

Breed Societies and Their Work.

No movement connected with agriculture has been more remarkable in its success and rapid expansion than the formation and development of Live-stock Breed Societies. It is almost incredible that little more than thirty years ago there was not a single organization of the kind in existence in Great Britain, while not less noteworthy is the fact that the number of societies devoted to promoting the interests of our breeds of cattle, horses, sheep and pigs, now in operation, exceeds sixty, comprising thirteen for horses, twenty for cattle, thirty-five for sheep, and five for pigs. It is certainly safe to claim that there has been nothing to resemble this growth among all the institutions in connection with agriculture in the United Kingdom. It used to be said that farmers could not combine for any specific object. The progress of the Breed Societies emphatically proves that at least those landowners and farmers who are breeders of live stock can and have entered into association for the promotion of their mutual interests with celerity and efficiency, for in every case the work of the Breed Societies has been highly beneficial. The modern improvement of the several varieties and the extension of the trade are largely attributable to their well-directed efforts.—[Live-stock Journal.]

Smithfield Block Test.

The pen of three yearling Lincoln wethers, exhibited at the late Smithfield Club Show by Messrs. S. E. Dean & Sons, and which were illustrated in "The Farmer's Advocate" of Jan. 17th, made an excellent showing in the Killing Contest, notwithstanding their phenomenal live weight, which, at 22 months and 23 days, averaged 380 pounds each, a daily gain from birth of 0.55 pounds, their average weight of dressed carcass being 243 pounds; average percentage of carcass to gross live weight, 63.78, and the butcher reported that they cut up wonderfully well. The third-prize pen of three yearling Leicester wethers, shown by Mrs. Herrick, whose average live weight at twenty months was 301 pounds, a daily gain of live weight of 0.50 lbs., killed out with a percentage of 66.89. The butcher said they were very fat and slight of meat. Mr. W. T. Garne's second-prize pen of yearling Cotswold wethers, weighing alive, at 20 months and 21 days, an average of 300 pounds, showed a percentage of dressed carcass of 76.33, and the butcher reported that he never saw sheep of this breed die better than these; they had a fair amount of meat in them for large sheep, but were full of suet, and carried a lot of fat on rumps. The third-prize pen of Southdown yearling wethers, shown by the King, weighed, at 21 months, an average of 202 pounds; daily gain, 0.32 pounds; average dressed weight, 143 pounds, or 70.79 per cent. The butcher reported that they died remarkably well, with extraordinary kidneys. No pure-bred yearlings of the other Down breeds were in the block test.

Pool County's Dog Tax.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Will you allow me space in your valuable paper to say a few words about the protection of sheep from dogs? It seems to me that neither Mr. McCaig nor Mr. Campbell go far enough in their views on this matter. Now, sir, as one man says, tax every dog \$1.00, but every dog over one owned by one man or at one home tax \$5.00. I think this is likely to do away with many sheep dogs. I do not think that a well-bred Collie dog is so apt to kill or worry sheep as the half-starved mongrels, of which so many are seen in villages and towns. Also, in the country we find a great many dogs that are part hound, part bull and part collie or bird-dog blood, as the case may be. Would it not be better for the whole farming community if the county council would control all dog tax, and then pay for the damage done to sheep? Nearly one-quarter of the dogs are owned in towns and villages, and not a cent of their tax goes towards paying for the damage done to country sheep.

Is it a just law as it stands at the present time? A man has a dog that goes out and kills his neighbor's sheep; if the dog is caught at it his owner has to pay full value for the sheep, so worried or killed, while if the dog is not known, the council pays two-thirds. Now, sir, if the said dog was never known to kill or worry sheep before, I think if the owner were to pay one-third, the council should pay the other two-thirds, as the owner is paying taxes on that dog for the general damages done by dogs. If the county council received all dog taxes, and kept that fund by itself, the town and village dogs would help pay for what damage they do. Take what has come under my observation in the Township of Woodhouse, County of Norfolk. The damage done to sheep in this township in 1906 was nearly \$400. Nearly three-quarters of this amount was done within one and one-half miles of the town of Simcoe, which is good ground for believing it was done by town dogs, but the

farmers had to pay the damages. If the county council controlled these taxes, the taxes on town dogs would help to pay for their ravages. Hoping to hear from others on this subject, I am, sir, a readers of "The Farmer's Advocate."

