

FARM.

reported this year. Among the best sales were a brown five-year-old gelding, weighing 1900 pounds, \$230; bay team, six years old, 3600 pounds, \$405; bay team, five years old, 3400 pounds, \$335; bay team, six years old, 3400 pounds, \$360; black five-year-old gelding, 1600 pounds, \$150; gray six-year-old gelding, 1700 pounds, \$185; bay team, five years old, 3200 pounds, \$270.

There were heavy offerings of drivers in the auction, sales ranging at \$65 for common to \$250 for choice specimens, a number of the choicest consignments being knocked down to European buyers. There was a steady demand and healthy trade in 1300 @ 1400-pound chunks, both by domestic and foreign dealers, at \$65 @ \$125 for common to extra choice offerings. Quite a number of common to medium draughters were disposed of at a range of \$75 @ \$137.50.

The representative of a Boston hog-packer says: "The inspectors say they never saw the cellars so full of meat at this time of the year, and the times haven't mended enough yet but what the laboring people, who are the meat consumers, are watching their butcher bills very closely."

We believe hogs are comparatively scarce, and that they will sell at good prices during the summer. A bunch of 481 Colorado lambs averaging 77 pounds sold at \$5.40. A bunch of 1058 Texas sheep averaging 79 pounds sold at \$3.75. Some fancy 112-pound Iowa wethers sold at \$5.05, but good fat sheep sold at \$1 below that point. There is everything in quality.

The Early Feeding of Lambs.

A feature of the last Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association meeting was an able review by Mr. Richard Gibson, of the papers published in the report of 1903. In discussing the excellent paper on fattening sheep, by Mr. James Sharp, of Everton, Ont., Mr. Gibson said:—

"I would ask your (members present) opinion as to whether due value is given to the importance of teaching lambs to eat a little grain before going to pasture. My own experience teaches that at no time do lambs pay as well for grain consumed as when on the ewes, and I would recommend that a pen be made in the pasture, provided with a creep, where they can daily have a ration. Castration and docking (operations often neglected, especially the former) are given due weight. Again, Mr. Sharp very properly recommends early weaning; but is not the date named, the middle of August, too late? Would they not be heavier lambs by the middle of September if weaned in the latter part of July? I wean just as soon as I get a good clover aftermath."

The Chairman:—"The question of feeding lambs while on the ewe is an important question, and I have no doubt Mr. Snell will have something to say on the subject."

Mr. J. C. Snell:—"Mr. President and Gentlemen,—While I quite approve of feeding lambs while they are in the pens with the ewes, before they go out to grass, my experience is that it is hardly profitable to feed grain to the lambs after they have gone out to grass, while they are still with the ewes. I think they need it while in the pens, when the ewes are being dry-fed principally, and the lambs will pay well for it when in their growth, but I think when they get out on to the fresh grass in the spring, they get sufficient food there, and it is not necessary and not profitable to feed grain all through the summer, while the lambs are with the ewes."

Mr. Campbell:—"My experience, and what I have practiced, has been to feed them while they are in the pens, and, with Mr. Snell, I have found that lambs, on good fresh pasture, will not eat the grain until the pasture begins to fail. To push them on, I think it is profitable to begin again before weaning, so when they are ready to go on a heavier feed of grain they will not miss the nurse when you take it from them."

Mr. James Russell:—"I believe the statements of the gentlemen are both about the same, but there is something they do not tell everybody. They do not tell you what they give them, or how they give it. There is no doubt a great deal can be done by feeding lambs before they go out on the grass, but I have seen cases where a great deal of harm has been done by feeding improper foods, and it tends to produce this 'harsh wool' we have heard about. I think the feed has a great deal to do with that, and I think a little oil cake and oats or bran will produce or commence a better growth of wool than feeding on harsh grain, such as barley or peas."

J. D. Hamner:—"I think you have the best results from feeding the mother well in preference to feeding the lambs. From my experience, I prefer to feed the mothers well, and let the lambs get the nourishment from them, and I might just say here that I have a very high opinion of rape. If I can have a good piece of rape to put my lambs on at weaning time, I do not need any grain. I have been over the country perhaps as much as any other man, and seen as many flocks as any other man in Canada this year, and the best flock of lambs that I have seen was a flock that were taken off their mothers very early—I think as early as some time in July—about a month earlier than we usually take our lambs from the ewes, and they were put on rape, and they were further advanced than any flock of lambs I have seen in Canada this year."

