

that the sheep exported be only young, well-bred, well-fattened sheep of the best mutton breeds. To those who are starting a flock of sheep I would say always use a pure-bred ram; never, unless you have a warm building and are prepared to feed grain during the winter, have a lamb come before the first of May; always dock the lambs, it makes them look better, even if you expect to sell them in the fall; and on no account neglect to castrate the ram lambs. There are profits in sheep, but, like any other branch of the farm, slipshod care does not pay.

Dauphin District, Man.

Shoeing for Action.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO BE CARRIED OUT.

Balancing the action of the horse is one of the most difficult experiences the shoer has to contend with, having so many different horses to shoe and each with a different action. Another noticeable fact is that different breeds of horses have different action and require different modes of balancing the foot, as well as different kinds of shoes to modify their action. Experience has taught that a shoer's success in this branch of the science depends greatly upon his methods of balancing the feet before attaching the shoes. If your horse has a long, low stride and you wish to effect a more graceful action, you should lower the toes of the forward feet by removing from the bottom as much of the horn as safety will permit, and use a rolling-motion shoe if necessary, which will bring his feet more under him, giving him that desirable rolling gait that makes a horse look stylish and game. If a horse has too much action it is necessary to lower his heels and extend the toes, thereby giving him more surface to break over, which will give him that sliding action so much admired by horsemen. But before doing this be sure that the tendons of the legs will stand the strain occasioned by lowering the heels.

Preventing Forging.—If the animal has more action behind than forward, causing him to forge, and you wish to regulate the action and prevent the habit, lower the heels of the hind feet and leave the toes as long as possible. Never allow the toe of the hind foot to project over the shoe; always extend the shoe as far as the foot will permit in order to give the horse all the surface to break over, which retards the action that will give time for the forward feet to get out of the way. After preparing the foot in this manner, make a long, light shoe, with low heel and toe calks. In fastening the shoe to the foot set it flush at the toe, having that part of the shoe straight with the center of the foot. In extreme cases use a very low toe calk, but no heel calk. When you have the hind shoes attached to the feet in this manner remove from the toes of the forward feet all the horn from the bottom of the foot, leaving the heels natural; then use a rolling-motion shoe of the required weight, fitted as long as possible at the heels. If calks are needed set the toe piece well back on the shoe to give the effect of the rolling motion. Frequently the driver may assist in preventing this most by raising the head with the check-rein.

Soreness Due to Bad Shoeing.—Horses sometimes become sore, which causes them to lose confidence in themselves on the road or track. This soreness may be, and usually is, caused by bad shoeing. For instance, a horse having shoes attached to his feet that have not a level-bearing surface for the foot to rest upon causes the foot to conform to the shoe, thereby impairing the action of the laminae of the foot, resulting in inflammatory action and causing contraction of the outer wall, corns and navicular diseases. Another fault is driving nails too high in the foot. Anyone giving the subject thought can see that a short, thick hold is preferable to a high, shallow one, and then there is no danger of wounding the foot by nails entering the laminae. Never nail the shoes back of the quarters, nor allow too much bearing at the heels, nor too much pressure on the sole, as the natural ascent and descent of the laminae would allow the sole to come in contact with the shoe when the horse is in action, often causing a lameness that is sure to produce bad habits in travelling and is sometimes very hard to remove.

The Trouble in the Mouth.—Frequently we find horses with imperfect action that is not caused by shoeing, but by careful investigation we find the trouble to be in the mouth; that is, the molar teeth become sharp and lacerate the cheek and tongue, or he may have a continued toothache, when he will hug the bit in such a manner as to become mixed in his gait. In cases of this kind the owner should employ the services of a qualified veterinary surgeon or dentist who should attend to the animal's mouth at once, as delay is sometimes ruin.—*Farmer and Stockbreeder.*

The Royal Commission's Report Condemned.

