

## Stock.

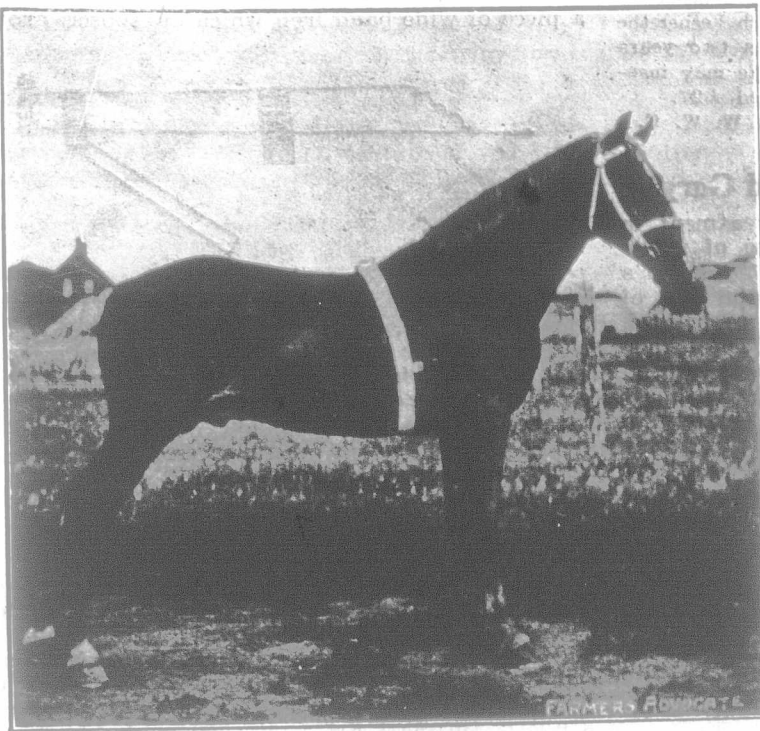
### A Field of Work for Manitoba's Agricultural College.

One of the classes of live stock far too seldom seen on Western farms is the golden-hoofed sheep, and considerable useful work may be done by the animal husbandry section of the college out at St. Charles when it gets into operation. One feature of profit would be in experimenting with some of the pure breeds of sheep, using such to grade up the ordinary range muttons as they appear in the Winnipeg and other stock-yards. The Wisconsin College did splendid work under Craig and Carlyle, using Shropshires, Oxford's and Dorsets, winning at the big fat shows with their grades; and we would suggest to test here the Suffolks, also, on account of their bareness of wool on the face and their record at the Smithfield fat-stock show. Mutton is generally a good price, always is at the Western retail butcher shop, and the quality is just medium—not at all equal to that to be had on the Pacific slope. The early maturists are not a strong enough force in Western mutton production, and the product, as marketed to-day, is not finished. There is, in this respect, some useful work waiting to be taken up by the first agricultural college to be started in Western Canada.

### "Changing Off" Among Judges.

A student of matters pertaining to the exhibition of live stock asks for an opinion as to the somewhat common plan of having judges "change off" in making the awards in the various breed classes. By this term is meant, for instance, having a Hereford judge tie the ribbons in the Shorthorn classes, and a Shorthorn man the ribbons in the Hereford classes, and so on throughout the show as regards the different breeds entered. The idea in making the selections of judges is that each is an expert as regards his own breed of cattle, and for that reason may be taken for granted as a capable beef judge and a fairly expert judge of rival beef cattle. In other words, the expert judge of Shorthorns will be likely to give satisfaction as an expert judge of Herefords, and especially as regards impartiality, as he is supposed to have no axes to grind in making his decisions. Where such selections of judges are made the men chosen usually are actual breeders of pure-bred cattle, have had experience as judges of such cattle, and, as a rule, their decisions are fairly satisfactory to all concerned. At the same time, it is common to hear a few kickers say that "breed type" has not been taken into account in making the awards, and this is the criticism that one naturally might expect. It is a sensible criticism, too, in many instances, for it cannot be denied that there are some small points in the make-up of a given representative breed of cattle that appeal strongly to breeders of that variety of animal, but escape the notice of the breeder of other cattle who is called upon to do the judging. This judge leaves breed type out of the question entirely, for he does not feel himself capable of weighing fine points in that connection. He considers the butcher's block the ultimate goal of every beef animal, and selects animals that to him most nearly approximate the requirements of the butcher. This is surely a practical method of judging, but it will not satisfy the breeder who makes much of breed type. It will correctly place animals according to their state or condition and their quality when handled with the block in view; but it will not always honor highest those animals that should be deemed best for breeding purposes, or that appeal to the breed expert as the best ones to be chosen for breeding purposes. We have seen an alien judge who was an expert breeder and connoisseur of his own breed of cattle do his level best honestly and impartially to tie the ribbons in a closely-contested class of cattle other than the breed with which he was familiar, and make a sorry mess of the business from the standard of breed type. Naturally, the breed enthusiasts felt sore at the verdicts rendered, but the question arises whether breed type should offset block requirements in the judging of beef cattle. If the block is to be taken as the sole criterion of merit, then it would surely be best to select an expert buyer of beef cattle as a judge, apart from his special expertness in judging any one type of beef cattle. It would be better to set the breeder aside and use the market buyer rather than the breed expert, and in the long run such a plan might teach useful and necessary lessons to the breeder. In our opinion, however, this idea is wrong. Breed type should count much in making awards in a class of animals of the same breed, and in such a class the judge should be a man well qualified to correctly estimate breed type as well as beef value. Where animals of different breeds compete in the same contest breed type has of necessity to be largely left out of the calculation of the judge. This condition, however, rarely happens unless in sweepstakes contests, which are rightly going out of fashion. The butcher judge, or one unacquainted with the special breed type of the class of cattle to be judged, should be chosen to judge grade or cross-bred, non-breeding animals, but wherever awards are to be given to animals of a pure breed a judge should be chosen who is expert as regards the fine breed points of the special breed in question. Type is the attraction to the breeder of any one breed of animals. It means much to him, and is

