

All Depends on the Man.

Hackney-breeding pays some men. A Yorkshire farmer occupies a holding of four hundred and fifty acres, about three hundred acres of which are in grass. This gentleman farms in a peculiar way. His land carries not more than fifty head of cattle, fifty or sixty sheep, with four or five working horses and a few pigs. The remaining stock consists of from eighty to one hundred Hackneys of all ages. Sixteen years ago that man did not farm a single acre of land, now he is one of the leading men in the Hackney world, and recently sold a stallion of his own breeding to America for £1,000. Such facts are very encouraging. Unhappily, an outstanding element in the case is wanting—the personal equation. What that man did, thousands of men cannot do, simply because they are not that man. The successful breeder and fancier of any class of stock is a specialist. It does not amount to anything as an index to another man's prosperity that such a one got to the top of the tree with leaps and bounds. Many who ascend in that fashion, descend with greater rapidity. There is no greater lottery on earth than horse-breeding, and it is unwise for the ordinary farmer to embark on the enterprise, save as an adjunct to general farming practice.—[Scottish Farmer.]

A Government Breeding Establishment.

The Horse World says: "Dr. E. Salmon, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture, announces that his department is preparing to go into the horse-breeding business, with a view to developing a breed of American carriage horses from native trotting stock. The department will begin by purchasing a number of trotting-bred mares and at least one stallion, all of the heavy harness type, as foundation stock. These animals will be placed on the farm of the Colorado Experiment Station, and there breeding will be continued until definite information is obtained regarding the result. In addition, the Bureau of Animal Industry proposes making a careful investigation of trotting-bred horses that have been exhibited during recent years in the heavy harness classes at the horse shows, with a view to ascertaining what particular families may be looked to for the production of high-class carriage horses of the fashionable type. To this end Mr. Salmon is now sending out letters to prominent exhibitors who have shown horses in the heavy harness classes, asking for information about the breeding of the animals."

This is an indication of the line of work that should be taken up in Canada. Our light horses should be given a status. In this country we want some other standard than extreme speed. We would like to see a comprehensive, reliable studbook opened, and some uniformity of opinion expressed as to what should be the type of the Canadian road or harness horse. The extreme speed fad that prevails across the line is crowding into oblivion some of the very best specimens and strains of road horses ever produced, and we should see to it that the same thing does not occur in this country. The Live-stock Commissioner, take notice.

STOCK.

Shepherd's Notes.

Breed the best ewes to the best rams.

The way to keep ideal sheep is by trying to improve them.

An uneven lot of good sheep are better than an even lot of poor ones.

Ewes will produce larger and better lambs if in a plump condition at the time of mating.

Sheep are easily managed, are first-class fertilizing machines, good farm scavengers, and yield two harvests annually.

When purchasing a ram for breeding purposes, it should be better than the best in your flock.

If a radical change in the rations is made too suddenly, growth of both body and fleece is liable to suffer a check.

The ram should be changed every two years, and fresh blood infused in the flock. All things considered, a three-year-old ram is best when breeding to improve.

In fattening sheep, especially, punctuality in feeding should be strictly observed.

Sheep, independent of wool, are worth more than their cost in what they do for the farm, and in the meat they furnish.

A Good Sign.

It is a good sign of prosperity in any branch of live stock when new people are getting into it and the old ones are broadening out. This is the case at present in the sheep business. Breeders say that never was such an urgent demand for pure-bred rams, and this inquiry is not limited to any one part of the country. Western men are especially active in an endeavor to build up their flocks, and are sparing no expense to do it. In the east, the small farmers are gradually going back into the sheep business, because they are convinced that the sheep can restore fertility to the soil as no other animal can. Another stimulat-

ing factor has been the higher price of wool during the past year. The sheepman has his ups and downs, but with his flocks graded up to a higher standard, the downs are getting scarcer.—[Live-stock World.]

Selecting Breeding Swine.

