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Farmers Should Raise More Hogs.

We hear of little or no surprise, nor should we, that good horses are becoming scarce and dear. The "Farmer's Advocate" and others who read the signs of the times aright, endeavored to awaken horse-breeders years ago to the wisdom of keeping their good brood mares raising foals as fast as possible, and those who did so are now reaping a rich reward. The same may be said of the hog-breeders, both in Canada and the United States, where there exists a real shortage of hogs in spite of the fact that for over a year the prices paid by the packing-houses for live hogs have been well above the danger line of no profit. It is more than fifteen months since the prices paid in Toronto, the main Canadian market, reached \$6.00 per cwt. for bacon hogs, and for only a few weeks during last fall and early winter did the price go below that figure, falling to \$4.75 for one or two days in November, but going again to \$5.75 almost immediately. Since the beginning of 1901 the price has gone steadily forward, with only slight and temporary retractions, until the present high price of over \$7.00 per cwt. was reached. There is considerable difference of opinion as to the real cause of the increasing price, some attributing it to a united determination of the older-established packing-houses to tire out the farmers' co-operative companies; while others say the packers can make some money at these prices and need hogs badly to keep their curing-houses engaged. The packers themselves claim that the prices are much higher than the British markets will warrant, which makes it appear that there is some ground for the tiring-out theory. At any rate, there is a shortage of hogs, and the price is good both here and in the States, so we may rest assured that it will pay to put more

sows into the breeding pens until enough hogs are being produced to keep the packing-houses running full time with a fair supply continuously. At present, in spite of the increasing prices for over a year, many of the houses are running away below their capacity, which renders their curing relatively expensive. In the Chicago market, the great meat center of the U. S. republic, only for a short time in January, 1900, was the price for the best qualities below \$5 per cwt. alive, during the whole year, while since January, 1901, the figures have ranged from \$5.40 to \$6.50 per cwt., so that it would seem that the demand for pork products is increasing at a relatively greater rate than the supply. It is true that disease has had a telling effect upon many American and some Canadian herds, and perhaps a shortage of coarse grains may have reduced the number of hogs raised, but in this country, with judicious treatment and the knowledge our farmers have of the value of roots and other cheap wholesome foods, along with dairy by-products, there is very little occasion to hesitate in keeping a half dozen or more sows at work producing litters to go off every month or two throughout the year. Judicious care of the in-pig sows, especially in the winter season as spring approaches, is an important factor, and no doubt a lack of this, causing heavy losses of litters last spring, is to a considerable extent responsible for the shortage of store hogs now existing throughout the country.

While prices are high, from a keen, indiscriminating demand, there is, unfortunately, little probability of hog-raisers paying the careful attention they should to the best type of sows and boars to use for the good of the Canadian trade, but it so happens that the best bacon types are also most prolific and healthy, so that this part of the industry will tend to look after itself fairly well. The American type—short and thick—is becoming a shy breeder and less vigorous than they were several years ago. When the sows of any thick breed are stretched out by selection and careful feeding, coupled with plenty of exercise, they answer fairly well for bacon production, so that it is not really necessary for those who have been in the habit of breeding the fat-backed breeds to put them entirely away, but while the price is high for commercial hogs of all classes, it is a good time to select and discard with a free hand, in preparation for a more discriminating state of the trade. To those who have not bred hogs and have no established prejudices we would point out that the packers (and they are the fellows we have to depend on) have least fault to find with Tamworths and Yorkshires and little to say against the lengthy type of Berkshires, but even these should all be selected for best results. Mr. E. D. Tillson, who raises several hundred hogs of best quality a year, keeps almost entirely pure-bred Yorkshires, while Mr. David Lawrence, an extensive bacon-hog producer, pins his faith to the Tamworth sow and Berkshire boar. Both these men rear large litters, usually two each year for every sow, and get top prices for their pigs at seven or eight months old. They, however, take the wise precaution, which is also cheap, to keep the sows in rather thin but vigorous condition by liberal exercise and coarse fodder.

In selecting a brood sow, it is well to take some pains to select from the progeny of a producer of large litters of right type. From seven to ten weeks old is a good time to make the choice, and it is not always the largest at that age that turns out best as a breeder. See that she is lengthy, rather smooth over the shoulder, possesses a dozen teats, and looks out well for number one at feeding time. Keep her growing along well, with plenty of outdoor life, green feed and some grain, to build up a hardy constitution. In our judgment, she should not in any case be bred before she is eight months old, so as to produce her first litter at one year old, and many successful hog-raisers prefer their sows to retain their virginity until ten months have been reached. After being bred, the same cheap feeding and liberal exercise may be administered, the aim being to promote growth without fattening, as fat sows usually have small litters and are more liable to accidents with their young.

"Farming is a great science, isn't it?" "Say, my friend, it's more than that; it's a composite of many sciences. For instance, to-day, in the ordinary course of my agricultural duties I had to practice chiropody." "How was that?" "Why, cut the corn on the foot of the hill."

Army Horses.

At the request of a few people in the Northwest Territories, I submit a few ideas on the mode of breeding and breaking horses for above purposes.

I write this with some diffidence, as I am fully aware that men who have been in the N.-W. T. for some years (whereas I have only been a few weeks) should know more about the subject than I can tell them.

