

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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### The Veterinary Standard is to be Raised!

The agitation in the columns of the "Farmer's Advocate," editorially and otherwise, for a higher standard of veterinary education in Canada, has borne fruit. The Agricultural Committee of Toronto University drafted recently a curriculum for the approval of the University Senate, which provides for a three years' course leading to a diploma in veterinary science (V. S.).

The holder of the V. S. diploma may after the expiration of one year be admitted to the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science (D. V. S.) on presenting an approved thesis on the result of special research in a scientific laboratory. A significant fact is that all examinations will be conducted by examiners appointed and under the regulations approved by the Senate of the University.

At a later date we shall take up the proposed course and discuss the details.

It is now in order for the Veterinary Associations of Ontario and the Northwest Territories to perfect their organization and have legislation enacted similar to that in force in Manitoba, which insists on the licensee to practice being a graduate from a three-year school. Such legislation at a time when the best average veterinary education is available to the Canadian farmer and fanner than elsewhere in the Dominion.

## Horses.

### The Selection of Sires.

To the thoughtful man who has given considerable attention to the problem of breeding, the selection of a stallion to which he will breed his mare or mares is a more or less serious question. Of course, when a mare is pure-bred, there should be no hesitation whatever in regard to the breed of the stallion, but his individuality should be carefully studied, as the selection of a sire, even when both sexes are pure-bred, should be largely influenced by the individuality of the mare. The point becomes more complex when the mare is of composite breeding. When the mare is large and heavy, approaching the draft type, with one or more crosses of some of the draft breeds, it certainly is wise to select a sire from the draft breeds, choosing, when possible, that breed of which the mare possesses some blood, but at all events a pure-bred sire of some recognized draft class. Then there are many mares that cannot be said to belong to or approach in general characteristics any recognized class; they are simply good, useful animals, with no well-marked characteristics or peculiarities that indicate their breeding. When a man decides to breed a mare of this kind, the selection of a sire is somewhat difficult, and to a certain extent will be influenced by the class of horse he is desirous of producing, as there are many mares too small to be bred to a draft stallion, that give reasonable promise of producing a useful colt if crossed with a good sire of any of the lighter breeds. If the mare be of fair size and quality, her appearance indicating that she has some hot blood, although we may be unable to trace it, the selection of a sire will depend upon what we want to produce. If we want to breed saddlers or hunters, we must select a Thoroughbred sire; if, on the other hand, we wish to produce roadsters, we select a Standard-bred; if we want heavy harness or carriage horses, we will choose a Hackney or Coach sire. If the prospective dam, while being too small to cross with a draft sire, shows an evident absence of hot blood, there is only one choice, and that is the Thoroughbred. He is the only sire that has sufficient prepotency to overcome the coarseness or cold-bloodedness (if we may use the word) of the mare, and impart to the progeny sufficient energy, quality and ambition to make him a useful light horse. Many serious errors are made in breeding by mating mares of this description with sires of either the light or heavy harness classes. How often do we notice instances when a man with a mare such as described wants to produce a roadster, and breeds her to a Standard-bred; or wanting a carriage horse, selects a Hackney or Coach sire, the progeny in either case being, with few exceptions, a disappointment and often a non-descript. Mares of mixed breeding must have considerable hot blood to give satisfactory results when crossed with sires of the lighter breeds, other than the Thoroughbred, and even here too violent crosses should not be attempted. In fact, one important point a breeder must always keep in mind is to avoid violent crosses. We are strongly opposed to the use of any but a pure-bred sire in any case. As already stated, when the mare is pure a sire of the same breed should be chosen, but, as is the usual case, except with large breeders, when the dam is of composite blood and an impure sire is used the progeny must, as a consequence, be more mixed still; hence, it is always wise to breed to a pure-bred sire. Fortunately, this is usually done; the most frequent exceptions being in the use of carriage sires, many of which, while good individuals, are impure, and, as a consequence, have not the necessary prepotency to be valuable as sires. We think it is a mistake to use in the stud any sire that is not registered in some recognized studbook of his class. A man wishing to breed one or more mares often breeds to a stallion belonging to a friend, because he thinks he should patronize his friend. In the selection of a sire, friendship should not be considered, but the selection be governed by the points already noted. Having decided upon the class of sire that should be chosen, we must not breed to him simply because he is of that class, but carefully consider the mare. If she be just about what we wish to produce, we should select a sire as near to her type as possible, but, as is usually the case, she does not quite come up to our ideal, and, therefore, we should select a sire that is strong where she is weak, or light in the points where she shows hyperdevelopment. If she be too rangy, breed to a very blocky sire; if, on the other hand, she be too blocky, select a rangy sire. If she be too short and upright in the pasterns, select a sire that is long and quite oblique; while if she be too long and oblique, select a sire that has rather the opposite conformation. It is not always possible to exactly suit ourselves in all points, but we should make the best selection possible out of the sires that are obtainable, always, of course, being very careful to select a horse that is absolutely sound, so far as diseases that have an

