

condition with less grain, and there is not the same danger of overfeeding. Allowing some for this purpose, and assuming that we have all the skim milk and buttermilk from 15 cows available for feeding to hogs, we should be justified in keeping four sows and feeding 56 hogs to about six months of age. But, although this might for a time prove a profitable course to pursue, it could only end in disaster, for the reason that we are making no provision to keep up our supply of cows, and the natural sequence would be, following the law of supply and demand, that it would become more profitable to raise calves than pigs.

There is also another phase of this question which is worth considering. What effect would such a radical increase in the number of hogs raised have on our markets? Judging from past experience, there would be such a slump in pork prices that we should make no profit at all; perhaps, even, as was the case a few years ago, they would not pay for the feed they ate. Very few hogs are raised for less than 4¢. per pound, and it is probable that 5¢. is just about as near an average cost of production as we can get. It is much better business to make \$5 profit on one hog than to keep five hogs to make a like amount. Unless a farmer is making a specialty of raising pigs for breeding purposes, or of raising young pigs for sale as feeders to supply an existing demand, I am very strongly of the opinion that one or two brood sows to the 100-acre farm are quite enough. My method of increasing the supply of pork when it is scarce, and prices are consequently high, would be to feed to greater weights. When prices are abnormally high, feed to the limit that the factories will accept, without dockage. When prices are at the low mark, sell your hogs as light as the trade will accept. This is the profitable way, too, for it costs considerably more to make a pound of gain on a 200-pound hog than it does on a 100-pound one. In other words, we can raise the light-weight hog for less money per pound than we can the heavy-weight. I know that some will dissent from this, and probably there are qualifying circumstances, but I am speaking of hogs that are in fair, salable condition practically at any stage of growth. On such I have never been able to make much faster gains during latter part of the feeding period than during the early part. The consumption of feed appears to increase a good deal faster than the rate of increase in weight.

At present, the hog business is in a fairly satisfactory condition from the producer's standpoint, but it appears to be easily upset, and I believe a steady, moderate production is the wisest policy for farmers to follow. The dairy market is much more stable, and we may safely expand in all lines without much fear of any shrinkage in prices from overproduction.

ALFRED HUTCHINSON.

Wellington Co., Ont.

Breed-study Contest.

Thirty-nine replies were received concerning the breed of the bull illustrated on page 2076 in our issue of December 29th, 1910. Eighteen classed him as an Aberdeen-Angus, fifteen as a Galloway, two as a Red Poll, one as a Polled Durham, two as a cross-bred Galloway-Shorthorn, and one as a Shorthorn. The prize has been awarded to J. A. Wood, Genoa, Que., second place being given to Edward V. Lawson, Dunlop, Huron Co., Ont. The prize reply is as follows:

"With regard to the illustration in the Breed Study Contest, in your issue of December 29th, I would say that the bull represented belongs to the polled beef breed called the Galloway. The other breed for which he might be mistaken is the Aberdeen-Angus, which resembles the Galloway in that they are polled, are nearly always solid in color, and are short-legged and blocky. In general conformation, this bull differs from an

Angus, being somewhat longer of body, hardly so round in the ribs, longer in the hind quarters, the lower thigh being developed more, and altogether he does not show the compactness and roundness for which the Angus is noted. Although both the above breeds are polled, yet the Angus has a peculiarly peaked poll, while the poll of this bull is rounder and flatter, and more characteristic of the Galloway. The hair of the bull is very characteristic of the Galloway, being long and curly, while the Angus has a very short coat. Taking into consideration his general lengthiness, his solid color, his rounded poll, and his long, curly black hair, he has every indication of a Galloway."

THE FARM.

Wheat To-day and Thirty Years Ago.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The writer has been often asked why the flour to-day does not produce that sweet, nutty-tasting bread, and moisture, as found in bread thirty years ago. The fact is, we, as millers, do not get the material, as did the old stone mills, when the land was new and the soil full of lime, ash and decayed vegetable matter. This soil produced a quality of wheat strong in gluten and flavor, together with the starch cells, being clear and white; and, in addition, the germ being ground in the flour, accounts for the sweet, nutty-tasting, moist bread of 30 years ago.

Another thing, our friend the farmer has not cultivated the land—in many cases—properly for the production of wheat of 30-years-ago quality. But, instead, he has cropped continually, without supplying the land with the proper fertilizer; consequently, the land has become run down, as he himself would, without proper attention. How can wheat of a rich milling quality be grown on such land, or how can a miller, however proficient in his trade, produce in flour what the farm fails to produce in the wheat? We can't make gluten, starch, or any other element that constitutes a complete kernel of wheat, and until farmers learn to return to the land what they, by indifference and neglect, and otherwise, are robbing their land of its virgin matter, which the old soil contained, we need never expect grain of the first quality. I see no reason why the land cannot be got into a rich, productive condition, if properly cultivated, with lime or some fertilizer. Wood ashes is a thing of the past, but feed the land with something that will open the pores, and with barnyard manure, and plowing down lots of clover. I see no reason why the land cannot be made to produce, in a high degree, as good grain as it did in years past. Quite true, I have heard farmers say they could not get a catch of clover. In my opinion, the reason is this, that the land, in many cases, is so poor that it would hardly catch a thistle-down.

The same may be said of all grain. Unless you cut out this farming, and get right down to hardpan, the existing circumstances will still exist through ages to come.