Firstly, with respect to a sire. I unhesitatingly say, use the English Thoroughbred. I am told it has been a failure, but I think I see the reason. If the specimens I have seen are the sort of sires used here as Thoroughbreds—tall, weedy, long-backed, weak back, ribs and loins—can it be wondered at that when allowed to serve all sorts of mares, without any regard to selection, the produce are weak, light, worthless animals? If the Thoroughbred horse is carefully selected, a nice, compact, short-backed horse, good shoulders, back, ribs, girth and loins, with as much bone as possible, and not exceeding 16 hands, mated with selected mares of shape, bone, and as much quality as possible, as far as selection in breeding can be carried out, surely here we have an animal adapted for a remount or general-utility horse.

I would suggest that on all ranches a selection of mares should be made and the weak bodied and limbed ones got rid of at any sacrifice. Surely it would pay better to have 50 good mares than 150 indifferent and mixed sorts.

As to mares not having the substance necessary for mating with a Thoroughbred horse, I would suggest trying a cross with a good active Clyde or big-boned, good-bodied Hackney, and then if the produce justified it, using the Thoroughbred on the produce when old enough.

Next, we come to the handling and breaking of the young animal. I would suggest that as soon as possible after birth the youngster should be handled, a light web headstall put on it, with a short lead (about 12 inches long), that the mares and foals should be kept for six months or more in a fenced enclosure, and the foals handled and petted daily; also that some extra food should be given them. After this treatment they would become accustomed to human beings and learn that they were not to be ill-treated by man. I would then, at the end of six months, take their halters off and let them run the prairie till the round-up, when all their hoofs should be look at, rasped round, and a week or two of haltering again resorted to. At three years old I would have them gently bitted and lunged with a lunging rein in corral, with a saddle lightly girthed, and gradually mounted. The mode of so-called breaking by broncho-busters may answer for the cowboys' horses, but it will never make a nice-mannered horse for private use, a horse that will stand to be mounted, bend to his bridle, and able to walk or trot. The bits with those cruel posts are quite unadapted to breaking in a horse, although perhaps necessary for rounding-up purposes. A plain, thick snaffle is the best breaking bit.

I have never seen finer grounds for raising horses in the world than the prairies of Western Canada. There is no reason why not only the Imperial army should get a large proportion of remounts, but, if the right stamp were bred and handled, other nations would soon step in and want a share.—H. F. Dent, Lieut.-Col. A. A. G., in Calgary Herald.

Farmers' Excursions.

It is most gratifying that even in spite of the scarcity of cash and the extra rush of work on the farms this summer the two initial excursions inaugurated by the Canadian Pacific Railway, one from Rosser and Portage la Prairie and the other from Killarney, to Brandon Experimental Farm, were so largely attended and in every way so successful.

The General Passenger Agent, Mr. C. E. McPherson, advises us that it is the intention of the Company to run these farmers' excursions into Brandon from all sections of the Province next year. Of the benefits resulting to the farming community of these visits to the Experimental Farm there is no room for doubt.

In connection with this matter, the following resolution was unanimously passed by the Agricultural Society and Farmers' Institute of Killarney: "That this Institute desires to acknowledge the indebtedness of the farmers of this district to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the privilege of being able to visit the Brandon Experimental Farm at the extremely low rate accepted by the Company, to thank them for the many conveniences and courtesies shown in connection with the trip, and trust that the Company will see fit to make this excursion an annual event, believing that the ultimate result of such excursions will be of great benefit to the farmers individually and as a whole."

A Branding Mixture for Sheep.

Tar by itself is of very little use for branding sheep, because the marks made by it soon disappear if continually exposed to the sun. When prepared with a certain proportion of pitch, however, it can be made much more lasting. The proportions in which the pitch and the tar should be mixed for this purpose are about a pound of the former to a gallon of the latter. The best method of preparing this branding mixture is to heat the tar to boiling point and then add the pitch, allowing the vessel to remain on the fire until the pitch has melted and become thoroughly incorporated with the tar.

Canada at the

EXTRACTS FROM THE SCOTLAND

The impression made by the display placed in the Dominion is well exemplified by the display placed in the Dominion.

"Canada is our pride and display in this exhibition country may well be the Dominion, embodied in the Canadian mares, who are without strike out for themselves, embark by an early start, attractions of Scottish strength. The rapid growth of the agricultural realm is shown under wheat in 1900 when Canada offers exceptional and her unclaimed honor desire to make for honest living. The magnificent illustrations of her exhibits, and the engineering skill of the dozen large factories, sends across these as is to be seen in

Prominent among the central trophy devised by the vision of Mr. Hay, and at Kelvingrove. This kind of Canadian farmland by 250 farmers in different parts of the Dominion, and the truth that while she looks towards so as to merit the Lady of the Snows, the climate and vast expanse of fields, whereon are grown the dance of food for the man and beast. As an art trophy is not more rare as a visible representation of splendid wealth of a colony.

The exhibits which are the products of the prepared for the British the most unique and successful of the display. Cold is a big factor in the production, and the fruit shown on the tables, fruits and vegetable antiseptic solutions that Canada is being who know their business while the motherland proud of her daughter fear her enterprise success.

In these days of when on all sides of made to draw the veil of the Empire closer of the most interesting how trade between the mother country and the question is often Greater Britain, if not Great Britain with sufficient food so as to render dependence on other necessary? Whether not the case will be proven some day, tional complications of the Empire on its test be given to the while, however, on that is that the United present time be done for her food supply. For a practical example to go into any freedom and inspect the from foreign lands, supplied by people other parts of the Empire made to change this and to explain to the sources of Greater cannot but be produced as such is the case, this line at the Glasgow more than passing of all the colonies ada ranks first, not of political importance variety of her exhibits that the Dominion effort to show the demands of the British fact that Canada has the British market titles of farm production one has only to visit section in the Industrial trade could be increased of cold storage arrangements, to feel satisfied That Canada can food products for