his special study. He is ever seeking to raise its standard, and the ideal in his mind is usually a good one. The alien judge will be certain to upset the ideas and beliefs of such a breeder, and, indeed, those of all the breeders of animals of one distinct breed. It is but fair then that every judge should be intimately and expertly familiar with the fine points and characteristics of each breed he is asked to judge.—[Live-stock Report.

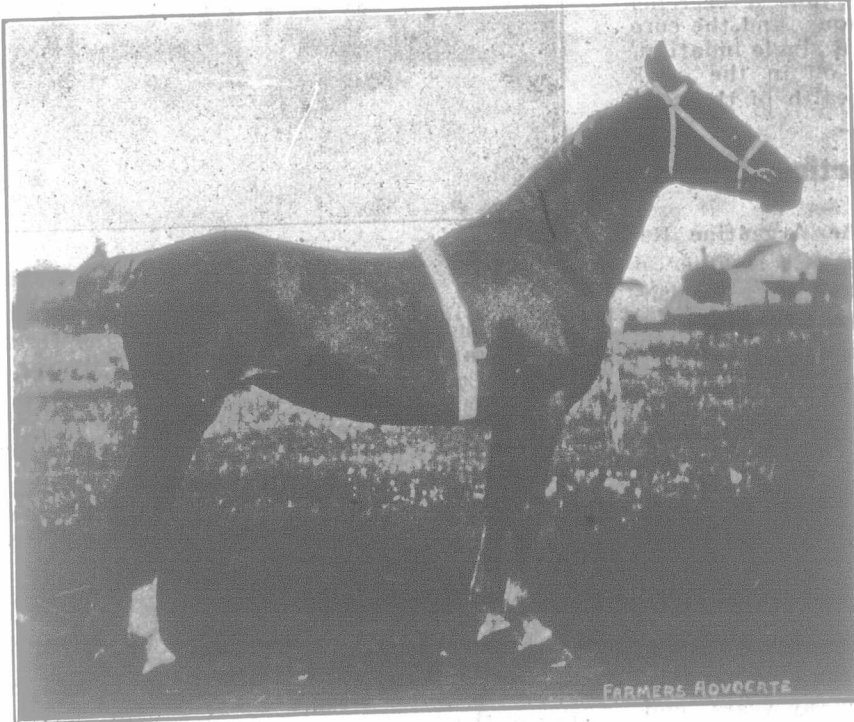


Barrow Moss Meteor.

Two-year-old champion, Winnipeg, 1905. Owned by Dr. Henderson, Carberry, Man. (See Gossip columns.)

### A Scotchman's Advice.

Mr. Sydney Fisher is a very sensible man. He appreciates better than some loud-mouthed advocates of over-sea stores among us the strength of the opposition to the amendment Act of 1896 in this country. But, while this is so, Mr. Fisher, in a recent letter, makes use of terms which ought never to have passed from a responsible Minister of the Crown in a British Colony. He does not like the idea of a Canadian statesman being embroiled in a political agitation at home. The remedy is obviously in his own hands; let him keep out of this business, and leave those responsible for the management of internal affairs in this country to do what they see to be best for the well-being of the country. Naturally, Mr. Fisher, as a Canadian politician, desires the re-



Gambling Gay.

