

is hard to state just what will be the outcome of the business, but our farmers have been making satisfactory returns from the production of the bacon hog, and it looks as though they will do well to stick to this type for a time, at least. The main thing is to get a pig of reasonably good type that will be of the required market size at as early an age as possible, and with the consumption of as small amount of feed as possible.

Pasturing Stock.

Many farmers are grazing all their stock in the same pasture fields. Where sheep are kept in conjunction with other stock, they pasture the grass so closely that the cattle may have trouble in obtaining enough to satisfy their appetites and their needs. Where grass is abundant, no bad effects may follow the practice of pasturing all in the same field, but as the season advances the amount of herbage will become less and less, and the close-feeding sheep if kept in large numbers, will crop it so closely that the cattle will be unable to obtain sufficient feed. As fields are cleared of hay or grain, they can profitably be used as sheep pasture, save where there is clover to preserve against their destroying nippers. Sheep feed so closely and eat so many of the different kinds of weeds that they are very profitable to use as scavengers in fields from which the crops have been removed. They not only destroy the weeds in the cropped part of the fields, but they destroy, also, the fence-corner weeds which are increasing so fast since the labor problem has necessitated leaving the grass and weeds along the fences uncut. In fact, it is one of the strong features of sheep-breeding that they destroy so many noxious weeds. In view of this fact, and for the best interests of the cattle and other farm stock, the sheep should be placed on newly-cleared fields from time to time, and thus save the regular pasture for the other stock, and at the same time destroy the weeds in the cultivated fields. The sheep like a change of pasture, and do better when given new grazing grounds frequently. Much is thus gained by pasturing the various classes of stock, especially sheep, in separate fields.

Greystone Turnips for Fall Feed.

Pasture appears not unlikely to be short and scarce this fall; the hay crop is only fair, and in some districts very light, consequently some kind of feed will be necessary on many farms to keep the cattle in good condition during the fall and early winter. On farms where corn has not been planted in sufficient acreage to permit of any being fed in the fall, because of depleting the amount necessary for winter feeding, and even on some farms where corn is plentiful, it might be advisable to sow a small quantity of Greystone or white turnips.

These turnips can be sown as late as the tenth to the middle of July, and can be expected to give a heavy yield of very suitable fall feed for the stock. It is always better, however, to make it a point to sow the turnips immediately preceding a shower of rain, because, during the dry, hot, July weather, difficulty is sometimes experienced in getting the seed to germinate. If sown as indicated, they will usually be up in about four or five days. The growth of the young plants is very rapid, and they are ready for thinning in a remarkably short time. If the cultivation has been thorough and frequent before sowing, one hoeing, that done at time of thinning, is usually all that is required. In thinning the young plants, it is generally believed that a larger yield of a better quality of roots is produced when they are left comparatively close in the rows. If thinned to a great distance, they grow too large and coarse, and are not of so high feeding value. Anywhere from ten to fifteen inches would be a good distance, many growers preferring about 12 inches. Frequent cultivation throughout the season is necessary, as with all other root crops, in order that excessive evaporation may not exhaust the soil moisture to such an extent that the roots suffer. This crop does not give as valuable a return as a corn crop, but it is profitable, especially in a dry season, and on farms where fodder is scarce.

These roots are best fed somewhat as a soiling crop; that is, pulled out and fed with the tops to the cattle in the pasture or yard. Being soft, cattle of all ages can eat them without their being cut. Some use a large turnip knife to chop them in pieces to make it easier for the cattle to eat them, but this, while of some value, is unnecessary, because the animals will manage very well without this trouble being taken. It must be remembered that turnips give a strong flavor to milk, therefore care must be taken not to feed the dairy cow too liberally on these, and not at all until after milking. Better if some other feed can be provided for the milch cows. Where the land is available for a few rows of this crop, it will be found very profitable as a means of tiding the young stock and the beef breeds over a period

of scanty pasture which is very often experienced in the autumn following an exceptionally dry summer season. Farmers who have conditions suitable for the production of this crop, and who see before them a shortage of fall feed, would do well to give this old and well-known crop a trial.

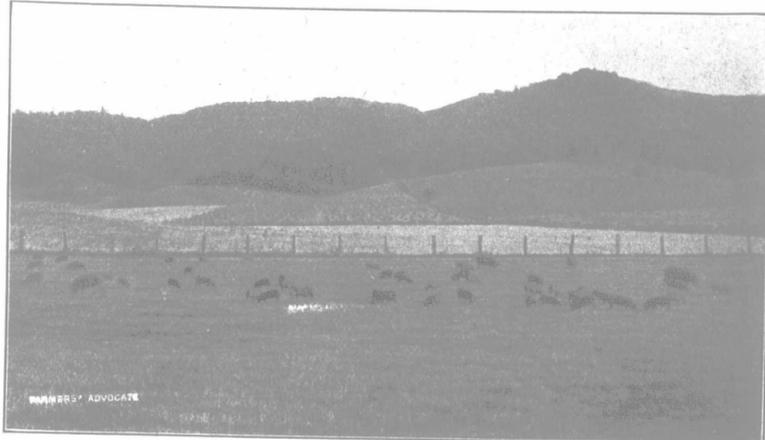
Shorthorn Bulls for Crossing Purposes.

The Shorthorn breed of cattle has become, perhaps, the most popular of all the beef breeds in Canada, as well as in many other countries. Not so much its value for the breeding of fancy pedigreed stock makes the breed popular with the average farmer, but rather its value when used for cross-

good type of Shorthorn bull, raise a good type of butchers' cattle which are always in demand on the market.

