

two. The best plan for anyone with an unthrifty horse is to have his teeth examined by an experienced veterinarian.—Editor.]

LIVE STOCK.

Humanity and Profit Coincide.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

At the close of a perusal of the February 22nd copy of "The Farmer's Advocate," my eye fell on a selection of poetry which so truthfully pictures the sufferings of the noble, God-given dumb animals, supposedly cared for by the hand of one of his ideal creations. As the storm rages without (real), I am truly thankful that I cannot conscientiously take these words to myself, and so impressed with these thoughts, I feel it a duty to express my thoughts on this one important subject of shelter for the dumb animals, which are placed in human hands for a purpose. We see so much of this neglect on the part of mankind. To-night, amidst a raging blizzard, even in the variable climates of Central Illinois, there are hundreds of dumb brutes without a shelter, and even without a wind-break. Some are owned by men of means, some by men of mean principle, and some by men of small means, who, perhaps, are sleeping in a warm house, in comfortable beds, while the dumb brutes they are supposed to care for are standing, with heads down, backs arched, shivering, starving. Why? Because this inhuman man has failed to provide a shelter, or perhaps for a desire to own larger herds than some neighbor, or calculating, perhaps, the dollars which he hopes to realize from the large number of animals. This reminds us of the condition of the rich man who would take down his barns and build larger, and more vividly impresses us with the awful ultimatum, "This night shalt thy soul be required of thee." In a measure, so with the man who fails to provide shelter and food for his stock. He not only loses his cattle by freezing and starving, as we sometimes read of the thousands of animals which die in one severe blizzard, but, should they survive the ravages of the wintry storms, does he think he has been fortunate in doing this well? As the final destination of a steer is the block, how many dollars is he losing? How much time is he losing in this management? Six months' grass which has been supplied free, and which has put on the cheapest beef, is now being literally blown away by the fierce winter blast. In these days of intensive agriculture the areas of the vast ranges are rapidly being reduced by the rapidly-increasing population, as the center of population gradually moves, or has moved, Westward. The citizen seeks larger facilities, larger investments, not only in land, but in manufactures and other avenues of commerce. These must be carried on largely by human hands, and these must be fed on the substantial, life-giving necessities, one of which is beef.

Nor has this "Westward Ho!" movement failed in its humanitarian mission. We find today men are realizing that, to get the greatest profit in the shortest time, he must give better care, he must improve his herds, and look closer to the apparently small things which in time amount to greater things. These we see in improvement of the various breeds of cattle which roam the yet vast ranges. The feeder goes to Western markets to buy his feeders, brings them home to his feed-lots which are provided with barns filled with hay, strawstacks, and cribs of corn, his fields rank with cultivated grasses, and, by and bye we begin to see the effects of good shelter, feed and care. But, on the other hand, let us take the native-born, well-bred calf which has always known shelter from storms, has had plenty to eat (not necessarily being pampered), and we find him maintaining a hundred pounds to the month in weight, and sometimes more, until he is one year old, and still capable of assuming larger proportions, gradually growing and fattening, until we find him, at the age of sixteen to twenty-four months, topping the market in his class; while the starved, unsheltered, neglected animal must be fed six months to one year beyond this age, and then fails to fulfill his mission. We note, too, the grand improvement in the breeding of recorded stock, whence comes the grand prizewinners, showing the handiwork of men of broad minds, of push and energy, and a desire to educate our sons who are the coming men of America.

Do you suppose for a moment this ideal animal could have developed such size, such form and symmetry, by standing on the prairies, in the bare stock fields or lots, half-fed, shivering and exposed? Assuredly not. Then, let us awake to the fact that, if we expect to increase our wealth, to improve our farms, to educate mankind, we must look closer to the shelter and feed of our farm animals.

C. W. DOLLAHAN.

Ill., U. S. A.