Champion Hackney mare, Winnipeg, 1905. Owned by Dr. W. S. Henderson, Carberry, Man. (See Gossip columns.)

moval of the embargo, and there is no harm in him saying so. But he goes out of his province, and meddles with what he knows not, when he says the existence of the embargo is unnecessary for the protection of the health of live stock here, and is proof of a lack of friendliness and consideration for Canada on the part of the people of this country. That is altogether denied, and no responsible Canadian statesman should make such remarks.—[The Scottish Farmer.

### The Riby Sale, 1905.

One of the most notable English sales of the present season was that held by Henry Dudding, at Riby Grove, on July 6th. The sale was attended by a very large concourse of breeders, representing the leading herds of Shorthorn cattle in England and South America, and the leading flocks of the Lincoln breed in the same countries. Conspicuous by their absence were buyers from North America. Why these gentlemen have entirely, or almost so, neglected the English shows and sales of the present year, we are at a loss to understand. English breeders read reports in American papers indicating the short supply of sheep in that country, and also the want of more pedigree sheep and cattle, and yet here in England, at the auction sales, where every animal offered is sold to the highest bidder, without reserve, no one from those countries included in the term North America puts in an appearance. However, this is their matter and not ours. Our business now is simply to record the result of one of the most successful sales ever held at Riby, and to place before our readers the true value that breeders in England and South America put upon the Riby Shorthorn and the Riby Lincoln sheep. Every lot offered was sold without reserve, and, consequently, the prices recorded below are those at which the merits of the different animals were assessed by the purchaser.

The cows offered numbered thirteen, and these, with their calves, realized an average price of £46 4s. 0d. Several of the best went to the Argentine. The top-priced cow, Ringdale Victoria, was purchased by Mr. E. N. Casares at 155 gns. for the Argentine; the same buyer also purchased several others of the leading lots. Mr. Gahn, buying for the Argentine, was also a good customer, paying, amongst other good prices, 45 gns. for Riby Jessie 3rd.

The three-year-old heifer, Riby Pictorial, went to Mr. Beatty at 41 gns., the top price of the age. The two-year-old heifers, eleven in number, were most keenly competed for, and they averaged £39 4s. 0d. The top price for this age was Waterloo Princess 32nd, Mr. E. N. Casares being her purchaser; then Augusta 2nd made 110 gns., to go to Scotland to Mr. E. F. Gordan. Mr. George Harrison gave 76 gns. for Riby Jessie 4th; Hyacinth Duchess went to Mr. Gahn at 70 gns., for the Argentine; May Day Mildred 3rd went at 71 gns. to Mr. W. Savage, for the Argentine, and Lord Middleton secured Empress Waterloo 27th, at 57 gns.

Ten yearling heifers were next offered, and £42 2s. 1d. was the average realized. Mr. E. N. Casares secured Bright Moon 2nd, at 100 gns.; Hyacinth Duchess 7th, at 70 gns., and Bridekirk 42nd, at 22 gns.; and the Earl of Manvers gave 40 gns. for Riby Pippin 7th. The bulls sold at very good prices, the eighteen sold making the highly satisfactory average of £60 0s. 6d. 155 gns. was paid by Mr. E. N. Casares for Royal Emperor Waterloo 10th, and 5 gns. less was paid by Mr. F. J. Steward for Royal Marksman. Then Mr. Gravins gave 115 gns. for Knaption Waterloo 5th, and the remainder of the bulls sold at prices which made the average as stated above, and these, together with the prices realized by the cows, brought up the average to £53 13s. 7d. for the whole sale.

The Lincoln rams at Riby hold a world-wide reputation. Constantly we are hearing of the need of more sires of this breed being wanted for different countries, but from what transpired at the sale, it appears that so far as Riby sheep are concerned there are only two classes of purchasers that can afford money enough to take them, i. e., the home breeder and the Argentine buyer. Thirty-one yearling rams were offered, and the whole of them were eagerly competed for, twenty-six

being taken by the Argentine buyers. Despite the opposition of the home breeder, he had, at any rate so far as this sale is concerned, to admit that in most instances the Argentine purse was the longer of the two. The top-price ram was 500 gns., and went to Mr. F. Miller, for the Argentine. An offer of 750 gns. for this ram was refused previous to the sale. Mr. E. N. Casares gave 420 gns. for the next, and he also took five others at prices from this down to 17 gns., which was the lowest price of the sale. Mr. F. Miller gave