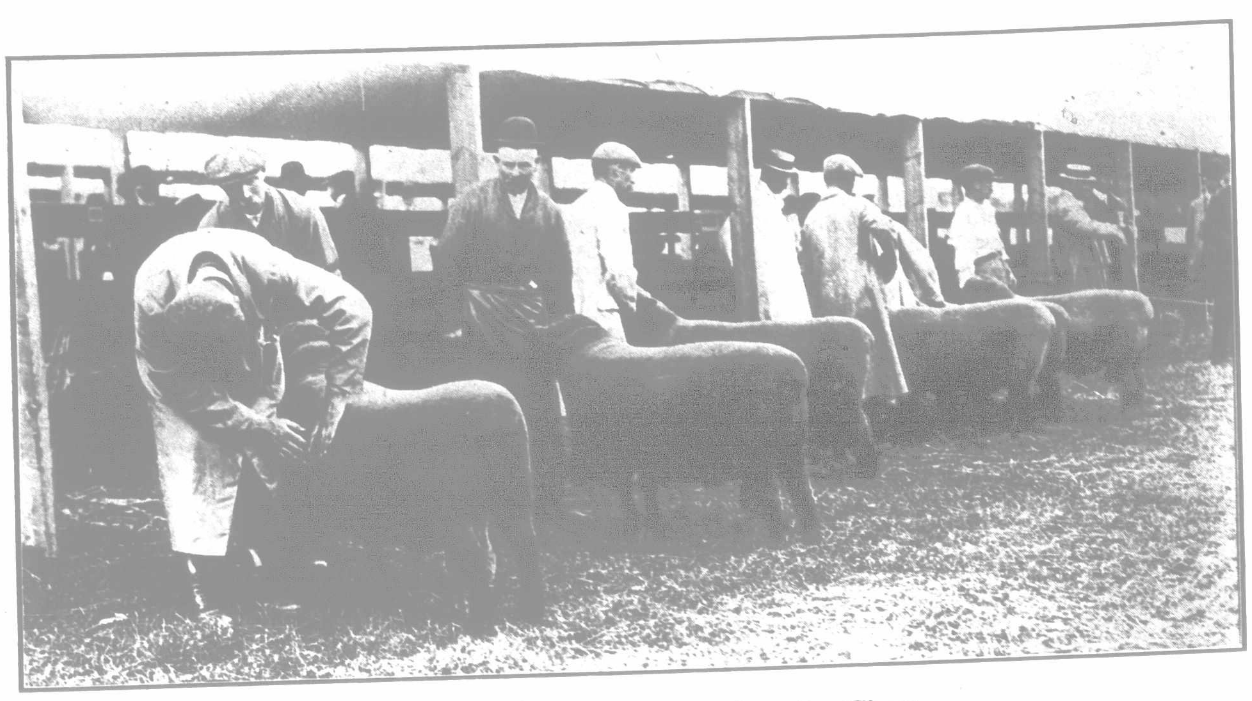


Judging Hampshires at Royal Counties Show.

ideal conditions for both corn and clover production on practically every farm east of Belleville, and near-at-hand markets, it is impossible that any other line of live-stock farming should hope to rival, let alone supersede this undoubtedly profitable and already well-established industry. The possibilities of dairying in Eastern Ontario are, however, so great that her farmers may be said to be making merely a tentative effort to date. The future looms large for this industry here.

Pork production, with poultry, the complements of dairying, are not yet so popular as they should be, and as they are likely to be in the not distant future. The market for pork and poultry products is invariably good in this part of Canada. The proximity of Montreal, and its adjoining centers of manufacturing activity, to say nothing of its being the chief port of the country, assures a never-failing and an ever-improving market for all superior products in these lines. Case after case could be cited where dairy farmers, pork-producers and poultrymen have reaped golden harvests in this fertile district. Some unfortunates have fallen by the way, but analysis shows, not the line of operation, but the operators, to have been at fault.

A line of work that has fallen off of recent years is sheep-breeding. At present there seems to be a slight reawakening to the possibilities in this line, for possibilities there really are. Not a few men report excellent return from small flocks in these eastern counties, and there are large areas where they would most certainly pay better than any other line. A phase of the sheep industry that needs development, or, rather, I should say, needs inception, is the feeding of lambs through the winter for the spring trade, rather than the common and almost invariable practice of selling them off in the early fall, when there is usually a glut, and prices rule low. The writer has had some experience in this line in Eastern Ontario, and has found the same to be exceedingly profitable, involving very little work, and giving most excellent returns for feed consumed. The Montreal, Ottawa and Boston markets make this line one of the very surest and most highly profitable methods of disposing of feed our farmers could undertake, if they could be persuaded to make the venture.

