

HORSE RAISING.

The great demand in the American market of late years, has prompted the farmers of the Maritime Provinces to give more careful attention to the breeding and rearing of horses than formerly. That market is seldom or never stocked and especially in the fall, there is a great demand for horses of the proper weight and build for the lumber business. The Americans are becoming aware of the excellence of the stock in some localities and are ever ready to take any good horses we may want to dispose of. Prince Edward Island probably leads the Dominion in this industry, as the following figures will show. In 1886 there was exported from the Island horses to the value of \$100,000; in 1887, \$200,000, and last year the amount reached over \$300,000, with a prospect of increased trade the coming season.

In consideration of the value of this industry to our farmers it is of the utmost importance that it should be fostered and extended by the proper selection and breeding of the classes of horses meeting with the greatest favor in the eyes of the purchasers and for which they are willing to pay the highest prices. The selection of the best breed is a matter to be dealt with by the breeder. Every breed has some distinct point of excellence over the others, and the kind having the favor in the market is the best to adopt. Everything, however, does not depend on the breed, but quite so much upon the proper treatment of the colt. The virtues of the breed alone will not produce a first class mature horse, unless the colt receives liberal treatment during the first two or three years of his life.

The proper time to have the colt dropped depends upon conditions. If the mares quarters are warm a great gain will be made by having her foal about February, for, when the spring work becomes pressing, the colt will be able to go to the field or else go without milk for a few hours. If, however, the stable be too cold, April or May is the more favorable time. As with calves a better showing will be made by colts for the food and attention given during the first and second years than any period of the same length after, and it is advantageous to feed liberally, without forcing and provide a good constitution for the work of after years. As soon as the teeth become of practical use, a few cracked oats or whole ones, and some good hay should be given with a carrot

chopped moderately fine. The latter exerts a very beneficial effect in keeping the bowels in good order. A colt should be weaned at not more than five months of age. If dropped in February or March, this may be done when the grass is at its best, when very little loss will be incurred. The late colts usually lose grass and milk at the same time, and do not thrive on their winter food as do the earlier ones. The mare if a good one, is usually bred the first chance after foaling and if compelled to suckle a colt over five months, will be reduced in condition and the succeeding colt will suffer. Castration should be done when the animal is about a year old. Some believe that by deferring this operation until the colt has acquired the neck and muscle of a stallion that a better horse is produced, but we have failed to notice any favorable difference. Exercise is an important essential to a growing colt. A place should be provided where it can run without any danger from barbed wire or projecting nails. The practice of allowing young colts to follow their dams for miles over a hot road should be discouraged, it being too great a strain upon their limbs, and rendering them liable to injury from passing teams. With the natural advantages the Maritime Provinces possesses and excellent stock now available both as government and private individual property, we are safe in predicting that before many years the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will vie with Prince Edward Island in upholding the Eastern provinces as a horse producing section.

The New Brunswick government has done the farmers of that province an inestimable service by their importation of male horses and having them put within reach of all. Nova Scotia is offering great encouragement to importation by offering bonuses to those importing suitable animals, the particulars of which will be found in another column.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND NOTES.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.]

The farmers on the Island have no reason to complain of the weather this season. So far the spring and early summer have been as favorable for cropping and cultivating as could be desired, and the good start all crops have received makes everything much farther advanced at present, than they have been for many years. Hay is above the average in luxuriance, and haying will com-

mence about two weeks earlier than last season. Some of our farmers are considering the ensilage question very favorably, and many acres of corn may be seen growing for that purpose. What few silos have been erected and tried have given moderate satisfaction and seem to meet the views of the breeders of large herds.

The cattle trade between the Island and Newfoundland is now assuming a fair proportion and several large cargoes have already left for the latter port. They are principally pure bred Durhams, and some of the bulls are indeed beauties. Fat cattle comprise no small part of some shipments, and bring very good prices. The Island farmer can always dispose of his fat cattle at this season and at good figures.

The horsemen hold the day here at present. Our little Isle has already made its name famous as a section wherein good horses can always be procured and probably there is no part of the continent that for its area can boast of the same quantity of good stock, of both light and heavy breeds. Some Standard bred stallions have been imported during the past year. Mr. Gourlie, of Summerside, recently imported a very highly bred horse from Senator Stanford's Palo Alto Stock Farm in California. He is much heavier than many of the horses of his class, weighing 1,300 lbs., but is of splendid conformation and with good action, and will doubtless prove a valuable acquisition to the stock here. We have also splendid specimens of the get of such noted sires as Rysdykes Hambletonian, Onward, Almont, Nutwood, Hambletonian Prince, All Right, sire of George Lee, 2.22; Abdallah Messenger, sire of Bijou, 2.23, and many other noted animals. Heavy horses are booming; some very fine shires and Clyde mares owned by Nova Scotia parties are in Charlottetown and are being bred to stallions of their breed. Although in the past we have exported some good horses and colts, yet we never sell our best, but keep them to breed from so that we are raising our already high standard still higher and hope to increase our output yearly.

—A properly raised sheep between the age of three and five makes the best mutton. Turnips are a cheap crop, and when fed freely to sheep with their other feed, makes the juiciest and tenderest of mutton, and at a small cost when compared to other foods.