

It is necessary to watch the collars carefully during the first week or so of the fall plowing, and even though all precautions are taken some horses are tender skinned and slight sores break out which if not properly cared for soon become larger. Keep the collar fairly tight and watch it as the horse loses flesh with the increase of work. Scalding is the most common trouble and this can be avoided in some instances by holding the collar off the shoulders and rubbing them well for a short time while resting the horses at the end. To scalded shoulders apply a lotion of one ounce each of acetate of lead and sulphate of zinc to a pint of water. This should be applied several times daily. It is hard to treat a sore shoulder and keep the horse at work, but many cannot stop the team and the best must be made of the trouble. This summer we noticed a farmer putting ordinary white lead on his horses' shoulders, and we asked him about its effect. He said that of all the remedies he had tried this had proven the most successful on his horses. Some might find it worthy of a trial. We say again, watch the shoulders carefully and prevent the trouble if possible.

Work or Exercise the Stallion.

Every year there is more or less complaint about mares not getting in foal. In some cases the cause is hard to find, but in others it may be attributed to breeding to highly-fitted, pampered stallions that stand in comparative idleness between seasons, with the result that the muscles are soft and flabby. This condition naturally affects the entire animal system and causes a weakness of the generative organs. It has frequently been noticed that scrub stallions, that are allowed to look after themselves pretty much, get mares in foal where the fine-looking horses fail. There is a possibility of having a horse too fleshy for breeding purposes. Breeders of entire horses aim at giving the animals regular exercise between seasons. However, many entire horses that are kept on farms are neglected after the breeding season is over. If the owner has the crops to harvest and fall work to look after he has little time left for exercising the stallion. Consequently the horse remains for days at a time in a box stall and works off his surplus energy in pawing down the stall. The farmer can seldom find the time to walk a horse a mile or two each day. Standing idle the muscles become soft and the flesh deep, provided proper feed is given. In this condition the horse looks well, but the percentage of colts he leaves in a season is usually small. Stallions that are sure breeders and that leave strong foals are kept in condition the year round. This does not necessarily imply being loaded with flesh, but refers more particularly to having the muscles hardened by work or exercise. Stallions should be capable of doing the work that is required of their offspring. While it may be a little unhandy working these big, life horses on harvesting machinery, they might be put in the team for doing the fall plowing, provided they are in the hands of careful teamsters. After a season or two of failures to get colts, owners have put their horses to work both fall and spring and the results have been gratifying. Not only is the percentage of foals increased, but they are much stronger than from pampered horses.

Those who are not in a position to work their entire horses should give them the run of a good-sized paddock during the day, not only during the fall months but right up until the breeding season commences again. True, the horse may not look as fleshy or as sleek as those stabled and exercised on the line, but looks should be of second consideration to virility and prepotency. Possibly owners of mares are largely to blame for stallions being kept as many of them are. A stallion a little down in flesh is very often passed by for one that is rolling fat and well groomed. There is no objection to a stallion looking well, but that firmness of muscle that can only be secured by work or regular exercise is of primary importance in the getting of colts. Stallions that get a large percentage of strong colts are kept in condition the year round.

LIVE STOCK.

The Ewe and the Lamb.

The price of lamb and mutton is comparatively high, but, as is always the case, lamb holds premier place on the market, and yearlings always bring a higher price per pound than older ewes. In view of this fact, and always anxious to get the top price, some farmers and stockmen hang on to their old ewes just a little too long. We do not mean that a good breeding animal should be discarded before her period of usefulness is over, but it is a fact that some ewes, whose mouths are badly broken into, should be turned off in a fall like this when feed is high and the ewe flock will be called upon to winter very largely on coarse feed. The ewe, without teeth, is a hopeless failure in such a case, and the thrifty yearling should be kept in her place. When the butcher comes around rubbing his hands and smiling at that nice flock of lambs and yearlings, do not listen to him but lead him off to the flock of old ewes and sell him the culls while they are a good price, and be sure and tell him not to sell these old ewes as spring lamb when he gets them well dressed in the city, because such a procedure injures the sheep business in the end.

