

From recent reports it is learned that the exports of Canadian horses to Britain have decreased very materially during the past two or three years, while the United States exports of horses have greatly increased. In 1892 Canada exported to Great Britain 1,755 horses, valued at £70,463, and the United States 1,072, valued at £55,690. Canada continued to lead in the number of animals, and to increase her exports of horses till 1895. During that year the United States sent over 10,351 horses, valued at £345,375, while Canada sent over 12,903 horses, valued at £369,157. The number of horses exported from Canada to Britain in 1897 was 11,247, valued at £280,457, as compared with 26,520 sent over from the United States, valued at £793,565. This shows a remarkable falling off during the past year from Canada, while the United States has doubled her exports.

The first cause for this unsatisfactory state of affairs seems to be that our farmers have not given the proper attention to breeding that they should have done. There seems to be a dearth of really fine horses suitable for the British markets. The kinds of horses to be found in Canada to day are, as a whole, inferior to what they were a few years ago. On the other hand, the farmers of the United States have been improving the quality of their horses. This is shown by a comparison of the average values of the horses from both countries in England. The average value of horses from the United States in England is £29 18s. 5d., while the average value of Canadian horses is only £24 18s. 5d. There is no reason whatever why this condition of things should exist. We have just as good facilities for breeding and rearing horses suitable for the British markets as the farmers of the United States have. The fact is, that our farmers have been careless in regard to this whole question, and unless they wake up to the needs of the situation will lose their grasp on the British horse market altogether.

The European buyer wants a large, fat horse in perfect condition. There is a large European demand for horses for cavalry purposes, for which only the highest types of horses will be taken. The Canadian farmer must not only understand how to breed such horses, but he must also understand how to rear those horses and fit them for the British markets. The trouble with the Canadian farmer has been that he has been too careless about the selection of a proper sire and also in regard to the size and types of the mares used for breeding purposes. The consequence has been that we find to day a large number of what might be called "scrub" horses in the country, totally unfit for export purposes. To breed a good horse the very highest types of animals should be selected for both sires and dams, and the offspring should be given every chance to develop into a full grown, perfect animal. A great many good colts are ruined because they are put at work too young. A reasonable amount of training is all right, but when a young horse is put at hard labor before its full growth is obtained it can never become the highest type of animal.

Those who have made a study of the methods of rearing horses in the countries of Europe where the highest types of horses are produced, claim that the Canadian farmer, as a rule, does not know how to feed a horse properly during its growing years. Too many farmers are accustomed to allow their young horses to roam around the straw stack and pick up a living in a hap hazard way. Such a method will never produce a fine horse no matter how good the breeding is. The young colt must be provided with good, nourishing, suitable food during its growing period. If this is done and the breeding is all right there will be no difficulty in our farmers producing the right kind of horses for the British markets.

At the Horse Breeders' meeting in Toronto recently, a committee was appointed to interview the Government in regard to having stallions for service licensed, or to granting a license to those passing suitable inspection. Such a plan would doubtless improve the standard of the animals travelling and cut off many inferior stallions that are totally unfit for service. In Italy the

Government takes this matter under its full control and no stallion is allowed to travel unless licensed by the Government. This system is doing wonders in improving the quality of the Italian horses.

The Poultry Industry of Canada.

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(Continued from last week.)

EGG PRODUCTION.

Eggs will sell 365 days in the year and bring the cash every time. Those who complain about empty pocket-books should increase the egg crop. It gives a man a very comfortable feeling to turn into silver ten or twenty dozen eggs at the good prices realized this winter. Men who think it a small business go hungry, while their colts are growing and eating. The successful egg producer is a live man, and has little opportunity for small talk at the corner grocery.

For the production of eggs alone, I advocate the keeping of purebred fowl. In making my choice I would select a sitting variety which would lay large brown shelled eggs, and a non-sitting variety which would lay large white shelled eggs, for the following, amongst other reasons:

1. The former, if hatched in April or May, and properly fed and housed, should commence to lay the last of November or early in December, and continue until they become broody, which usually they commence to do towards the end of March. They are then required for the production of chickens for the next season's use. The non sitting variety should also, if hatched in April or May, commence to lay in November or December, but my experience has been, that (unlike the sitting variety) with the first cold snap the majority of those laying stop, and do not give any great return in the way of eggs until March, when they take up the laying just where the others often leave off, and continue until moulting time. With two such varieties a continuous supply of eggs is reasonably assured, especially during the winter months when eggs are scarce and prices high. Without the production of eggs in winter, little or no profit will be the result.

