

LIVE STOCK.

Last Season's Co-Operative Lamb Marketing in Quebec.

EDITOR "FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The co-operative marketing of lambs, which was tried as an experiment for the first time in 1916 by five of the Local Wool Growers' and Sheep Breeders' Associations in Quebec, has given such good results that plans are now laid for further expansion, and a more permanent policy has been adopted for the coming year. Although a new move, some 2,567 head, selling for \$21,498.82, were graded and sold co-operatively. In some instances prices were advanced a cent and a half a pound and in other cases from a quarter to a half and one cent a pound advance was secured. In all, 47.1 per cent. of the lambs graded as No. 1's, 17.1 per cent. as No. 2's, 9.9 per cent. as No. 3's, 17.2 per cent. as ram lambs and 8.8 per cent. as aged ewes.

The lambs and aged ewes were graded altogether on the weight basis with the exception that after the twentieth of September a separate class was made for ram lambs. The breeding in the various districts varied somewhat, otherwise the lambs were of a fairly uniform type. The results of the local pure-bred sales are already in evidence in that greater uniformity of type is evidenced in the lambs marketed. The benefits of district or community breeding are becoming apparent to many members, and the adoption of a more exclusive policy will give each association distinctive recognition for the production of a uniform lamb of a particular line of breeding.

The following grades were established:

Lambs.—No. 1's, 70-100 lbs. in weight; No. 2's, 100 lbs and over; No. 3's, 70 lbs. and under; Ram lambs, all weights.

Aged Sheep.—No. 1's, 100-140 lbs. in weight; No. 2's, 140 lbs. and over; No. 3's, 100 lbs. and under; Aged rams, all weights.

Two sales of lambs were arranged for each Association, one in late August and early September and the other in October or early November. The highest price obtained was \$10.25 per cwt., and the lowest \$8 per cwt. Grades, No. 1 and No. 2 were the best sellers and brought considerably higher average prices than either No. 3 or ram lambs. The aged ewes offered for sale, with few exceptions graded No. 1's and No. 2's, bringing from \$5.00 to \$6.50 per cwt.

The best results were obtained in those districts lying farthest away from market points and in districts where there was little competition among drovers. Lambs that were suckling their dams and shipped during September in warm weather were found to have a greater shrinkage than lambs shipped later in the season. The shrinkage per lamb on shipments varied from 5.5 to 11 lbs. depending on time in transit, breeding, age and weight of lambs and weather conditions. Sales were arranged in so far as possible to avoid low markets, the first sales being held during the early part of September and the late sales during the later part of October and the first of November.

The uncastrated lambs necessitated early selling on the part of many, depriving them of the added weight that would accrue from fall feeding. Each shipment was thrown open for bids and sales made to the highest bidder. A large number of sales were made direct to the packing houses while in other cases sales were made to local dealers. Co-operative marketing and grading leads to a more careful study of the lamb crop and markets, and must eventually lead to a more severe culling of the undesirable breeding ewes. A fee of five to ten cents per head, varying with the districts, was found sufficient to cover all expenses of marketing.

In the September sales, 365 No. 1 lambs sold at an average price of \$9.26 per cwt. and averaged \$7.48 per head; 205 No. 2 lambs sold at an average price of \$9.07 per cwt. and made an average of \$9.64; 87 No. 3 lambs realized \$8.52 per cwt. and averaged \$5.11 per head. Forty-one aged ewes sold for \$5.86 per cwt. and averaged \$7.67 per head.

In the October sales, 846 No. 1 lambs sold for an average of \$9.43 per cwt. and averaged \$8.10 each; 234 No. 2 lambs made an average of \$9.21 per cwt. and brought \$9.85 each on the average; 159 No. 3 lambs sold at an average of \$8.70 per cwt., and made an average of \$5.41 each. Ram lambs brought an average of \$9.07 per cwt. and averaged \$8.78 each, while 187 aged ewes sold on the average for \$5.94 per cwt. and realized the average of \$9.01 per head.

Macdonald College, Que. A. A. MACMILLAN.

After all these years pedigree is still of more importance than individuality in the eyes of some enthusiasts.

of the day, i. e., William S. Miller's Park Carnation, an outstanding winner. Dr. Bowie's A 1's Elegance, the winner in London last year, when Park Carnation finished behind her, was second. They are both wonderful goers.

