For a good many reasons it is impossible to take up any one breed and indicate it as the one best suited for any particular purpose. Breeders of a certain kind of cattle may be of the opinion that the breed they are working with is better adapted for beef or milk production, as the case may be, than any other. They may back up their opinions, as they undoubtedly will, with plenty of authoritative instances of show-yard victories and official experimental lists. But fanciers of other kinds can do the same thing through all the breeds of beef and dairy animals. There is no one breed that as a breed can be regarded as the most profitable for milk or beef production. We make a distinction here, of course, between beef and dairy cattle. There are individuals in each kind, there are strains in all breeds, in which the tendency or ability to produce a certain product more economically than another, has been developed by years of careful breeding, and selection or owing to inherent tendency or dynamic force. There are certain strains of Shorthorns, for instance, that are more noted for their deep milking qualities than are others, and such strains as this exist, to a greater or less extent, in all breeds whether beef or dairy. To illustrate how they originate we shall take the example of the Shorthorn. Prior to Cruikshank's time Shorthorns were bred chiefly in two distinct strains; one, of which Booth was the exponent, were deep-bodied, massive cattle and the other developed by Bates and his followers, who gave some attention to the milk producing qualities of their herds. When Cruikshank established his Sittyton herd, and made the Aberdeenshire country famous the world over for its Shorthorns, he achieved his results by breeding together the best animals that then existed or could be procured in the British Isles, regardless as to whether they were of Booth or Bates extraction. On such foundation stock as this the modern Shorthorns has been reared. Hence it is not passing strange, when we come to think about it, that some individuals or tribes, within this breed, have certain of their functional activities more highly developed than other individuals in the same breed of equally pure descent. And the same holds true in all. We have known grade Ayrshires stockers to turn in as profitable returns as Shorthorns, and cows of the latter breed that were better milkers than Ayrshires. But such cases are rather the exception than the rule, and on the average it would be by far the safest to stand by Shorthorns for beef and the Ayrshires for milk production. Bearing all these facts in mind it is obvious that the query which our correspondent puts up to us will not permit of a very definite answer. There are Aberdeen-Angus cows that are as good milkers as the average Shorthorn, and there are individuals in each breed that won't suckle their calves. The same holds true in respect to the beefing and other qualities of the Galloways in comparison with the Angus. After all's been said on the subject, and volumes have been written on such themes as this, it's the individual and not the breed that is the potent factor in economic production.

At every experiment station in America breed tests, at various times, have been made to determine just such questions as our correspondent raises, and the results attained are so wholly contradictory; the results of one station seemingly bearing no relation to the results of another, and different herds of the same breed, at the same station, handled under precisely similar conditions, have produced results differing so widely that live stock authorities have long since ceased to hazard any opinion as to the merit, real or supposed, which one breed of cattle possesses for a certain purpose over another.

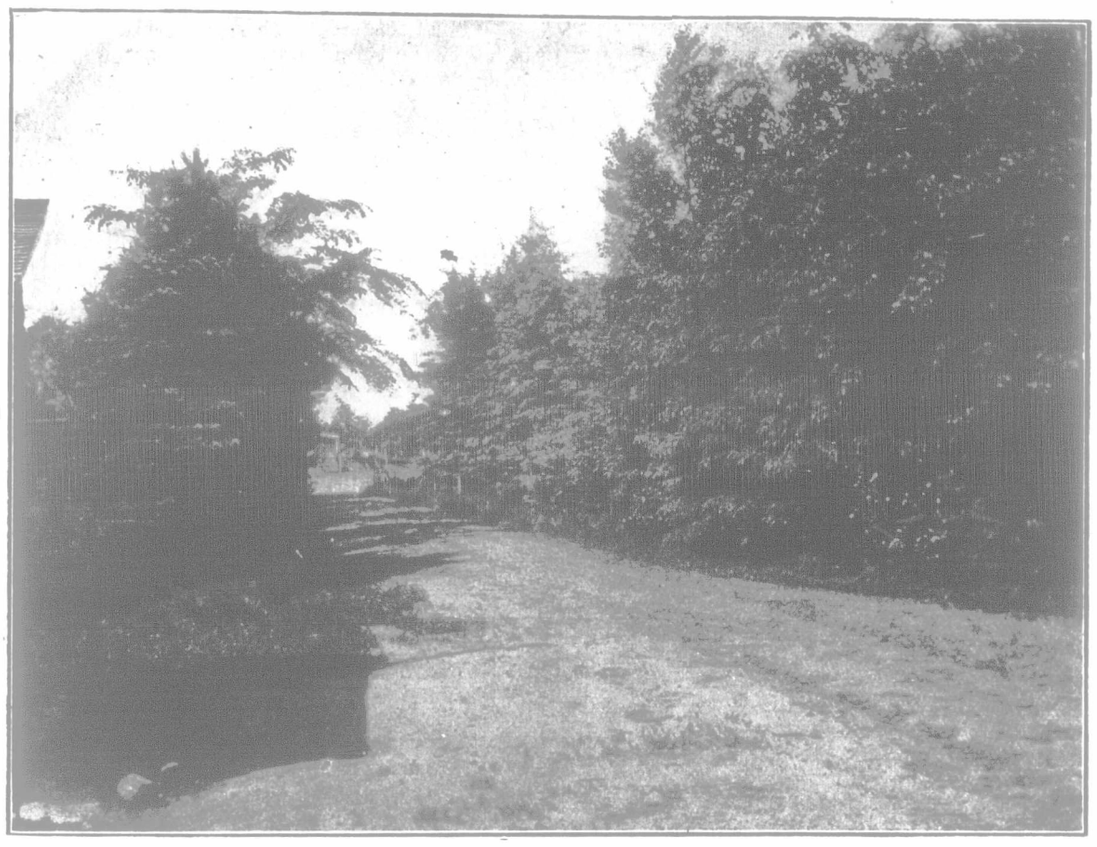
Too Much Rape for Pigs.