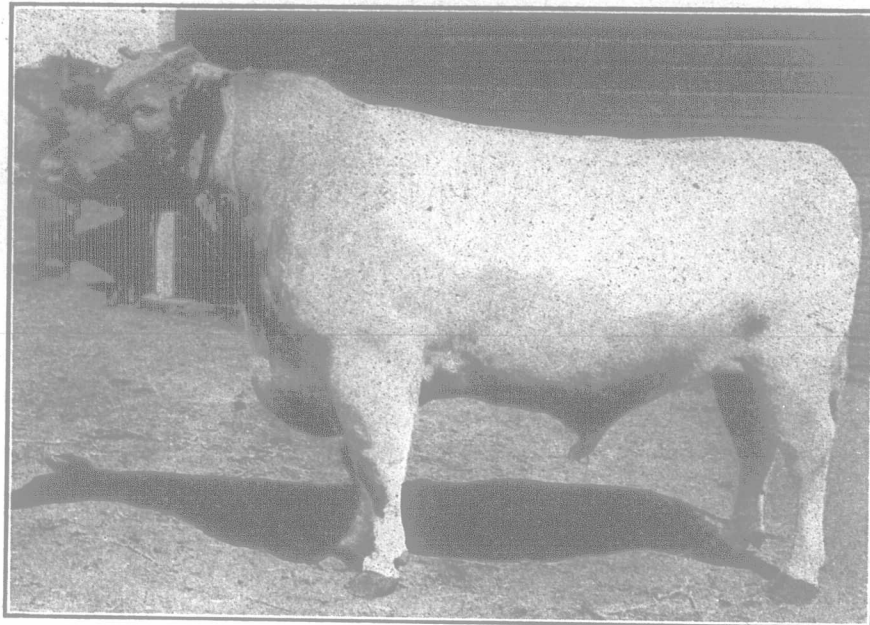
Eight-year-old mutton can never be six-months-old lamb, no matter what the persuasive ability used upon the customer. Cull out the old ewes and give the improved youngsters a chance.

Startling Figures.

It might interest live-stock men generally to know that figures given in the Census and Statistics Monthly show that there has been a falling off in the numbers of live stock in Canada in 1916 as compared with 1915 of upwards of half a million animals. The following table shows an estimate of the number of the different classes of live stock in Canada last year and this year, together with the decrease:

Description	1915	1916	Decrease
Horses.....	2,996,099	2,990,635	5,464
Milch cows.....	2,666,846	2,603,345	63,501
Other cattle.....	3,399,155	3,313,519	85,636
Sheep.....	2,038,662	1,965,101	73,561
Swine.....	3,111,900	2,814,672	297,228

The figures show that milk cows, beef cattle, sheep and, particularly, swine have suffered as a result of shortage of labor, high price of feed, poor pasture and low-yielding crops. These figures will be revised later on, and it will be interesting to note the effect of the rapid jump in grain prices this fall. In certain districts where feed is scarcest and where crops were lightest, local papers are at the present time carrying advertisements of sales of young and stocker cattle, and many are being advertised for disposal at private sales. The hog business is in perhaps the most precarious condition, because pigs are heavy feeders on high-priced feed. There are also indications that in some districts at least farmers are a little more willing to take a chance on producing milk from their feed this winter, than from running the risk with the beef markets. One thing is certain from the figures, however, that when things right them-



King of Diamonds.

Shorthorn bull purchased for \$1,000 by the Hon. Duncan Marshall, of Alberta, to head his own herd. Geo. Anderson, Bogner, Ont., was the seller.

selves a large number of farmers in this country are going to find themselves with a big crop of grain on hand and no place to sell it at a profit. With the stock gone it takes some years to get it back, and the stock, one year with another, is the best place to market the coarse feed and coarse grain. We should like every reader to take a glance over these figures and then decide to keep his brood sows, his breeding ewes, and ewe lambs, his best cows and heifers, and his high-class brood mares.

Red Polled Cattle a Dual-purpose Breed.

I am very much interested in the different breeds of cattle, and have been trying for some time to get information about the breed called Red Polls. I would like very much if you would give me this information through your valuable paper.

York Co., Ont.

