

Stock.

Important to Sheep-Raisers.

ONE MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY LOST BY OUR CANADIAN FARMERS.

I met William Donaldson, of Woodstock, Ont., last fall, and was speaking to him about the loss our farmers sustained every year by not having their lambs all castrated. Now, as I am largely interested in the sheep trade here, as well as in the welfare of our country, I can give facts and plenty of proof that the loss every year to our farmers is as much as a quarter of a million dollars from the cause above mentioned. I have seen load after load sold here last fall to feed—all wether lambs—at \$5.50 to \$5.75 per hundred, when you could not sell the same lambs—buck and wether mixed—for \$4.75 to \$4.80. And the farmer places himself in the hands of the buyer, as he cannot hold lambs over when they are all bucks, and the buyer will take all the advantage, which is natural; the butcher will not pay as much by one-quarter to one-half after the middle of August for a buck lamb as he will for a ewe or wether, and consequently the drover cannot pay so much to the farmer. Any time a man crosses here with a drove, all ewes and wethers, he has no trouble to find customers. I have been urging all the drovers to have this matter published in your paper, and Mr. Donaldson told me to write to you.

Farmers could hold their wethers over till two years old and they would bring good prices for export, and they would not place themselves in the hands of drovers. I claim that such a course would be better for all interested, and I hope this will be published in all the leading, as well as local papers, in the country. I am in a position to know whereof I speak, as I am one of the heaviest dealers in this country; we bought here on an average for the last four years over 110,000 sheep. I say it is a loss to Canada of \$200,000 a year—a very low estimate, as the butchers will pay more and plenty of men here would feed them; then the drovers could pay more and would pay more. Now I know that around Paris and Galt, and through Blenheim, the farmers all have their lambs castrated, and the consequence is they sell at from \$3.50 to \$4 per head; I know that plenty sold to feed here last fall at \$5.50 per hundred, when you could buy the same, part bucks, for \$4.80 to \$5 at the outside, and thus the idea of our farmers shipping so many over here. Let every farmer keep three, four, six or ten, as the case may be, of good wethers till they are two years old, instead of sending here and paying duty, and they can be sold at very remunerative prices in two or three years for export trade; it will make the supply coming here lighter, and what does come will command better prices.

I wish I had time to speak on the subject, and I could show where our farmers throw away not \$200,000, but one million dollars every year. You see they give this country every fifth lamb to get here to market; now, if they held that lamb which they sell at \$2.50 to \$3, until two years old, they would have no trouble in getting from \$6 to \$8, or in some instances \$10, for a good two-year-old wether for export. I shipped 3,000 last year and paid 5½ to 6c per pound in New York, and a good load of Canada wethers here to day will bring \$6.50 per hundred. Putting the weight at 165 lbs., at 6½c., the load would average \$10.72.

I hope I have placed it so you can handle the subject and have it spread all over the country. I think the Government should pay for the publication, as it is very important. I reside in Canada, my residence being at Tavistock, Ont. I do my

business here entirely in sheep, and am well known throughout the western part of Ontario by all drovers. I hope you will give this some attention, and you will do a good service. I do not like to see our people pay so much duty. We should have our own sheep exported and save 20 per cent. G. D. M., Buffalo, N. Y.

[Mr. G. D. M. will accept our thanks for his valuable article. We are pleased to record this fact, that we never have seen any lambs on the farms of our subscribers (and we have visited many of them) that are allowed to remain uncastrated, except those that have been selected for service. But there are hundreds of sheep-raisers that do not attend to this matter; they must bear the loss, sell their farms or improve. Your idea of the Government paying for anything for the benefit of farmers in Canada would be a departure from any step taken by them for the past fourteen years. Any expenditure by our Government has been for either one or the other of our political parties; every expenditure has been for such under the pretended name of agricultural advancement. We have some hopes that from the steps already taken by the Dominion Government to prevent the introduction of disease into our Dominion, that other steps may be taken; this is the first indication of good to be done for the farmers. We are also in hopes that this payment of 20 per cent. to the States will no longer be necessary, as our own business will be so well conducted as to enable us to supply Britain without the necessity of the Americans manipulating our sheep. With our railways and steamers, and British markets, why we should be under the necessity of paying the Americans 20 per cent. on our stock is a mystery to us.]

Necessity of Pure Water for Cattle.

CARE AND CLEANLINESS ALSO ESSENTIAL.

Mr. X. A. Willard, in a late paper before the Connecticut Farmers' Convention, discussed as follows:

Many cases of fever have been traced to the consumption of swill milk; diseases have been traced to the milk drawn from cows by the attendants of sick persons; also the impure water with which the milk-pans were washed. Cows that drink impure water give unwholesome milk. Milk becomes impure by particles of dust falling from the cow's udder, which has been gathered by passing through sloughs or mudholes.