"I had a lot of small pigs and was feeding them on wheat until a patch of rape was ready for them. When it was large enough to turn the pigs into it I put them on and since they have become scabby. Their skins seem to be tight and harsh. What is the cause and the cure?"

The trouble with these pigs is that they are getting too much rape and were given too sudden a change. The cure is to keep them off the rape for a good part of each day and let them have a little grain and grass. Even this may not entirely cure them, as their systems have become disordered. This should serve as an example to our readers of the evil of sudden changes in feeds. It is a common complaint that rape acts this way upon pigs and white haired hogs usually are most affected. Some men have condemned rape entirely because of the fact theat their hogs went scabby on it, while others who let their stock on gradually and when the plants are dry, have fed it for years without injury.

* * *

The value of stock for the purpose of packing summer-fallow is being appreciated more this year than ever before. Much of the lack of growth of grain this season in the older parts of Manitoba has been due to the fact that the soil fails to hold as much moisture as formerly owing to the exhaustion of humus and to the loose open condition of the top layer of the soil which not being packed or trampled soon dries out and loses its moisture containing capacity. Farmers who have had their summer-fallows fenced and allowed stock to graze and tramp the soil into a compact condition have less complaint to make of the shortness of straw and report many of their neighbors adopting the same plan. The change necessitates some expense in fencing, stabling, and the growing of fodder crops and tame hays, but it is the logical outcome of extensive wheat-growing.



THE LANE TO MAPLE GROVE—WALTER JAMES & SONS' STOCK FARM, ROSSER, MAN.
Maple, elm, spruce, willow and apple trees form the windbreak.

FARM

(Comments upon farming operations invited.)

Observations on Timothy.

I have a piece of new seeded timothy hay that I sowed with the crop last year. Some of the land had manure on it and is much better than the rest. What I sowed with barley is better than where I sowed with wheat, because it did not grow much until after the crop was cut. In fact, I could see very little then, and wherever the stooks stood on the ground very long it killed it completely.

To-day I noticed a piece on a neighbor's farm where last year he cut green oats, raked them into a winrow and left them for some time. The grass on this part is completely killed out. I do not think it would be safe to put manure on a new seeding, however, unless it were spread very thin.

Ochre River Mun., Man. D. E. C.

Quick Hay-Making.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Of the various seasons on the farm, I like hay time best. I think most people do; the smell of new mown hay always makes one feel better.

We generally put up from fifty to eighty tons of hay, mostly from slough and low places. It is what is commonly called Red-top and is a first class hay when properly cured. It should be cut soon after blossoming, as it is at its best at that time.

The sooner wild hay can be stacked after it is cut, the better. We generally stack it just as soon as it will rake well, and in ordinary haying weather it will stack in thirty hours. We cut it one day, and then rake it up and stack it the next day. Of course at this time a very little wet will make it unfit to stack. I have known a good heavy dew cause mustiness when stacked from the winrow in the morning.

To save time and labor, we always stack in the field with the "buck pole". Two planks 2"x10"-x14'. Make a good pole and one that will stand more strain that a 4"x10"x14' if well sipked together. With a team hitched on each end of the pole, by a ten foot chain or rope, we have shoved as much as eight or ten hundred of hay.

Several loads with the pole pushed in close together is the way we always start a stack. Then by taking three or four planks 2"x10"x14' a few loads can be shoved up on top. Most of the stack can be built this way with very little pitching. Of course the ground has to be raked again after the pole, and some object to using the pole on this account, claiming that much dirt is raked up, but on ground that is cut year after year there is no dirt to rake up. The rakings from the pole, are usually about enough to top out the stack. It is a simple matter to top a stack of wild hay so as to turn water because is it generally fine, and of medium length. I like the prairie hay for feed, but I believe that the same land sown to some of the tame grasses, would give two or three times the amount of feed to the acre.

The tame hays are a little more difficult to handle than prairie hay perhaps, but I can believe it would pay well to plow up our hay lands and sow to tame grass. Many farmers are seeding their older fields, that are begining to get run out, to brome grass and rye grass with fairly good success. More is being sown every year, and, I think that in a few years more tame hay will be fed around here than wild hay.

H. N. THOMPSON.

Sourisford, Man.

Where are the Light Motors?

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I was much interested in the article in your July 17th number on light agricultural motors. I have been wanting to get something of the kind for years and hoped that the removal of the duty on alcohol for power purposes would have stimulated the manufacturers to have turned out a motor that would have used alcohol for fuel. I would like to know if there are any agricultural motors at work in Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

Man. J. C. F.

[We don't know of any doing satisfactory work. If any of our readers do we should be glad to hear of it.—Ed.]