hereditary tendency is concerned, such as blindness from cataract or amaurosis, heaves, roars, ringbone, sidebone, spavin (either bog or bone), and, in fact, all bone diseases, navicular disease, buttle, shelly hoofs, deep, narrow heels, etc., etc., and also being careful to not breed to a sire that has any well-marked undesirable characteristics of gait, manners, temperament, etc. "WHIP."

## Stock.

### Finishing Mutton on Pulp.

A NEW DEPARTURE IN THE RANGE COUNTRY.

The pulp of the beet-sugar factory at Raymond is being made good use of. One of the drawbacks to ranching is that the cattle and sheep of the range are marketed almost exclusively in the two or three months of fall after the grass has cured. At this time they are usually in good condition, but their being on the market all at once is one reason why the price of range meat is not very high. Another reason for the low price of range stuff is that with shipment for long distances the shrinkage of grass-finished stuff is very great, and our stuff reaches the British markets as feeders or stockers, rather than as finished meat. This does not apply particularly to mutton, as we do not ship a great deal to the British markets, but there is no reason why we should not ship mutton more extensively to the Old Country, if we could make it of higher finish. Feeding for local markets is likely to be attended with good profits, for the supply will be distributed all through the year, and its improved quality will help the demand.

The roomy character of the sheep fits it for the utilization of large quantities of rough, cheap foods, and it is specially capable of rapid gains under succulent feeding, and can be put in good shape in a period of a hundred days. In the United States it is principally lambs that are fed, and these require four or five months, and they keep growing right along during the fattening period. We have not got to lamb feeding yet, but it will doubtless come.

Messrs. Gray, Ackers and Green, three local sheepmen, have drawn to the pens from their range stock a bunch of thirty-five hundred sheep, of ages from one year up, and of both sexes, and started at Christmas to finish them for delivery before the middle of April. Their corrals are quite a feature on the opposite side of the St. Mary's railway from the factory. There are half a dozen of them twelve feet wide, and separated by alleys, the same width between, and stretching away three or four hundred feet. Sheds are not used, as the climate does not require them. The sheep have little extra space, beyond what is necessary to move about, and they are not let out for exercise. Water troughs are placed at the end of each pen, and a constant supply is raised by windmill from the factory reservoir fed by the irrigation canal, but when the sheep have reached their full ration of pulp they do not touch the water.

Pulp is only good when fed with grain and fodder, and each side of the feed plots has large stacks of oat and wheat sheaf and good oat straw. The sheep are fed twice a day, and eat from the ground by reaching between the two lower bars of the pens. It takes only three weeks to get mature sheep on full rations, and they will then consume ten pounds of pulp a day, with about three pounds of the oat or wheat sheaf. The food is thrown from wagons which are driven between the pens, and the attendants keep the rough food up to the side of the pens by passing up and down the lines constantly, and pushing the fodder up with a fork. This method seems wholly satisfactory, and there is no waste by tramping.

The sheep are reported to be already sold to P. Burns, of Calgary, and they will go principally into British Columbia, and the feeders are confident of deriving a satisfactory profit from the enterprise. Certainly, even at the present time, the sheep seem loose and thrifty, and in nice full flesh already. There is a considerable sprinkling of smut-faces among them, though the majority are grade Merinos. They will average close up to a hundred and twenty pounds when they are shipped.

The large extension of beet-sugar manufacturing promised by the very large number of contracts already closed for growing the beet next season indicates that a good deal of feeding will be done in future near the factory, and the sheep business particularly will be stimulated in the neighborhood.

On account of its weight, beet pulp cannot be profitably shipped to great distances from the factory, and it is no good when fed alone or with coarse fodder. When it is combined with grain, it is very cheap. The pulp this year was obtained for fifty cents a ton.

J. McCAIG.