

time comes, the owner may wonder how it is that his lamb crop is so small, and why his ewes are not in better condition to feed lambs well. Many ewes are pulled down in flesh by big, rough lambs tugging at them at this season of the year, and, in this run-down state, are bred. Results are never so satisfactory as where lambs are weaned earlier, and the ewes allowed to gain up on good pastures before being bred again. If the lambs are still with their ewes at this late date, wean them at once and let the ewes have the run of the best grass available for a month or five weeks before breeding. This will give them a chance to commence gaining in flesh, and a better lamb crop may be expected.

**A Strong Demand for Feeders.**

Pick up what paper you will, and in its market columns will be found good stocker and feeder cattle listed at prices far above those which obtained for such cattle a few years ago. There is a growing demand and a correspondingly decreasing supply of this class of cattle; or, if the supply is not actually decreasing, it is, at least, not keeping pace with the expanding market for such cattle. The prices for good stockers and feeders do not leave sufficient margin between them and those paid for finished cattle to warrant the wholesale purchase of the stock, and yet the demand grows. It requires great care in feeding to make a reasonable profit on steers bought in between \$5.50 and \$6.00 per hundred-weight to be finished and sold out at something less than \$7.00 per hundredweight for the finished beef. Montreal market reports last week stated that the demand from American buyers was causing increased interest in the stocker-and-feeder-cattle trade. This looks like even higher prices, and keener competition for the best of Ontario's feeders. This is a good thing for the man who raises cattle to sell before finishing, but the man who puts the last few hundred pounds of fat upon the animal to make it ready for the butcher's block must buy carefully, feed carefully, and study his market conditions thoroughly, else his feeding will not prove extra profitable.

The largest packing interests of the United States are said to have operated in Montreal last week, and at once the market showed a briskness which had been absent for the previous few weeks, although, even then feeder cattle of the right sort could not be bought at low prices. Last week our Toronto market report showed as high as \$6.10 per cwt., paid for feeders, and demand brisk. It may be that the agitation which has followed the discovery that America has a shortage of beef cattle, has had something to do with the demand. When a commodity is scarce is just the time that people clamor for it. The United States feels the shortage of beef cattle even more than does Canada, and prices are higher over there than here, consequently their buyers are coming north for our stock, and it looks as though all the good stockers and feeders would be picked up early at comparatively high prices. If an increased demand and higher prices for the finished product follow, the beef industry should soon take on new life in this country.

There is a danger in high prices for feeders. Some owners will see more money for them sold as feeders, and the feed which they would have consumed disposed of at market prices than to have fed the cattle until fat and sold the finished product. Too many look only to immediate returns, and forget that the stock feeding and farming is a business of centuries, not years or seasons. If cattle are disposed of unfinished and grain and hay sold off the place, the fertility of the soil must suffer. The man who raises his own cattle to fat, should not, on principle, be tempted by the high prices for stockers and feeders. Surely he is in the best position to finish them at a profit.

The man with a lot of rough pasture land, who makes a business of raising young cattle to sell to those on tillable soil to finish, stands to make a nice profit upon his summer's pasturing. High prices mean profits for him. But increased prices for feeders should be accompanied by an increase in the price of finished cattle. There must be a reasonable spread between the purchase price and the sale price of the finished steer, otherwise the cattle-finishing industry does not stand upon the most solid basis. Of course, something depends upon the ruling prices for the various feed stuffs, but seldom do they fall so low that good cattle can be fed with any assurance of a reasonable profit with less than 1 1/2 cents per pound between buying and selling price. Buyers of feeders should keep this in mind, and, unless the cattle are of the right kind, 1 1/2 cents is none too much. The most profitable feeder is the better class of steer or heifer every time. Bought in at \$6.10 per cwt. now, means that they must be sold at from \$7.35 to \$7.60 when finished to make wages for the feeder and pay a profit on the feed consumed. If there is anything which requires good judgment and a careful study of conditions, both in the market end of the business and in the buying and finishing end, it is purchasing feeder cattle to fatten. The demand

for feeders shoves the price up, and it looks as though it was going to have the ultimate effect of raising the price of finished steers. We would say again, weigh the matter carefully, and buy, if at all possible, at a price which is sure to make profits possible.

**Methylene Blue for Abortion.**

Abortion among cattle ranks with bovine tuberculosis as a dairy scourge. It is believed to be caused by a certain germ (Bacillus abortus Bang) which has been isolated, but heretofore no satisfactory remedy or preventive agent except complete segregation has been found. A new discovery is now announced by the Vermont Experiment Station. As a result of several months trial, it is thought that a remedy has been found in methylene blue, an antiseptic dye stuff, oc-

calved at full term up to date of reporting, while thirty-five had not yet calved.