The President:—"I will agree with Mr. Hamner. I know he is well up in feeding matters, and I

would ask you to look at one of these mothers down at the show. I will now call on Mr. Simenton."

Mr. Arthur Simenton:—"Mr. President and Gentlemen,—You know the breed of sheep I keep. They do not require a great deal of feed. I make a specialty of Southdowns. I used to keep a coarser wool sheep, and I used to have to feed both the mothers and the lambs; of course I have some pretty fat sheep. Anything you have in good sheep you have to feed them. My experience is something like Mr. Hamner's: that rape is an excellent thing for lambs, and the way I feed it is to sow the rape with the grain in the spring. I sow a field of oats, and the rape with it; we do not seed down to sod, and I find sowing rape in that way gives the best results. It is the cheapest pasture I can get, and it rushes my lambs ahead better than anything else. I think the last two years we would have been in bad shape if it had not been for the rape. We had no young grass at all, and we were entirely dependent on the rape. I feed the mothers on peas-traw in the winter season."

Mr. Gibson:—"I just want to make this statement: when I was in Wisconsin last year, they were slaughtering some lambs that had been under experiment. A portion of them had been fed grain with the ewes, and another portion had been fed grain after they were weaned. There was nineteen pounds a head difference in the weight of the lambs. The ones that had been fed grain from the start, and had grain on the pasture whenever they chose to take it, were ten pounds ahead of the lambs that had grain after they were weaned; and those were ten pounds ahead of the ones that had simply grain in the troughs before they went out,

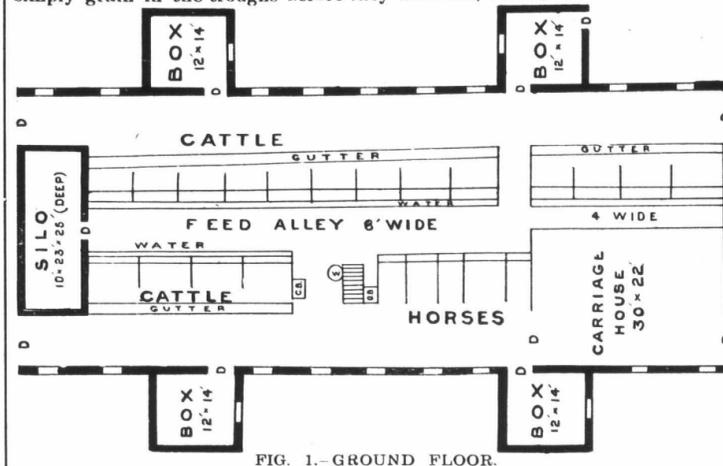


FIG. 1.—GROUND FLOOR.

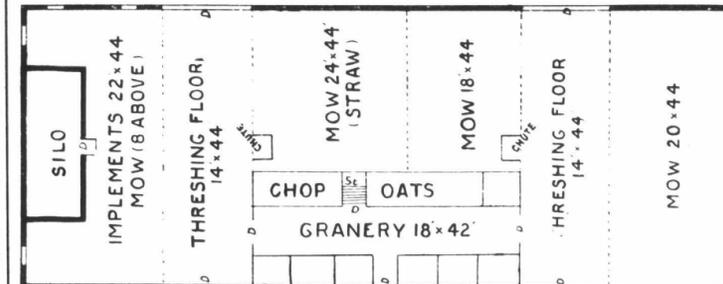


FIG. 2.—UPPER FLOOR—GRAIN BARN.

or a difference of twenty pounds between grain summer feeding and non-feeding. This was not any forcing what they could do. It was a second test for the second year, which proved the same. My own experience is that you cannot feed grain to animals with more advantage than the grain they will eat while they are running with the ewe."

Mr. Arkell:—"I saw that experiment. Was not that feeding lambs grain against feeding ewes grain as well?"

Mr. Gibson:—"No! It was lambs; and the lambs were all sold to the butcher while I was there, and the lambs that were fed grain in the pasture made three-quarters of a cent per pound more."

Cattle Breeders' Association.

