

LIVE STOCK.

A TIMELY WARNING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Words fail to convey my high appreciation of your able editorial and timely warning to the Shorthorn breeders of Canada. It demands the attention of every man who has the true interests of the Shorthorn breed at heart. Not only so, but, as you so well outline, now that the dual-purpose characteristics of Canadian Shorthorns are almost obliterated, what is to take her place at the stanchions of the general farmer? It is certainly high time that the breeders of the red, white and roans had, in this respect, determined to retrace their steps, and more forcibly emphasize the utility characteristics of their breed.

As you say, almost every aged or middle-aged reader can recall the Shorthorn cows of years ago which filled our milk pails to overflowing, and in a remarkably short time fleshed up into excellent beef form when dry. These recollections are so vividly impressed that many a farmer longs to see those desirable features of the breed manifest themselves again.

Shorthorn breeders should begin at once to make apparent the reputation and strength which is still exhibited in some few herds in this country, and very largely in the pedigreed and unpedigreed Shorthorns throughout Great Britain, and which should no longer be a matter of guesswork, but a plain, well-recognized, profitable fact.

It involves, of course, a good deal of labor and a wide departure from the easy-going methods that have attended generally our handling of Shorthorn cattle in this country. We must milk and weigh and test throughout the period of lactation of our cows. Calves must either be raised by hand, or double up on other cows, and their dams steadily and persistently milked. The production of milk is a function which, however strong it may be, if allowed to remain latent by disuse, gradually disappears. This is especially true of the heifer's first calf. In every such case the calf should be taken away from its mother, and the young cow carefully and persistently milked as long as possible, so as to develop the udder and persistent milk production.

Go to the Birkley estates of Lord Fitzharding, near Bristol, in England, and what do we find? Milking Shorthorns galore! Let the manager, Mr. James Peter, tell his own tale, as he does to Mr. Joseph Wing: "A cow must have milk, or else she is not a cow; and it is very much in the way she is treated when young. Milk is secreted from the blood, and if the arteries are clogged with fat while she is a heifer, she can never become as good a milker as she should. If she is not milked, she will never develop as she should. Milk in a Shorthorn is essential, and is daily becoming more important in our land. Perhaps the Argentine trade does not care so much about it, but the cows that stay at home must have it to be profitable. We have many, very many, fine, registered cows that give a lot of milk. Nearly all our dairies are filled with Shorthorn cows, and there is no trouble in finding plenty of registered milking Shorthorns. Out of these same cows we get splendid feeding steers, and some excellent tops. So it is sure that, whatever is true of other lands, here the dual-purpose cow exists. In truth, she is almost the only cow that does exist?" And what does Mr. Joseph Wing say about those cows? "Before I came here, I feared that when I saw milking Shorthorns they

would not have beauty. I wish any reader could only see those cows. Great, splendid cows, all with good colors—reds, roans and whites—and with good horns, all carrying a lot of flesh—maybe too much. But they are every one in dairy use. I visited a neighbor, with forty cows, grand milkers all of them, and only one or two of them were to be criticised on the score of looks. Some of them were inexpressibly sweet and feminine. The fact is that a milking Shorthorn is a more beautiful cow than one that is too much on the beef order, for she has a sweeter head, neck and look."

Go to Lord Rothschild's estate, and there, on the rich pasture-lands, we see that, as a general-purpose cow, in company with the Red Polls and Jerseys, the Shorthorns shine again. Go, again, to the Mill Craig Shorthorns of Mr. John Ross, who very recently judged the Shorthorns at the International and our Winter Fair, situated near Cromarty, in Scotland, the birthplace of the great Hugh Miller, and we find Shorthorns giving six gallons of milk per day. Mr. Ross says, "We must have milk, and the Shorthorn is a milking beast."

It has been too often customary, in this country, to view the milking or dual-purpose Shorthorn as a species of myth—something shadowy and ill-defined, existing only beyond the seas, if anywhere. Proof enough can be presented that such Shorthorns do exist; that they are thoroughly practical cattle, and as such are held in high esteem in Britain.