How does the drug do its work? A portion of the dose is absorbed by the blood, appearing there within thirty minutes. It is also claimed to destroy the abortion organisms in the digestive tract, a most important consideration, because it is now believed that the digestive tract is the principal avenue of infection. The absorbed portion is principally excreted by the kidneys, and discharged in the urine. The manure and the urine are somewhat colored. It is said that when twenty grams (two-thirds oz.) are administered daily for seven days, within fourteen hours from the first dosage the methylene blue content of the blood exceeds the effective strength of the fluid which, in the laboratory, proved sufficient to kill the abortion organism.

We conclude with directions given in the author's own words:

"How is it administered? During early trials

it was mixed with either the grain or silage ration. During later trials it was given in capsules introduced into the throat with a balling gun. This is the preferable way of administering the remedy, as the exact amount given can easily be controlled, and all chances of loss in manger and through refusal to eat the food are eliminated.

"What cows should be dosed? Reactors should certainly receive the treatment, but in our judgment, as has already been stated, it is often well to treat the entire herd wherein abortion has occurred or is occurring. The added expense seems to be the only reason for omitting any animals that have been exposed to infection.

"How much is given and how often? The

opinion of the writer to date is that the treatment should be given early in pregnancy; that 10 to 15 grams (one-third to one-half oz.) doses (in capsules) should be given night and morning for seven days, and that after a four weeks' interval the treatment should be repeated for another seven days, and continued at four-week intervals during the period of gestation.

"What is the cost? Where obtained? The approximate cost of the methylene blue (medicinal) is \$2.50 per pound. Each gram costs about a half cent, making the daily dosage to cost about ten cents, and each week's treatment cost about 70 cents per cow. The material can be obtained of wholesale druggists. The medicinal, not the commercial grade, should be used.

"The writer found in laboratory trials, that one part of mercuric chlorid in 10,000 parts of water destroys the bacillus abortus in from one to three minutes. This is one of the cheapest and most reliable substances for stable disinfection, and for this purpose should be used in the proportion of one to 1,000 parts of water.

"A one to 1,000 lysol solution kills the organisms in from three to five minutes, and liquor cresolis compositus proved equally efficient while its cost is only about one-third of lysol. These, on account of their non-corrosive and less poisonous properties, prove very efficient for washing the animals and stable utensils. Both of these substances contain soap, which enhances their value for this purpose. A one per cent. solution of either lysol or liquor cresolis compositus has been found both safe and efficient for these purposes."



**A Dual-purpose Cow.**

First-prize milking Shorthorn cow at Toronto. Owned by John Gardhouse & Sons, Highfield, Ont.

casionaly used in human medicine. The Station Veterinarian, F. A. Rich, has been working on the subject of infectious bovine tuberculosis for fifteen years, and purposes publishing a comprehensive bulletin later on. He feels so confident of his remedy, however, that he has issued a preliminary bulletin. His method, he admits, may be modified as a result of further inquiry, but he considers the procedure already recommended to be safe and generally successful. In his laboratory experiments Dr. Rich found methylene blue much more rapid and thorough than any other germicide in destroying cultures of the organism, being twenty to fifty times more effective than carbolic acid. It was first used by Dr. Rich for abortion in cows on Oct. 15th, 1912, since which time it



**Champion Cotswold Ram at Toronto.**  
Owned by E. F. Park, Burford, Ont.

has been in almost constant use in four herds selected for a preliminary test. It has been administered in amounts varying from five to sixty grams to cows in all stages of pregnancy. All the patients had reacted to a test showing the probable prevalence of the abortion organism. Abortion had been prevalent in all the herds. Only one animal of the ninety-two treated reactors had aborted up to the time of reporting on June 30, 1913, eight and a half months after the inception of the trials. She was a heifer which was seen to present marked signs of impending abortion on the second day of the treatment. It seems probable that this case had progressed too far for a favorable issue with any kind of treatment. Fifty-six of the reactors had

**THE FARM.**

**Liability for Weeds.**

A case of more than ordinary interest to farmers came before Judge Morgan and a jury at the County Division Court in Stouffville. The owner of a farm of 150 acres in Whitchurch Township, brought action against the tenant to recover the sum of \$100 damages to his land, which he claimed had been done through the negligence of the tenant, in allowing wild oats to grow and flourish on his property. The landlord brought large numbers of witnesses to prove that the land had been reasonably free from wild oats and other foul seed, while the tenant brought an even greater number, who swore positively that before his tenancy the farm was overrun with them. The evidence was of a most contradictory nature. The jury brought in a verdict for the defendant dismissing the charge of negligence on the part of the tenant.

The wonder is that more litigation of this