

The Bull Business.

The trade of breeding bulls in Ontario for shipment to the Western ranges has steadily increased, and is a market that may be counted on, for cattlemen will have to invest more freely from that source in the future if the quality of range beef is to be kept up.

It is much easier to run a bunch of cattle down hill than grade up. To keep up the standard of quality requires persistent attention, especially under the existing conditions on the range, where indiscriminate breeding is difficult to avoid, and where the profits of the business are measured by the absence of cost in production.

The Department of Agriculture at Regina, in conjunction with the Manitoba Cattle Breeders' Association, deserve commendation in making arrangements for individual shipments at a nominal figure of \$5 per head from Ontario to any point west.

This importation of fresh blood is a necessity, notwithstanding the argument of a few that the range-bred bull costs less, leaves more calves, and therefore more money; but loss of quality has to be admitted, which is a dollar consideration too with the salesmen.

With a good selection, and given time to acclimatize and adapt himself to range conditions, the average eastern-bred bull will do as good work as the range-bred animal and leave better results.

Ontario is suited for the trade of raising bulls. Breeders have the advantage of a wide selection in crossing of the best strains, and calves never suffer a setback in growth, which gives size and substance.

To breeders in the East looking to the Western market for disposal, the fact cannot be too strongly impressed that a bull with constitution and one that carries beef is the animal required. The beef and constitution he should have, the show points he may do without.

The severe climatic conditions cattle are exposed to in winter on the range at times demands a type that can most readily withstand it, if the business is to be profitable.

It is constitution and the lack of it that makes the difference of cost in pulling through the winter, nor does it need western experience to tell that the steer that can "rustle" for himself will be the ripest and first ready for the market.

Another advantage in the beefy type from a range point of view is that cows, while well able to give their calves satisfaction, are less liable to get deranged in their udder from an overflow of milk when calving down on the flush of the grass. Since it often proves inconvenient or difficult to handle them, it destroys their utility to a great extent.

There may be an objection on the part of some that the purely beef type is in opposition to the interests of the dairyman, and this may be partly so, but the export trade in beef as a principal source of income in the Western cattle interests demands it for the present, with so much grazing land still lying idle.

Alberta, N.-W. T.

Rid the Cattle of Lice.

Cattle that are not treated occasionally during the winter months for lice are almost certain to become infested more or less, especially when enclosed in warm stables. While stock so plagued with vermin at any time will not make the best use of food given them, it is highly important that they be thoroughly cleansed before going out to the fields away from close personal oversight, otherwise some of them may become badly infested unknown to their herdsman. One of our readers has recently written us that he had tried several sorts of applications, including kerosene emulsion, with little apparent check to the lice, and did not succeed in exterminating them till a mixture of tanner's oil, fish oil and coal oil was resorted to. The hair was clipped from the top of their backs, necks and around the horns, and the oil was freely used, with the result that a live louse could not be found, while it was believed that every nit was destroyed.

Raising Pet Lambs.

The time is near at hand when the shepherd will be busy caring for the young of the flock. This is a busy as well as an important time, as much of the future success of the flock depends upon whether he performs his duty well or ill. In pure-bred flocks there are ewes of superior quality, mothers of lamb raised well in preference to two scantily fed; or a mother may die, also mother of twins. In either case there are lambs that if not wisely fed means an unnecessary loss. As pet lambs are usually raised, they are simply a nuisance, in the way of everyone, always in objectionable corners. There is no necessity for this, and all that is required is ordinary intelligence, coupled with patient perseverance. The first requisite is a feeding pot that will hold perhaps a quart. Have the spout made with a blunt and large enough to hold an ordinary sized goose-quill firmly. Next insert the quill and wind with a clean, white rag, so that the milk will not run too fast and choke the lamb. If a lamb is brought in weak and cold, put in a bushel basket with plenty of straw near enough the kitchen stove to keep comfortable; cover over the basket with a piece of cotton; the lamb will lie quiet and more contented. Feed a few spoonfuls of milk, say every two hours, particularly the last

thing at bedtime and first in the morning. Continue this for a couple of days, and if the lamb seems strong feed the next day every three hours, increasing the quantity a little. Be sure that the milk is from a new milch cow, the newer the better. A lamb will never thrive, and seldom live, on milk from cows that have been milking six or eight months. If early in the spring before the weather gets warm, we have had lambs do well in an outside kitchen in a large box with plenty of straw, changing the straw quite often. Cover over the box with a thin horse blanket. Two or three lambs always do better together than one alone. Continue feeding every three hours for a week or two, beating up a fresh egg with the milk occasionally. A teaspoonful of raw linseed oil every day is also beneficial, as it is both nourishing and laxative. As time goes on, and the lambs are growing well, increase the quantity and feed five times a day. Never give a lamb more at once than a full teacup of milk. More disappointment comes from over than under feeding.

