

Now then, Mr. Editor, there may be some good and just reasons why farmers should use these big lumbering farm horses every time they want to go down the pike, reasons which we have never been able to discover. It is not a question of being able to afford the luxury of a driving team. Most farmers around here could purchase such an outfit and never miss the outlay. Most of them keep a single driver anyway to go in the "covered rig" but when the "double buggy" takes the family out, a farm team must necessarily speed the thing along. Farmers, it seems to me, ought to take a greater pride in the appearance they cut in public, ought to have a better sense of the fitness of things that do such as this. Of course, everybody around here doesn't do this sort of thing. A number have light outfits for road work. But this kind doesn't seem to be increasing in numbers very fast. Whether the others are frowning them down, or what, we do not know, but this much we do know, the majority of farmers around here, in trying to live up to the commandments and observe the Sabbath, find it necessary to work at least one of their farm teams half to death in doing it. Why is it? It's not because they can't afford to keep a proper team.

Man.

E. J. R.

Is There Risk with Barren Mares?

A correspondent says: "I have mares between 9 and 11 years of age which had colts every year. As the season is late already, would it do harm if I would miss one year and not breed them until next spring?" Years ago it was common to hear men who worked their brood mares say that they should have a rest from breeding every three or four years, and probably in pioneer days when work was rough, journeys long and grain none too plentiful, there may have been a good deal of humanity in such treatment. Now, however, there is no reason why mares should not be bred every year, although if they miss one season they can easily be got with foal. In some cases there is an obstruction of the neck of the womb in mares that have not been bred but a stallioner can easily remedy this.

As to whether or not it would be better to breed mares in the fall, or miss a year so as to breed them to foal in the spring, is a matter each man should decide for himself. There are advantages in both systems, although most of the preference is in favor of the spring season.

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Governor Hughes of New York State is fighting a determined battle against betting on races. The other day the horsemen at Syracuse refused to drive their horses while the governor was in the grand stand.

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The Victoria Exhibition managers are putting on quite an innovation in the way of entertainment at fairs by holding a thoroughly modern horse show with society patronizing it. Watch the result.

STOCK

Discussions on Live-Stock subjects welcomed.

The Bradshaw-Mundiman Case

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Allow me the proverbial ten minutes, for reply to Mr. Mundiman, re Herd Law, in your issue of August 12th.

To quote Mr. Mundiman, "this Herd Law question is a very important one, and one that cannot be settled, by mud slinging, or unbalanced reasoning, or misleading statements." Quite so!

However, Mr. Mundiman is good enough to say, that it is "here" where I fall short. I must say, I am surprised at the tone of Mr. Mundiman's letter, with me before his eyes, as an awful warning in the vituperative line.

Surely twenty-seven years' experience, should have shown Mr. Mundiman, that fencing with posts fifty feet apart, was time and material thrown away, supposing it does make a legal fence! Instead of spending his time watching the fence, just let him try putting the posts twelve or fourteen feet apart.

The reference, to the "bold cattle of the Bradshaw type" is an example of "drawing a bow at a venture" and not hitting the mark. My cattle are carefully brought up animals, having been duly instructed, in their duty to their neighbors, from their earliest youth, and consequently have never done damage to anyone, so far as I can remember, and once they were liberated without even pound costs, on it being discovered that I owned them! (though I say it, it shouldn't.)

Mr. Mundiman's story about the man who lost his damge suit, through having one rail in his legal fence six inches too low, is all right, in fact it only lacks

one thing to make it perfect, and that is *originality*! That story was first told in the Yorkton District, about ten years ago! And see how it has travelled since! At MacLeod now! I suppose in another ten years it will appear at the Coast in a Herd Law argument.

So Mr. Mundiman won't back me up in my suggestion to the government to let us old timers off all future taxes, on the ground that we paid taxes, and did enough work, long before the new people arrived, to last us for the rest of our lives.

Well I am disappointed, but let it go! Still Mr. Mundiman need not be so cross about the matter, or point out to me so sternly, the small amount of *direct* taxation, in the old days, because the government made a good thing out of us anyway, through *indirect* taxation, and does still, as far as that goes, then besides this, we all had to make considerable improvements, or else we could not have driven around in a wagon!

However, if Mr. Mundiman feels so strongly about the matter, I beg Mr. Editor to withdraw my suggestion, and will be pleased in the future to pay the same as the rest.

In the last few lines of his letter, Mr. Mundiman lets me drop, and comes back to our argument when he states that "no District would apply to come under a Herd Law unless the conditions warranted, and it was carried by a majority of the people." Ha! ha! So I am not the only one who makes "misleading statements!" Mr. Mundiman, you really shouldn't!

Our own Township is one example, of the inaccuracy of Mr. Mundiman's statement. In it are thousands of acres of grass, water, and hay in plenty, lots of rails for fencing, the land sand plain on which experiments in wheat raising have been unsuccessfully carried on for the last twenty-five years, strangers all say it is the best location for a ranch they ever saw, and yet we have a Herd Law! True, it was passed by a majority vote, but that majority was obtained by getting votes from men who were blanketing homesteads, and from new settlers, who at the time understood nothing about Herd Law. Did space permit, I could quote a dozen other instances where Herd Law exists under similar conditions.

