

THE HORSE.

Wintering Idle Horses.

As the average farmer has horses for which he has little or no work during the winter season, the economical feeding and care of these animals becomes a matter of importance. This especially applies under existing conditions, when all marketable feedstuffs command such high prices. The owner naturally wishes to winter them as cheaply as possible, and at the same time not reduce them in flesh and vitality to too marked a degree. They should be kept in such condition that a little extra feed and care, when spring is approaching, will fit them for the labor they will be expected to perform. Idle horses can be wintered with reasonable satisfaction and results on little marketable feed, but in cases where too much economy is observed we find that towards spring they are in such a condition that even though they be given extra feed and care they are, when actually required to work, not fit to do a fair day's work, and what was saved in feed during the winter will be more than lost in inability to perform the functions of a horse during the busy season in the spring; hence, the object is to winter as cheaply as possible without too great a sacrifice of the horse's vitality and strength.

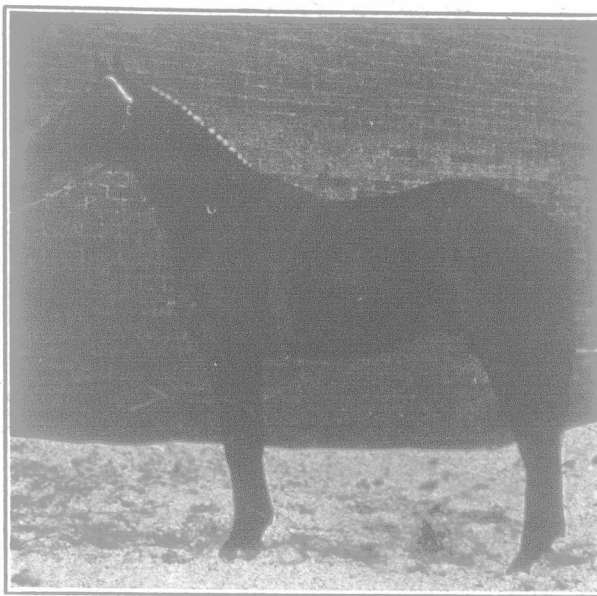
In the first place, comfortable quarters are essential. We must disabuse our minds of any truth in the old adage that "Exposing colts and idle horses to inclement weather makes them tough and hardy." Regular exercise is necessary, and this is usually given by allowing the horses to run out in a yard or paddock for a few hours daily when the weather is not too cold or stormy. If this exercise could be allowed in a closed yard or paddock, where they would be sheltered from wind, cold and wet, it would be better, but the erection of such, especially at present prices for material and labor, would be too expensive. At the same time, while daily exercise is important, it is better to forego it than to turn the animals out during a storm or in excessively cold weather. The effects of such do more to reduce the animals' condition and vigor than can be compensated for by considerable feed and attention. Where large box stalls can be provided it will be noticed that the horses take considerable exercise, but in most stables there is not sufficient space to allow a large box stall for each animal, and it is usually unsafe to have two or more in the same stall unless they are very agreeable, and the box quite large. Where help is plentiful and time will allow, it is found better to exercise the horses in harness or under saddle, as in such cases we know that they get a certain amount of exercise, while if turned out they take little or much, according to circumstances. Exercise is necessary in order to retain muscular and respiratory tone. Where muscular inactivity is allowed for a continued period, the respiratory system becomes weak and the muscles become soft and lose tone, hence the horse requires a lengthy period of preparation before he should be asked to do a full day's work; while on the other hand, where a moderate amount of daily exercise has been given the organs mentioned do not lose their power, but are always in condition to perform at least a reasonable amount of work without tiring.

The most economical method of feeding will depend largely upon individual circumstances and the state of the market. If hay be plentiful and of a reasonable price, and grain be high, it will pay to feed considerable hay and little grain. If the markets be reversed it will be found economical to feed more grain and less hay, the want of hay being compensated for by feeding good straw or other roughage of good quality. A mixture of cut hay and cut straw or wheat chaff, or straw or chaff alone, mixed with pulped roots, or a reasonable allowance of silage of good quality, or both, answers very well for roughage. While horses will keep in fair condition on this kind of feed alone, we do not think it wise to withhold grain altogether; at least one fair feed of oats should be allowed daily. Other grain, or mixed grains may be given, but none gives as good results for horse feeding as oats. They contain ingredients for building up bone and muscle and supplying nervous energy that are not contained in like quantities in other grain. The oats may be fed as a separate meal, either whole or crushed. We have found that better results are obtained from crushed oats, which may be mixed with the coarse feed or fed alone. A sufficient amount of this feed should be given to prevent the horses losing flesh. It must be understood that all feed given be of at least fair quality. If silage is being fed, nothing less than that of first-class quality can be tolerated or fed with reasonable safety. The feeding of dusty, moldy, poorly-saved or partially-decayed feed of any kind must be avoided. The digestive organs of the horse are probably more sensitive and delicate than those of other classes of farm stock, and they usually revolt against such usage. A very large percentage of heaves in horses can be traced to the consumption of feed of poor quality. Knowing this, we can readily appreciate the folly of feeding our horses on feed that has little market value, not on account of its kind but by reason of its quality. It goes without saying that there must be a regular supply of water of good quality in all cases. It must also be remembered that when changing the nature of the feed, the change must be made gradually.

