

set-Horn Sheep, American Cotswold Record, American Southdown Record, American Oxford Down Record, American Lincoln Sheep Breeders' Association.

PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL LIVE-STOCK CONVENTION.

In making arrangements for the holding of the next annual convention of the National Live-stock Association, at Ottawa, on February 5th, 6th and 7th, next, these dates were selected so as to permit the breeders from Western Canada, and also from the Maritime Provinces, to attend the meetings of the cattle, sheep and swine associations, most of which will be held at the end of January and during the first few days in February, as also the Horse Show and meetings of the Horse-breeders' Associations arranged for the week following.

As intimated in last week's issue, it is likely that chief among the subjects for discussion will be the advisability of amending the regulations governing the admission to Canada of pure-bred stock. It was also proposed, at the recent executive meeting, attended by Hon. John Dryden, Arthur Johnston, G. A. Gigault, Robt. Ness, Dr. Rutherford, Live-stock Commissioner, and Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, to take up and discuss the best means of retaining for Canadian breeders the Canadian market for pure-bred stock. It is probable that a number of specially-prepared papers on this subject will be submitted. The future of the export trade in pure-bred stock will also be discussed, while it is expected that considerable light will be thrown on the export trade in cattle and sheep for slaughter, and the trade in meats and meat-food products.

The fact that a majority of the live-stock meetings are to be held immediately prior to the convention, will render it possible for these bodies to definitely instruct their delegates as to the stand they are to take on the various subjects likely to come up for discussion. While this advantage will not be shared by a number of the horse-breeders' associations, it is to be hoped that the latter will hold special executive meetings for the purpose of instructing their delegates to the convention.

THE SHEEP INDUSTRY IN ONTARIO.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has issued a bulletin on the sheep industry in the Province, the first publication of its kind by the Department. It contains the result of an exhaustive inquiry, by correspondence, into the industry, and the reasons for its decrease in Ontario in recent years. Statistics collected by the Ontario Bureau of Industries have shown a gradual yearly decrease in the number of sheep kept, from 1901 to 1905, of 109,411 head, as against an average yearly increase of swine in the same period of 101,144, of cattle 95,471, and of horses 13,109. The only counties in the older-settled portions of the Province to show increases during the period named are Prince Edward and Prescott. In Northern Ontario, the Districts of Muskoka, Nipissing, Algoma, Thunder Bay and Rainy River show increases in the number of sheep, while in Manitoulin and Parry Sound the decreases are only slight.

About eight hundred replies to a circular sent out by the Department to all parts of the Province were received, in which the reasons given for the decrease of sheep are lack of profit, owing to low prices for wool and mutton during the years of declension named, the growth of the dairy industry requiring additional pasture land, the difficulty of fencing sheep, losses from destruction by dogs, etc. It is pointed out, in respect to the first, that prices are now such as to make the sheep industry a profitable one, provided that other drawbacks can be offset. Suggestions with this in view are given, including proposed amendments to the present sheep-protection act, which is given in full in the bulletin, and may well receive attention from flockmasters, in order that they may be prepared to influence legislation during the coming session of the Legislature. To those having had successful experience in sheep-raising, no one of the reasons given, nor all of them combined, will be accepted as sufficient to discourage a man determined to succeed, since, by good management, all may be overcome, as has been demonstrated in numerous instances. And what some have done in this regard, others may do. The keen demand for sheep for breeding purposes, and the improved prices for wool, mutton and lamb have been instrumental in the founding of many new flocks in the last two or three years, and no other branch of stock-raising is more profitable at present or likely to be more profitable in the near future.

Never give a sheep any stale or undesirable feed, nor expect it to clean up any sour and musty feed that has been left from a former feeding. The ration should be clean and palatable.

A PROTEST AGAINST OBJECTIONABLE HOGS.

The rush to get rid of unfinished and undesirable hogs, now flooding the market, owing to the high price of grain and millfeeds, has led to the issue, by a leading Ontario packing-house, of a circular letter to dealers strongly protesting against receiving such stock, and warning them (drovers and dealers) that if such are shipped to them, the party buying and shipping will have to bear the loss, which will be charged back. Under the Government inspection now in force, hogs that are sickly, or with ruptures or abscesses, or which are staggy, sows in pig and boars, must be tanked for grease, and are worth only one cent per pound. Fat sows are taken only at two cents per pound less than singers, and thin sows are not wanted, and will not be accepted. Too many hogs come to the packing-house in a bruised condition, caused by carelessness on the part of farmers in loading and unloading, and by drovers in shipping them, seriously discounting the value of the product. The remedy for these faults lies with farmers and drovers, and the warning sent out by the packers, which is a reasonable one, should have the effect of improving the condition of the stock shipped, as all should feel interested in maintaining the quality of the product placed upon the market and the good reputation of the country for the production of the class of goods sent abroad.

CATTLE-FEEDING METHODS AND PROSPECTS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

So far as I can judge at present, there will be very few cattle fed in this neighborhood this year, an occurrence that does not often take place, as we usually turn out a good number of finished cattle every winter and summer.

