

"Do you think it would be of benefit to bring in a Thoroughbred cross?" we asked.

"Not at all, we will lose action if we do. A Thoroughbred cross might help other generations, but it would do nothing for me. It would take too long to get back the action, if ever we got it back. Yes, for breeding commercial animals I would also keep the breed pure by all means. If you introduce a cross you never know where you are going to get to. We always will have a certain number of misfits, and will continue to have them, whatever be done. I breed them myself, and so does every other breeder. It is well, too, for horse-breeders that it is so. If we could breed them first class our best would be of no special value to us.

"The foreign demand," continued Mr. Buttle, "was never better. No, there is no particular type of horse that finds favor in the foreigner's eyes. Some prefer whole colors, but they take them all colors. They like a sizeable horse."

"Some complaints have been made that showing yearlings is detrimental. Do you think that a yearling must necessarily be injured by fitting it to win?"

"It does no harm whatever to show a yearling provided you turn it away rough when it comes home. They require some corn feeding in the winter in any case, and by a little extra forcing they get well grown; and yearlings are shown in the rough in London, so that very special preparation is unnecessary. It is different, however, in the case of the summer shows,

of the strongest, then the next strongest leaving the weakest ones of the litter to complete the drying off.

Live Stock Importation.

An Ottawa despatch says: "The following new customs regulations have been adopted:—A settler may bring into Canada, free of duty, live stock for the farm on the following basis: If he has actually owned such live stock abroad for at least six months before his removal to Canada, and has brought them into Canada within one year after his first arrival, viz., if horses, only 16; if cattle, only 16; if sheep, only 160; if swine, only 160. If horses, cattle, sheep and swine are brought in together, or part of each, the same proportions as above are to be observed. Duty is to be paid on live stock in excess of the number above provided for."

Why the sapient government officials included swine to the number of one hundred and sixty remains to be explained, and only goes to show the distance between departments, although in buildings a couple of blocks apart. All Canadian live stock associations should protest against this new regulation, as likely to render the ingress of hog cholera easy, which would be regrettable,

needed if we are to have the needed protection from prairie fire.

Calgary, Alta.

L. E. CARP.

Preparing Beef Cattle for Shipment

Professor Munford gives the following pertinent advice on an important question to shippers of fat heaves:

"There are shippers who, by some practices have secured an unnatural fill at the market; or, in other words have been successful in making their cattle weigh more than they should by inducing them to drink an unusual amount of water when they reach the market. It should not be forgotten that there are past masters of the 'filling' process at all leading markets, and many of them operating outside the fat cattle division. The trained eye of the buyer of fat cattle is always on the look-out for cattle that have filled unusually well, and when he sets the price on such he is sure to discriminate against them in value per hundred weight, as he knows there will be a heavy shrinkage when slaughtered. Any practice which tends towards securing an abnormal fill, on cattle at the yards is neither a legitimate practice, nor is likely in the long run, to prove a paying proposition from the standpoint of the shipper. On the other hand it is a well known fact that unless some precautions are taken before shipment, the cattle are apt to scour and shrink abnormally. The shipper is justified, therefore, in using legitimate methods in preventing scours, not only to avoid an abnormal shrinkage, but also to prevent the cattle arriving at the market in a filthy condition which from the standpoint of the buyer would not add to their attractiveness.

It may have been inferred from what has been said that the principal point to be observed in shipping cattle without too much shrinkage, is following some peculiar method of feeding, but the writer believes that the largest factor is the management of the cattle. That is, they should be so quietly handled that they do not become excited or heated. If possible, driving should be done in the cool of the morning or evening. There are some feeds, which, if the cattle have access to them prior to shipment, will be more likely to cause scours than others. These are shelled corn, corn meal, oil meal, silage, clover hay, alfalfa, cows pea, hay and grass. Cattle that are fattened on grass and grain during the early part of the season may well be yarded for a day or two before shipment and fed timothy hay and a considerably reduced grain ration.

