

requirements of the market is from \$50 to \$100. It costs no more to rear a good horse than a poor one, and, therefore an expenditure of \$20 or \$25 for the service of a good stallion is a paying investment.

There is an agitation on in the United States to raise the price of the service fee for stallions. There is no doubt that the late depression in the horse business, both in that country and this, has been the means of greatly reducing the service fee for stallions. Owners have had to hustle around to get business, and have been forced to reduce the fee or allow their stallions to remain unproductive of a revenue. While a poor stallion is dear at any price, farmers should not begrudge paying a fair price for the service of a really good animal. Importers have had to pay larger prices the past year or two for the stallions they have brought over, and may, therefore, find it necessary to materially increase the price of the service fee. It is difficult sometimes for the ordinary farmer who has not given much attention to the subject to decide whether he is securing the services of the right stamp of animal. For this reason, and we have referred to it more than once, it would be decidedly in the interests of the horse-breeding industry of this country, if some system of inspection and licensing of stallions were put in force. It is done in Italy, France and other places, resulting in a vast improvement in the quality of the horses produced in these countries.

The practice generally followed in this country is for stallioners, or owners of stallions, to take their horses round from farm to farm. This plan is condemned by many, and it is claimed that owners should have more independence, and have farmers bring their mares to the stallion. While such a plan might work very well in more thickly-settled districts than is the case in Canada, the travelling method seems better adapted for this country. We do not, however, think the plan of calling at every farm advisable, but the owner could arrange for a stand at certain convenient points within easy reach of the farmers in the section. This, we think, is the most satisfactory method to follow, and one that should meet the needs of both the farmer and the owner of a first-class animal. Generally speaking, it is the fellow who has an inferior stallion who is inclined to call at every farm on his route. But be this as it may, the farmer who contemplates breeding mares should see to it that only the highest types of

stallions are used, and, to secure these, should make his selections early.—*Farming.*

The Flock

It is a curious fact that Vermont Merinoes are finding their way to the very highest places at the great Australian sheep shows. Their strong points are size and extra quality of fleece.

American farmers have done well with sheep this year. Everybody made money on their lambs, and the farmers of the Northwestern States are waking up to the fact that the sheep was pretty nearly made on purpose for them. Sheep talk is popular now, and when men hear anything about sheep, lambs or wool they listen.

The rise in price of Merino wool has set sheep breeders in the U. S. crazy after Merino sires. A few years ago the craze was for the coarse woolled mutton sheep and wise men then predicted that Merino wool would soon go up. The lesson is having made your choice of a breed of sheep, stay with it, and you will get all the good innings as well as the bad ones, while if constantly changing you are likely to get only the bad years.

A Mr. Ryrie, from Utah, is reported to have brought into Southern Alberta 200 registered Rambouillet ewes. This is the French variety of the Merino breed, and once acclimated they may prove a valuable addition to the sheep stock of the west. The short, dense fleece of the Merino seems admirably adapted for the western range, and the extra size of the Rambouillet gives it an advantage for crossing with the other and better known breeds.

British Columbia as a market for mutton is opening up very rapidly and western sheep men are rejoicing over the good prospects before them. This year the markets in the mining centres took all the sheep there was to spare at good figures and even then it is said that the demand was so great that large quantities of Australian frozen mutton were brought in. In the future sheep will play a more important roll in the west than they have in the past.

In treating bloat in sheep, J. E. Wing, Ohio's well-known sheep man, says the trochar is not necessary. He says: 'We merely catch the sheep and hold its mouth open with a small stick and press with the knees sufficient to start the gas.' We have never tried anything but tapping and