

Winter.

l, by spring, y will be ex- practice too trouble to edu- until the sea- e has arrived, expecting them not less irra- Under such ire, lose flesh, m practically This is the na- ed; and, while result, we, up- so. The colt to go in har- easily be- accustomed to are soft, lack ore or less o perform; his y called upon this tends to nt of want of from the fact solidly which it while per- siders become to friction or to both. He trouble, as he eceived during ity and often , and the di- upon to per- any cases, be or less severe

able troubles tisfatory ser- nable care on

ot "broken," ncreasing the also gradually the winter, the rm labor, and em gradually rs, also, grad- and pressure, s expected to nctions of a tion to do so

radual. It is to handle one lighter and time, in order r must not be get him ac- done by put- in snaffle bit w hours each ght the bit. to harness in be driven on g hitched, un- dily to pres- ed when told t the word of ched with a ut steady and e value of nanners, and ducation, not- may belong, d get regular d the amount ally increased, e increased in k or exercise uld be fed a k or idle, of bulky food case as is nec- grain ration o the amount asonable care ould be very less cases of

r the manner r, respiratory ed the neces- ve become so e in a con- eld when the ng, and he rk with com- off from any kes too much dmit that it eason, when, ut attend to it is an edu- l; and even h can usually ter, and we

think it would pay the owner to hire some careful man to handle his colts. The cost will be well repaid in the spring, when his colts can do the work of a team; while if put to work without this preparation, this cannot be expected, but they will have to receive their preparation gradually when time is much more valuable, and there is much more danger of their becoming incapacitated from work altogether, and, if no extra horses are available, causing a suspension of labor for a variable time, at a season when the time of both team and driver are valuable; hence we consider that, even where a man has to be hired to handle the colts during the winter months, it will be money well and wisely spent. "WHIP."

A Horse-breeding Act.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":
For several years now efforts have been made towards securing an act to encourage and protect owners of stallions in Ontario, but up to the present nothing of importance has been passed by the Legislature in this direction. While all the educational institutions in support of the improvement of cattle, sheep and swine are well looked after, it is to be regretted that this cannot be said also of the horse. At farmers' institute meetings there are lectures on fruit culture, dairying, cattle-breeding, and almost every subject of interest in farm life, both inside the house and out, but it is seldom there is anything on the programme relating to horse-breeding, and even at the Ontario Agricultural College, through no fault of the Professor of Veterinary Science, though it is the only branch of stock-raising, I believe, in which no practical instruction is given. Horse-breeding here is popular through the natural inborn love of a horse in the Canadian farmer's son, and is deserving of encouragement. In your issue of Jan. 6th appeared a copy of a proposed act for Manitoba, containing many clauses which will commend themselves to Ontario breeders. An act of similar nature in Ontario would undoubtedly be beneficial to owners of stallions for the security it provides in the collection of fees, and to the owners of mares for the guarantee of the correctness of pedigrees and soundness. For Ontario, I believe, section 6 could well be amended by striking out that part of it which permits the acceptance of the affidavit of the owner as to soundness. A duly qualified veterinary surgeon is the proper one to certify to this, and there would be very little more inconvenience or expense in obtaining his certificate than in the owner going before a notary. In the schedule form A, regarding soundness, it perhaps would be well to allow the owner the option of having it stated in cases of unsoundness in what particular, instead of striking out the whole clause. The certificate could read that the animal was sound, except—naming here the diseases. The owner would possibly like to have it mentioned that the only bar to his horse being sound was a splint, or some minor defect, where such was the case.

Middlesex Co. ROBT. McEWEN.

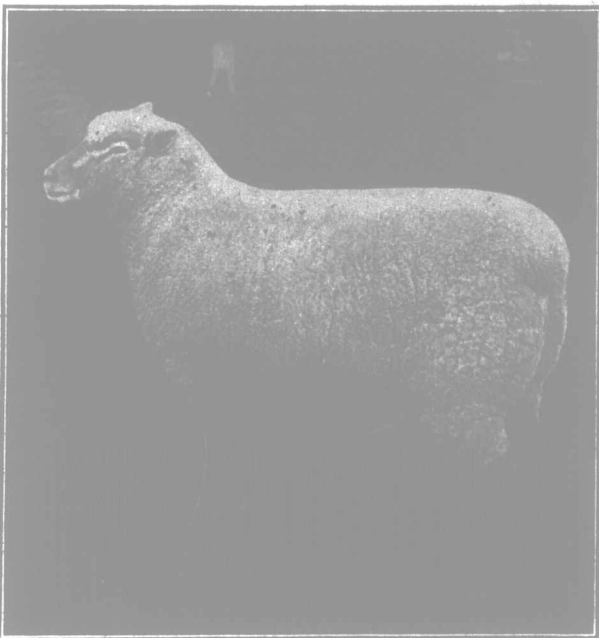
The Problem of Securing Good Stallions.