The British Central Chamber of Agriculture has adopted the report of its Cattle Diseases Committee, which practically condemned the recommendations of the Royal Commission on tuberculosis, owing to the absence of any adequate provision for compensation. In the opinion of the *English Live Stock Journal* some practical scheme might be devised that would tend to lessen the disease by slaughtering animals visibly affected, and paying compensation on a just scale.

Selection of Store Cattle for Feeding.

Perhaps never before in the history of Canada has there been such a demand for stockers as during the last year. While American buyers have taken large numbers to consume their enormous corn crops, Canadian farmers, as they are



FIG. I.—A GOOD HEAD AND FRONT.

learning the art of producing cheap feed in the form of ensilage and the like, are, more than formerly, anxious to secure thrifty consumers of the same. In the last year or two many have bought stockers for the first time, and some at least have learned lessons upon selection of feeders that, while expensive at first, may prove profitable in the end. The great increase in dairying has led to the more general use of dairy-bred bulls, and from these hundreds of steers have been raised, and poorly raised at that. These in their second, third or fourth year, when allowed a good grass run, may be easily taken by the novice as fairly

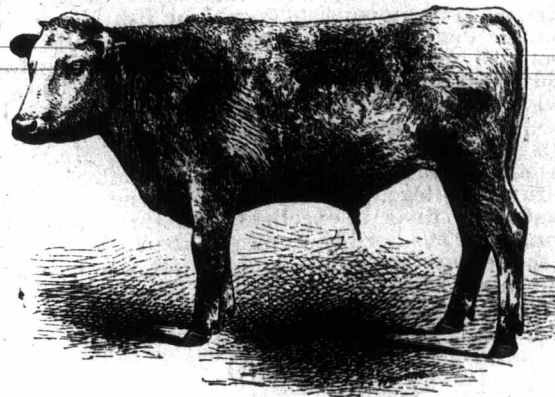


FIG. II.—A BAD FEEDER.

good and profitable animals to buy, especially if secured at from two and three-quarters to three cents per pound. Now, if such cattle are from beefy dams, and have been well reared, they might return a profit for labor and cheap food consumed; but in most cases the dairy cows that are bred are not of that sort and the result is to disgust the inexperienced steer feeder with trying to make money out of beef, or else to show him the more glaring lesson, that to try to do it with the wrong type of animal was the mistake.

Practical and experienced feeders, who breed or purchase steers for fattening, observe striking differences in the aptitude of animals of varying

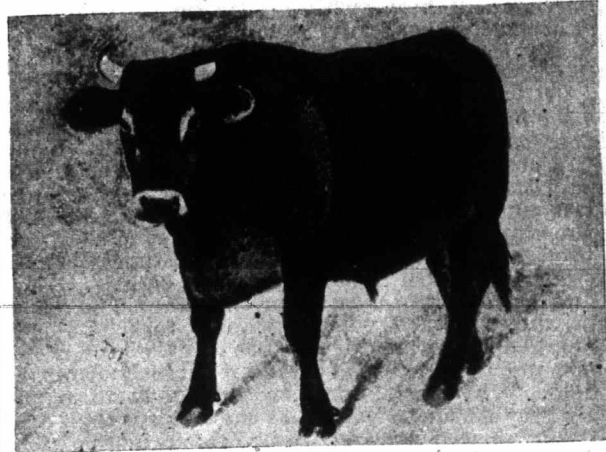


FIG. III.—A DAIRY-BRED STEER.

types and make-up to lay on flesh readily and in such form and quality as to command the highest price on the market. Prof. Curtiss says, in a recently issued bulletin on "Essentials in Beef Production": "It requires a well-trained eye to detect in all cases the possible variation of results in the store or stock steer; but there are some

distinctions that are easily detected. There are certain types of cattle, for instance, that never feed profitably under any conditions, and it is quite as important to discriminate against these in the feed lot as to be able to recognize the excellence in other types. The accompanying illustration, Fig. I, represents a yearling steer that combines practically all the qualities that go to make up a good feeding steer, while Figs. II. and III. represent the opposite type. No. 2 represents a scrub or unimproved steer, while No. 3 is of the dairy-bred type, either of which there is good reason for discarding, as they present angular outline, spare form and rough exterior."

