

started right with the least possible expense. I, for one, would look with favor upon the spending of some of the public moneys on an experimental farm, believing we as farmers would reap in benefit more than the cost would be.  
East Clover Bar. GEO. A. CLAPP.

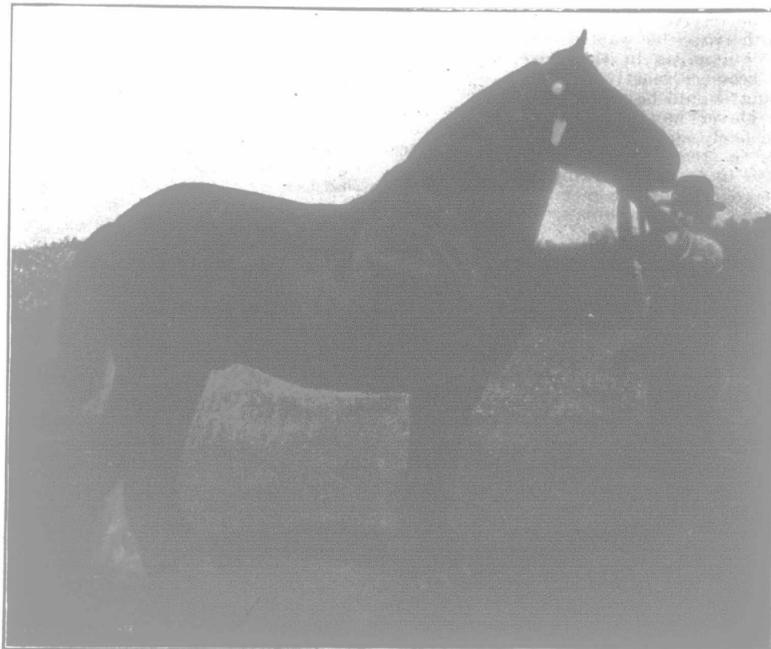
**Securing Strong Sires.**

The importance of using only strong, vigorous, thrifty sires in breeding any class of live stock should be always kept in view, as upon the character and condition of the sire very largely depends the quality and thrift of the offspring. Of such vital importance, indeed, is constitutional vigor in maintaining the health and profitable feeding propensities of animals, that it should be a first consideration in selecting a male animal to head the herd or flock, to see that he possesses this quality in a high degree. To this end, if one is to be purchased, it is well to look for and secure him early in the season, before the supply of the best has been picked over, the strongest and most desirable taken and the weaker left.

It is well known by experienced breeders that a male animal is peculiarly liable to be affected in his procreative powers by a change of feed or feeder, and by a change of environment and condition; so much so, indeed, that it is not uncommon to find that one that has been proved a sure-getter has been unfruitful for the first few months after removal to new and strange surroundings and conditions. For this reason, if for no other, therefore, the prospective sire should be secured some months before his services are needed, in order that he may become accustomed to his new home and fare, and become contented and in a thriving and vigorous condition. It is idle to expect the best results in breeding if the sire is fretful and discontented, losing flesh and in a low state of vitality. And to put him to service while in that condition, almost inevitably makes matters worse for him and for his owner, rendering the animal weaker and less sure as a breeder, and his offspring, if any are begotten, correspondingly weak and unsatisfactory, while time is being lost in building up the herd through the uncertainty of his fertility, and the owner and his patrons are kept in doubt and suspense as to his future usefulness.

In breeding both beef and dairy cattle, it has in late years been found most profitable to have the calves born in the fall months, dairy products selling higher as a rule in winter, and calves thriving better with the care received in winter quarters than when exposed to summer heat and the plague of flies. The best cows in pure-bred herds are usually bred to produce early in the fall, as among their offspring the show calves are most likely to be found, and these receive the best treatment to develop the most desirable qualities, whether for beef or for dairy purposes. In selecting a bull calf, therefore, it would appear to be wise to choose early, from the early crop, for the dual reason that they are generally from the best dams, and are of the best age for service at the end of the year, when their services are most required, or when they are from fifteen to sixteen months old, which is as early as they should be allowed to serve. And the same principle applies equally to other classes of stock. If a ram lamb is to be used, an early lamb is preferable, because of his added strength, and if he is to be purchased it is better to secure him early and have him acclimated, accustomed to his new surroundings, and in a thriving condition, as he will be more likely to be sure and to sire strong offspring than if taken from comfortable conditions and thrown into a strange flock, where he will almost certainly lose strength and vitality from the first. If a young boar is to be purchased for fall and winter service, it is wise to select him from an early spring litter, and have him inured to the conditions of his new quarters before his services are required. Having secured a strong sire, it goes without saying that to ensure the best results from his services it is important that he be kept in a healthy, thrifty condition, by judicious feeding and treatment. His rations should be of