T. I.

Red Polled cattle is a breed that has not as yet come into prominence in Canada. In the United States there are quite a large number of herds, and the breed is popular in certain counties in England, in various parts of Europe, and a few herds have been exported from England to South America and Australia. The native home of this particular breed is in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk in England, but the exact origin is veiled in obscurity. Some breeders contend that it is descended from the Galloway type; others trace the ancestry to wild polled cattle, and it has been suggested that it traces to cattle bred in Central Russia. Possibly the breed as it is known to-day is an amalgamation of types from the three sources

mentioned. The history of the breed traces back to the early part of the eighteenth century. The type sought after in Suffolk County differed materially from that desired in Norfolk County. Suffolk County farmers catered to a dairy market, consequently cattle that gave a fair quantity of milk were desired. The Red Polled cattle were selected for that purpose, and in time the breed showed distinct dairy characteristics. Five gallons of milk a day per head was quite common, and as high as eight gallons in a day was produced. The people of Norfolk County selected more for beef purposes, and in time secured a class of Red Polled animals that compared favorably in type and conformation with some of the beef breeds. In time the two types were gradually merged. By combining the dairy type with a beef type a dual-purpose animal was the result, a breed that is profitable both for beef and for milk. As the breed is known to-day, the cows yield a fair quantity of milk, and fatten quite satisfactorily when dry. The head is leaner than that commonly seen on a beef animal, and the neck lacks the fullness of the beef breeds. From the shoulders back the animals resemble the beef type, being moderately broad in the shoulders, strong-backed, deep-ribbed, with no prominence at the hips or hooks. This gives them a smooth appearance. However, they do not lay on flesh as thickly as the beef breeds, and the hind quarters resemble the dairy type. As a rule the udders are fairly large but are usually pendant in form, being deficient in the forequarters. The milk veins and wells compare favorably with those in some of the dairy breeds.

In contests with other breeds the Red Polled cattle have ranked fairly high as milk producers. At the Pan-American Dairy Test in 1901 a herd of five Red Polled cows were fifth in a class of ten, with one cow standing second in a class of fifty. The percentage of butter-fat varies, but a test of 3.8 per cent. is quite common, in fact it is about the average. With careful selection of breeding stock the shape of the udder will no doubt gradually be improved. As beef producers the breed ranks fairly high, although in competition with recognized beef

breeds they are seldom able to win high honors. It is claimed that the beef is not so fat as that produced by some of the breeds, and the covering of flesh is not so heavy. Experiments have shown that steers compare favorably with beef breeds in point of gain and weight when finished. There is a slight tendency for them to be a little up-standing, a characteristic not desired by beef breeders.

Red Polled qualities and characteristics are those of the dual-purpose animal. The cows give a fair account of themselves at the pail, and their offspring make fair returns in the feeder's stable. Breeders of dual-purpose cattle do not all have the same ideas of type and conformation. Consequently there is a lack of uniformity as yet in those breeds known as dual-purpose. Some lay more importance on milk than they do on beef and vice versa. Breeders who specialize in beef cattle or in dairying have by selection and breeding

established a uniformity of type in the various breeds. They set out with a goal in view and work towards a definite ideal. Dual-purpose breeders will have to do the same if they establish a breed of uniformity. It is a difficult task to combine milk and beef to a marked degree in one animal. There is always a danger of one or the other predominating. With careful breeding it is possible to set a standard of type; possibly this has been done with the Red Polled cattle more than with any other dual-purpose breed. For grading up a herd either from the beef or the dairy point of view, the use of Red Polled cattle might be beneficial. Bulls used on the beef type of cow should increase the milk yield of the progeny, but at the same time there would be a tendency to lower the beef standard; used on the dairy breeds the beef quality should be improved, but it is doubtful if it can be done without sacrificing more or less the milk yield.

There are organizations to promote the interests of this breed both in England and the United States. The American Red Poll Cattle Club was organized in 1883, and four years later a herd book was issued. The different families of the breed are represented by letters of the alphabet, and individuals in the families by numbers.

The lecturer on beef cattle, hogs and sheep will have to change his talk a little. There are no "cheap" cuts now. But no one who knows conditions blames the farmer for high prices.