As spring approaches the amount of exercise given should be gradually increased, which should be done in harness, under saddle, or on the halter, in order that it may be regulated; and at the same time the grain ration should be increased in proportion to the amount of exercise given. If this be intelligently done, the

horses will be in a fit condition to do a fair day's work as soon as the ground is fit, but if these precautions are neglected, the fitting will have to be done when time is valuable, as, if fitting be neglected, and a horse that is not "fit" be asked to do a full day's work, it is probable that a period of enforced idleness, when time is very valuable, will be the result.

WHIP.



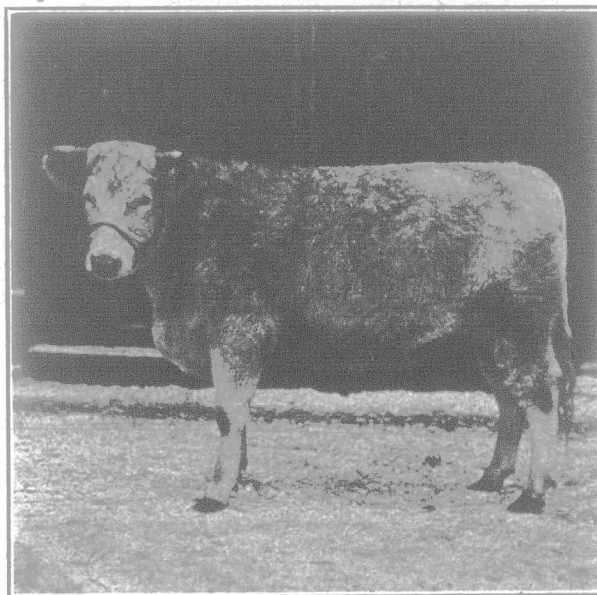
Spey Pearl.

Presented by H. M. King George V. to Canada. Champion Thoroughbred stallion at Guelph, 1919.

LIVE STOCK.

Ontario Hereford Breeders' Sale.

On Friday, December 12, the Ontario Hereford Breeders' Association held a very successful sale at the Winter Fair building, Guelph. The real good stuff brought very satisfactory prices, but some of the plainer animals scarcely brought their value. Sixty-seven head were sold. Sixteen cows, three years old and over, averaged \$326.56, and twenty-eight heifers, including several that were under twelve months, averaged \$298.02. Twenty-three bulls averaged \$223. The highest-priced animal of the sale was Ruby Fairfax, a heifer which will be two years old in January and that was champion female at the Guelph Fair, and also champion at London last fall. She was consigned by John Hooper & Son, St. Mary's, and was purchased by James Page, of Wallacetown, for the consideration of \$1,400. Lorna Fairfax, a particularly sweet, ten-months-old heifer, consigned by A. L. Currah, of Bright, was also purchased by James Page for the sum of \$1,000.



Snowball.

Junior yearling Shorthorn steer and breed champion at Guelph for John Bar, Blyth.

Among the consignors to the sale were J. Clark, Iona Station; W. Bell, Staples; McNeil & McNeil, Dutton; O'Neil Bros., Denfield; T. B. Atkins, Teeswater; G. E. Reynolds, Elora; L. O. Clifford, Oshawa; H. G. Perdue, Wingham; D. Grainger, Creemore; O. C. Wigle, Kingsville; J. Hooper & Sons, St. Mary's; W. Page & Son, Tryonville; J. D. Little, Teeswater; J. E. Harris, Kingsville; Jas. Page, Wallacetown; A. E. Brooks, Manilla; and W. Smithrin, Kerwood. There was a good crowd in attendance at the sale and bidding was brisk throughout, especially for the breeding stock. E. Garten, of Indiana, assisted by W. G. Taylor and James McDonald, Guelph, conducted the sale. Following is a list of the animals selling for \$100 and over, together with the names and addresses of the purchasers.

Special 3rd, W. Mitchell, Norham.....\$ 240
Archie, A. F. O'Neil, Denfield.....200
Sam, M. Hart, Guelph.....150

Hardy Fairfax, L. Leslie, St. Mary's.....\$ 300
Metcalf, G. B. Moore, Galt.....240
Roy Fairfax, Jas. Page, Wallacetown.....500
Bonnie Laddie, L. Porteous, Owen Sound.....135
Jose Fairfax, G. E. Reynolds, Elora.....475
Albany 4th, F. Cook, Dunnville.....215
Richard Fairfax, L. Leslie.....300
Eight-months calf, T. Main, Elora.....255
Andrew Fairfax, Hunter Bros., Orangeville.....390
Albany, W. F. McClure, Brampton.....215
Doc Albany, C. Hall, Ariss.....160
Sunrise 34th, D. Tarr, Harriston.....150
Sunrise 33rd, L. Sobish, Branchton.....200
Brae Real Herbert, Wm. Robinson, Speedside.....110
Donald Lad 5th, W. Nichol, Paisley.....210
Oakland Model, D. McPhee, Auburn.....210
Prince Royal, J. Beggs, Linwood.....125
Perfect Reliance, Hunter Bros.....170
Brae Real 17th, L. Porteous.....105
Brae Real 18th, C. Lyons, Dutton.....145
Albany 3rd, R. McGregor, Paisley.....240

FEMALES.

