

The Importance of Feed.

The horse of the present day is not the result of selection alone. Improved conditions of feeding, sheltering, handling and caring for the breeding stock must have exerted an influence upon the horse during the past centuries. If the highly-organized, well-fed, warmly-stabled beauty of the present day, no matter whether he be heavy-drafter, carriage or race-horse type, be forced into conditions of scanty feed, poor care, and poor or no shelter whatever, how quick will a change toward the primitive types be noticed. Weight, smoothness, usefulness and beauty, demanded and admired in the twentieth-century horse, are the result of good breeding coming from careful selection, accompanied by abundant feeding from the time the colt is foaled until it has reached maturity. Good feeding is, then, just as essential as good breeding.

The one time when good feeding is necessary is when the horse is young. The colt inherits a predisposition to great weight, to speed, or to high-stepping qualities, as the case may be, but these cannot be developed without feeding and good care, especially while the colt is growing. Seeking to economize, many men think that the colt, not having to do any considerable amount of work, and none at all during the first two winters, requires nothing more than straw or poor quality hay for feed, and no other shelter than the straw stack, often situated in an exposed barnyard. Colts under such conditions, while sometimes appearing to thrive well, cannot possibly do as well as they would if well housed and well fed, and the result of the poor feeding and care must assert itself some time, which it usually does before the horse reaches maturity, in a small, undersized animal, not fitted to command the top price on the market. They may be fattened up and made to appear larger than they really are, but such fat is easily worked off them and is not so permanent as that which is put on when the colt is sucking his dam and is gradually added to after he is weaned, up to the time he is mature and goes to work. Fat and weight built up in this manner are lasting. Present-day colts cannot "rough it," at a profit to their owners. They must be fed well at all times. Poor feeding means failure; good feeding, success. At present prices, colts pay well for the feed consumed, and a little grain and good hay, with a comfortable stable and plenty of bedding, should not be denied the colt.

LIVE STOCK

Finish the Cattle.

"Only a few choice cattle were offered." "No extra-good cattle were on the market." These are common expressions in the reports of our largest markets. What do they mean? It is true that the bulk of our cattle are marketed in a low degree of finish. Whatever is the cause, there is a scarcity of really high-class cattle, both butchers and exporters. Many cattle go on the market before they are fat enough to command top prices. Such cattle are not as profitable to the feeder as if they had been properly finished and placed on the market in a condition to command the top price. There is often a difference of two cents per pound live weight between choice and medium grades, and up to four cents between the best and common grades. The common or medium grade steer is usually just in a condition to go ahead and make rapid gains when he is thrust upon the market and disposed of at whatever price he will command. Would it not pay the feeder well to finish him? From two to four cents per pound on the carcass is not to be despised. This increase not only counts on the increased weight, but also on the weight of the entire carcass. The finished animal is in demand and commands the price, whereas the inferior class of cattle are not so readily disposed of, and the price offered must be accepted. The man who seeks to sell unfinished cattle is to a certain degree at the mercy of the drover or dealer. It always pays to produce the best.

The Time to Purchase Ewes.

The best time to purchase breeding ewes is considered by J. B. Spencer, author of "Sheep Husbandry in Canada," to be August, just after the lambs have been weaned. The ewes can be purchased then as cheaply as at any time, and the best selection, if choosing ewes that have raised lambs, may be made, as their milking qualities and strength can be ascertained. Besides, purchasing at this season gives plenty of time to prepare for next year's lamb crop.

While there is one additional year's usefulness in a shearling ewe, one that is sixteen or seventeen months old, if she has not had a lamb, still, as a rule, two-shear ewes are to be preferred in selecting breeding stock. Selecting at this age, one has a guarantee that they are breeders, and also has the advantage of being able to judge of

those likely to be the best breeders and best milkers. However, very few shearling ewes prove non-breeders. These ewes should have the run of the stubble fields, not sown to clover, or old pastures until about the middle of September, and then given access to a rape or clover field. If this green food is not plentiful, it will pay to feed a small quantity of grain, to insure the ewes being strong and thriving when bred. This is the secret of having a large percentage of twins dropped. It may be well, as claimed by some, to breed from ewes themselves twins; but even so, they must be strong and thriving well to have the best results, because not only will larger returns result, but the lambs will be stronger and more likely to live and do well, providing the treatment of the ewes continues good up to lambing time.