Farmers do not as a rule appreciate this matter, but if they can dispose of their milk or butter before any great change is effected they think all responsibility is off their shoulders. The fine character of English cheese is attributed to great care in all the operations—running from the conditions of the pasture, the cleanliness from slough-holes, through the stable, the spring house, washing of pans, etc., to the production of the cheese. Cess-pools or dead animals found upon the premises of English farmers are subjects of prosecution.

Putrid water is often the only kind by which the cow can slake her thirst, and yet it is productive of disease. We have a law to prevent watering milk, and yet a farmer is not prohibited from permitting his cows to quench their thirst in the most filthy and poisonous water. A case of diarrhea in a family was traced to the milk obtained from a cow confined to a stable without proper ventilation. While the cow is under a violent excitement, or in an exceedingly nervous condition, the milk becomes highly poisonous, as many cases have abundantly proved. A child fed from the milk of a cow that drank from water oozing out of a hog-pen was covered with sores and pustules.

Every factory for milk should have a schedule of questions for its patrons, covering the whole ground of cleanliness, treatment of the animals under all conditions, while in the pasture, at the stable, or in their passage from one to the other; condition of pasturage as regards grass, etc., and in every condition affecting the product of milk.

How to Train a Colt to Harness.

A writer in the English Agricultural Gazette gives the following as an easy and practical method of accustoming young colts to the restraints of the harness.

Put on him an easy collar, having a pair of reins attached, or add two pieces to lengthen the traces, and let a strong man walk behind him holding these. After a few minutes the leader may order the man to pull the traces very gently, so as to press the collar but slightly at first. In a little time he may pull tighter, while the leader keeps his eye on the colt, and if he shows any signs of flinching, let him order the traces to be slackened, and then gradually draw again until the colt is seen to lean into his collar, when the man who holds the traces may use his whole force, for a short time only. The traces must now be slackened again, and the same course often repeated, but stopping the colt occasionally to gentle him, taking care, however, to slack the traces just as he stops, and to turn a little to one side when starting each time, while the man pulls the opposite trace.

After this exercise let him be taken to the cart or other vehicle for which he is intended; allow him to smell and examine it; then push it away and draw it up to him several times, raising and lowering the shafts, until he takes no notice of its noise, or of the different appearance when raised and lowered. Now turn him around and put him between the shafts, rub them against his sides, push back and draw up the cart, striking him behind and on the sides with it, until he allows himself to be "knocked about by it," so to speak. This will do for one day's lesson. Next day let all his harness be put on, leaving chains or straps to hang and strike against him, while the whole of the previous day's lesson is gone through step by step. Same on third and fourth days. He may then be yoked or hitched to the cart, and should have at least one hour's exercise in going up and down hill, turning, etc. First start on level ground. If these directions are carried out, the colt learns that the vehicle he draws is not meant to hurt him, and he will never try to "kick it away" or "run off" from it.

Rules for training: 1. Never try to beat a colt into doing a thing, or, if nervous, he may turn out a vicious horse, and if stupid he may become stubborn. Remember that by patience and gentleness he can be got to do anything that will not hurt him.

2. When the horse shows signs of shying at an object, do not beat him, but lead him up to it, allowing him to stand and look, as he comes closer; and after he examines it a few times he will not fear anything of the kind again. In passing by hedges with a colt, throw in stones and stop him until he takes no notice of the noise.

3. Before putting on any article of harness, let your colt smell it, and then rub against his head, neck and body.

4. Always start a horse with the voice, never with the cut of a whip. In starting, turn a little to one side, and in stopping, when going up a hill, do the same.

Horse Raising in Colorado.

Jesse M. Sheets, who is engaged in raising horses near Fort Elliott, gives us some particulars of the difficulties to be encountered in horse-raising on that range. It is a good country for cattle, but not for horses. The loco weed grows there in abundance, and besides it, there is a bug found on some weed or species of grass which, when eaten by a horse, kills instantly. Mr. Sheets has seen a horse break and run about 100 yards, bawling, and then drop dead, from the effect, he believed, of the bug, as it could be accounted for in no other way. Little Robe, the Cheyenne chief, who often visits Mr. Sheets' place, says it is a small green bug that stays on the bottom of the leaf of the loco weed. In describing the effects of the weed, Mr. S. says when horses begin eating it, they act like a man going on a spree. When a horse is "locoed" you cannot handle him. He will not go to water for perhaps four or five days, and it is sure death to take them to water after doing without for this period. It is better to water them but a little at a time, if you have it in your power to regulate it, which is not the case unless they are in an enclosure. If a mare with foal gets "locoed" she loses her colt. The symptoms of being "locoed" are easily perceived. Loco is a Spanish word, meaning mad, crack-brained, foolish, which describes the effects of the weed on horses.