

market. If drafters for working purposes is the aim of the breeder, grays, provided they have the quality, could be profitably used; but where the breeders demand other colors in stock for breeding purposes, it would scarcely be wise to go against these demands. However, a good horse should never be discounted on being a bad color.

LIVE STOCK.

The Calling of the Shepherd.

By "Shepherd."

Here and there throughout the country men are to be found who are recognized as sheep-raisers. It is seldom that one of these is not also engaged in some other branch of agriculture. His chief interest is, however, the raising of sheep, and his chief revenue is derived from the gentle "golden hoof."

As a rule, the pronounced sheepmen in this country handle chiefly pure-bred flocks, and their names are generally to be found amongst the successful exhibitors at the leading exhibitions. There are, however, here and there, shepherds who seldom own a pure-bred ewe, who raise lambs for mutton, and their names are those who top the market with their lambs or wethers from time to time throughout the year.

While the pure-bred sheep man may be born with the qualifications of a shepherd, the successful raiser of high-class grade sheep is almost assuredly thus naturally equipped. In the former case the lure of prizes and high prices may induce one to learn the intricacies of successful sheep-keeping; while, in the case of the other man, the love of sheep and the desire to work amongst them, is sufficient to insure success with a flock.

The sheepman who raised other kinds of stock usually has someone about the farm who takes the responsibility for them, as the true shepherd is better satisfied to give attention to the needs and comforts of his flock. Unless he is thus inclined, he usually employs a shepherd or gives the charge of the sheep over to a son who cares for this class of animals, as he has learned by experience that the highest results cannot be attained without attention is given to details.

Of all classes of farm stock, sheep involve the least labor, and the character of their housing is of the simplest nature. While these are undoubted facts, it is also true that the flock, to do well, must be handled with intelligence. Neglect or semi-neglect will bring its own reward more certainly with sheep than any other of the farm quadrupeds. To attain the highest ends, the little wants and comforts must be supplied at the proper time, and it is the desire and inclination to furnish these that characterize the real shepherd.

A breeder recognized as the first sheepman in his district could almost invariably be found amidst his flock. When a stranger called to see him, it was usually necessary to send one of the boys to the sheep pen or pasture for him. On cold, stormy days he would be found banking or patching up the chinks in the sheep pen; and when the lambing season was on, no hour of the night was too late to find this shepherd amid his charges. As he went in and out of the pen, lantern in hand, during the night hours, it was seldom that a resting member of the flock would rise from its bed unless compelled to do so. Did he find such work irksome? No individual about the farm was as happy as he in his employment. He recognized every individual of the flock, and even without consulting ear labels or records he knew the family relationships, even for three or more generations. As a safeguard against dogs, individuals of the flocks wore bells during the pasturing months, and if these were heard during the night, it was a signal to rise and investigate. The shepherd's mind was with his flock, and their welfare was his constant care; and no calamity, unless it was sickness or death in the household, caused keener sorrow than the ravaging of his sheep by dogs. These points are mentioned to show the attachment a true shepherd has for his sheep, and the interest that sheep-raising has for one who will take it up as a specialty.

In this age, practical men cannot be expected to take up sheep-raising, or any other branch of agriculture, from sentiment alone. The question arises, Does it pay? The answer is suggested in further questions: Does it pay to specialize in any line? Are not the most prosperous agriculturists the specialists who do their work with intensity of purpose? Would it pay to develop a flock of vigorous ewes that can be depended on to yield a full crop of choice lambs each year? Would it pay to handle them in such a way as to insure a full fleece of prime wool, and to know how to put it up in condition to bring the top price? Would it pay to be able to turn off a bunch of ewes during the spring at ten dollars a head? Would it pay to build up a reputation for fine such and wether mutton that would bring the best exacting buyers to your farm and to your sales? Would it pay to handle a flock so as to

get the maximum of growth of mutton and wool from the food consumed? Those who can answer these questions can decide whether or not the calling of a true shepherd is worth bothering with. Every "dub" cannot succeed with sheep, but he who inclines to it and will learn the work by experience can assuredly reap a handsome reward. In comparison with any other branch of agriculture, sheep-keeping offers the greatest chances for a comfortable livelihood. Those who chose to do so, may milk and tend cows twice a day, Sunday and Monday, and all other days the year round, or feed and keep clean swine, or do