The challenge cup for the best stallion in the show was awarded to W. Briggs' Adbolton Kingmaker, with Sir Lees Knowles' Salford Victor reserve. The gold medal for best mare, from one to three years old, went to Ernest Bewley's Adbolton Bountiful with Danum Queen, from the same stable, reserve. The gold medal for best mares, over three years old, fell to Makeague's Slashing Dorothy, with Philip Smith's Northern Glory reserve, and challenge cup, i. e., the actual championship for mares was won by Adbolton Bountiful, with Slashing Dorothy reserve. The amateur champion cup for the best mare or gelding in harness, driven by an amateur, was won by W. W. Bourne's Tissington Bauble, reserve going to Mrs. Tilbury's Gaythorn. The cup for best pony stallion in harness went to W. W. Bourne's Fusee, a pony that was saved from going to U. S. A. by Bourne stepping in and buying him. Otherwise Fusee was to have been castrated and sent to America. His motion is the perfect poetry of miniature horse action.

Sir Howard Frank, presiding at the annual meeting of the Hackney Horse Society, referred to the great interest that had been taken in the new class for stallions suitable for breeding artillery and Army horses. In the past foreign Governments had bought Hackneys for Army purposes, and it was to be regretted that the British Government had not done the same. It was hoped by the Society to see a great revival in the Hackney trade with Canada and U. S. A.

At a conference of breeders held recently at York a resolution was passed instructing the council to consider the question of approaching the Government with the view of securing proper recognition of the breed for Army purposes.

William S. Miller, the great Scottish shipper, was elected president of the Hackney Society for the ensuing year. ALBION.

Successful Production of Colts.

The mares which foal during the seeding or previous to seeding time, are not capable of taking a very conspicuous part in the spring work. Time is too precious in the spring to take chances with a foaled mare. If it is necessary to use a mare after foaling, she should get the preference of any light work such as harrowing, and then only after the foal is at least 10 days old, and allowing the mare to do half day's work.

If the practice of working a foaled mare is in vogue, the foal usually becomes more or less stunted and certainly cannot have the thrifty appearance of one nursing on its mother. Moreover, the mare if submitted to hard work is not usually in a fit shape for breeding. She gets heated up and excited and usually becomes low in condition. Quite often when such a mare does not prove to be in foal, the owner shuffles the blame on to the stallion, which is often incorrectly placed. Owing to the present day labor being very scarce and wages high, the man in the field who makes his team earn their money, should not have a foaled mare as one of his team. It is much better to raise two colts, well nursed than have four neglected. In order that colts will finish into big, well-grown horses, they must have mothers that are deep milkers. To produce milk, mares need good pasture with plenty of water and salt in addition to shade from the sun and flies.

About the end of July a feed of chop twice a day is very profitable. The colt will quickly learn to eat it, which, in addition to the milk they receive, will keep them in a very thrifty condition. Five months of such nursing on pasture will put them in splendid shape for weaning, and the habit of consuming grain will be acquired. After weaning give the foals all the oats they will clean up nicely, mixed with a little bran in addition to a little hay or a sheaf of green feed. Have them out all day long if possible, for colts when well fed require abundance of exercise.

If it is necessary to work brood mares during the spring seeding, it is better to have them foal about the end of May. If such is practiced, they will be able to work constantly up to foaling time without much damage. If they are turned idle to rest up a few days before foaling they must have plenty of exercise with the grain ration cut in half. They should be turned out to pasture, not allowing them more than two hours the first half day, and the time gradually increased until they are used to strong grass. Usually mares treated in this manner will foal successfully, and the foal kept growing as previously mentioned, will develop into a good, weighty draft horse, either for the farmer's own use or for sale.—ROBERT LECKIE, in "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," Winnipeg.

Saved Ten Year's Subscription.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I have been a reader of your valuable paper since last August, it has saved me the subscription fees for ten years already, besides many useful hints and information.

