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The Science of Feeding.

The wonderful perfection of the stock at the Smithfield Show, says the Agricultural Gazette, of England, indicates the march of science in its applications to agriculture. The improvement has been achieved through a long series of years, and may not be marked this year in contrast with the immediate past, but it exists, notwithstanding. The various breeds have been gradually levelled up to a high and uniform standard, and younger classes now predominate. There is less patchiness and gaudiness, owing to the exclusion of older animals, and the gradual improvement of the breeds. Outside criticism has not been without effect, and early maturity and greater utility of form are more apparent. The science of feeding is better understood, although direct chemical knowledge may be wanting in those directly concerned in bringing out the animals. Still, chemistry is brought to bear upon feeding in many ways. It is evident in the preparation of calf meals and cakes of various kinds, as well as in the blending of foods by the master mind. It is difficult to apportion the praise between the direct servitor and the controlling mind of the manager, but both are necessary. The selection of the animals fitted for training, the accommodation and appliances for carrying on the process, the selection of foods, and careful supervision, belong to the domain of the master; while the supplying of the food, the adjustment of the quantity to the appetite, and the direct care and comfort of the animal, must depend upon the man. This is an excellent combination of science with practice, although it may not take the form of actual chemical knowledge. It is, however, certain that chemistry and physiology must be at the base of successful competition, and the researches conducted on the Continent, in America, and in this country, upon the nutrition of animals, no doubt insensibly filter downwards from the physiological laboratories to the feeding sheds. Even those who regard the feeding of animals as essentially a practical work, must allow that the axioms of successful feeding rest upon a scientific basis.

Give a Name to the Farm as Well as Live Stock.

The breeder of pure-bred stock is practically forced to name his animals for registration purposes, and as much care as possible should be exercised in choosing a word label for recorded animals. Occasionally an animal of mediocre standing is labelled by its fond owner with a name belonging to a more famous animal. We believe such is thoughtlessly done, and not with a view to mislead, but, unfortunately, it does have the latter effect in some cases. If a name made famous by another animal is to be used, there should be either a distinctive prefix or affix; the former might be the name of the farm or locality, the latter a number, name or word, so that no possible confusion could arise. It should also be borne in mind that it is not advisable or desirable to use lengthy names for animals, such as are used in royal families; there are limits to which herdbook registrars may go. These remarks are prompted largely by the use of a name, made famous in show circles in Canada for an animal by a firm neither owning that famous animal nor connected with the owners, and while experts may detect the difference readily, the names are exactly similar, and in course of a few years it will be hard for persons reading a show or sale report to distinguish the progeny of one animal from that of the other; consequently, injustice may be done, not only both sires, but their respective owners, when such was not the intention. We believe that where a name is made famous, either in the show-ring or at the stud, or both, that the owner's right to the appellation should be respected as much as a copyright of a book, a painting, or piece of music. We believe it would be a good move on the part of record associations to refuse names exactly similar, applied to other animals. Such a procedure is now followed, we believe, by some, but it would be a good idea to apply the rule to all record associations, and thus tend to prevent the possibility of animals masquerading under colors that do not belong to them. It is not a hard thing to avoid if the indexes of the particular herdbook or studbook is studied.

The stock-breeder or farmer who truly loves his home and farm will endeavor to secure a suitable name for that farm. Such a name may indicate a distinctive feature of the farm, such, for example, The Elms, Lakeview, or it may indicate the soil character or other features—Claylands, Sandlands, or some old family name or idea, such as Belvoir, Oak Lodge, Forest Home, Woodmere, etc. The breeder of pure-breds cannot afford to do without such a name, which, applied to his farm and live stock, at once gives its distinction in his advertising, and when seen in print or mentioned, at once brings to the mind of the reader the particular farm, its owner and its live stock. It is, therefore, good tactics to select a suitable euphonious name for one's farm and use it for the live stock as a prefix. It is doubt-

