening of his shoulders, and good judgment in feeding, will very materially aid in making a good, useful horse, as well as keeping him sound. Of course the different dispositions of colts must be carefully considered, and dealt with accordingly.

Peterborough Co., Ont.

W. G. A.

STOCK.

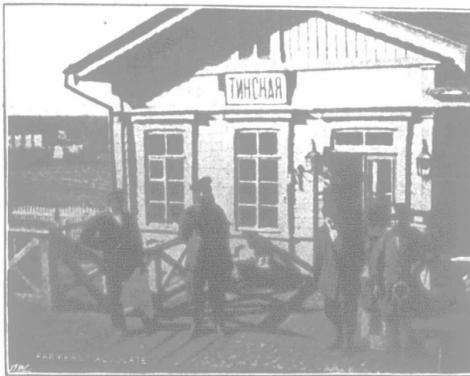
Docking Lambs.

There may be room for diversity of opinion regarding the sensibleness of docking horses, but there is a general agreement that it is a kindness to amputate the tails of lambs while they are quite young, as they are not needed for protection from flies, which purpose the lamb's wool admirably serves, while the long tail gathers dirt, and thus proves a nuisance. A few sheep or lambs with long tails spoil the appearance of a whole flock from a point of pride, which all flockmasters of good taste possess. The proper time to attend to docking the lambs is when they are a week old; then the bones are small and soft, and can be easily cut through without shock to the vertebrae, and with very little bleeding. Let an attendant hold the lamb, or the operator may hold it between his knees, and with one hand draw the loose skin back a little towards the rump, feel for the second or third joint, and with a sharp knife in the other hand cut upwards against the thumb resting on the upper side of the tail, and the work is quickly and quietly done. Should bleeding continue more than a few minutes, which rarely occurs at this age, tying a piece of soft twine around the stump will stop it promptly; this should be cut away in a few hours. A prominent breeder wrote us last year that he lost two or three fine lambs from the shock of docking when several weeks old; this year he has docked at four or five days, and has had no losses. The ram lambs in grade flocks, and the inferior ones in pure-bred flocks, should be castrated at the same time as docking is performed, or rather immediately before. Ram lambs among other feeders become a nuisance in the fall, and are discounted in price by buyers. American special sheep papers recommend castration by clipping the pouch containing the testicles clean off with a pair of shears, which it is claimed is perfectly safe when the lamb is a few days old. But shepherds having a pride in their flocks prefer to have their wethers carrying a pouch, and they perform the operation by cutting the end of the sack off, or slitting the sides well down to the bottom, and drawing the testicles out separately, pressing down on the body with the fingers of one hand meantime.

Early Shearing of Sheep.

To many it may appear premature to write of shearing sheep while snowbanks are yet lingering by the fences and frosty nights may still be looked for, but the most experienced and successful flockmasters now make it a rule to shear their last year's lambs, and older rams, unwashed, early in April. Young sheep in good condition, with heavy coats of wool, are liable to suffer from the heat in warm days in April, and especially so if annoyed by ticks. It is quite safe to shear them on warm days in April if they are shut in the house for a day or two after, and they thrive much better without their fleeces. For best results they should be treated a few days after shearing to a dipping or pouring of a solution of one of the advertised sheep dips, to kill any ticks that may remain and to give the skin a healthy tone, then their wool will grow rapidly and the sheep will put on flesh fast. It is a good plan to pare the hoofs of the sheep before shearing, as they are apt to get overgrown from standing on soft, damp bedding, and are more liable to contract foot rot. Ewes that are not due to lamb before May may also be sheared in April, if carefully handled, but in the case of those that have lambed early, or are due to lamb in April, shearing is not advisable, as they are liable to be in thin condition, having less heat in themselves, and might suffer from cold winds. But where ewes are well fed and are in real good condition, there is economy in shearing all before the flock goes out to grass. There is less danger from the sheep getting cast on their backs in the effort to bite at ticks that are worrying them; less loss of wool from pulling, and from its becoming clotted with dung and from becoming matted or cotted, discounting its selling price. Wool is so low in price now that if there is any loss in selling it unwashed, as compared with washed, it makes but little difference, and the new fleece will grow faster after early shearing, and make up in next year's crop for any loss in selling this year's unwashed. Washing sheep in cold water is fast going out of date. It is a barbarous and unnatural process, repulsive to the sheep, often causing sickness and loss by death, while what is called washing is often merely a form, being performed in a slipshod way, doing little good in the

way of cleansing the fleece, which has to be thoroughly scoured when it reaches the manufacturer's hands. The lambs should be dipped a few days after the ewes are sheared, as any ticks that may be on the mothers will take to the lambs immediately after shearing. If these things are not attended to before the rush of spring seeding commences, they are likely to be unduly delayed, to the great discomfort of the flock.



A Wayside Station on the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Selection of Brood Sow.