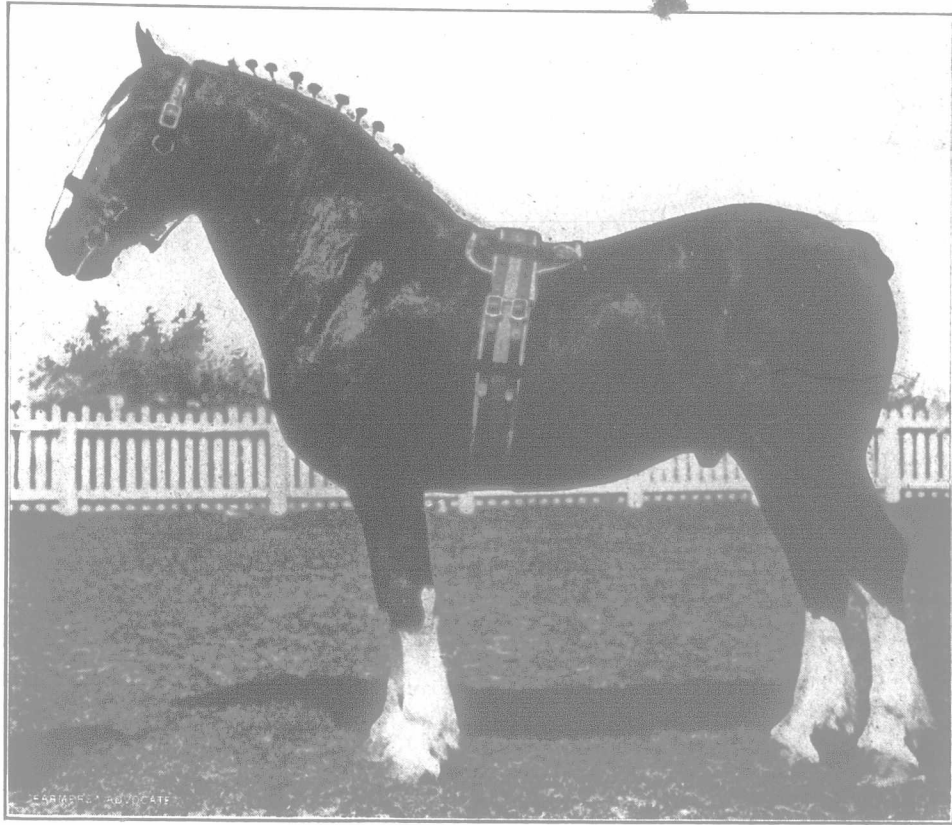
out such carcasses and joints that his shop soon became famous. His reputation reached the wealthy families, and soon it extended to London, which brought him a shipping demand. Through this his name got into Smithfield market, wholesale dealers became interested, and he rapidly built up a very large trade with these men, and now Mr. Vivers, with his two sons, are the largest purveyors of high-class fresh mutton in Great Britain. Their trade has gone beyond the British Isles, even to Brussels, to which regular shipments of prime mutton are sent. One son remains at the London headquarters, while the

other follows the markets of the United Kingdom, selecting the choicest offering for the trade. Like his father, this son is able to recognize a lean sheep that will develop a prime carcass. He buys many of this sort, and, as a finishing ground, the firm have rented all the larger public parks of London, as well as pasture in other places. No sheep is slaughtered until it has reached a prime condition, which constitutes a well-developed, thick body carrying a large percentage of lean, juicy meat. From his purchases he selects and finishes sheep for the Smithfield Fat Stock Show, and generally succeeds in winning prizes.