a muscle-forming rather than a fattening nature, and, hence, should be of a varied description, in which grass, roots or other succulent foods should form a considerable part, together with bran and oats and good hay. A moderate amount of exercise at all seasons is also essential to his best health and development and his greatest usefulness. While what has been writ-



**ACTIVITY 2438.**

Clydesdale stallion. First and sweepstakes at Lacombe Fair. (See Gossip, page 965.)

OWNED BY THE LACOMBE HORSE CO., J. B. HARRINGTON, V. S., MANAGER.

ten here as to the selection and care of the sire will, we think, be accepted by stockmen as sound doctrine, it may be said with equal soundness that there is no better season in the year than the present for purchasing females to found or supplement a herd. After the ample exercise had in the pastures during the summer, animals are in the best condition for going on well and gaining rather than losing flesh, and if a cow or a sow be due to produce in the early fall, her progeny will be stronger and better for the exercise received by the dam during pregnancy, while



**CLYDESDALE STALLION, HERCULES 2559.**

Sire Dandy Demont (imp.), dam Jean (imp). Winner of second prize at Lacombe Fair, 1903.

OWNED BY R. M. GIBSON, LACOMBE.

in the purchase of sheep this is decidedly the best season to secure ewes as well as rams, and the early buyer gets the best selection.

And the rush for gold the education of the youth is not to be neglected in Saskatoon. A new school building is to be erected at a cost of \$13,000.00.

**Horses.**

**Weaning Colts.**

The age at which colts should be weaned is to a great extent governed by circumstances. Under ordinary conditions it is well to allow the mare to nurse the foal for four months or longer. If,

when the foal be this age, the mare is required to do regular work, I think both will do better if the foal be weaned. On the other hand, if the mare be in fair condition, not required to work, and still yielding a reasonable quantity of milk, the foal will do better if not weaned for a month or two longer, and the mare, having no labor to perform, will not suffer. The ordinary process of weaning, which consists in separating mare and foal, and allowing no further intercourse for several weeks, or until the mare has ceased to secrete milk and the foal to look for it, is, in my opinion, irrational, wasteful and uncalled for.

It is probably unnecessary to state that colt should be taught to eat crushed or chopped oats,

bran, etc., before the process of weaning commences, otherwise he will be sure to suffer and grow thin. Experience has taught all feeders or breeders of stock that sudden or violent changes of diet or usage with any class of stock is dangerous and often expensive. When this is the case with adult animals, it is reasonable to expect it to be more marked in the young; hence, in order to avoid danger of digestive diseases in the young, and trouble with the mammary gland and possibly digestive trouble also in the dam, we should exercise good judgment and be satisfied to take considerable trouble when weaning the colt. In most cases the mammary apparatus is

still quite active, and a considerable quantity of milk is being secreted when the owner decides that it is time to wean the colt. The colt, in addition to the grass and grain that he has been eating, has thus far also been accustomed to the milk. In fact, this has been his principal diet, and if suddenly deprived of it he cannot avoid failing in condition and fretting. Then, again, the secretion of milk in the mare will not cease all at once, and unless the gland be relieved of it, mammitis will be the result. Instead of milking the mare by hand, and, of course, making no use of the milk, as is usually done, the colt should get the benefit. My idea of the proper process

of weaning is as follows: When it is decided to wean the colt, he should be placed in a comfortable box stall, by himself or with other colts. There should be no mangers or boxes into which he can rear or jump and probably hurt himself, and the door and walls should be so high that he cannot jump over them, nor get his fore feet over. The mare, if needed for work, should be taken