

the young and either whole or skim-milk should be fed until the calf is several months old. Keep the calf growing from the time it is dropped as considerable stress is laid on the size of the young stock for its age. In the next two months good feed and care will make a big difference in the size and appearance of the growing animals. Size counts as well as quality.

The curry comb and brush should be used regularly to keep the skin clean. Then, a day or two before the show, wash the animals thoroughly with lukewarm water to remove any stains or dirt. The horns may require polishing and possibly the feet need trimming. If the feet are too long the animal cannot stand properly. Where the stock is turned to pasture they receive sufficient exercise, but when stabled continually they must be given regular exercise in order to prevent them going off their feed. When it is not convenient to turn them loose they should be led out on the halter every day. Too many cattle are not well halter-broken before going into the show-ring. If every calf was trained to lead, there would be less difficulty with the mature stock. The prize may be lost through the animal not leading well. Live stock learn by habit. It is possible to train them to stand in a certain position so that they will show every good point to advantage and possibly make some weaker part less noticeable. It takes time to get the bones and muscles accustomed to holding the weight with dignity. Start now to train the show stock to pose for the judge. The day before the fair is too late. The more animals are worked with, the quieter and more confiding they become. They soon get to know what is expected of them, and from the appearance of some animals in the show-ring, one would conclude that they were entering into the spirit of the competition as keenly as their masters. There is no honor in winning with an unfitted, poorly-trained animal in a class where there is little competition. Select the stock for exhibiting and then give them regular and consistent attention, feed and training so that they may appear worthy of their herdsman.

Sheep.

Success in the show-ring with sheep depends primarily upon two factors, the shepherd and the sheep. Many a good animal has been placed low because the shepherd did not understand how to fit it and many a good shepherd has been obliged to head his candidate to the bottom of the line because it was a disappointing proposition from the start. The breeding counts for much, and only those should be chosen that are not too large for the breed, typey, smooth, thrifty and well balanced with no defects that are liable to be pronounced when the day for judging comes. After the selection comes the fitting, the aim of which is not to burden the animal with tallow, but to build up and fill out the body with flesh, add lustre to the wool fibre and have the sheep in a thrifty condition so the skin will have the proper tint. The mistake of adding fat is too often made, simply through the lack of exercise and the use of the wrong kinds of feeds. The fingers of the good judge detect this weakness at once. For the fitting season which, properly speaking, is well nigh past, the best grain feed will consist of equal parts of oats, bran, and oil cake in the nut or pea form. One pound of this mixture to every 100 lbs. live weight of the sheep is good feeding. The best clover or alfalfa hay obtainable should be fed and all the cabbage, rape or kale the animals will clean up and digest. The importance of ample green, succulent feed cannot be too strongly emphasized. It is cooling to the system and, to a certain extent, nourishing. As the show draws nearer gradually reduce the bran and substitute peas.

Exercise and training are two important features of the preparation. Pare the hoofs so the animal can pose in the best form, and handle the sheep frequently so they will understand what is expected of them when they are caught and shown. The exercising will develop those muscles that give the best form to the body, and will prevent the animal becoming "groggy," or weak in the legs and it will induce vigor and capacity for feed. In hot weather the exercising must be done in the late evening or early morning. Perhaps at 4 a. m., before the morning feed, is the most satisfactory time of all to drive the fitting animals around the paddock or up and down a lane. Without exercise the show sheep will stand poorly on its feet, it will have a soft feeling to the touch and will probably do badly in the ring. Three or four weeks before show day the sheep should be "blocked out" or "trimmed." Relative to this practice Prof. Wrightson, an eminent English authority pleasingly writes:

"The trimming of show sheep is a matter of importance. There are those who object to trimming, but it is impossible to show sheep in the natural unkempt and rough state. It is really cruel to ask a breeder to exhibit his sheep in a great show, before ladies and gentlemen, without dressing them. What would a horse-breeder say to a regulation insisting that his hunter or Thorough-bred should appear ungroomed and rough, with long tail and uncombed mane? A sheep-breeder has similar feelings, and similar failings. Besides, the public like to see animals well turned out of hand, and even the pigs appear with their hair curled and oiled, and their skins blooming as if they had been immersed in a bath composed of toilet vinegar. Trimming may be overdone, or unfairly done, but to the legitimate use of the art there can be no objection. The methods vary with every breed. The Leicester appears, like the parson, all shaven and shorn. The Lincoln is smeared over with some mysterious unguent, which makes the hands feel very disagreeable if they are allowed to touch the fleece. The Cotswold comes out curly in coat, white, and redolent of soap and water. The Southdown appears as like a plum as a sheep can possibly

be made, and bears evidence of the shears over his entire carcass. A very snug "gentleman" indeed is the Southdown when in his war paint. Trimming is carried to the greatest perfection in the Down races, and they certainly reward the artists who have accomplished their tasks so deftly."