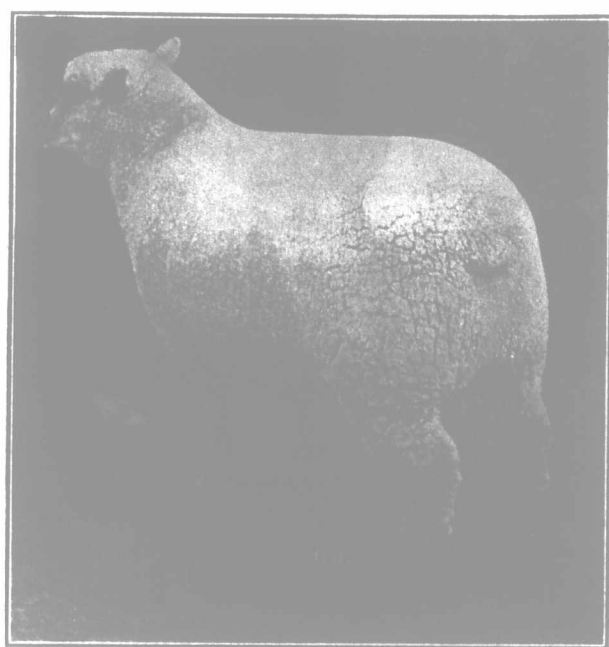
ful, however, if the farm name will be used for the owner, as is so frequently the case in Scotland, where one hears men spoken of as Kinellar (S. Campbell, Jr.), Auchronie (Alex. Watson), Collynie (Wm. Duthie), Netherhall (Montgomerys), Pitlivie (Baillie Taylor), and others, the names used being those of their respective farms.

United States Cattle in Bond.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

With further reference to your letter of the 2nd inst., respecting American cattle bonded at the Western Cattle Market, Toronto, I am informed that there have been only two classes of cattle entered at this port for some years past, viz., cattle brought in for exhibition purposes, and those imported for the improvement of stock. They would arrive under customs manifest, and those entered for exhibition would be re-exported under customs manifest. A record is kept at this port of the cattle warehoused for exhibition. This Department keeps a record of the number entered free for the improvement of stock. There would be no record kept by the customs at Toronto in respect of American cattle (if any) passing through that city in transit for exportation.

JOHN McDUGALL,
Commissioner of Customs.



Southdown Wether Lamb

Winner of grand championship as best lamb any breed, grade or cross, International Show, Chicago, 1905. Exhibited by Sir Geo. Drummond, Beaconsfield, Que.

THE FARM.

How to Get a Catch of Clover and a Crop of Fall Wheat.

My experience has been, when I had a dirty field to start with, it is best to plow soon after harvest, then roll, harrow and cultivate, in the order named. Put the manure out on the field in the winter time, as by so doing the cost of hauling is less, and it leaves more time for other work in the busy season. In the spring and early summer prepare the field for a crop of rape, which, at the present price of beef cattle and hogs, will prove profitable. Plow in the fall, after rape is eaten off. The next spring sow with barley and seed down with clover and timothy, or clover and any other grasses preferred, and there will be no need to trouble about "getting a catch."

The next year take off a crop of hay. The second year, instead of keeping the field for hay, pasture it until about July, then plow the field, and after rolling, harrow and cultivate as often as possible, until the time for sowing fall wheat. In this locality I prefer sowing the wheat about August 21st, and when so done I have never missed a crop.

Peel Co., Ont.

E. E. W.

Forest Preservation in Nova Scotia.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The conditions in many parts of Nova Scotia are such that very soon we too will be confronted with the problem of the preservation of our woodlands. I am heartily in sympathy with the proposal to exempt woodlands from taxation, for this reason, that the owner of a large tract of woodland, while it is kept as such, is, in some measure, a benefactor to his country, by preserving the springs and streams, and by inducing a more uniform and regular rainfall for his section of country. He is not deriving any income whatever from the most of this tract of woodland, consequently I do not believe he should be taxed for it; or, at least, such woodlands up to a certain specified percentage of the area held by him. Fire, as well as the axe, has made great destruction with our forests, and this also should be safeguarded by governmental action.

King's Co., N. S.