From "The Farmer's Advocate," Winnipeg.
The beginning of the year is the time when horsemen begin to feel that the period has arrived for them to look around for stallions for their districts, and devise methods by which first-class horses may be got. There seems to be a growing disinclination to invest in stallions by individuals, and the opposite trend by syndicates. The syndicate is the ideal method, and, if properly conducted, is the best way by which first-class horses may be brought into a district. Unfortunately, the syndicating of stallions is in bad odor at present, owing to the dishonest practices followed by some dealers and farmers, and the ignorance displayed by other farmers. The farmer in a district who will act as stool pigeon to entrap his less wary brother farmers into a horse deal, merits strong condemnation; if he accepts a retaining fee from the stallion dealer of \$100 to \$500, he ought to be honest enough to say so, and stay off the syndicate.
It is to be regretted, also, that some stallion agents have resorted to the dastardly method of the thug, by making some of the men whose signatures were wanted, drunk, so that they knew not what they were doing. Where square methods are followed by both buyer and seller, the syndicate is the modern way of bringing good horses into a neighborhood. Unfortunately, the old truism that "honesty is the best policy," has not yet sunk deep enough into some people's understanding. The palming off of a stallion known to be infertile, or the changing from one syndicate to another of a poor worker, hurts the stallion business, and is an injury to the stallion dealer who wishes and tries to play the game fair, as well as the crook.

Some people would object to the prices of horses, but it must be remembered that the stallion men are at a great expense—the initial cost of the horses, the expense of importing, wages of salesmen, advertising, credit for one, two and three years, and then the cost of guaranteeing the fertility of a horse, which is often placed in the

care of an incompetent groom. All these items make the price, in some cases, look big, if not prohibitive, but if value is given in the shape of a sound, healthy, fertile horse, the cost, divided among ten or a dozen, is hardly felt, and the horse will soon pay for himself. The Horse-breeders' Ordinance, in force in Saskatchewan and Alberta, has brought to light many pedigrees for which the only plain term is "bogus," because the birth dates have been altered to misrepresent the age of particular horses.

It has been the custom to abuse the syndicate method, but if properly managed, the organization and purchase of the stallion done "on the square," the syndicate method is far and away the best method, at the present time, of obtaining good stallions, and should not be condemned. The Scotch method of hiring horses has received a great deal of attention and commendation, and rightly so, but it is a question whether such a method is not a little too modern for farmers here as yet. Certain it is that some agricultural societies might do more good for the district by offering district premiums than by holding what are only apologies for shows. The proposition that Provincial Governments should bonus stallions is not worth considering. Spoon-feeding has been carried to the limit already in some lines, and does not conduce to the growth of a self-sustaining industry. Agriculture is only hurt by parasites, whether in the form of insects, shows, organizations, or what not. The field of the Government is education, and by means of reasonable statutes, ensure fair dealing to the horse-breeder. No special solicitude for the individual stallion owner is needed, beyond that exercised by an up-to-date lien act: he is usually a horseman, knows how to buy, and can take care of himself, and, by his methods, is possessed of considerable public spirit. The syndicate that



Yearling Southdown Wether.

Grand champion wether over all breeds at International Show, Chicago, 1905. Exhibited by Sir Geo. Drummond, Beaconsfield, Quebec.

will form itself and go to the horse dealer, can always do better than the association which is promoted by a dealer who brings a particular horse into the neighborhood to sell. He has to be paid for the time and expense of promoting the scheme, and that means added cost on the horse.

All stallion men are not crooks, neither are all syndicates failures, nor all farmer members of syndicates "easy marks;" but when a neighbor becomes unduly active on behalf of a particular horse and a certain firm, one need not be surprised if suspicion is aroused. Avoid putting on your syndicate the chap who can be made drunk, especially when important business is to be transacted, select your partners in the horse-breeding venture, have everything drawn up in writing, get a lawyer you can rely upon to draw up the terms of and agreement forming the syndicate, and have him inspect agreement of sale before closing the deal for a horse, and if not satisfied, refer to this paper as to the authenticity of the horse's breeding. No honest dealer will mind you taking these precautions, for the simple reason that, knowing things are "straight," he has nothing to fear.

