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You will have a race horse in the morning with his mane all in knots and worked together, completely exhausted. The colored boys will tell you 'the fairies have been riding him.' Such horses are almost worthless for racing purposes.

"Quality," or a horse with a well-balanced nerve power, will always heal wounds better than the lymphatic animal, such as cuts, chapped heels, grabs, or other injuries of the legs or body. A Thoroughbred's pulse beats forty to forty-two times per minute; a low-bred horse thirty-six to thirty-four times. Therefore, there is a better supply of pure, fresh arterial blood four to eight times more per minute in the Thoroughbred than in the low-bred horse. An example: Take a horse that has been 'nerved,' let him receive a cut, grab, or chapped heel, and see how difficult it is to heal them up; it will take several weeks. And let me say here that should you have such a case heal it by cicatrization with the nitrate of silver.

"Quality" is shown in the prize fighter who has the punch to put the other fellow out. How often will you see the small man knock out the large fellow who looks the perfect athlete.

"You will often see a small horse who strides eighteen feet beat the large one who strides twenty feet. The smaller horse has to gain one stride in every twenty; but if the nervous force were equal in both horses the larger one would win out easily. It is the well-balanced nervous power that makes one animal superior to another.

"If I had to decide in a few minutes as to the 'quality' of a horse, without the opportunity to give him a proper trial, I would put a file on his teeth. I never saw a horse of low quality with hard teeth. When you find a horse with teeth as hard as the file you will have a horse with 'quality.'

"The essayist speaks of hot-blooded and cold-blooded horses. The thermometer shows no difference in the temperature of different breeds. I presume he would call a Thoroughbred a hot-blooded horse, and the common horse the cold-blooded one. They both show the same temperature in a normal condition, and in disease they are about equal. But at work, at very high weather temperatures, there is a vast difference. The Thoroughbred will stand more heat and will go a greater distance without raising the body temperature as high as the low-bred horse. A horse in good condition, trained for a race, will not raise the temperature going a certain distance as high as he would if he were not in so good condition. I have been among horses for fifty-one years, and I have never seen but two Thoroughbred horses overcome by the heat. It occurred in June, 1874, at Jerome Park. There were two horses that had been winners at the meeting. The trainer had won a barrel of money on them, and so when the races were over he went to New York and stayed there for a week. The horses were not exercised all this time. The morning he came up it had rained and the sun came out very hot. He worked the horses two miles and repeat, with the result that both horses were overcome and fell. I happened there and put a bag of cracked ice on their heads, with other refrigerant treatment, both animals making rapid recoveries, without any ill effects. While this is digressing from the point at issue, I am interested in this phase of the subject, because some years ago I made some observations with the thermometer in training horses. I reason that the Thoroughbred, owing to his thin skin, and the fact that his veins stand out more prominently, has his blood cooled more than the coarse-bred horse, whose blood does not come to the surface as does that of the Thoroughbred.

"You will find that in a well-bred horse, or a horse of 'quality,' the nerves are larger than in a horse with no 'quality.' This I have observed many times."

STOCK

(Contributions invited. Discussions welcomed.)

Pigs Dying that are Not Too Fat.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Since answering my enquiry regarding loss of pigs I see there are a number of replies concerning the losing of spring pigs. They all appear to have the same story, "Too fat," or "Not enough exercise." I know most of the sows in my neighborhood were *not* too fat, and since I last wrote I have met farmers from within the radius of thirty miles and they all have the same complaint. I could count at least thirty litters that have been lost and in some cases they have lost the sows too.

In regard to exercise, it is a difficult matter to exercise sows in winter where there are from two to four feet of snow, and I think as regards feeding we are not all greenhorns at the game. We generally feed about two thirds oats and one third barley and not much of that to breeding

sows. I still think myself that it was want of grit and exercise on account of the snow, pigs not being able to travel round and get fresh earth or anything in that line. Since writing I have had four sows farrow in May, first litters for each, and have thirty-two as good and strong pigs as I ever saw, and the sows were wintered with the others I lost the pigs from. They were all young sows, but well grown and over a year old, so I don't think it can be put to *immature stock*.