There are a goodly number of cattle for sale, as very few farmers have sufficient feed to finish them, and those who have are inclined to yield to the tempting prices of grain and hay, and dispose of their cattle. In my opinion, good short-keep cattle, either butcher or export, will be the best to buy this year. These cattle can be bought at about 3½ cents per pound, but the trouble is to get them in good enough condition, as the pasture has been very short all summer.



Two-year-old Hampshire Ram.

First in class, Royal Show, 1907. Shown by J. Flower.

The prospects for beef cattle next spring are good, as there is a shortage of cattle in the country, and very few will finish their cattle in the stable, preferring to winter them over on rough feed, and put them on grass, or sell them for others to grass.

Those who make a practice of feeding a number of cattle each year generally buy them in October or the beginning of November, and, as a rule, endeavor to have a field of good meadow grass, where they can turn them out during the day and stable them at night, and in this way gradually accustom them to the change of feed. There is nothing better than a field of rape, with a pasture field alongside, to give cattle a start and put them in good shape for stall feeding. If you have plenty of straw for bedding, cattle will do better in loose boxes, if there are not too many together; but unless they are kept clean, my experience has been that they do not lie down as much, and consequently are more restless. I would not dehorn cattle if I were feeding them in stalls, as I find you have to tie them very tightly, or else they get the fashion of slipping the chain over their heads.

If I have plenty of roots, I feed mostly cut straw or chaff mixed with the pulped roots, with a little long hay in addition as the feeding period advances. My practice has been to feed twice daily, and pulp the roots and mix the feed every forenoon as soon as the feeding is done, and the stables are cleaned; then, if possible, do not enter the stable again until feeding time in the evening. The amount of roots must be gauged by the supply on hand. I like to feed at least one bush per head per day, and more if they are plentiful. The grain ration depends on the root supply. Last winter, when there were plenty of roots, I fed very little grain, not more than 4 pounds at

start, and about 6 at finishing. When purposing to feed steers until spring, I do not feed any grain until after the first of January, but feed plenty of turnips, then start feeding a little grain, until, by the middle of March, they are getting about 8 pounds, continuing this until the end of feeding period, gradually adding a little cut hay and less cut straw as spring approaches.

As to what will be the most economical feeds to buy, it is rather difficult to say. My opinion is that coarse grains will be cheaper next March than at present, and if I had to buy, would prefer waiting a few months. If some of the frozen wheat from the West could be brought down here and sold at about a cent a pound, or a trifle more, it would be a good thing for both the Western and Eastern farmer.

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THE FARM.

THROUGH EASTERN ONTARIO AND SOUTHERN QUEBEC.

(Editorial correspondence.)

Despite the temporary financial stringency, Canada to-day is thriving. Wonderful development has occurred within the past decade. Pessimism has been succeeded by confidence and hope. The "Little Canadian" idea has made place for the broader Dominion conception. Sectionalism disappears. Patriotism takes its place—a broad, healthy, exalted patriotism that knows not county or provincial lines, but comprehends the Dominion as a whole, glorying in her history and assured future. Ours is a grand country, every foot of it, and peopled by a superlative race. No one county or province has any monopoly of natural resources or beautiful scenery. Settlement has stretched from ocean to ocean, and now it is widening far towards the bounds of the north temperate zone. Whether he dwell in fruitful valleys, beneath snow-capped Rocky peaks, on the boundless acres of the hundred-league Western plains, in the orchards and vineyards of the Niagara peninsula, on the smiling acres of rich farm lands that constitute the backbone of Ontario and Quebec, or in the emerald valleys of the Maritime Provinces—in whatever region his lot is cast—the loyal Canadian has only to look about him and behold a land of plenty prospering under fair skies, a nation at peace, and a sturdy, self-reliant, thrifty people, proving that humanity flourishes under great variety of environment and climate, and as well on the fiftieth parallel as at the thirty-fifth. These thoughts occurred to us lately on a railway journey around Eastern Ontario and into Southern Quebec.

Prosperity is manifest on every hand, and in no one respect is it more advantageous or more evident than in the amount of travelling accomplished. Travel is a great educator. It is as far ahead of geography study as the staged drama is reckoned ahead of the printed novel. Few Canadians are financially able to do a great deal of touring, but they are travelling a great deal more than they once did. Time was when you could enter a Canadian railway coach and find half a dozen commercial travellers, a merchant's family or two, a manufacturer, a politician, one or two plain citizens going to attend the funeral of a relative, and perhaps a bridal pair indulging the extravagance of a trip to Buffalo, Boston, Toronto or Montreal. The "drummers" were quite conspicuous by their new-found veneer of urbanity, which placed them, in their own estimation, far above the common "native" herd. To-day, how different! The knights of the grip are far outnumbered, and no longer distinguished by their fastidiously-tailored clothes, shining boots, clean-shaven chins, neatly-trimmed hair and general "sang froid," because there are scores of other passengers equally presentable. The trains are loaded—often late—with well-dressed gentlemanly men and refined ladies. The smart-alec youth and the bashful country lass have been transformed into spruce young men and women, to whom occasional travel is a matter of course, and for whom Conkley's Corners is no longer a social and business metropolis.

Another observation persistently impressed upon our attention was the force of example and the effect of habit. Take it in the matter of silos,