This using of the Shorthorn bull on these inferior cows is a means of greatly improving the class of beef cattle on the market, and, because of the use of this breed of bulls, the number of Shorthorn grades in the country has in times past increased very rapidly from year to year. These bulls seem to nick with cows of almost all combinations of breeding. They seem to give the calves size and a quickness of growth, combined with a smoothness and other desirable feeding qualities which bulls of few, if any, other breeds are able to pass on to their progeny when mated with such a class of cows.

Where only grade and common cross-bred cows are kept, and where the calves are used for the production of beef, and placed on the market as such, at any age whatever, the owner cannot do better than use a Shorthorn bull. In cases where heifers are to be kept for milking purposes, a bull of heavy milking strain is desired, and perhaps in such cases it would be just as well to use a dairy bull, if only milk production was to be considered, but where the grade herd is to be improved, a bull of a heavy-milking Shorthorn tribe



Swine Husbandry in Minnesota.

A good herd of young pigs and sows on blue grass pasture.

ing with the grade cows of the country. Comparatively few farms are stocked with pure-bred cattle, the largest percentage being grades, and chiefly grade Shorthorns. The farmer who is breeding grades is anxious to make the largest possible returns from his herd, and to do this he is anxious to establish a dual-purpose stock. To this end, he must have cows that will produce a liberal quantity of high-testing milk, and at the same time raise calves which can be turned over to the butcher as high-class meat at an early age. The large, smooth, evenly-fleshed Shorthorn bull, with his usual prepotency, is just the sire that many farmers desire, because, when used on their grade cows they are always reasonably sure of getting a calf of comparatively good beef type.

Many of our dairy farmers keep grade Shorthorn cows and use pure-bred Shorthorn bulls of heavy-milking strains. One reason they advance for keeping this kind of cows is that a cow is only at her best for a few years, at least, and becomes unprofitable if kept until old, consequently, she must be disposed of usually to the butcher,

should be used, if available.

Of course, where dairying is the exclusive business, some of the dairy breeds are preferable, but where general farming is followed, many farmers favor a breed which will give a reasonable supply of the dairy product, and at the same time produce calves suitable for marketing purposes. There are many breeds which give excellent results either for beef or milk production, but few breeds, if any, can be so profitably used for a combination of these as can the Shorthorn, and probably bulls of no other breed give such satisfactory results for crossing on females of mixed breeding.

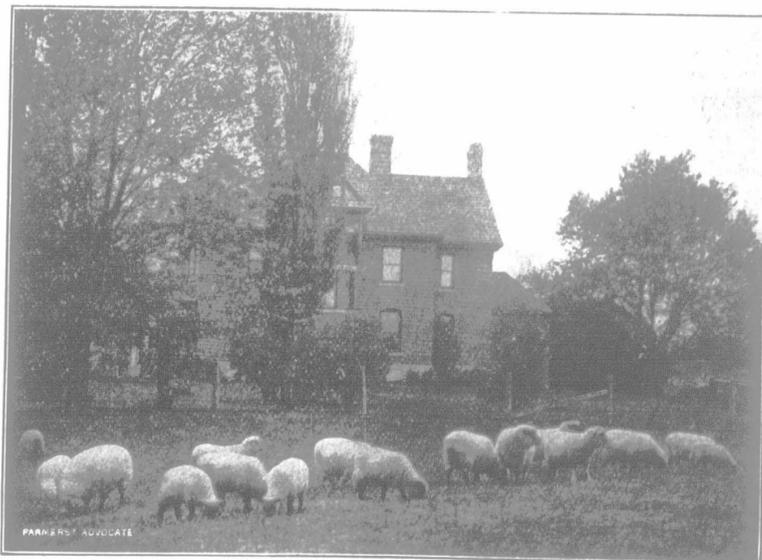
R. W. & R.

THE FARM.

An Advocate of Alfalfa.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Much has been said about alfalfa. Here is my own experience: The growing of alfalfa is like growing other crops. The ground must be prepared in good condition to receive the seed. The selection of seed, and the land upon which alfalfa is to be grown are two most important things in successful alfalfa-growing. As to the locality where this wonderful forage plant will best succeed, I now contend that it can be successfully grown anywhere in Western Ontario, with the exception of swampy lands, and these can be made to grow this plant quite successfully by drainage and the free use of lime sown on the land, as my own experience has taught me. I now have four acres of such land, which, after 5 years'



An American Shropshire Breeders' Home.

and if of a beef type, and possessed of sufficient size, she can be sold to better advantage than a dairy type of cow. These cows, if of a heavy-milking strain, are found to give a fairly large quantity of milk containing an average percentage of butter-fat, and are very useful dairy cows.

Experience has taught the breeders that, for crossing on the breeds of cattle, where size and feeding quality is wanted in the calves, there is no other breed quite equal to the Shorthorn. The common cows of the country, when mated with a

seeding, produced ten big loads of fine hay at first cutting in June. I may state that the preparation of this small field was as follows: First, I chopped the brush off, and cleared and broke, then sowed corn. In the fall I subsoiled it, as there was about eight inches to one foot of black muck on top, and I wanted to let the clay underneath mix through it. In the spring, seeded 20 pounds per acre, sowed with barley as a nurse crop. Barley sowed at 1 1/2 bushels per acre, with alfalfa sowed behind drill, then harrowed and rolled.