A meeting of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association was held at Toronto, on the evening of April 19th, Mr. Thos. Ballantyne, ex-M. P. P. of Stratford, occupying the chair. It was not a very large gathering, and only a few questions were discussed. The election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, Mr. Ballantyne being again chosen as President; Mr. John I. Hobson, of Mosborough, Vice-President, and Mr. R. W. Ralph, 2nd Vice-President. As Mr. D. E. Smith resigned his position, Mr. F. W. Hodson, of Guelph, was elected Secretary-Treasurer. An Executive Committee was formed, composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mr. Arthur Johnston. This committee, with Messrs. J. C. Snell and D. McCrae, were authorized to revise the present constitution. Messrs. Russell, Snell, and McCormick were elected as a Committee on Registration, and Messrs. Johnston, McCrae, and Hobson, on Legislation.

Plan of a Commodious Grain and Stock Barn.

The accompanying illustrations represent the plan of basement and barn of Mr. Chas. Beattie, North Dorchester, Middlesex Co., Ont. The structure is 112 feet long by 44 wide. The walls of the basement, which stands above ground, are of cement concrete, 9 feet high and 16 inches thick. The posts above wall are 18 feet and roof's peak is 20 feet above the plate.

Fig. 1 shows the arrangement of the basement. Behind each row of stock is a driveway with 8-foot doors at either end through which a horse or team can pass, for cleaning out the manure, which is hauled away and spread upon the land at once. By this means the horse and cattle manures are mixed, and there is no waste by leaching or volatilization. The amount of labor saved by this arrangement is very great in the course of a year. The feeding alley, which has a cement concrete floor, is raised 10 inches higher than the floor of the stalls. The coarse feed, such as hay and straw, is passed to the cattle mangers beneath the water trough, which is 20 inches up from the floor of alley, ensilage, grain, etc., being fed over the trough. The mangers are two inches up from the stall floor, which Mr. Beattie considers might well be quite two inches higher with advantage. Behind each row of cattle is a gutter 8 inches deep and 2 feet wide, which is considered quite small enough. The floor of the driveway is simply clay. Mr. Beattie states that a stable floor should be perfectly level from end to end, so that liquid manure will not gravitate in one direction and overflow the gutters. If a "fall" is required for the eaves-troughs, it should be given the barn itself. As will be noticed in Fig 1, provision is made for smaller cattle at one end, the stalls being about a foot and a-half shorter than at the other. In front of each row of cattle is a continuous 8-inch water trough without cover, which is supplied from the well "W" shown in cut. "C B" is a chop-box which is supplied by a chute from the granary above. "O B" is an oat box also supplied from above. "St" is the stairway leading up to the granary and barn floor. The four box-stalls are built beneath the approaches to the barn floor. The roofs of these are covered with shingles painted on both sides, allowing about six inches between the roof and bridge at lower end. At the upper extremity of roof, which is just below the entrance to the barn floor, the joint is covered with a piece of galvanized iron lying up against the barn and down on the roof. The bridge stringers rest upon this metal sheeting, so that leaking and rotting cannot readily occur.

The silo is built within a heavy timber frame, which allows the boards to stand upright. The walls are of two thicknesses of dressed and matched inch pine lumber, with tarred paper between; painted inside with Venetian red and oil.

Fig 2, representing the barn floor, needs very little explanation beyond that given in the figure. The granary is 8 feet high and has 4 windows and one outside door. The chutes shown inside of the threshing floor are for the passage of hay and straw from the barn floor to the feeding-alley below. There is no breast-beam at the sides of the threshing floor, but the same floor is continuous from end to end of the barn. The threshing floor is of inch lumber covered with two-inch plank. The rest is double inch or inch with battened cracks.

The cement for main walls and box-stalls was mixed 1 part Queenston cement to 6 of sand and gravel. The overlays above the basement upon which the barn floor is laid are of 3 x 8 s' sawed hardwood, double bridged. The eaves of the barn are provided with galvanized-iron eaves-troughs, which collect into a drain opposite the centre of the barn end. This water is not used, as the inside well sufficient for the stock.

The siding is painted with a rather heavy shade of reddish brown. Upon the roof are three useful and decorative ventilators, which give the barn upon the solid gray cement concrete walls a substantial and neat appearance. From beginning to end everything has been arranged with a view to obtaining an economical, convenient and substantial set of farm buildings, which we consider has been accomplished.

The Good Roads Association secured a \$500 grant in the Ontario supplementary estimates.