I have now been in this country about twelve months, during which time your valuable paper has come under my notice several times, and I am so impressed by its exceptional qualities and general usefulness that I desire to become a subscriber, for which I enclose my annual subscription for 1906, one dollar and a half. Kindly forward weekly "Farmer's Advocate" to the above address.
ERNEST R. WATES.
Nipissing, Ont., Jan. 1st, 1906.

LIVE STOCK.

The Embargo Agitation.

[From the Scottish Farmer.]

"The Farmer's Advocate" is the leading agricultural paper in Canada. A recent issue contains an article on the Canadian cattle agitation in this country, which is reprinted in another column in this issue. It establishes up to the hilt the statements made by the editor of this paper on his return from Canada three years ago, and proves that he had made a much more accurate diagnosis of agricultural opinion there than Mr. Henderson, of Lawton, who went out to "curl." It is seldom a writer gets so neat a downsetting as Mr. P. L. Gray receives in this leading article. "The Farmer's Advocate" has taken its correspondent's measure to an inch. It accuses him of "special pleading for the British feeder," and with "making assertions not in accordance with facts to try to prove his case and establish the position that Canadians would be advantaged by allowing the British feeder to do the finishing of beef cattle for them." That is plain speaking, and it is very much needed in this debate.

Mr. Gray and the other agitators will have some difficulty in answering the editor of "The Farmer's Advocate." He knows what he is writing about, and has no trouble in showing that Mr. Gray does not. The pointed paragraph beginning, "The British feeder who wants to get cheap stores," is short, but it puts the whole position in a nutshell. The Canadian farmer thoroughly understands the zeal of certain persons for his interests, and he is callous enough not to thank them, even one little bit. The argument from the half-finished cattle which reach these shores is turned, as in our hearing it was turned by the Hon. Sidney Fisher, in favor of a chilled-meat industry in the West, not by any means in favor of an export trade in store cattle to Great Britain. The criticism is equally severe in respect of the condition of the frontier line between Canada and the United States. Canada has to look to her own interests in relation to her nearest neighbor, and no Canadian in authority with whom we conversed when in the Dominion three years ago said anything else than what is said in the closing paragraph of this singularly opportune and pregnant article.

Care of the Brood Sow.

The question of a sufficient supply of hogs to keep the packing plants going during the coming year, will depend very much on the care of the brood sows during the winter, in order that they may produce strong litters that will live and prosper. The losses of spring litters in most years are very heavy and very disappointing. The cause of such losses should be sought out, and preventive measures, if possible, adopted. The fact that summer and fall litters are almost invariably strong and healthy when born, would appear to indicate that this is largely due to the pregnant sows having ample exercise on the land and the privilege of eating grass and grit at their will. These conditions are in wide contrast with those of the winter in the greater part of Canada, where the snow is generally too deep to admit of outdoor exercise or access to either grass or gravel, and in many cases the sows are confined to a small pen, in which most of their time is spent in sleeping, and they rise only to eat their meals, returning immediately to their nests. There is also less variety, as a rule, in their winter feed, which is generally one variety of grain meal, fed in conjunction with large quantities of cold water or swill, which, in cold weather, may have a baleful influence upon the young they are carrying. Whatever is the cause, it is certain that large numbers of spring litters come weak and helpless, and live but a few hours or days at the longest, even when the sows seem to be in the best of health and condition. In many cases the pigs are large and fleshy when born—often so large as to endanger the life of the sow in delivery—but the pigs are soft and flabby, and in many cases are born but to gasp and die. The inference is that the cause may lie partly in lack of exercise on the part of the sow, and partly on the kind and lack of variety of feed and the way in which it is fed. The men who have been the most successful, in our observation, in raising strong litters, have kept their sows in open sheds, with liberty to run in the barnyard, where the snow is tramped down by cattle, during part of the day, and the sows get part of their feed in the form of whole grain scattered on the ground, so that they have to work for it, and part in the form of pulped roots mixed with a little meal and some clover leaves or cut clover, which serves to supply summer conditions to some extent, and also to balance the ration. The danger in modern conditions of buildings is that from want of exercise, ventilation and sunshine the health of the stock is liable to be impaired. Any provision that will minimize this danger should be adopted with the hope of lessening the risk from these causes. When the snow is not tramped in the barnyard, or it is not