Beef production is not likely to assume any great importance as an industry here, for the reason that the grazing season, being comparatively short, more stall-feeding is entailed, and the intermingling of dairy sires with beef herds, and vice versa, does not seem to be conducive to very good results, either financially or otherwise. Good beef, however, can be produced cheaply and profitably in Eastern Ontario where the right thing is done.

Horse-breeding is in bad shape at present in this part of Ontario, and as to the future, I would not venture an opinion. Good prices are, however, always obtainable for even a half-good horse.

HEAVY DRAFT HORSES INVITING.

J. HERBERT SMITH, Toronto, Ont.—Not being conversant with any of the stock lines you mention outside of horses, and not being a breeder of horses, but a commission dealer only, I could not possibly say which line of stock can be kept to the best advantage, but should think conditions would vary considerably, according to the lay of pasture lands, etc., for the different kinds of stock raised. However, I may say that horses appeal to me as being about as good an investment as a man could go into to make large profits just now, especially heavy drafts or coach horses. At the prevailing prices of and the demand for heavy drafts at this season of the year, it looks as though prices would be materially higher by spring. Good, sound horses, from four to nine years of age, and weighing from 1,350 to 1,550 pounds, are selling on the market to-day from $200.00 to $250.00 per head, and horses from 1,600 to 1,700 pounds at from $250.00 to $300.00 per head.

Here is an example of why I claim there is big money in heavy horses. A farmer raises a steer, which is well fed and gets all the tidbits and care possible until he is fit to market; say as a four-year-old. When marketed the breeder gets from $90.00 to $110.00, and claims he is making money. On the other hand, he raises a draft colt, which at two years old is generally broken to harness, and earns his feed every day, and is turned out to a straw stack to feed, and as a four-year-old the breeder looks to get from $250.00 to $275.00 for him if sound. Even though he has a slight blemish, he will sell for more than the steer by fifty per cent., and then claims he is losing money on the horse. The difficulty is that heavy-draft horses are becoming scarcer every year on account of the big demand from the North-west Provinces, and also from the fact that the stallions and brood mares being imported into Canada at the present time are mostly under size, as importers are all looking for fine bone and feather that will make prizewinners, and are forgetting the tops.

It is high time the Ontario Government Department of Agriculture took steps to create a standard weight and size of stallions for the different breeds of horses, and keep Ontario still at the head as the banner live-stock breeding Province of the Dominion.

IMPROVED DAIRY CATTLE.

GEO. RICE, Oxford Co., Ont.—It is fortunate for the future welfare of the country that in the general advance in prices for the product of the farm, that the prices for animal products have advanced as well as the price of grain. If it had not been so, the temptation to go out of stock and sell grain might be too strong for many to resist.

To sell the grain means quicker money and less labor, but it also means reducing the fertility of the farms, which we cannot afford to do. As a matter of fact, the number of any kind of animals on our farms is not now as large as it should be, and the consequence is prices are good because the supply is small.

For the last 25 years there have been cautious men, fearful to go into breeding more stock for fear there would be over-production, and the bottom will fall out, and yet no such thing has occurred, but there is a marked shortage of almost all kinds of stock. Examining this point, what reason has anyone to suppose there will be over-production? Horses, cattle and other stock increase singly, or by pairs rarely, and cannot increase much faster than the human population.

As far as cattle are concerned, then, product is so much in demand that there must be a continued shortage for many years. That is the view I always took of it, and backed my opinion with my money, and came out all right, whilst the over-cautious do not realize as much as they should, as they are too fearful. Really, I cannot see anything but an increased demand for all kinds of stock, and as people generally have a predilection for some class of stock—beef, dairy, or something else—would advise going into that stock that the individual likes best. Prices for meat will, no doubt, continue high, and that is what is most needed to make the business profitable.