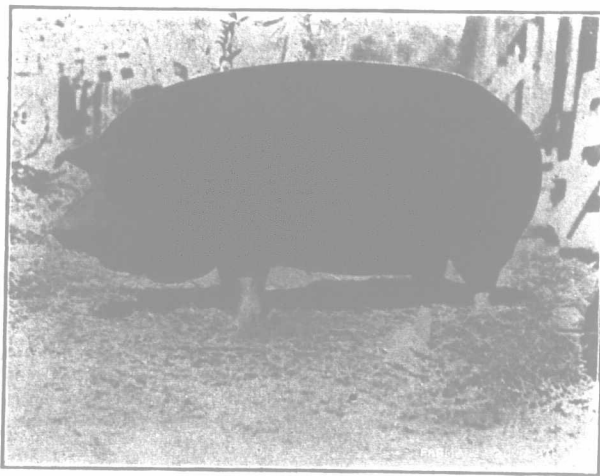
A Study of Breeds of Swine.

DUROC-JERSEY.

The American Duroc-Jerseys are apparently the outcome of the union of two classes of swine—the Durocs of medium size and bone, bred for many years in Saratoga County, New York, and the Jersey Reds, larger in size and coarser in bone, bred in New Jersey for the last sixty years. The origin and early development of this breed is not apparently well known. As with nearly all the American breeds of swine, the improvers of the Duroc-Jerseys have been farmers in certain neighborhoods who sought to improve the pork-producing qualities of the animals they fed. The history of the amalgamation of the two original branches of the breed does not appear to have been clearly written.

Two leading associations, viz., the American Duroc-Jersey Swine-breeders' Association, and the National Duroc-Jersey Record Association, have been organized in the interests of the breed in the United States. The former of these was organized in 1889, and the latter in 1890. The two associations named have recorded over 50,000 animals. They are recorded from more than half the States, and from most of the Provinces of Canada. A record of the breed is maintained under the National Record Board at Ottawa, of which Mr. J. W. Nimmo is at present Registrar.

As to their leading characteristics, it may be



Two-year-old Duroc-Jersey Sow.

said that, though not quite equal to the Poland-Chinas in size, they bear some resemblance to them in form, though differing from them radically in color, which in the Duroc-Jersey is solid cherry red. Having strong bone, and well-placed legs and good constitution, they are well adapted to sections where good rustling qualities are important; where heavy corn feeding is the rule, they are very suitable. Their grazing qualities are good, and their early-maturing qualities are equal to most of the medium-sized breeds. In prolificacy, they stand relatively high among the American breeds, and the young pigs are fairly hardy.

The standard calls for a head small in proportion to body, wide between the eyes, face slightly dished (about half-way between a Poland-China and a Berkshire); ears medium size, pointing forward and downward, and slightly outward; neck short, thick and deep; shoulders moderately broad; back and loin medium in width, straight or slightly arching; sides very deep, medium length between shoulders and hams, and full down to line of belly; ribs long, and sprung in proportion to width of shoulders and hams; belly and flanks straight and full, and carrying well out to line of sides; legs medium in size and length, strong, well set apart; pasterns short and strong; tail medium large at base, nicely tapering, and rather bushy at point; hair moderately thick, fine and straight; size large for age and condition. Boars two years old should weigh 600 pounds; sows, same age, 500 pounds; boars and sows six months old, 150 pounds. Disposition very quiet, easily handled or driven.

A Quartette.

William B. De Coste, Antigonishe Co., N. S.: "I highly recommend 'The Farmer's Advocate.' We take several papers, but this one we read first."

A. L. Currah, Oxford Co., Ont.: "'The Farmer's Advocate' Knife is a very useful one, and a beauty, too."

Mrs. Jas. D. Walker, Perth Co., Ont.: "Many thanks for the Knife. Our boy is delighted with it."

M. R. Dunlap, Kent Co., Ont.: "'The Farmer's Advocate' is a very welcome visitor at our home."

Keep on "Sawing Wood."

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been reading with a good deal of interest the letters in "The Farmer's Advocate" from farmers, packers, professors and everybody about hogs. There seems to be many farmers going at the hog business as they go at everything else. When hogs are high in price they buy up sows, put up expensive hogpens, and start in in big style; then by the time they get nicely started the price slumps away down below the cost of production. Of course they are disappointed and disgusted; they kill off their sows, write letters to the papers, make a noise and raise Cain generally. There are, however, others who when they go into a thing keep right on sawing wood until they are satisfied the thing is right or wrong. It is a little bit singular that those farmers who start into a thing and stick to it seem to come out all right, no matter what they go at.