Although, in this country, the Shorthorns lately have generally been looked upon as a purely beef breed, yet convincing demonstrations of their value for milk production have been made from time to time. And now, with the great merit of the dual-purpose Shorthorn in England, is it not time that more attention was being paid to the subject in this, our Canadian home? If so, let the Canadian Shorthorn world nobly respond to the timely and inspiring call of "The Farmer's Advocate."

THOS. McMILLAN.
Huron Co., Ont.

OUR SHORTHORNS USED TO BE GOOD MILKERS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The editorial, "Considerations for Shorthorn Breeders," touches some very vital problems in connection with the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association. Our own experience in buying grade cows, some fifteen years ago, was that we could get good cows at reasonable prices, in the vicinity of Guelph, having one or more crosses of Shorthorn blood in them, and they proved very satisfactory in our dairy. In recent years we have found it impossible to buy satisfactory Shorthorn grade cows for dairy purposes, which indicates a falling off in this class of cattle among our Shorthorn breeders. We think this is a mistake, because there are many sections of Ontario where they wish to combine beef-raising and sending cream to the creamery, where the dairy Shorthorn would fill a very important place. If the dairy Shorthorn of England can be transplanted to Canada, and produce here the quantities of milk and butter which she produces in the motherland, it would certainly be a very wise move. I have, personally, seen some excellent herds of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle in England.

I remember, in connection with the Midland Dairy School and Agricultural College, they had a herd of red Shorthorn dairy cows that were exceedingly fine animals to look at, and the ma-

ture cows had records from 8,000 to 12,000 lbs. of milk per year. They had herds of yearling and two-year-old heifers coming on to take the places of the mature cows, which were equally promising.

The Head of the Institution, Prof. Blackshaw, informed me that they found the Shorthorn cows very suitable for their work in the Dairy School, and for the production of milk used in cheese and butter making. With such a herd as this as an ideal for breeders of dairy Shorthorn cattle in Canada, I see no reason why these animals should not prove a profitable investment for any breeder. They would also find a ready sale for both males and females among the dairymen to whom we have referred.

O. A. C.

H. H. DEAN.
Professor of Dairying.

PROFESSOR DAY REPLIES TO CRITICS.

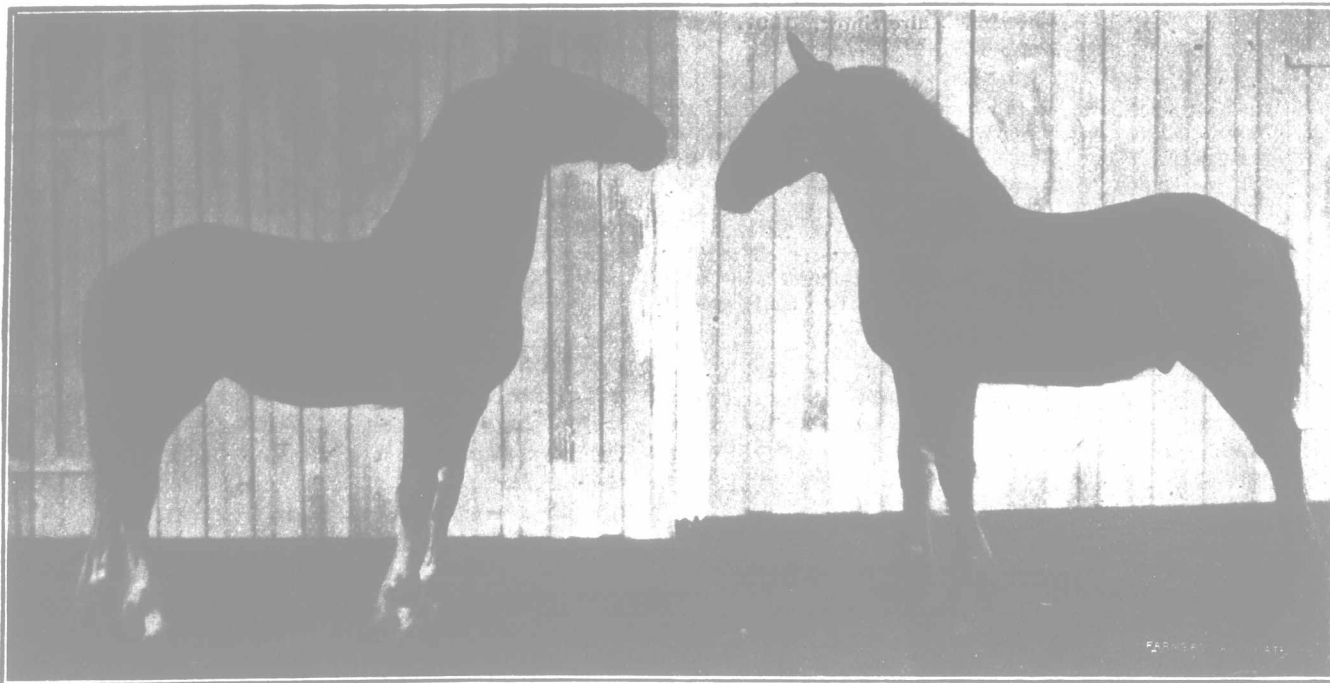
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In "The Farmer's Advocate" of December 26th, J. C. T. took me to task on the hog question. His statements were so manifestly unfair that I did not think it worth while to reply, believing that any fair-minded person who read my article would be able to see the unfairness of J. C. T.'s letter. However, I see that another modest contributor, signing himself J. G., comes forward in "The Farmer's Advocate" of January 9th, endorses all that J. C. T. has said, and adds a few little jabs on his own account. I dislike to encroach upon your valuable space, but feel that I should at least make an attempt to clear up a few points which have apparently been misunderstood.