As soon as the weather is warm enough put in a pen convenient to the house. Build a rack, and give every day some fine clover hay. They will pick off the leaves greedily. Next nail up a box high enough that they cannot stand in it, and give some meal. Mixed peas and oats and bran are very good. When they get to eating the clover and meal well, feeding four times in the day with milk will be sufficient. When the grass comes put them out in some convenient spot—an orchard is best, as they can lie in the shade—but bring in at night for a while until they get accustomed to the change of food and the ground gets warm. Always feed the clover hay and meal before putting them out in the morning. Milk three times a day now will be sufficient. To insure success, first, never let the milk get warmer than you want to feed, about as warm as it comes from the cow; next, exact regularity; also, keep the pot scrupulously clean. With a little trouble lambs can be taught to drink like a calf, which will save time, but the pot is much the cleaner way.

If attention is given to all the details pet lambs may not be quite as good when weaned as those raised by the mothers, but if given the same care through the winter they will compare favorably in the spring, and by next fall an expert could not tell the difference. Like everything else, raising pet lambs means a good deal of work as well as a good deal of milk; still, no work on the farm will be better rewarded, and there is no other way that milk will return a larger dividend.

MRS. H. H. SPENCER.

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The Condition and Needs of the Horse Trade.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—There never was a time in the history of this country when we needed to use greater caution and judgment in this important industry than at present. I am pleased to think that you are aware of the fact that this great industry is being neglected and left out in the cold. Certainly the horse breeders of this country have to contribute their share toward our agricultural schools of instruction. We find the Government, through the Farmers' Institutes, are sending able, practical men throughout the length and breadth of the land, year after year, with paintings and charts of the model hog, with full instructions how and what to breed; also of the beef steer and the dairy cow. The butter and cheese industry is aided and encouraged. Everything to help all the other departments of agriculture except that of the noble and indispensable animal, the horse. I have failed to see any effort to give this matter at least its reasonable share of attention with the other important industries of our country. We have received very valuable instruction at our Model Farms by importing and crossing the breeds of cattle, hogs, and sheep, but have they ever imported any of the different breeds of horses to give the public the benefit of experiments in this line?

There are three kinds of horses that are indispensable, namely, the draft horse, the Thoroughbred, and the useful and fashionable Hackney. By proper mating and judgment can be produced the draft, carriage, roadster, saddle, and hunter—five useful and profitable classes. It will take too much of your valuable space to note full particulars of the mating process to produce the different classes, but any reasonably intelligent horseman knows it can be done successfully. I consider the present the most critical period of horse breeding in the history of our country. When the breeding and importing of the different breeds began, say thirty years ago, we had a continual, steady, rising market. Then any kind of haphazard breeding was profitable. We also had the Northwest for a dumping ground for almost any kind of horse in the country of promise to pay, but in too many cases never did. But now, outside our own local demand, we have only one main market, namely the British market. With our fine climate and cheap feed, the right kind of horses for export could beyond a doubt be raised as one of the best-paying products of our farm, as the scarcity is stimulating the business. The farmers of this country, instead of making the best of their opportunities, are in a fair way of killing the business. This is the way the average farmer reasons: "I believe horses are going to pay. I must breed the old lame mare. Of course, I cannot afford to pay your price—\$10 or

