

touching the point of the hock. Another line dropped from the center of the hip joint should equally divide the gaskin and strike the ground at the center of the foot. This accuracy of placement every man should have clearly in mind if he would be able to judge or buy with discrimination.

Viewed from the rear, the hocks may deviate from this correct position by being either too wide, i.e., be outside the plumb line, or too close,

cock-ankles, though this occurs oftener in the lighter breeds.

The hock should be clean, clearly defined and bony in appearance. It should be deep from top to bottom, long from front to rear, and wide from side to side. The web of the hock should be thin, and both here and in the front there should be freedom from puffiness or fulness. Hocks that lack depth, that are tied in, tend to be curby. The commonest trouble with the hocks of draft horses is gumminess, beefiness or fleshiness; they are frequently too full in the web, too rounding in front, and lack clean, bony definition.

LIVE STOCK.

How Well Do Sheep Pay?

It has been the aim of "The Farmer's Advocate" to stimulate all profitable lines of agriculture by bringing their full and just merits clearly before its readers. From time to time we have had presentations of the profits of dairying, pork production, beef production, and various field and stock phases of agriculture made by practical men, and these discussions have done much in giving a definite understanding of the remuneration and advantages of these various lines. We have not had the mutton and wool industry discussed by those engaged in this pursuit. We believe that the sheep industry can be made one of the important permanent industries of Canada, and we believe it should be made so. Regardless of what might be done to make the business more profitable, we would like to have a discussion from men who are producers upon the topic, "Cost, Returns and Profits of Sheep."

carbolic acid, given internally, will prevent contagious abortion in cows. Last summer two cows aborted. I thought probably some weed was the cause; then, three, one after another, in three days. I gave each cow more than three-quarters tablespoonful of carbolic acid, adding twenty of water. I have mixed a little in the salt afterward. Only one aborted, and that was shortly after giving the acid. Four years ago a small Jersey-grade cow aborted. Three months after she was bred she had the appearance of a cow that would calve in two days. I gave her a full tablespoonful of carbolic acid in fifteen of water; she bloated, but was soon well, and calved a healthy calf at the right time. Carbolic acid saves to the farmers in the lower Fraser thousands upon thousands of dollars. "Useless carbolic," as our eminent British veterinary friends say, six years seems a long time to make the discovery. As their experiments so far have been but partial, and the work will be continued on a more extensive scale, with the hope of making additional discoveries, we must have faith, and hope they will find something to benefit the farmer, rather than fine-spun theories blow fancy bubbles.

WILLIAM MEDD.

New Westminster Co., B. C.

A Privilege Abused.

For the last five years, Canadian railroad companies have been complaining that the half-rate privilege for shipping of pure-bred stock has been abused. There are men using the wrong certificates in shipping, and, it is said, shipping as pure-breds grade animals accompanied by the certificates of pure-breds belonging to the same owner. It is feared at Ottawa that the voucher system will have to be done away with eventually, and a system adopted by which a man who wants to ship a pure-bred animal will have to obtain from Ottawa a shipping certificate. Some of the railroad-traffic officers complain bitterly of the abuse of the present privilege. While desiring to promote the distribution of pure-bred stock, for which purpose the half-rate was granted, they naturally do not like to see a whole car occupied by a single animal which is not, perhaps, really entitled to the privilege at all. For example, it is said that a horse shipped from Ottawa to Montreal may require a car with which the railroad could earn \$60 at ordinary freight, but for this service the rate would be only \$8.50. It behooves stockmen, if they value the privilege at present enjoyed, not to strain it, but to comply scrupulously with the rules and conditions laid down.

Brood Sows or Cows as Money-makers?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of December 22nd, the statement by W. A. Fitch, of Ontario Co., N. Y., recommending the growth of alfalfa and raising more hogs on farms where dairying is practiced, struck me as being very sensible advice. I cannot yet



Sickle or Curby Hocks.