Since this controversy commenced, I have been looking over my yearbooks to see how we have been doing in this same hog business. We did not go into the hog business as most of your correspondents did, wholesale; just kept three sows for the last seven years, and kept a careful account of what they did. Our sows had two litters per year each; they had an average of 11 pigs at a birth; but only raised 8; they generally raised 9 or 10, but once in a while we had a small bunch, 3 or 4, and once only 2. Those lapses occurred generally from having the sows too fat.

The average price we got for our hogs, live weight, averaging them by loads, was: In 1899, \$4.02; 1900, \$5.33; 1901, \$6.46; 1902, \$6.02; 1903, \$5.50; 1904, \$4.75; 1905, \$5.87. The highest price we got for a load was in 1901, \$7.20; the lowest in 1899, \$3.80, when the average price was \$4.02. In 1905 it was \$5.87, but if we take into consideration the cost of production, one year was about as good as the other. We have always to buy more or less grain (we can't get millfeed in this county), so after we use up what we raise ourselves, we have to depend on buying from our neighbors, so in 1899 we bought peas for 55 cents and barley for 40 cents per bushel; in 1905 we paid 75 cents for peas and 60 cents for barley. Evidently there is no great fortune in the pig business. All I can say for them is that along with a good bunch of cows they have kept the pot boiling and done something besides. Of course we don't feed grain all the time; the sows run out all summer, and the little ones as soon as they get big enough that we can keep them from running all over the place. We feed pulped mangels and turnips when we have them, but our pigs don't think very much of turnips; then there is apples in the fall, whey from the cheese factory in summer, and more or less skim milk in winter.

The best sow we had in those seven years was a half-breed from a pure-bred Yorkshire sow and a pure-bred Berkshire boar. We had a Chester White sow for two years that had 15 pigs at a birth twice, and never fewer than 13, but she never raised more than 10, and that only once. Her pigs were so small it was difficult to get them started. We had a pure Berkshire sow for one year, but her litters were too small. The best of our sows have been pure Yorkshire or Yorkshire grades. We have always used a pure-bred hog, Yorkshire or Tamworth. We have had better and stronger litters with cross than with pure-breds. We have always had credit for taking No. 1 hogs to market. This paying the same price for all kinds of hogs is neither sensible nor honest. I, however, don't take any stock in this foolish talk about starting in to raise thick, fat hogs so as by some means to get even with the packers.

JOHN PEIRSON.

Bruce Co., Ont.

Go Moderately into the Hog Business, and Stay in.

In your issue of February 22nd, I notice a letter from J. R. H., Wentworth Co., under the heading, "Farmers and Bacon Hogs." He says it is useless for the farmers to try to expect to get anything like a uniform price for hogs. While this is true to a large extent, yet I believe that some improvement might be made in that direction, and that prices could be much more uniform than they have been. He admits that we would be in a "sorry plight" should the packers or capitalists withdraw their money, but he does not agree with Hon. Mr. Monteith, "that it is up to the farmers to keep the factories running." I would ask, if not the farmers, who are the people who are under obligations to keep the factories running? The only possible way for our hogs to reach the British or other markets is through the packing houses, and I think it stands in hand to meet the packers half way, by providing a liberal and uniform supply of suitable hogs to keep the packing-houses running at their full capacity. It is only by so doing that we can expect to keep up our bacon trade. We may sit still and grumble about market conditions, etc., until Denmark and other countries capture the whole British bacon trade, to our great sorrow and loss. I am thoroughly in accord with the idea that we should have some discrimination as to quality, and that the man who produces the proper type and weight of hog should be encouraged by some slight advance in price. But even if we cannot secure that, we are wise, I think, to cater to the tastes and demands of the buyers and consumers of our products. I believe we are under obligation to supply the packing-houses, because, as I have said, they are the channel through which our finished product must go, as our finished product is the raw material that must keep these