H. MISNER.

THE FARM.

Construction of Rural Telephones.

(Continued.—II.)

Brackets are made usually of oak, and have a thread on the upper end, upon which is fastened the glass insulator. Where only one or two wires are to be carried on the poles, brackets serve the purpose very satisfactorily. They should be at least 18 inches apart. The upper bracket should be 8 inches from the top of the pole, and the other 20 or 24 inches below it on the opposite side. Brackets should be nailed to the pole with one 6-inch and one 5-inch spike nail. The quickest way to erect a line is to do all the work on the poles, such as attaching brackets, etc., before the poles are set into the holes.

Every tenth pole should be equipped with a lightning-rod, made of No. 9 wire, stapled on the side of the pole with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch galvanized-iron staples. The wire should be carried to the top of the pole, and have two hand-turns under the bottom end of the pole. This precaution will protect the poles to a great extent from injury by lightning.

Where three or more wires are run on the same set of poles, cross-arms should be used. These cross-arms are made of pine, 3 x 4 in., and bored for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pins. Never use cross-arms with less than six pins. Have the spaces between the pins not less than one foot; a greater distance is

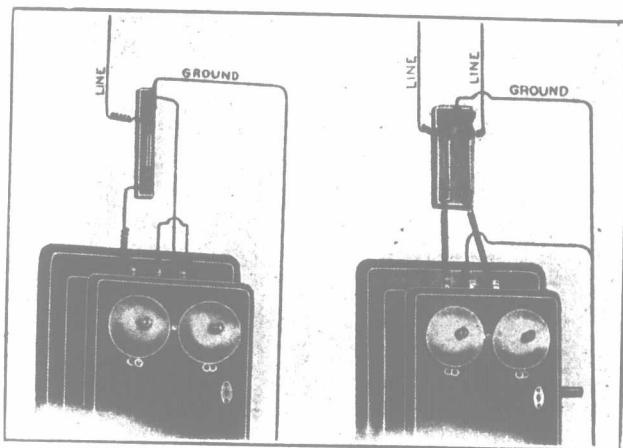


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

better. On lines where the distance between the poles are equal, the cross-arms should be placed on alternate sides of the poles.

Drawing Up and Tying Wires.—When a wire is drawn, you should first make sure that the head pole or end of line is properly guyed to prevent it from being pulled over. Both ends of the tie wire should pass under the line wire and make two and one-half complete turns. There is no way to overcome cross-talk on grounded lines where they are run for any distance side by side. By transposing metallic lines, cross-talk can be eliminated. You can always talk much farther than you can ring. All telephones upon one line must have ringers of the same resistance; this is imperative. This is the only way to secure satisfactory results. Only the most powerful instruments, with 1,600-ohm ringers, should be used where there are more than ten 'phones on a line. Ringers of 1,600-ohms resistance have been found by actual practice to be best suited for rural bridging party lines having from ten to twenty-five instruments thereon.

Connecting Telephones.—When the line is built, place the telephone on the wall as near the outside line wire as possible. Insulated copper wire should be used to run from the telephone to the line wire and to the ground. In single-wire grounded circuits avoid making the ground wire extending from the 'phone to the ground any longer than absolutely necessary. Always take the covering from the wire where it goes under the binding posts, and scrape the wire bright and clean. Screw tight the binding posts on the telephone and on the batteries, so that they will make good connections. Small saddle staples should be used to fasten the wires to the walls of the house. Never drive a staple over two wires together, and in driving staple do not injure covering of wire.