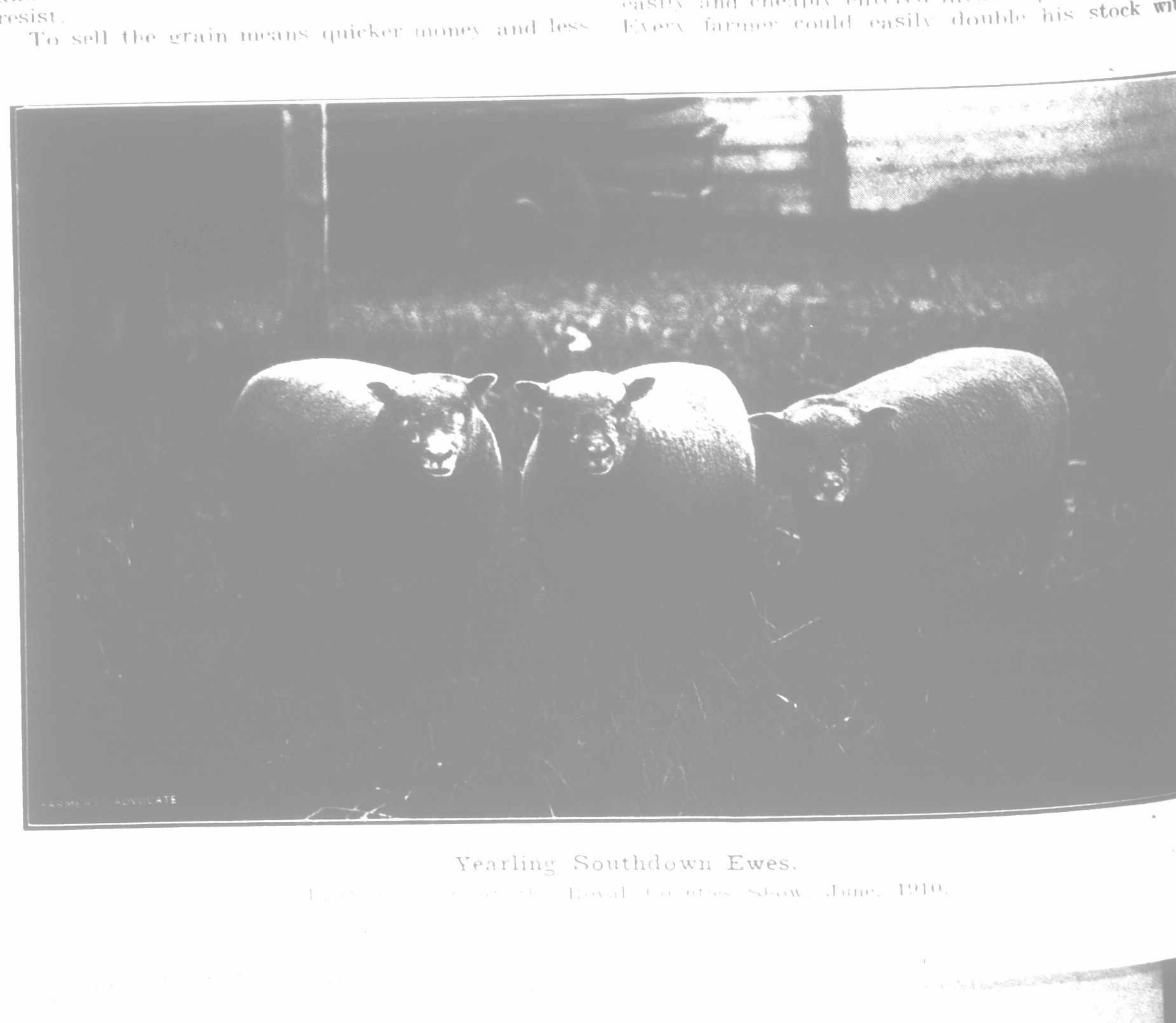
I consider that dairying offers even better opportunities than in the past, although the price of cheese has not advanced. The product of the dairy is advancing in price in other lines, such as butter and milk, and the market is being extended greatly by the condensers; some of their products going nearly to, if not to, the north pole, and some to the equator. Then, again, cost of production can be kept down by the use of the silo. Silage, roots and alfalfa give cheap and suitable feed, which also aids in developing into larger production; and no line of stock offers such room for development of the individual animal as the dairy cow. Her increase can easily be doubled and trebled by better care and breeding, and this increase must come by breeding, and offers a certain and sure future for pure-bred dairy stock. There are many good herds of dairy cows, giving on an average of from 6,000 to 10,000 lbs. milk each yearly. In almost every case this has been brought about by the use of a pure-bred dairy sire, and people are awakening to the fact. It does not pay to raise the get of a scrub sire.

Breeders of pure-bred dairy stock have something really substantial back of them; they are not breeding pet stock; the demand is not caused from fad or fashion, but their cows have an intrinsic value, showing records of 10,000, 15,000, 23,000 lbs. of milk yearly.

This is no myth about such work. People are awakening to the fact that high production is profitable, and within the reach of everyone who will do a few things. The increase so far has been rather disheartening, but I look for a greater increase in the average production of the dairy cow in the next five years than there has been in the past twenty-five years. The seed that has been sown will show in results very soon.

POULTRY AND DAIRY CATTLE.

FOYSTON BROS., Simcoe Co., Ont.—We would say in answer to your first question, that the most promising line of husbandry, because so easily and cheaply entered into, is poultry-keeping. Every farmer could easily double his stock with-



Yearling Southdown Ewes.

[illegible] Royal Counties Show, June, 1910.