\$15. I can get the use of So-and-So's horse for \$5. As horses are cheap I cannot afford to pay more." He thus gets a barnyard full of rubbish, and goes round squealing that he cannot sell, while the better class is bringing good paying prices. There are not many men in our country who can afford to import first-class sires for their own use without the patronage of the country or to stand them at a fee which will lose them money. Let the breeders keep down the fees as the very best, sure means of keeping down the quality of the sires, for first-class stallions will not be imported while service fees rule so low. Two or three dollars for each mare makes a great difference to the owner of a sire. If you want to breed profitably, breed only your best mares to the best sires available. Fifteen dollars is a reasonable fee for a good sire. I notice that the owner of a stallion is expected to be an insurance company also. If a man has his colt die or it gets killed inside a year he expects you to throw off half, even if the fee is only \$8 or \$10. The rule that they have in Britain—half at service, half when the mare proves in foal—is the only fair way for both parties. It may be asked what kind of horses pay best. There is one rule that applies to all classes: First, fair size, good feet and legs, large heart girth, giving ample room for heart and lungs; deep, long, rounded ribs, to stand shipping and hardship; short back and strong loins. In these times of keen competition avoid as you would poison the horse that when you stand behind him you can only see his hips and neck—one that you have to go to his broadside to see if he has any middle; and also a horse with 16-hand legs and a 15-hand body. Have the height in the body, not in the legs. Good feet and legs; wide, heavy bodies, with the weight as near the ground as possible, are the kind that are sure money-makers. Long, narrow, leggy horses of any class are a curse to the owner and to the country, and will eventually ruin anyone who breeds them. If we use caution and good judgment we ought to compete successfully with any country. I am pleased to say the first-prize cart horse shown in a cart at the Jubilee Show at Aberdeen was a Canadian-bred gelding, valued at £100 sterling, purchased and owned in Glasgow. He was a short-legged, heavy-bodied fellow, weighing 1,800 pounds. The owner told me they would pay £70 each for a shipload of such horses. Now, Mr. Editor, as I have started the ball rolling, I hope you may solicit the aid of such men as the Sorbys, Davies, Davidsons, Millers, on drafts, to give you their able assistance; and there are such men as Messrs. Beith, Crossley and Cochrane on the Hackney; and my friend Professor Smith, who is looked up to as authority on Thoroughbreds wherever the horse is known; Mr. Fuller, also a practical man in Thoroughbreds. These are all men of the highest reputation and honor in the business, and would be able to do justice to this very important but neglected question.

A. INNES.

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Shall the Scrub Sire be Taxed?

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—For one, I was decidedly pleased to read the wholesome editorial in your March 1st issue pointing out the injury that scrub sires are doing to the country, and the advantages that would result, particularly to the cattle industry, from the more general use of rightly-chosen pure-bred bulls. The only fault I have to find is that you did not make your article strong enough. You also estimated the difference in value between the well-bred and the ill-favored scrub steer too low at \$20 per head. In my judgment \$25 each would be well within the mark. Anyone who buys stockers to fatten knows to his sorrow the poor returns the scrub gives for the care and food given if he is unfortunate enough to include any of that sort in the bunch. Scrub bulls are a curse to the country, doing our reputation as a cattle-rearing land untold injury. Not only so, but they are a nuisance and a damage to every neighborhood that they infest. Their owners usually allow them to roam about the lanes and fields, tagging after cows and breaking into neighbors' fields, and in not a few instances injuring the stock of men who are trying to improve their herds by the use of good sires. The progeny of thoroughbred cows is thus often rendered of little value. There would, in such cases, be good grounds for legal action, and smart damages might be recovered, but most men prefer to suffer rather than stir up trouble with a neighbor. Now, the ADVOCATE is doing a grand educational work on this subject, and I would suggest that the Governments of the different Provinces supplement its efforts by imposing a special tax of from \$3 to \$5 per head on all scrub sires. This would discourage the shortsighted folly of keeping them and encourage the better class. We find some municipalities imposing a special tax on bicycles, and, what is a better precedent for what I propose, upon all dogs. Why not tax the scrub? I trust you will continue to fight the scrub till he is driven from the land.

Yours truly,

FEDER.

Our Toronto market report, in this issue, records the sale of a three-year-old Shorthorn bull, weighing 2,300 pounds, at 5c. per pound, or \$115. In the same report is chronicled the sale of a three-year-old grade steer, weighing 1,900 pounds, which sold for 6c. per pound, or \$114, and a veal calf, 14 weeks old, weighing 605 pounds, and selling for \$37. These should be considered fairly good prices for commercial cattle.