Fat cattle shipped from the dry lot, if receiving clover or alfalfa for roughage, should be changed to timothy hay at least twenty-four hours before shipment. No full grain ration should be given after twelve hours before shipment, although it is advisable at times and especially if the cattle have been fattened on shelled corn or meal, to add a liberal amount of oats or bran to the feed. Water should be withheld for six hours before shipment.

If in addition to the above precautions, care is taken to bed the car well, and not overload, the cattle should arrive on the market flesh and clean and will fill normally, which, it is unnecessary to say, should be the object of the shipper. Cattle so shipped should make honest weights for the producer and buyer and healthy meat for the consumer.

It is obvious that the management of cattle before shipment will necessarily vary considerably, not only because of differences in their condition and the rations upon which they have been fed, but also the distance from market and the time they will be on the road, and whether it is necessary to unload and feed en route. Some of the suggestions offered will apply only to the preparation of cattle for shipment where they are not to be on the road to exceed twelve hours."

The Eradication of a Cattle Plague.

The perennial question of abortion in live more particularly the bovines, is sufficient excuse for quoting Mr. M'Lauchlan Young, of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, who in a lecture recently referred to the enormous loss caused by abortion among cows. In abortion the young creature is either dead on expulsion or dies immediately afterwards, but in a premature birth, although it may be weakly and ill developed and die in a few days, many cases are known where the calf was successfully reared. No line of demarcation can be drawn between the two conditions, especially when a premature birth may be due to some of the causes which produce abortion. Abortion may take place in all animals, but there is not the same tendency in the different species. Abortion is described as being of two kinds, viz., sporadic and epizootic. The first is where cases occur over a wide extent of country, only here and there, and without any relationship as to the causation, and each case, although certainly a loss, is to be looked upon as accidental. The second is where the pregnant animals in a neighborhood or on one farm abort in large numbers, and the tantalizing act is evidently due to the same cause; then it is, indeed, a grave misfortune, as it entails serious damage—present and prospective—to the stock owner. That the disease is either infectious or contagious, or perhaps both, and spreads in the same way as do all other contagious diseases, is in itself sufficient proof that the cause is a living organism. In fact, the germ or bacillus has been isolated and cultivated artificially,



LORD NORFOLK AND LADY NORFOLK

A first prize pair of harness horses, at Toronto and Montreal, exhibited by Mrs. Adam Beck, London, Ont.

If a yearling does well in London there is a temptation to keep it up to win at summer shows, and it is here that the danger lies. A young animal may easily be ruined in this way. If, however, they are turned away in the rough after London show it will do them good rather than harm.

I think I have spoken of the improvement in hock action, and undoubtedly the Hackney has got bigger. I remember when the class under 15.2 hands was smaller than that over 15.2, but now the big class is three times the size. I think however we have now got them big enough."

STOCK

Weaning Pigs.

An expert in hog-raising says that the method of weaning will depend somewhat on circumstances. If the pigs are so little dependent on the sow's milk that she is gaining rapidly in flesh and lessening in milk flow, the weaning may be abrupt, the sow being taken away out of hearing. If she is still milking considerably, she may be returned to the pig's once a day for two or three days, or the pigs may be taken away in detachments, beginning with two or three

especially in view of the great sums expended by the Veterinary branch to stamp out the disease. Wake up Mr. Fisher! Who else is supposed to be on the lookout to protect the live stock interests of Canada?

Fighting the Fires on the Range.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your last issue I notice an article from Prof. Linfield on the baldness of the prairie. I do not know the conditions in Montana, but there is not the slightest room to doubt that in Alberta we have, in addition to overstocking in some places, the curse of prairie fires as the great cause of a bald range. The fire is, in fact, much worse than the other cause. Besides burning of the top mulch, it in many cases injures the crowns of the plants and in consequence we get a very poor growth for a considerable time thereafter. When the grass is not destroyed by fire the snow lies in the winter, the old top forms a mulch and we have an early growth, and what is better still a long continued growth throughout the summer. The ranchmen protest against the fencing of the range, but worse, infinitely worse than a fenced range is a burnt one, and concerted effort is