In selecting a sow for breeding purposes, one should be chosen, preferably from a spring litter, that has not been overfed in the first months of life, but had the run of the fields, thus receiving plenty of exercise, which should have the effect of strengthening her bone, hardening her muscles, and developing her lungs, all of which go to make up a strong and vigorous constitution. She should be of good length and depth of body, with a wide chest, strong, slightly-arched back, well-sprung ribs, long quarters, and thick hams, carried well down to the hock, should have ten or twelve well-developed teats, and stand straight upon her toes. She should be at least six months old, and had better be eight or nine months old before being bred. If well grown, she may produce her first litter at one year old, and should not be required to bear more than one litter the first year. The sow should have plenty of exercise while carrying her litter, and a variety of food, part of which is of a bulky nature, and should have access to salt and ashes or charcoal in winter.

In selecting a boar, choose one from the herd



A Promising Sire.

Second-prize Percheron stallion at the Western Fair, London, 1904. Owned by Hamilton & Hawthorne, Simcoe, Ont.

of a careful and reliable breeder, whose stock is uniform in type, and that the best type for your purpose. He should not be closely related to the sow, and may well be of the same description as above given for the sow, except that he should be thoroughly masculine in his make-up, without being coarse in any particular, and should have a quiet and contented disposition, as should also the sow. The boar may be used moderately for service at six to eight months old. He should be generously fed while growing, and will be the better for the run of a yard in connection with his pen, in which to exercise, and, as a rule, but one service should be allowed to each sow during one season of heat. Matured boars are more useful and sure if kept in thin condition, as they become too heavy and clumsy if kept in high condition. A breeding crate should be provided in using either a young or an aged boar, as it effects a great saving of time and of worry for all concerned, being easily regulated to suit any size of sow, and once used is not likely to be dispensed with. March and April are the best months in which to have spring litters born, and September for fall pigs, in order that they may be well grown and have abundant exercise before winter sets in.

The Cattle Feeding Problem.

"To feed, or not to feed?" that is the question which the Drovers' Journal, of Chicago, discusses as follows:

Thousands of farmers and regular feeders of a speculative turn are plying themselves with it now. It is high time the problem be solved, too, if cattle are to be fed for the winter market.

Old-time prosperous farmers who reach this market from Central Illinois, and from various sections of the States, bring tidings of one of the greatest corn crops, as far as quality is concerned, in their remembrance. In most sections, it is well ripened now, and the excellent feeding value of the big crop is assured. Many old-time regular feeders are halting, however, half inclined to hold out of the business this year, and sell their corn. That many this year will follow out that inclination is almost certain. Last year's results in feeding, with the admittedly low prices to which values were forced at the time the bulk of the corn-fed cattle moved, was a damper on the business that will be long felt. Packers now show a desire to sustain prices on a choice class of beef steers, and the extent to which the general quality of steers is running down is an indication of an extraordinary shortage in the prospective supply of good to choice beef steers the balance of the year.

At last the movement of feeding cattle from

this market is swelling up in volume as heavy as a year ago, and current prices are at a range about twenty to twenty-five cents lower than at this time last year. A heavy movement of feeding cattle in the West is evident, and it is declared the demand for feeders of a good class has opened out remarkably strong in the corn belt during the last two weeks.

A big Iowa farmer who bought ten carloads at a Western market because they looked cheap was unable to keep even half of them for his own use, as his neighbors took them off at prices that gave him enough profit that he could afford to take another chance to stock his feed lots.

This goes to show that farmers especially are not asleep to the situation. They will be in business again this year on a pretty good scale, though it is patent to every man who has watched the situation from this or the other end of the line, that feeding will be on a much smaller scale than last year.

It takes but a glance at the comparative figures of shipments of cattle from this market up to the end of August this year to convince anyone of the lessened movement of feeding cattle, especially into the corn belt.

While total shipments of cattle for the first eight months of the year from this market, at 828,122 cattle, show a gain of 51,663 head, a glance down the line solves the problem.

It is the roads carrying export and shipping cattle that show the big increases. The enormous trade in cattle for eastern shipment during the period of strike here is the big factor in the increase. Reversely, it resulted in a lapse of trade in feeders, and the outward movement of such cattle on western lines. The roads that should have handled stockers and feeders nearly all show big falling off in Western shipments.

The shrinkage in outward movement is also evident by figures kindly furnished us by the two leading concerns dealing exclusively in stockers and feeders at this market. Their business for the first half this month shows little more than half the volume of the same time last year.

That this big break in business during the first part of the season for stocking up with cattle, together with the discouragement to feeders resulting from the drubbing of values on the big crop of cattle last year, will result in a great falling