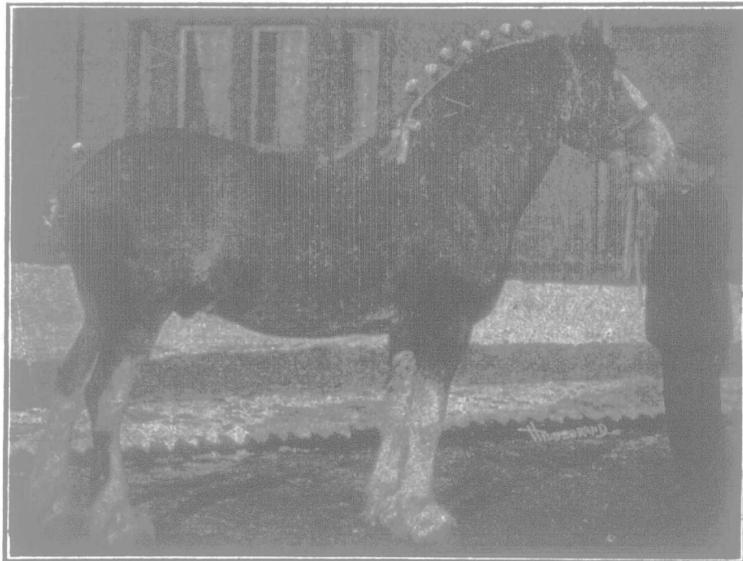
Carleton Co., Ont.

L. M. LARKIN.

The Value of Roots in Live-Stock Feeding.

After the war is over and the readjustment of our conditions liberates a larger proportion of labor for the farm, stockmen in Canada should turn their attention more to the feeding of live stock in order to produce that quality, vigor, sappiness and substance which make the animals emanating from Britain so desirable all over the world. There may be an indefinable "something" about the soil or climate of that little Island which tends to develop excellence and for which the breeders cannot claim the praise; but, be that as it may, we are sure that the roots and "cake" they feed are in no small degree responsible for the size and superiority in conformation and fleshing which characterize the cattle of England and Scotland. Amos Cruickshank farmed in a part of Scotland where the soil was unwilling and the herbage scanty, yet he developed and gave to the world a class of cattle noted for their size and easy fleshing proclivities. Canada can hardly be surpassed as a country for live stock. The soil will yield abundantly all those things upon which cattle, horses, sheep and swine will thrive, and the climate is satisfactory. But notwithstanding these favorable conditions the quality of the offerings generally on the stock yards of the Dominion is not such as to advertise the country or the live-stock industry.

There is need of better grass, more grain and an increased attention to roots and silage. It is the succulent feed in winter that makes the young stuff sappy and the adult males and females thrifty and productive. While silage is perhaps the most economical kind of roughage with which to accomplish this end, there is no doubt but that a few roots on every farm would be valuable in the extreme as a tonic or stimulant, apart from the food nutrients they contain. Where corn can be grown and ensiled satisfactorily, farmers should increase rather than decrease the acreage of so productive a crop and so valuable a part of the ration. However,



Fairholme Footprint.

Sired by Dunure Footprint and out of Harviestoun Baroness; grand champion Clydesdale stallion at the International Exposition, Chicago, 1916.

one-half acre or an acre of roots should be planted if the farmer has to make an additional effort to keep them clean and harvest them.

Mangels carry on the average only 10 per cent. of dry matter and turnips can boast of very little more, yet where can one find water that compares in any degree with the 90 per cent. contained in these roots? Analyses show that 100 pounds of roots possess only a small portion of actual food nutrients, but when fed to live stock they surpass any commercial feed or drug in their health-giving properties. Cattle can be kept longer on heavy fattening rations by the addition of a few mangels or turnips. Dairymen who are working their cows to the limit of production in order to establish official records usually have some roots for the purpose, if they do not constitute a large part of the ration. Sheep winter splendidly on roots and they are a great help to the ewe when rearing her lambs. Swine are benefited greatly by a few pulped roots daily, especially in winter when the soil is locked up from them and their feeds are heavy and less palatable than in summer. Horses will respond in thrift and general appearance to a few carrots daily; in fact, there is no class of live stock that will not relish and benefit by the addition of this class of roughage. Nearly 90 per cent. of the dry matter in roots and only 66 per cent. of the dry matter in corn silage is digestible. This, in part, explains the advantages of the former.

In Canada, the summers are sufficiently cool to make root growing a profitable line on almost every farm, and where live stock are given any consideration whatsoever there should be a small acreage planted, even if it be only enough to supply a nutritive tonic for poor-doing or unthrifty animals.