In selecting a sow from a litter to be kept for breeding purposes, the principal points to be sought for are a strong, moderately lengthy, slightly arched back, with well-fleshed loin, long and broad hind quarters, thick hams—thick from outside to inside surface—well fleshed down to the hock, well-sprung and moderately deep ribs, thick flanks, smooth sloping shoulder, not too wide on top, but well filled behind the shoulders, thick through the heart and wide in the floor of the chest, as indicating strength of constitution; a strong, moderately lengthy neck; light jaw; a moderately long head, broad between the ears and eyes, the ears fine and well set; legs well set apart, and feet standing straight up on toes, the bone being clean, not coarse, and of good quality; the hair not coarse or thick, but soft and silky, and the skin fine, smooth and elastic to the touch. With these points well up to the standard, and a dozen well-placed teats, one should find himself in possession of a sow of good constitution; a quiet, kindly disposition; a good feeder; one that will make good use of her food, and one that is likely to make a good mother of the right type of pigs, if mated with a pure-bred male of similar characteristics, not closely related to herself.

The care and treatment that the sow intended for a breeder should receive while growing may be summed up in a few words: Keep her growing, but not fat, and give her ample room for exercise, on pasture in summer and in the barnyard in winter, and she should not be bred to have her first litter before she is a year old; better at fifteen or sixteen months.



Vladivostok, the Eastern Terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Crippled Pigs.

The disease commonly known as the crippling of pigs is one of the most troublesome with which the farmer has to contend. It is all the more so as once a pig gets crippled he is rarely again a profitable animal to feed.

The symptoms of this malady are well known. A stiffness, and more or less inability to walk, coupled with more or less distaste for food, are the principal symptoms.

The causes are not far to seek. Dampness, a lack of sunlight, or improper feeding may bring it on. Dampness may be prevented by frequent

cleaning out of the pens, proper attention to litter, and the providing of sleeping quarters raised above the level of the floor of the feeding pen.

The floor of the feeding pen should have a slight slope from trough to gutter. This will materially aid in keeping the pens dry. If straw is scarce, horse manure fresh from the stable gives very satisfactory results as litter and an absorbent of the liquid manure.

As to sunlight, the easiest way of providing it is to have all the pens face the south, and have one large window in each pen. This window is better placed in a horizontal position.

The feeder will necessarily be guided in his selection of a proper ration by the materials at hand. However, besides giving a proper ration of foodstuffs, he should not forget the simple and easy method of letting the pigs get what they require from the earth, by giving earth to them. They should also have access to an unlimited supply of charcoal. A little salt and ashes well mixed is also a great aid in keeping them healthy.

Huron Co., Ont. FARMER'S SON.

Scours in Calves.

The following prescription is strongly recommended by a noted breeder and farmer in an English stock journal as a cure for scours in calves; it is likewise good for foals and lambs:

- Prepared chalk 2 ozs.
- Powdered catechu 1 oz.
- Ginger 1/2 oz.
- Opium 2 drachms.
- Peppermint water 1 pint.

(One tablespoonful morning and evening.)

It is best to give a dose of castor oil first, and after the effects of the oil have passed, then the cordial.

The cordial may be continued several days if the scour continues.

A Drastic Proposition.

As the time is approaching when stallions will be again on their routes for the patronage of the farmers, I think it would be wise for the horsemen to club together and ask the Government to pass a license act and appoint an inspector, the same as in France, to inspect all stallions that are to be kept for stock purposes, and grant a permit to travel to none but those that are good, sound individuals, having recorded pedigrees; and to put a tax of \$25 on all that are not pure-bred, and a fine of \$5 per mare on all mares served by such stallions. We have enough pure-bred stallions in every section of Ontario to meet the needs of the country, and can do without the use of grades; and I think that our enterprising horsemen who have invested large sums of money in good horses should be protected. I think if the matter were properly presented to the Ontario Government, steps would be taken to put down the scrub, the destroyer of the quality of our horses in Canada. I would like to hear from other horsemen on this subject.

Kent Co., Ont.

R. L. J.

Sows Eating Pigs.

A subscriber enquires what is the cause of sows eating their pigs when young, as they sometimes do.

We are not sure that any one knows for a certainty what is the cause, but the impression prevails that it is owing to improper feeding of the sow during pregnancy. The sow should have a variety of foods, making something like a balanced ration, part of which should be rich in protein or muscle and blood making elements, such as oats, bran, shorts, oil meal and clover leaves if available, instead of a steady ration of corn or

of roots principally. In such case the sow is ravenous for flesh food, and, if possible, it should be supplied. If she is constipated at the time of parturition, the pain is greatly increased, and may tend to make her irritable, and especially if the pigs are born with sharp little tusks, as they are in some cases. These prick the sow's udder, making her jump up, and it may be snap at one of her pigs, and, tasting blood, craving for flesh and blood leads her to satisfy it by eating her pigs one after another. Prevention is better than cure. Care should be observed that such food be given as will meet the demands of nature, and when the sow is nearly due to farrow, that her