After blocking or trimming, the body is often covered with a very light blanket which keeps the fleece clean as well as smooth and compact. The trimming of a sheep is an art, and the skill is only acquired through practice. The artist at this work has in his mind's eye the picture of a perfect specimen of the breed and the animal under his hand is made to conform as nearly as possible to that type.

Hogs.

Hogs require less fitting than other classes of stock but that is no reason why some attention should not be given to having them in good show form. Selection should be made so that there will be uniformity in size and conformation of those to be shown as a pen. Careful feeding is necessary. Strong, heating feeds must be avoided unless they are fed in combination with green feed or roots. Corn and barley alone do not prove satisfactory, but when mixed with middlings, skim-milk and roots they are all right. Finely ground oats and middlings with skim-milk or whey make a good ration for hogs until they are about four months old, then heavier feeds might profitably be added. Hogs should have access to green feed in some form every day. If they are not in a paddock, green clover, rape or roots should be fed. Only what concentrates that they will clean up readily should be fed. The appetite must be kept keen for every meal. Like all other animals, hogs have likes and dislikes, and an effort should be made to feed a ration that will give results. If the feed is relished and enough is given the hog will do well.

Exercise is essential. Crippled hogs or those that stand badly are a hopeless problem in the show-ring. These difficulties can be largely overcome by forcing the hogs to take regular exercise. Where they are not inclined to do so of their own accord, some feeders drive the hogs around for a certain length of time every day. This aids digestion and tends to strengthen the legs and pasterns so as to carry the body gracefully. All scurfiness must be removed from the skin. This may be done by washing the hog occasionally and then applying sweet oil to put the skin in good condition. Several treatments may be necessary to make the skin soft and the hair silky. It may be necessary to trim the feet so that the hog may stand properly.

Although hogs are stubborn creatures, it is possible to train them to be on their good behavior in the show-ring. Make a study of each individual and then practice having the hog stand correctly. If this is done several times it may be the means of avoiding difficulties on show day. It is possible to train a weak-backed hog so that the weakness will not be noticeable. In the same way a hog with a humped back may stand so as not to show it. A hog cannot be put in show condition on the morning of the fair. It may pay to commence now to get ready for the day when the choicest stock of several pens come into competition.

THE FARM.