Brae Real 50th, John Hooper & Son, St. Mary's.....1,100
Miss Brae Real 23rd, J. D. Fraser, Westmeath.....210
Miss Brae Real 28th, P. C. Goselin, Ridgetown.....150
Miss Brae Real 29th, O. C. Wigle, Kingsville.....110
Miss Brae Real 24th, C. Lyons.....265
Miss Brae Real 26th, A. W. Moody, Guelph.....150
Miss Brae Real 25th, L. O. Clifford, Oshawa.....260
Miss Brae Real 27th, G. E. Reynolds, Elora.....210
Jessie Albany, A. J. Hefferman, Guelph.....235
Laura Albany, C. Lyons.....135
Lady Reliance, W. Mitchell, Norham.....150
Miss Reliance 11th, John Hooper & Son.....275
Mary Pickford, A. Groaul, Gad's Hill.....345
Iva of Oakland, G. R. Barrie & Son, Galt.....400
Hazel Dawn, G. R. Barrie & Son.....400
Wilda, L. Groaul, Gad's Hill.....270
Oakland Daisy, J. D. Fraser.....175
Miss Cotmore 2nd, B. Tarr.....200
Belle 5th, W. Mitchell.....220
Belle Donald, W. Mitchell.....295
Belle Donald 2nd, W. Readhead, Milton.....160
Miss Rubella Ingleside, A. L. Currah.....290
Refiner Brae 3rd, A. W. Moody.....250
Miss Brae 76th, W. Mitchell.....190
Miss Liberty, A. L. Currah.....225
Maiden Fair, W. Readhead.....600
Clear View Lady, W. Mitchell.....260
Sunrise Lass, A. W. Moody.....165
Miss Real 2nd, A. Honice, Blair.....200
May Donald, W. Mitchell.....180
Sweet Pet, B. Tarr.....200
My Jessie, R. McGregor.....205
Miss Donald 4th, O. C. Wigle.....150
Miss Donald 5th, J. D. Fraser.....200
Lizzie Brae, Jas. Page.....200
Jessie Brae, R. W. Moody.....235
Miss Brae Real 35th, W. Mitchell.....200
Ruby Fairfax, Jas. Page.....1,400
Jessie of Ingleside, W. Mitchell.....175
Laura Fairfax, T. House, Ariss.....505
Lorna Fairfax 2nd, J. Page.....1,000
Julia 4th, D. Grainger, Creemore.....300

Canadian Live-Stock Figures.

Estimated returns were collected during June and July, by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, showing the numbers of farm live stock for the whole of Canada and for the various provinces. Horses are estimated at 3,667,369, an increase of 58,112. This large increase comes principally from the Province of Saskatchewan, where there are at present 1,078,452 horses, an increase of 88,443 over 1918. Ontario shows a decrease of 13,408 horses, and a total of 719,569. Quebec shows a decrease of 32,909, and a total of 463,902. New Brunswick has an increase of 11,238, and a total of 77,828, while Alberta shows a smaller increase of 9,134, or a total of 800,380. British Columbia, Manitoba and Nova Scotia each show smaller decreases, while Prince Edward Island shows an increase of 1,900.

The number of milch cows in Canada has increased by only 8,837 during the year, showing a total of 3,547,437. Milch cows in Quebec have decreased by 107,503, but in every other province there have been some increases, ranging from 629 in British Columbia to 42,977 in Ontario. Next to Ontario, New Brunswick shows the largest increase, amounting to 32,935. Saskatchewan also shows an increase of 21,074. With respect to Ontario and Quebec, it is interesting to note that the positions with respect to the number of milch cows have been practically reversed, Ontario now leading in this class of live stock by about 100,000 cows. There has been an increase of 29,307 head of other cattle in Canada, of which the largest increase occurs in the Province of Saskatchewan, where an increase of 79,159 brings the total to 1,005,501. Ontario shows an increase of 15,492, and a total of 1,786,175. New Brunswick shows an increase of 45,340 and a total of 211,964. Prince Edward Island has increased by 10,723, but Alberta shows a decrease of 115,432, and Quebec shows a decrease of 32,522. The total number of cattle in Canada is now 10,084,011, an increase of 38,144.

Sheep have increased in Canada by 369,210, and now show a total population of 3,421,958. Of this increase, Ontario shows 129,399, or a total of 1,101,740. New Brunswick shows an increase of 72,730, or a total of 212,745. Quebec has increased the number of sheep by 48,355, and now has a total of 1,007,425. The only province showing a decrease in the number of sheep is