

About Live Stock

The Open-Air Horse Parade

No event arouses more interest among the general mass of the citizens of Toronto than the Open-Air Horse Show. This year's event was no exception to this rule. It was held on the morning of Dominion Day (July 2nd). There were over 500 entries and more than 700 horses in the parade. A judge was provided for each class. One hour was given for them to make the awards. The parade began sharp at 10:30, through the principal streets of the city, taking fully one hour to pass a given point.

And it was a sight to please the lovers of good horseflesh. In no city on this continent is a better class of horses to be found than in Toronto, and the cream of them were in the parade; drafters, carriage horses, saddle horses, dray horses, ponies, general purpose horses, all were there, with their fine trappings and newly painted rigs. The drivers seemed to take special pains in fitting up, for the occasion, the whole parade presenting a most attractive appearance. The management of the fourth Open-Air Horse Show is to be congratulated upon its success.

"Trials of Speed"—"Horse-racing"

Mr. H. R. Cowan, Superintendent of Agricultural societies, laid sent to the societies the following definition of trials of speed and horse racing. This definition has been approved by the Hon. Mr. Monteith, Minister of Agriculture.

"Trials of Speed" shall mean competitions among driving horses in which conformation, soundness and style are considered as well as speed in the winning of the prize. It is the judgment of the officers or judges it is deemed advisable to test the speed of the contesting horses it is allowable to do so, but the prize must in every case be awarded on general excellence, as shown by the characteristics. It is not intended that purses shall be offered made up of deposits or entry fees from owners of contesting horses, but that premiums shall be offered in the usual way.

"Horse Racing" shall include competitors in which all or any of the following conditions are followed:

- In which speed only is considered.
- In which entries are restricted by time limits.
- In which any restrictions are made as to the number of entries.

The Flesh of the Goat

Those who speak from experience will agree that the flesh of kids is a delicacy, and an honest city butcher will tell you that they constantly pass over his block as "lamb" and that customers do not complain of the quality of such "lamb." The large packing houses purchase every year considerable numbers of mature goats which are sold in the carcass or canned as mutton. The meat is not as palatable as good mutton, but it may easily be better than poor mutton. The general reputation of the goat as an animal unclean in the serious diseases should be a further evidence of its food value. The prejudice against goat meat is based upon the name and not the quality of the flesh, and if people would put the meat upon the market for what it is it would gradually gain in favor.

A Joint Branding Office

The provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan have decided to operate a joint brand office, and for that purpose have moved the present office from Regina to Medicine Hat. All correspondence with regard to brands should now be addressed to "The Recorder of Brands, Medicine Hat." In the past applicants for cattle brands were not allowed a choice, but at the recent session of the legislature provision was made that by the payment of an extra fee of 50 cents an applicant can have a choice. This will be received as a boon, especially by the new owners from the United States, who already have their cattle branded and wish to retain their old brand.

Sheep Interests in Alberta

The season in lambs and wool in Alberta has been, on the whole, favorable. Rainy weather in the lambing season reduced the percentage of lambs considerably, except where lambs were dropped early. The percentage of increase will not be above seventy-five, but the sheep wintered so well that the annual loss from stress of weather is on the whole not large. Little shelter is provided in Alberta, as this temporary aspect of the business is against elaborate provision and the investment of much money in sheds.

The woolen mills at Medicine Hat are running steadily, but they do not buy any very considerable portion of the clip. The range wool has gone to Eastern buyers chiefly, and it is in favor with them for tweeds and dress goods. Mr. J. Kennedy, of the Auburn Woolen Mills of Peterboro, will work up the bulk of the clip in Alberta. Mr. Siegel, of New York, is associated with him in his Western purchases. Wool prices are only half a cent better than last year in spite of common opinion of general shortage. The price this year runs about six and a half cents. The total clip for Alberta is about 490,000 pounds of a high grade of merino. The average clip will be

about six pounds per head. This price is nearly double of what it was five years ago.

Mutton shows a corresponding lift. Winnipeg quotations give 6 to 7 cents alive and 13 to 14 for dressed mutton, without discrimination as to wethers or wethers. Lambs are not yet a staple and no per pound quotations are given. Though the beef market is expected to be favorable, the present price of butcher's stuff is only half the price of mutton. Prairie sheepmen will be able to get Winnipeg prices right at home, owing to the British Columbia demand, and a very strong local demand. There is no chance of an easing of mutton prices by Montana importations, as the duty is twenty per cent, and the high price of both wool and mutton across the line means a better thing than we can afford to offer. Though a few feeders were bitten last year the demand for both lambs and wethers on the range promises to be not less strong than last year. The total sheep stock in Alberta and Saskatchewan is on the decline. It is probably not above 140,000 or 150,000 to-day.

J. McCABE.

Dip the Sheep—Better Late Than Never

I have been amazed at the complete indifference of so many of our sheep breeders in Ontario, as to the dipping of their sheep. Some will tell you if you remonstrate with them on their shortsightedness, that they never seem to get any time for ticks, or they would dip if they could find a suitable vat. I have known these same men sit up every night and sleep half the following day, watching for a mare to foal, and generally at the end of two or three weeks the mare would foal safely while the man dozed off to sleep for a short time, and the foal be up sucking when he awakened, and would have been just the same if he had taken his regular rest. But he could not find a half day to dip the sheep.

While it is more convenient to have a properly constructed vat in which to dip, no one need hesitate to dip for want of it. Any box or tub that will be large enough to hold a sheep will answer the purpose, and if necessary the dip can be poured over the sheep with good effect. But in any case, and however it may be done, be sure to dip them, and dip every sheep and lamb on the farm, and after they are all dipped, if any dip is left, as is generally the case, take an old broom or brush and saturate the walls of the pen in which the sheep have been kept in the winter. There will be sure to be some of the lice remaining in the crevices that will be ready to infest the sheep when they come in next winter.

Most of the shepherds who have been in the habit of dipping will have it done several weeks ago, but so many, and those who need to do it, most, are in lots of time, and should attend to it without fail. Sulphur and tobacco is a good, safe and sure destroyer of all insect life on the sheep, if used according to government regulations; or any of several coal tar preparations are effective.

Many farmers wonder what is the reason they lose some of their sheep. There are many reasons—often it is indigestion, and sometimes, although not often in Canada, it is worms, and then sometimes the ticks and lice, especially those mean little red lice, are the cause.

An instance of this kind came under my notice this year, which, while exceptional, no doubt shows what

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