Mr. Mundiman misquotes me, when he makes me say "I have no sympathy with the farmer." I consider that I am a better friend to the farmer than the "snarling" Herd Law people. Instead of snarling, let Mr. Mundiman make some suggestion, that will help in the matter, we mixed farmers and stockmen consider we are being badly used. My suggestions would be:—let Herd Law be withdrawn altogether, then let the Homestead Act be amended, so as to make it compulsory to fence grain, the government advancing wire to settlers who are unable to buy, making this wire a charge on their land.

I was in hopes that Mr. Mundiman, who in his first letter advocated mixed farming, would have told us in his second letter, how he proposed to "mix farm" without fencing. Instead of doing this he tells us that a fence with posts fifty feet apart, is no good!

I have already, Mr. Editor, imposed on your good nature and space, so will close by saying that I don't think Mr. Mundiman should object to my statement, that I would "take off my hat" to the minister who was man enough to refuse Herd Law when it is unsuitable. That is a matter surely for me to decide, and you know "politeness is something to everyone, but everything to some," so with Mr. Mundiman's permission I will continue my "hat lifting."

On the other hand, I am fairness itself, and should Mr. Mundiman and his friends consider that "taking off their coats" to the unfortunate man, would be a better way of approaching the matter, why, by all means let them do so! And may the best man win.

G. H. BRADSHAW.

The Blood of Range Flocks

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

It is a somewhat remarkable thing that in spite of the fact that sheep ranching has been going on in the Western states for generations, and in Canada for about one generation there is not yet in existence what can be called a characteristic range type of sheep.

On the breeding side of sheep ranching there are absolutely no results to show. Of the breeds of sheep used on the range the Merino is perhaps the only satisfactory sheep as far as habits and herding capacity are concerned. Its history shows it quite well adapted to running in large bands and doing moderately well on scant pasture as range sheep must do at one time or another. Though it has been improved considerably on the mutton side by the development of differentiated classes separated from each other on the basis of their departure from historic type, and their display of some mutton qualities, it is a wool producer primarily. The wool type, is traceable rather distinctly to the practised eye in almost any class of Merino. As compared with the English sheep it runs parallel with the dairy type of cattle in contrast to the beef type. It is not broad topped. Its loin is narrow and its ribs somewhat flat and it is

thin on the shoulder top. It has not the full or broad-floored chest, there is a general absence of spread or thickness of frame, the leg of mutton is slack rather than full, the neck is rather long and it is rather high on its pins. Its appearance is muscular rather than fleshy. Of course, there is considerable difference between the Spanish or American type of Merino and the smoother Delaine, and, more particularly, the Rambouillet type. It is a sheep of well established type during twenty centuries. The persistence of the character described is good evidence of the early care of breeders in the production of the breed.

Its muscular conformation and its beautiful wool, however, preclude its being considered a broadly useful and characteristically modern sheep measured by what our times demand in sheep utility. The improvement of the English sheep in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries has imposed on general sheep stock the duty of meat production, and from this latter demand the Merino cannot be said to fill the bill. While the Merino has the herding properties demanded by range practice it does not fill the bill adequately on the mutton side, and so cannot be accepted as a good range sheep.

The history of the English breeds does not give them a right to the place either. They are farm sheep, raised on succulent mixed foods, travelling little and growing to considerable weights. English sheep run in bands up to 2500 would suffer in weight and fulness of carcass. They have the capacity for satisfactory carcass development but not under range conditions. Fairly good success in developing a range type of sheep of good carcass has followed a beginning with Merino range ewes and breeding from such sheep of the English families as the Shropshire and Oxford Down, but in such cases liberal winter feeding has been a feature of the work. For simple range conditions the English sheep is not a success.

In practice, no one tries to do with either one class or the other exclusively. The range business is generally the carrying on of more or less indiscriminate crossing. In our West the foundations have been Montana ewe stock of high grade Merino, but owing to the low price of wool and the inadequate supply of farm or range mutton, English rams are extensively employed, and the mutton turned off our ranges is generally one or two or three cross English, usually of the middle wools, such as Shropshire and Oxford, and in some cases Lincoln or Cotswold. When the fleece shows a very noticeable shrink in weight, say, from nine pounds to five, a return is made to Merino rams, usually the Rambouillets. In some cases Lincoln-Merino half-bred rams are used, and apparently with not too bad results.

In any case there is not yet any range type developed from the varied experiments that have been made, and there is a chance for some one to develop such a sheep. Such a sheep must be a compromise between the Merino and the English sheep. As he has to have good herding qualities, the Merino must be a factor in the production. As mutton is required of all sheep, the help of the English breeds must be called in. It cannot be expected that such a sheep will weigh out with the heavy English families. The necessity of travelling, and at the same time maintaining good condition, at once suggests a lighter sheep. The type must be rather close wooled, which suggests that the sheep used on the meat side will be one of the middle weight breeds such as the Shropshire, or, perhaps, the Oxford. On the side of hardihood, likewise, the middle-weight, dark-faced breeds have the call. The similarity of wool qualities of the Merino and middle English breeds gives a common starting point for a successful blend. It will be necessary to stop importing rams, as these will have to be a home-bred fully acclimatized product, and it is probable that the feeding that has made the English full-bodied sheep will have to be a part of range work, particularly in the handling of the ram breeding flock. It is time some one had an ideal in relation to the range sheep and was trying to give it suitable expression.

J. McCAIG.

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