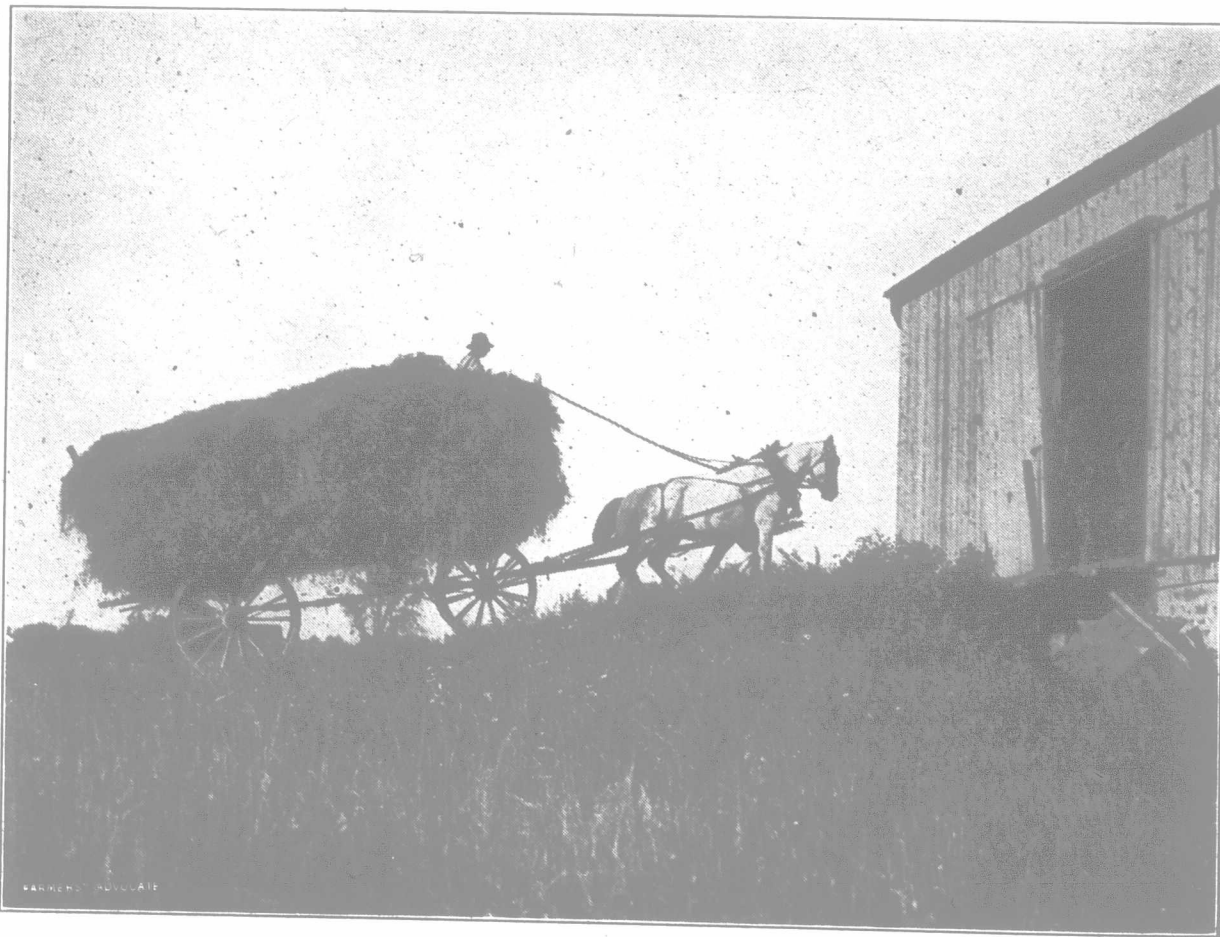
The Cycles of Destiny.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Science finds law everywhere in nature. May not war, even, be a necessary part of the course or cycle of events just as earthquakes or other catastrophes? The universe, to farthest limit of man's explorations, the minute as also the sublime, is found to be constituted according to definite order, and to be obedient to laws immutable, inexorable. "Nothing walks with aimless feet." Nothing is left to chance, or to the caprice of mythical deities. No effect can arise without adequate cause. The law may be known or unknown to us. The physiological law of the circulation of the blood was as much a fact before its discovery by Harvey as since. So the law of gravitation was a physical fact before Newton made it known. The chemical fact that the elements in nature are arranged in definite proportions, according to their atomic weights, was no less certain prior to Mendeleef's enunciation of his "Periodic Law." The microscope has revealed worlds of infinitesimal living forms which for ages were invisible. Suns and nebulae afar in the depths of space are, by modern science being brought under observation and research. The recent announcement of the influence of solar rifts or openings on the weather conditions of our planet is also significant.

Perhaps the wreckage of war is no more inconsistent with a general scheme of beneficence than the upheavals and cataclysms of geologic ages, which convulsed the earth and raised the mountains in majesty and sublimity toward the sky. These eruptive forces caused the general elevation of the land and the subsidence of the waters of the earth, thus gradually bringing forth order, beauty and fertility. To contemplative beings, the tremendous agencies at work may have seemed appalling and utterly destructive; yet all contributed to the making of a world fit for its future possessor—Man. Since, in material things, the variety and loveliness of landscape, the vastness and silence of ocean were thus evolved from chaos, have we not ground for assurance that in the realms of sentiment, intelligent being a new and better order shall be evolved; that out of the calamities of war a "new earth" shall appear? We cannot believe in a higher law for stones than for men. The Governing Power that gave to each stone its characteristic crystal, its peculiar constituents, and its place in the cycle of things—so that the skilled minerologist can recognize and classify it if shown a single crystal—will not leave man in ruins or eternal self-stultification. As past revolutions have cleared the air, aroused man from lethargy or self-indulgence and raised him to better life, so shall he again arise. The commotion of the hour is but an incident in the drama of ages, a cycle within the great cycle of existence, a "wheel within a wheel," as in Ezekiel's vision, who admonishes against fear, though there be "lamentation, mourning and woe."

Great causes are needed to produce great results; and conversely, great results are born of great causes. Vast power was needed to lift the mountains from their primal ocean-beds, but the long-confined gases in the crust of the earth at length gained explosive energy, colossal masses were successively raised, and lo! the grandeur of mountain and valley on this planet. So, the final outcome of the war, let us feel assured,



The First Load.