Both J. C. T. and J. G. apparently have little use for experimental work conducted here. I shall not go into a discussion of this phase of the matter, but would call their attention to a statement in my article which they have apparently overlooked. It reads as follows: "Part of the hogs were fed at the College, and part were fed by farmers in different parts of the Province." Had I known that our own experiments would be open to criticism, I should have made it clear that over two-thirds of the hogs from which the offending figures were obtained were fed by hard-headed, intelligent farmers in different parts of the Province, and I must further confess that the average results obtained by these farmers were a little more favorable to the hog as a money-maker than were our own experiments. I may add, further, that two experiments reported upon by farmers, and one of our own lots of pigs which showed what I thought were abnormally cheap gains, were not included in the general average, whereas several lots which I thought showed abnormally expensive gains were allowed to go into the average. The three cheap lots were the only ones omitted.

J. C. T. further accuses me of overestimating the amount of feed in farmers' granaries. I wish this gentleman would read my article again and point out to me where I made any claim that farmers' granaries were full. Among other things, I made the following statements: "Doubtless there are some farmers who are forced to sell their pigs through sheer necessity. . . . The farmer with feed in his bins has need to do some careful calculating before deciding to throw away his pigs." In another place I made the following statement: "Every farmer must be his own judge as to what is the best course for him to pursue, and the farmer who finds himself compelled to sacrifice his stock is deserving of sympathy; but let those with feed on hand take very careful counsel with themselves, and thoroughly consider all the features of the situation before deciding upon a line of action." To satisfy some slight curiosity, I should like Mr. T. to tell the readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" what satisfaction he derives from misrepresenting my statements, and construing them to mean that farmers had generally plenty of feed. Can he not see, if his spectacles are not too much clouded with prejudice, that the article in question was addressed especially to the man who HAD feed, NOT to the man who was short of feed. I admitted that there were men who might be forced to sacrifice their stock, and I was simply urging those who were more fortunately situated, and who were not compelled to sacrifice their stock, to give their less-fortunate brothers a chance by refraining from throwing their stock upon an already gutted market.

But Mr. G. goes a little further than Mr. T., and says, among other things, "There would be no gluts, and the packers and Prof. D. would not dictate." If Mr. G. will please point out where I have at any time attempted to dictate to the farmers, or where I have attempted to work in the interests of the packers, except where the interests of both farmers and packers were identical, then I shall most cheerfully resign my present posi-



Foals of 1907.

Sired by the imported Clydesdale stallion, Colston Leader [5188] (12532). Owned by Wm. Mossop, St. Mary's, Ont. (See "Gossip," page 137.)