(Photo from Hayes.)

i.e., be inside the plumb line; this latter conformation is usually accompanied by feet that toe out and are rather wide, and the whole is described as cow-hocked. While more unsightly when the animal is standing than is the animal wide at his hocks, yet the close-hocked one usually looks better when trotting, and stands more hard work than the other. At heavy pulling the tendency is for a horse to spring outwards somewhat at the hocks; in the case of the close-hocked horse this results in bringing his hocks more nearly into correct position, but with the horse that is already wide at the hocks, it results in his spreading very much wider, which cannot make for strength or soundness.

While the hock is the most important part of the hind legs, the position of the rest of the limbs must be noticed. A horse may be either wide or close at the fetlocks, and wide or close at the ground. As is the case with the front legs, closeness at the fetlocks behind is likely to predispose to interfering, and especially if the horse be toe-wide. Some good judges are inclined to leniency in dealing with horses that are just a little close at the hocks and at the heels with the toes turned out just a little for the reason given above, but the absolutely accurate position is always to be preferred.

Viewed from the side, the line dropped from the point of the buttock may pass through the hock, and instead of passing behind the cannon passes through it; in such a case the leg is set too far back, and while not attractive to look at, is usually less likely to spring spavins. On the other hand, the leg may be too straight and the line from the buttocks fall too far to the rear of the leg. This defect is much the more common, and is more likely to miss the eye of the ordinary observer. Such a leg is very apt to become puffy and boggy under hard work.

As far as position is concerned, the hind leg may be correct to the hock, but from there down be inclined too far forward. Such a conformation is known as a sickle or curby hock. The hock is not properly supported, and throwing the stress of or strain on the very rear of the hock is likely to cause the formation of a curb.

Length from the stifle to the hock is desirable, and insures a long, free stride. The gaskin should be heavily muscled, and the quarters deep, so that the animal does not appear long-legged or high-set. The cannon should be broad, flat, whipcordy, and free from any lumps or meatiness. It should strongly support the hock, having good width at its upper end. Compared to the section from stifle to hock, it should be rather short, though in draft horses there is more length here than in light horses. The fetlocks should be strong, clearly defined and clean; the pasterns proportionately of good size, free from any pumple or fleshiness, and of good length. The axis of the pastern should be continuous with that of the foot, and together they should form an angle of 55° with the ground. Where pasterns are too short or too steep there is a tendency to



Strong Bone Below the Hock.

(Photo from Hayes.)

In your discussion, bring out what it actually costs per ewe per year for maintenance, stating what feeds are fed; what it costs per year per ewe for housing and for labor. What the actual yield of wool in pounds and money is per ewe; what is the average lamb crop per ewe; what it costs to finish the lambs for market, and the net returns from these, both per lamb and per ewe. The interest on the investment, and depreciation, should be considered; in fact, all factors coming in to affect the net profits.

Let the sheepmen who are producing mutton and wool for market give the men who are not an insight to this phase of agriculture. Accounts of flocks that are kept for breeding, and not for market purposes, of course, are not so desirable, since they do not represent average conditions.

Believes in Carbolic Treatment.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of November 14th, on page 1808, as a condensed report of four eminent veterinarians, appointed by the president of the British Board of Agriculture to find the cause and a remedy for contagious abortion in cows. The report, to say the least, was disappointing and misleading; disappointing because they seemed to find everything but the one thing every farmer and dairymen wants—a remedy; misleading because they would strangle the good angel. To use their own words: "Internal administration of carbolic acid. As a preventive agent, by internal administration, we believe carbolic acid to be useless." My experience leads me to believe that



Tied-in Below Hock.

(Photo from Hayes.)

speak of the benefits of alfalfa culture from personal experience, but, from observation and the increasing testimony of those who have put it to the test long enough to be abundantly satisfied, it is, evidently, with corn, destined to become a most profitable source of forage. Mr. Fitch is undoubtedly correct in saying that we, as farm-