

The Evil of Dogs in Regard to the Sheep-Raising Industry.

BY D. NICHOL, CATARAQUI.

There are in Ontario many farms peculiarly adapted to sheep raising, and on which no other branch of husbandry could possibly be made as remunerative, but the recent great destruction of sheep by dogs in some localities has created a serious, deterring tendency in regard to this industry. In fact, sheep-raising in some districts has now become utterly impossible until better protection from dogs is secured. Our present existing laws regarding dogs is very inefficient, and it is now high time for the landowners to be endeavoring to procure some legislative enactment that will better their position in this respect. As the law at present exists, municipalities are authorized to tax dogs, and pay damages done by them. This law is only optional; but one great trouble with the carrying out of this law has been that unscrupulous persons in many cases have managed to collect payment for all sheep found dead on their premises, whether they were killed by dogs or otherwise; consequently, most of the municipalities have rendered the law inactive, allowing sufferers to have recourse only to the owners of depre-dating dogs. This law is only optional; it should be made compulsory. This is a very unsatisfactory state of matters, because, in the first place, sheep-killing dogs operate chiefly during the night, when farmers and their servants are supposed to be in bed, therefore seldom have an opportunity of detecting the depredators; and then, even if they are detected, there is often very great difficulty in finding the owners; and when the owners are found it frequently occurs that the dogs are about the only property they possess. The sufferer can, of course, demand the execution of the dogs, and it affords one some satisfaction to know that the same dogs will not repeat the carnage. True, in such cases, when the ownership of the dogs is clearly proven and the inability of the owner to pay is certified, the loser can, by an expensive and troublesome process of law, collect damages from the municipalities; but on account of the great difficulty in proving the ownership of the dogs, justice is not obtained in more than one out of ten such cases, and in no case is the loser allowed more than the price of common sheep, even if the animals may have been of great value. I am a lover and admirer of dogs, yet I believe that if all the dogs in the country were hanged on suspicion, the people generally would not be less prosperous.

It may be that one in a hundred earns his board, yet it is safe to say that by far the greater majority of dogs are utterly useless; and when we compare the evil of dogs with all the good they may have done, it does seem surprising that the nuisance has been so long tolerated. A much heavier tax on dogs would certainly have a tendency to reduce their number, because then, perhaps, only those who could afford to feed them would keep dogs, but this would only be a partial remedy for the evil; it is a well-known fact that even well-fed dogs kill sheep, merely for the fun of it.

There are thousands of mongrel curs kept by persons who wholly or in part depend on charity; hence, their dogs are fed at the expense of a charitable public.

I can keep my dog from killing my neigh-

bors' sheep, but I cannot prevent my neighbors' dogs from killing my sheep. Herein lies the whole trouble.

The first argument we are met with in favor of dogs is their usefulness; but with those who know how easily a dog is coaxed with a mutton bone, the argument has but little weight. Practical thieves, who understand the effects of prussic acid or strychnine, laugh at the idea of being frightened by dogs. I would keep a dog in my orchard when apples are ripening, were it not that I know apple thieves first form an acquaintance with watch-dogs. Ingenious thieves rather prefer the company of watch dogs, because then they do not need to suspect they are being otherwise watched. The greatest trouble about watch-dogs is, that when they are expected to be watching your own property they are very apt to be visiting some of your neighbors' dogs, or chasing sheep in another township. In fact, dogs, generally speaking, are of very little use as watchers unless they are chained; when under such circumstances they will, like an old gander, give an alarm when strangers approach. If all owners were required to keep their dogs chained or kenneled, or otherwise yarded, they would not be subjected to any great hardship.

Sportsmen who keep well-trained dogs almost invariably keep them kenneled when not in use, and find it an advantage to do so; they also know that their dogs cannot be blamed for the depredations of night prowlers. In some of the eastern countries dogs are raised for food, but in this country they are the only kind of live stock that are of no real value; therefore they should not be allowed to hinder the agricultural progress of this country to such an extent as they do at present. It is generally acknowledged that whatever benefits the producer of the nation's food benefits the whole community.

If there is any one kind of protection more than another that would benefit a large class of farmers in Ontario, it is protection from marauding sheep-killing dogs. Asking for such protection is surely not unreasonable; and I am persuaded that, through the influence of the Farmers' Institute, it might be procured.