From all accounts, in this part more than 75 per cent of the spring pigs have been lost. Sows are generally bred to farrow early enough in the spring to catch again for a fall litter, but anyone who has them coming at this time is doing O. K.

ONE OF THE CROWD.

(Having visited some of the pig breeders whose experiences have been detailed in this journal, and having discussed the matter with many of them, we are of the opinion that *lack of exercise* was the main cause of the great mortality. We find further that the successful raisers of pigs this spring have had their brood sows rustling around outside all winter. The heavy losses in breeding stock and their offspring are not confined to pigs, for many horsebreeders report losses of foals and mares this spring. Here again we believe lack of exercise had a great deal to do with the matter. To turn brood mares out in a yard in winter is not sufficient to ensure enough exercise. They would be better drawing straw.—Ed.)

That Big Steer.

On this page we publish an illustration of a steer which attracted considerable attention in the district where he was raised and among the people who saw him at the butcher's. We call attention to this steer here, not because he is the type of cattle a breeder should aim to produce, but rather because he is of a type that is fast losing its claim upon the breeder. Everything about this steer bespeaks a late maturing type. He is big, high off the ground and gets his weight from the size of his frame and length of body rather than from thickness of flesh and depth and thickness of body. Experience has taught cattle breeders that the nearer they can get cattle to the ground, the smaller the proportion of bone and the quicker they can get them to maturity the more profit there is in raising them. True an 1860 lb. steer brings a lot of money, but the ideal steer is one that will weigh from fourteen cwt. to sixteen cwt. as a long two-year-old. The meat a steer makes during the first two years of his life is the cheapest beef that is produced and the addition the steer in the illustration made during the past year we venture to say was the most expensive to produce. In effecting improvement in cattle stock the use of purebred bulls of model conformation, bred

from low, thick, meaty cows, is the greatest assistance a man can secure. Breeding of that type saves grass, grain and hours, weeks, months and often years of time in producing a ton of beef.

The Sheepman's Opportunity.

Although sheep are about the best live stock a farmer can handle from the standpoints of docility, economical use of feed, healthiness, returns given for the money invested, and as aids to weed suppression, the fact remains that their numbers are not increasing on the farms of Western Canada. A Chicago market report contains the following words among others:

"Canada's lamb crop will be light, winter having hung on persistently over there. The result of this will be little Canadian mutton on the Buffalo market next fall. Canada is not participating in the sheep development on this side of the line and in Toronto not enough live mutton is available to supply local demand. I was given an order for a load of sheep by a Toronto butcher and I believe it is the first instance of mutton being bought in Chicago for shipment to a Canadian point. Ontario is an ideal sheep country, but they are not getting our prices for wool, 16 cents being bid for the kind that sells in Michigan at 25 @ 30 cents. I can not account for it except that buyers are stealing it. If Ontario had access to our markets it could get rich growing wool and mutton."

Several men have done something in sheep raising on the prairie, some with purebred flocks, others with grade stuff run entirely as a commercial proposition. Every one of these men has a good word to say for the industry, which is a clean one and in this country sure to pay a profit, with its two annual dividends, lambs and wool. The expense of starting a flock is not large. A bunch of range ewes, with some Merino blood and a ram of the mutton breeds, a good corral and open sheds and one can make a start. As to the most suitable purebred to use, Gamley and Thos. Jasper swear by Leicesters, Alex Wood and Jno. McQueen by Oxfords, Jno. Turner by Shropshires, and others by Lincolns. Any are good enough, provided the rams used are good specimens of the breed. People will eat mutton, for which the prices paid are steadily good and have been for the last five years in the West.

Performance, Not Promise, Counts.

The requirements for admission to the record of performance in Ayrshires is quite rigid, as will be seen.

Bulls.—Admitted after having four daughters in the Record of Performance, each from a different dam.

Cows.—Admitted after fulfilling the following requirements of production and breeding as supervised by the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture.



Photo by Teagart, Lumsden, Sask.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD STEER. WEIGHT 1860 LBS

Bred by J. A. McKay of Tragarva, Sask., and sold to Jas. Wilkie, Lumsden, for local trade.