Lightning Arresters.—In order to protect telephones from discharges of lightning and from heavy discharges of atmospheric electricity, it is customary and usually necessary to intervene between the telephone and the main line some protective device in the nature of a fusible wire and a narrow air-gap between the line and the ground. This air-gap is formed by two pieces of block carbon, separated by a thin strip of perforated

mica. Figs. 4 and 5 show such a device properly installed on a ground return line or a metallic circuit.

The most prolific source of trouble on telephone lines is bad ground wires. The most common practice of making a good ground connection is to take a sharp rod, seven feet long by half an inch in diameter, having a hole about three inches from the sharpened end. Through this hole pass an end of a piece of line wire, and wind this wire around the rod from bottom to top, having two or three loose feet of wire left. Now drive the rod into the earth in some damp place. Then connect the covered wire from the middle post of the telephone to the ground wire attached to the ground rod. The conductivity of the earth being mainly due to the presence of moisture therein, it is absolutely necessary that the ground wire, or its rod or plate, should come in contact with the moist earth, which is damp continually and not for a few months in the year.

As all telephone instruments and lines are exposed to the action of the elements and to careless usage, so all telephone apparatus will occasionally have something the matter with it. Do not expect good service when the lines are grounded or crossed, and do not blame the telephone when the batteries are run down. Good dry batteries should last, with ordinary treatment, from six months to a year. On a new line the second set of batteries almost invariably lasts longer than the first set.

W. DOAN.

East Middlesex, Ont.

\$1,251.01 a Year at Farming.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been a subscriber to your valuable paper for several years, and often read with interest the cost of producing pork and beef on the farm as set forth by the different writers. I have none of this kind of figures to offer, but have the figures for the year 1906. On January 1st I took stock of all the goods on the farm, and they are as follows:

Six horses and colts.....	\$ 700.00
Twenty-five head cattle	730.00
Twenty pigs	170.00
Implements, wagons, sleighs, etc.....	679.00
Grain	388.25
Hay, straw, ensilage and feed	404.90
	\$3 067.15

My total expenses for the year:

Wages, taxes, threshing, etc.....	\$1,845.04
Stock bought during year.....	116.10
	\$1,961.14

My total sales amounted to \$2,702.20, and at the close of the year I have on hand:

Eight horse and colts	\$ 855.00
Twenty-eight head cattle	685.00
Twenty pigs	147.00
Grain	423.00
Hay, ensilage, roots and feed	818.10
Implements, wagons, etc.	649.00
	\$3,577.10

So, you see, my account stands thus:

To amount on hand, Jan. 1, 1906	\$3,067.15
Amount expended for year	1,845.04
Paid for stock	116.10
	\$5,028.29

To amount on hand Jan. 1, 1907.....	\$3,577.10
Cash receipts for year.....	2,702.20
	\$6,279.30

	5,028.29

Net profit	
	\$1,251.01

My farm is 195 acres, about 150 acres tillable, the rest in bush and pasture land. I live in the city, and just farm for fun, but when the dollars come along, as the figures show, it makes the fun all the more enjoyable.

Who would not be a farmer—the most independent life on earth? It is better than gold-mining, as with gold-mining you have to keep digging, but with farming the gold grows out of the ground, and all you have to do is to rake in the shekels, which we all know the worthy farmer is doing all over this great Dominion, of which Ontario is the banner Province.

If there are any farmers in Ontario who are not making money, I would say to them, subscribe for "The Farmer's Advocate," buy good seed, raise good stock of all kinds and plenty of it, put up-to-date system into your work, and soon you will be able to send your sons and daughters to the Ontario Agricultural College. Mr. Editor, I think I am trespassing on your valuable space. One of my friends calls me a "Horseback Farmer," but I will sign myself, "AMATEUR FARMER," Wentworth Co., Ont.