[Mr. John Dryden now has a bill before the House, which we had hoped would have had the hearty support of the government, and every honest member, no matter what his politics; but we learn Mr. Dryden's bill has been stoutly opposed by dog fanciers, and for fear of losing votes some of the members are opposing it. Every sheep-breeder should rally to Mr. Dryden's support, and work that this bill may pass. The Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association will not be idle in this matter. They want more protection and must have it.]—ED.

Each farm, each barn, each dairyroom, in the province should be an experiment station under the direction of its intelligent owner.

If farmers will try to stand together, support the press that supports them, and set their faces, influence and votes sternly against the wrongs of the age, equity will be established, and the industries will have a chance. There is no other way out of the night.

A man engaged in any kind of business is entitled to more than interest on his money. He can get interest on his money without going into business. He is entitled to good pay for his time, a reserve or surplus fund to cover contingencies and depreciation as the outcome of the happenings of time, and beyond that interest upon the cost value of his investment.

The Scotch Clydesdale Stud Book.

We have just received from the Secretary, Mr. Archibald McNeillage, 46 Gordon street, Glasgow, Scotland, eleven volumes of the Clydesdale Stud Book, issued by the Clydesdale Horse Society of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. They contain, among other things, a History of the Clydesdale Horse; a long article on Horse Breeding in Scotland, with chapters on the Ancient Scottish Breeds; Modern and Agricultural Period of Horse Breeding; Horses other than For Dray Purposes; Progressive History of the Clydesdale Breed; Future Draft Horse Breeding, &c., &c. The volumes also contain the full pedigrees of (7414) stallions and (7998) mares, whose produce is given under each pedigree up to date of publication.

The various appendixes contain a fund of information, such as: The list of stallions that have travelled and been used in the various years up to 1888, in which the district each travelled is specified; a list of the winners of the Societies' Premiums from its commencement until January, 1889; obituaries and dates of exportation of horses that have travelled at least one season previous to January, 1889; a list of the officers, life governors, and members and yearly members, besides a fund of useful information which every Clydesdale breeder should have. The books are well bound, and nicely illustrated with the portraits of noted horses. The articles are ably written, and the work throughout is a most creditable production. Every Canadian and American Clydesdale breeder should possess these books; in fact he cannot intelligently follow breeding unless he does. The price at which they are sold is extremely low.

Farmers' Clubs.

Dominion Farmers' Council.

[The Dominion Farmers' Council meets in the city of London, Ont., on the third Thursday of every month, at 1 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, F. W. HODSON, JONES ST. This Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, objects, etc.; Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, and notes on how to organize a club. These will, on application to the Secretary, be sent free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.]

The Dominion Farmers' Council assembled, Vice-President J. R. Little in the chair. After routine business, Mr. John S. Pearce read the following paper:—

DAIRYING IN CONNECTION WITH CORN FODDER AND ENSILAGE.

The cost of the food for the dairy cow is an important factor in the management and profits of dairying. The question of fodder corn has come up in a new form within the last three or four years. We are just now beginning to realize the value of fodder corn. For years we have been acting on the supposition that the most important part of the corn crop was the ears, and paid little attention to the value of the stalks as feed for cattle. The silo has changed this theory, and given us a value in fodder corn that we have never had before; and farmers are now turning their attention to this important crop, and are finding out what it can do for them in the way of giving cheaper and better rations for their cattle. They are beginning to realize that they are taking two to two and a-half acres of meadow land to get sufficient to winter a cow or steer. But if they will put in fodder corn and take care of it, in the new way, they will get the feed on an acre that is ample to winter two or three head of cattle or cows. This brings us to the question of the silo and ensilage in connection with dairying. What cans and bottles and the vast amount of fruits, meats, vegetables, etc., now preserved in them are to the human family, ensilage and silos are to our domestic animals. It is now a pretty well conceded point that the silo and ensilage "has come to stay," and the dairy man who stands back and says to himself: "I guess I'll wait and see how Brother Smith will get along with fodder corn and his silo before I try," will most assuredly be left behind in the race, and will either have to step down and out of the business, or sow corn, whether he builds a silo or not. Competition is becoming quite as keen between the farmers and