The foregoing shows that there are almost unlimited possibilities before the sheep-raiser. The market is constantly calling out for first-class meat. There are already many raisers of ordinary sheep in the country who are uncertain as to whether or not sheep-raising is profitable. They are enthusiastic neither on account of their sheep nor the industry, and will probably, like many others have done, sooner or later discard their flocks altogether. Their sheep flee from them at sight; they sell for low prices, and are consequently looked upon as of little account. The apathy of such men towards sheep-keeping is easily explained. Any other industry conducted with the same indifference will be fruitful of identical results. A typical cattleman will not likely succeed with fowls or with bees, nor a wheat farmer with extensive gardening. Whether it be the raising of flowers, fruit, honey, fine fowls, or choice sheep, the success attained depends upon the enthusiasm of the producer and the consequent degree of intelligence brought to bear upon it by him. In all these and many other branches of agriculture there are opportunities for enjoyment and profit, but none affords these results in greater measure than the calling of the shepherd.

An Experiment in Heridity.

A somewhat interesting experiment is reported in the Journal of the Board of Agriculture of August, 1911, as having been carried out by the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, England. It is generally held that, in the case of animals having usually one or two young at a birth the disposition to bear twins is hereditary, and this work had for its object the investigation of the point in the case of sheep. In July, 1909, twelve pedigree Oxford Down twin theaves (yearling ewes) were purchased, six from mixed twins, and the other six from ewe twins. In the autumn, these theaves were bred to a pedigree Oxford Down ram twin, and lambs were dropped as follows: Mixed twin ewes, nine lambs from six ewes, including two pairs of mixed twins, and one pair of ewe twins. Ewe twins, five lambs from five ewes; no twins. The following year, with the same ram and ewes, the results were: Mixed twin ewes, nine lambs from five ewes, including three pairs of mixed twins and one pair of ewe twins. Ewe twins, six lambs from six ewes; no twins. All the twins were borne by the ewes from mixed twins, and the ewe twins nearly all produced ram lambs. As the same results were obtained in two consecutive years, one would be led to believe that there might be something in the results, but when it is considered that this is only a small flock, and that the results so far obtained are

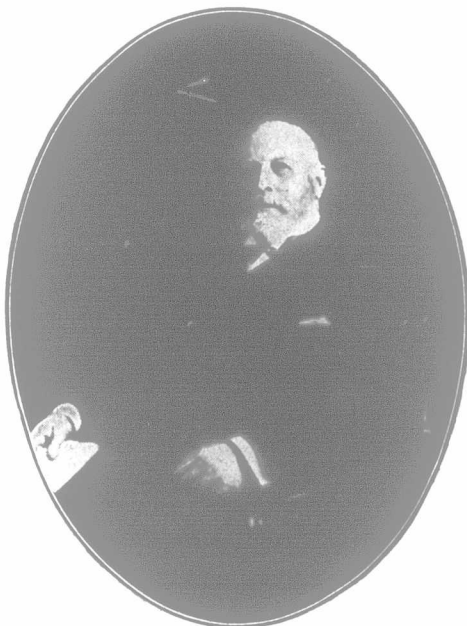


Beau Ideal [11234].

Clydesdale stallion; foaled 1908. First in class (non importers), Toronto Exhibition, 1911. Owner A. G. Gormley, Unionville, Ont.

other exacting, hard work, involving much capital, but for me the life and rewards of a shepherd are good enough. No field worth cultivating is less crowded, and none is more remunerative for the capital and labor involved.

Many examples of the successful shepherd might be cited. To indicate the goal that may be reached by a clever sheepman, the case of Wm. Vivers, of Dormacktown, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, will be referred to. This gentleman, once a skillful shepherd boy, now with his two sons have become the foremost purveyors of high-class mutton in Great Britain.



Wm. Vivers.

The foremost purveyor of choice mutton in Great Britain.

As a boy, Mr. Vivers was engaged with a crofter in Dumfriesshire, to herd sheep for sixpence a week. He attended night school and studied while guarding the flocks. Later, he apprenticed to a butcher, and from his knowledge of sheep, paid special attention to the mutton branch of the business. Then he started up in business as a mutton butcher only in Dormacktown, near Annan. He possessed little capital, but a full knowledge of mutton and the kinds of sheep that produced the best. This qualification, linked with judgment in buying sheep, enabled him to turn