JOHN DONALDSON.

The Farm-labor Problem Goes Back to the Schools.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There are two questions that have agitated the better class of the farming community of New Brunswick for years, more than anything I can think of. They are want of sufficient barnyard manure to keep up the humus in the soil, and the exodus of the people from the farm—the greater part from the country. This last makes labor scarce, and breaks up settlements, so that it is hard for those left to keep up roads, schools and churches, and whatever goes to the making of society. The best solution of the first question we had from Ontario, viz., short rotation of crops, sowing plenty of clover, and turning under the aftermath. To the other we have got no practical answer so far.

In all the newer parts of the Province we are nearly all in a state of transition, from lumbermen to farmers. Hay and oats are the principal crops, which are generally sold for export or to the lumber camps. Few keep much stock, and such as is kept receives little care or attention. Such farming doesn't pay for any length of time, as it soon exhausts the soil; nor does it give employment the year round. The older people are generally complaining that farming doesn't pay, and the young have to go in search of employment, and seldom return to settle at home. Of those who have decided to farm, hundreds have left the upper St. John counties and gone over into the State of Maine to grow potatoes; the only inducement being the larger market—soil and climate being the same as with us. Dairymen have the idea they must go to a corn country; a few go West to grow wheat; but the great majority go to the towns, generally over the lines. I do not know of a boy who became at all expert with the pen and at figures who did not go straight for the town, except such as had a home where good horses and other good stock were kept, and cared for. But there are so many farms with poor stock upon them; nothing, in fact, the boys could be expected to take an interest in or be proud of. It is said the boy is the father of the man, but his environment has much to do with the making of him. Parents are likely to influence their children more than anyone else. A father who is a successful farmer, and is reasonable with them, most of his boys are likely to stick to the farm. When both parents dignify their calling, their children will be proud to follow in their steps; but when the surroundings of the boys have so much that is prejudicial to farm life in them, what else can be expected than just what is happening, that the boys leave it so soon as they find a chance.

Institute meetings, dairy schools and agricultural colleges do good to men who take an interest in such means of education, and have a bent in that direction already; but this affects only the boys of those so influenced, leaving entirely the great majority of our young people; for, after all, it is but a few that are reached by such means. If something is not done for our boys before they are fit to go to College, few of them will ever reach it. It is only as a twig the tree can be bent.

When parents show such distaste of the farm, the common school cannot be expected to make farmers of our boys; still, I think more might be done in that direction than is being done under the present methods, seeing it is for the training of an almost entirely agricultural population.

The common school starts with the idea that the principal trainers of youth are the parents, and that the chief business of the school is to teach how to read, correspond and keep accounts. This being the only training many receive, fitting them to act for themselves tends towards a clerkship of some sort.

The farmer's boy needs all the business training the common school can give him, but the boy destined to be a farmer should be trained in the study and understanding of the ways of nature from his earliest years, and if such training cannot be had at his home—as we can see it often cannot be—an effort should be made to have it supplied, as far as possible, at the common school. How this can best be done will be for men better qualified than the writer to say. I shall, however, make a few suggestions, which I expect will bring something better from "The Farmer's Advocate" (which is doing a great educational work in the farm homes of Canada, where it pays its weekly visit), or any of its readers who may have given thought to this question. There has been much talk of nature study amongst educational authorities, but it has not come to much so far in the common school; although this would be a commencement in the right direction. The teachers of all common schools in country districts should have a thorough understanding of plant life; should have a knowledge of the component parts and qualities of the various soils; should know by sight and be able to describe the habit and character of at least every bad weed in the Province, as well as of all birds and insects that affect the farmer for good or evil.

I think that, when weather permits, these and kindred subjects could be taught to more advantage, and the subject made more interesting to the pupils, if an hour or more of the school session were spent on the school grounds, on the roadside, and in the fields, where practical lessons could be given, and in the collection of such plants, weeds, insects, soils and rocks as are to be found in the neighborhood; and I think that the Government would be justified, considering our position as an agricultural province, in giving an extra provincial grant to such teachers as qualify for such