2. Select one variety which will lay large brown shelled eggs, and another which will produce large white shelled eggs, because there are a class of people who can afford to cater to their own desires and palates, and these are the people to please. So far as food properties are concerned, a chemical analysis of white and brown shelled eggs shows there is no difference when both varieties of fowl are fed upon the same kind of food, but there is a class of people who will pay two or three, and even five cents per dozen more for eggs with a brown shell than they will for eggs with a white shell, and *vice versa*. I am a strong advocate of giving the public precisely what they want, so long as they are willing to pay for it.

3. Brown colored eggs are, as a rule, thicker in the shell and less porous than white eggs, consequently they will keep longer. For this reason they are more sought after by dealers who have cold storage facilities, and by those who export. To this branch of the subject I will refer at greater length in a subsequent paragraph, and give the result of an experiment to prove my point.

4. Select layers of large eggs, because they keep longer and better than small eggs, and do not evaporate so rapidly. In addition they will always command a better price.

Have your fowl comfortably housed, and in order to insure best results do not keep more than twenty five or thirty in one pen, giving each bird, when confined to the house during the winter months, at least six square feet of floor space.

Co operation.—The first essential towards a successful business of any kind is co-operation. Unless buyer and seller work together, no good results need be expected. This is nowhere of greater moment than in the egg industry.

How to place eggs on the market.—One of the first points in which you can co operate with your buyer is to have all of your eggs perfectly clean. How much more inviting does a basket of nice

clean eggs look than a basket of dirty ones? For clean eggs, your buyer will be able to get from one to three cents per dozen more than he could get for dirty ones, and so will be able to pay you more. While it is a comparatively easy matter for you to wash your eggs (or such of them as are dirty) when gathered, it would be a matter of utter impossibility for a buyer to wash a large number. All dirty eggs should be washed on the day on which they are gathered; the shell of an egg is porous and very susceptible to smell. For this reason an egg which is left dirty is sure to become contaminated and lose its flavor. Should you find any difficulty in removing the dirt from the eggs, a little soda added to the water will be an advantage. After being thoroughly washed, the eggs should not be dried by hand, but left to dry of their own accord. They will present a much fresher appearance than if dried by rubbing.

Use all faulty eggs at home.—Do not place amongst the eggs you intend to sell any which are abnormally small, or any which have a flat, wrinkled side, and never send a cracked egg to market. Eggs with a flat or wrinkled side have very thin shells and are sure to break in shipment, and perhaps spoil part of a layer in the egg case. All of the above should be used at home.

Raising Early Lambs.

In the United States a large business is done in raising early lambs for the markets in the large cities. Though we have not the same market for early lambs in Canada, it might be profitable for our farmers to rear early lambs for the American markets. A great many Canadian lambs are sent to the United States during the summer and fall and return a profit to the shipper notwithstanding the heavy duties he has to pay. Good early lambs bring a higher price than later ones, and as the duty is no higher there should really be more profit in the former for both the producer and shipper. Then, there is a limited market in our own large cities for early lambs which might be enlarged.

Rearing early lambs requires special attention, but if properly understood there should be no difficulty about it. The Cornell Experimental Station has conducted a series of experiments during the past three years covering the whole subject. To carry on the business successfully it is desirable to have a number of ewes lamb at the same time, in order that one or more pens of ewes may be fed the same ration. If the lambs are all dropped within a short period the labor of caring for them will be much less than if they are dropped throughout a longer period. It is always desirable to have the animals that are fed together as uniform as possible, and especially is this essential in lamb-raising. Whenever the ewes go into winter quarters in good flesh, very little or no grain, and but few roots, should be fed before lambing-time; this will enable the owner to carry the ewes through a critical period with less trouble than if grain or roots are fed liberally before the lambs are born. The feeding of considerable grain and roots before lambing has a tendency to inflame and harden the udders owing to an undue secretion of milk. As the ewes recover from lambing, grain may be fed in small quantities at first, but increased as fast as the condition and character of the ewes will permit. The best results have been obtained at Cornell, everything considered, in feeding grain as described above, and forcing the ewes to their utmost for a period of four to eight weeks after lambing. At this time extra grain and care will bring greater returns than at any time during the year. A little extra food may bring the lamb into prime condition and cause it to sell for the highest market price, while the same lamb, without this increased nourishment, would be only in a fair condition, and sell in the market for not more than two thirds the price of prime lambs.

In New York city the Board of Health requires that the lambs shall have heads and feet removed before shipping as a protection against disease, though it is difficult to see how it does protect. According to *The Rural New Yorker* the best market for lambs for several years past has been during