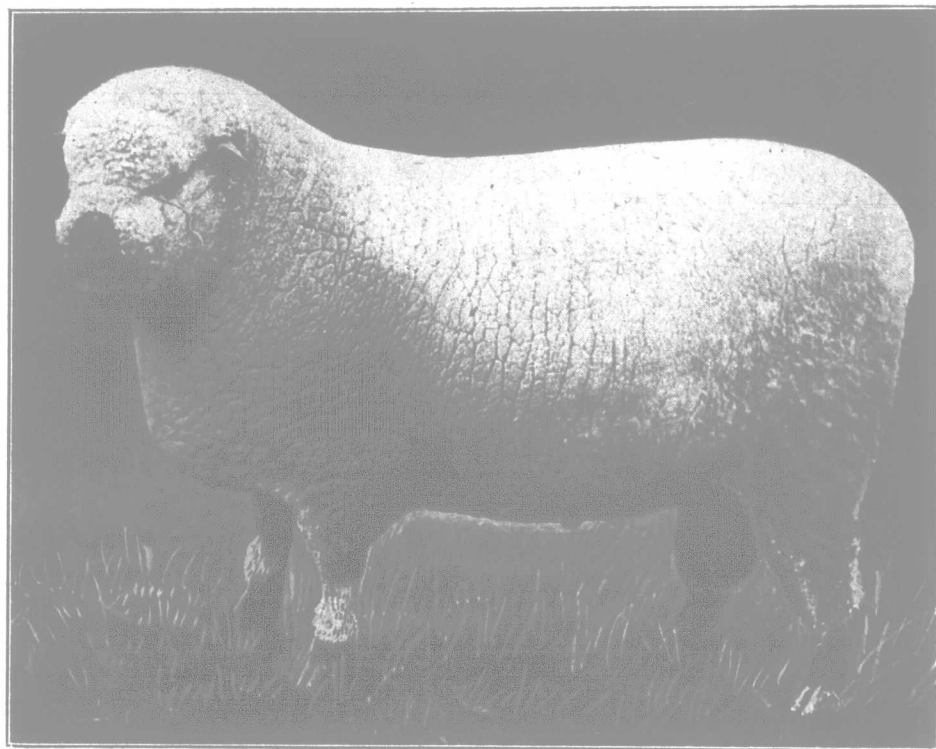
Nature and History of Foot-and-mouth Disease.

For many years no occurrence has so adversely affected the live-stock world as the late outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Great Britain and Ireland. Though happily free from its ravages for so long a period, Canada is intensively concerned in the situation created, not only because of its effect upon trade, but because of the peril arising from the extremely contagious nature of the ailment, which is otherwise known as Aphthous Fever, Epizootic Aphtha, and Exzema Epizootica. It is a virulent, contagious and inoculable malady of animals, characterized by initial fever, followed by the formation of vesicles or

fused. In the Old World its effects are now experienced from the Caspian Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. Hungary, Lower Austria, Bohemia, Saxony and Prussia were invaded in 1834. Cattle in the Vosges and in Switzerland were attacked in 1837, and the disease, extending to France, Belgium and Holland, reached England in 1839, and quickly spread over the three Kingdoms. At this time the importation of foreign animals into England was prohibited, and it was supposed that the infection must have been introduced by surplus stores, probably sheep which had not been consumed during the ships' voyage. This invasion was followed at intervals by eleven outbreaks, and since 1902 Great Britain has been free of foot-and-mouth disease. From the observations of the best authorities, it would appear to be an altogether exotic malady in the west of Europe, always invading it from the east; at least, this has been the course noted in all the principal invasions. It was introduced into Denmark in 1841, and the United States of America in 1870, from Canada, where it had been carried by diseased cattle from England. It rapidly extended through cattle traffic from the State first invaded to adjoining States, but was eventually extinguished, and does not now appear to be known in North America. It was twice introduced into Australia in 1872, but was stamped out on each occasion. It appears to be well known in India, Ceylon, Burma and the Straits Settlements. In 1870 it was introduced into the Andaman Islands by cattle imported from Calcutta, where it was then prevailing, and in the same year it appeared in

South America. In South Africa it is frequently epizootic, causing great inconvenience, owing to the bullocks used for draft purposes becoming unfit for work. These cattle also spread the contagion. It is not improbable that it also prevails in Central Africa, as Schweinfurth alludes to the cattle of the Dinkas suffering from a disease of the kind.

Though not usually a fatal malady, except in very young animals, or when malignant, yet it is a most serious scourge. In one year (1892), in Germany, it attacked 150,929 farms, with an estimated loss to the owners of £7,500,000 sterling. It is trans-



Two-shear Shropshire Ram.

First and champion, Shropshire and West Midland Show, June, 1912.

missible to nearly all domestic animals, but its ravages are most severe among cattle, sheep, goats and swine. Human beings are also liable to infection. The treatment of affected animals comprises a laxative diet, with salines, and the application of antiseptics and astringents to the sores. The preventive measures recommended are, isolation of the diseased animals, boiling the milk before use, and thorough disinfection of all places and substances which are capable of conveying the infection, together with the deep burying or burning of diseased carcasses.

Secure the Flock Header.

There are several good reasons why the stock ram should be selected early in any season, but this year offers more than usual. Ordinarily, there are quite a number of rams of the various breeds imported from the Old Country, and this helps to supply the demand for the best types of sire to be used as stock-getters. This year, owing to a serious outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease on the other side of the Atlantic, an embargo has been placed on sheep entering Canada from the home land. Just at this season, this means a great loss to breeders and sheep importers.

At the present time, the Federal Government is putting forth every effort to encourage sheep-breeding in Canada. Of course, the use of pure-bred rams is advocated, and many of these are being purchased for the purpose of encouraging the industry. Reports all indicate an awakening in Canada's sheep industry, and the best type of pure-bred rams are likely to be none too plentiful this fall.

It is important that the flock-header be secured at an early date. Shearlings or two-