While the actual feeding qualities of a steer in thin condition are more difficult to detect than one in a better condition, still the better sort (to quote Prof. Curtiss) "presents a blocky frame and stoutness of build, accompanied by short, straight legs, wide back and loin, well-sprung ribs, fullness back of shoulders and in flank, prominent brisket, wide chest and well-rounded barrel, together with a good, soft, mellow-handling skin and fine silky hair, giving what is termed the thick, mossy coat, without coarseness, and, withal, a good strong, vigorous head, clear, full eye, and quiet temperament." Soft, mellow-handling skin, and freeness from coarseness in head, horn or any other part are desirable characteristics. Cheap meat, a greater percentage of offal, as well as a tendency to unthriftiness, usually accompany coarseness and a hard-handling skin.

Not only will the thrifty steer of beef form make greater gains for the food consumed, but he will sell for a much better price per cwt. when fat. This is readily understood when it is remembered that loin and rib roasts of prime quality retail for from sixteen to eighteen cents per pound, while flank and plate cuts sell for from two to four cents, and internal tallow for four cents per pound. It is not a matter of prejudice against this or that breed or type when an expert buyer offers three and a quarter cents per pound for one man's cattle, and four and a half for another lot of no greater weight, as he values them strictly on their merits. The controlling factor is the utility and inherent value of the animal for the practical test of the butcher. So that if some of us have, perchance, remodelled our stables with the idea of feeding steers, and after a winter's feeding are almost ready to proclaim that there is "no money in beef," let us look into the cause and see whether or not we have given the matter a fair trial in the character of animals fed; and before giving up, if it is necessary to purchase stockers, may we select only those which have been well reared from thrifty, beef-form parentage, and in themselves possess the characteristics indicated in Fig. 1.

Hampshire Sheep.

J. M'CAIG, PETERBORO CO., ONT.

The Hampshire breed of sheep cannot be said to have secured any foothold in Canada. The reason of this is not quite evident. It cannot be said that they are too new a breed, when the Oxford, which owe their existence on one side to the Hampshires, and hence are still newer, have already quite a circle of breeders and admirers. They are new in the sense that it is only within the past ten years that the Hampshire Flock Book has been established. This want of documentary evidence of the purity of blood of the breed has operated to deter purchasers from outside of England from investing in them. Nevertheless, the breed is recognized as being well fixed in character in England and as having high merit. It is not an uncommon thing among breeders in Canada who have made a success of handling a particular breed to hear them say that such and such other breeds of sheep can never be popular or that they are unsuited to the country. There is no reason in such assertions, as no breed of English mutton sheep has been a failure in Canada, but rather all have met with pronounced success. With the introduction of every breed there is generally a period at the beginning attended with doubtful success. This arises from the fact that sheep must be acclimatized. It is not natural to suppose that individuals of the breed would preserve in our harsh climate the bloom that they brought from the more equable climate of England on the more succulent feeding so much a necessity to mutton breeds and so much a peculiarity of the British Isles. Neither should one expect to raise the same crop of lambs from sheep undergoing acclimatization as from sheep in their native environment. It is probable from this fact that doubtful opinions are expressed as to the prolificacy of the Hampshires. Another cause for failure in the introduction of a new breed is that importers, whose enterprise we admire, do not always select wisely. Many of the sheep that are brought into the country are show specimens, and are often unsatisfactory for breeding purposes. Fancy prices and disappointment are often synonymous terms in the sheep business. Instead of bringing into the country pampered specimens of a breed, would it not be wiser for a man to pick up fifty or sixty field ewes, of approved blood, of course, at prices that would make it possible for the ordinary breeder to buy half a dozen at something less than the price of a whole year's crop? The rams require more care in selection. The ram is more than half the flock. A man may begin with a very ordinary lot of ewes and in a very few years have an excellent flock by the use of first-