Again, farmers, surely you can't expect a full crop from seed sown, as I have seen, full of dirt, just as it came from the machine. Clean grain is just as necessary to produce a full crop as it is to find a good market; and what farmer would think of going on the market with a load of grain uncleaned, and expect the high market price? The answer is, not one. But you expect, by sowing a bushel of grain, which contains one-third dirt and weeds, to get a bumper crop. The saying is, "You can't get wheat if you sow oats." Neither can you get the desired crop if you sow dirt. And, in the writer's opinion, unless the farming system is changed, they will be asking

the same question thirty years hence: Why millers can't make flour, as they used to make it, and why bread hasn't got that sweet taste, nor retains its moisture, as it did years ago?

Ontario Co., Ont.

F. W. STOVER.

Manure Tramped in Barnyard.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been a subscriber to your valuable paper for a number of years, and would not like to be without it. From time to time, some of your correspondents give their opinions on above subject, generally along the line of spreading on the fields in winter time, which is all right, providing the lay of your farm suits that way of handling it. To my mind, it does not suit my farm, which is somewhat rolling.

When manure is spread on the high parts of a rolling farm in the winter, while the ground is hard-frozen, the spring rains and melting snow wash the best part of the manure over the top down to the lower places, and perhaps over to my neighbors (I like to be neighborly, but not in that way), leaving the poorer land without what is especially needed on it.

The plan I have followed since I bought this farm, eleven years ago, is as follows: My barnyard is lower in the center, but not a pit. I usually have the straw of from twenty to thirty loads of grain to stack in barnyard, which I always get down so the cattle are over it before they are stabled for winter. Every day in the winter the manure is drawn out and spread on top of straw, mixing horse, cattle and hog manure together, and the cattle allowed to run all over it all winter, which keeps it firm. In the spring, what I use (I have always kept some for fall-wheat ground in the fall) I take from the outside, cutting down, and trying to get some of both top and bottom on every load, leaving over summer a neat pile. In the fall, I am not so particular about mixing it, and I find a load of that pure straw, having absorbed moisture all summer from what is on top of it, gives a good account of itself, especially since I have used the spreader. Now, my system may not suit scientific farmers, but it is building up my farm and helping me to pay for it, and keep improvements and implements up to the times. I know the other way is good, and gets a lot of hard work over in the winter, but, for me, I think the loss is much more than will pay me for hiring my manure hauled in spring and fall, and also for the loss through rain, heating, and so on, through the summer.

Huron Co., Ont.

Re Barn Scales.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

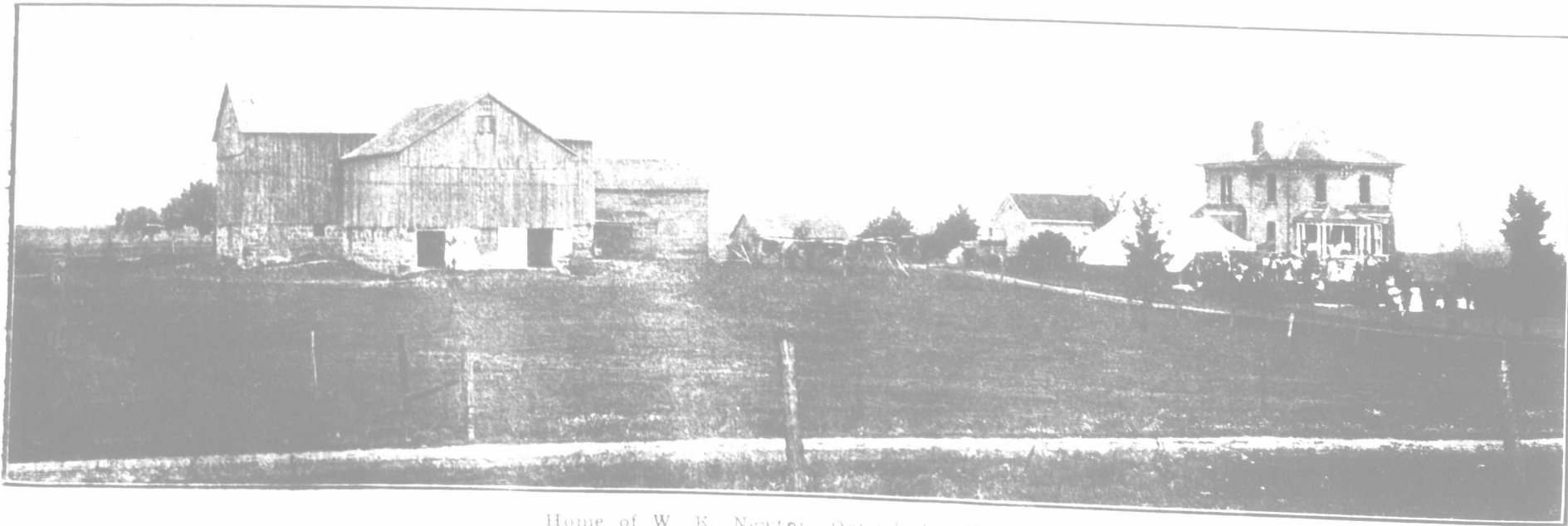
Regarding the question about the 2,000-pound scale (issue Jan. 5th), will say I find it very satisfactory. Take two pieces of hardwood, sawn 4 by 4 ft. 6 in. long, and place across platform of scale. Loop No. 2 telegraph wire from the four ends to stable below. Use same dimensions of timber below, on which can be placed flooring of plank or 1½-inch lumber, letting same swing 2 or 4 inches from stable floor, the partitions between the stalls answering as the side walls. The horse or steer walks in as unconcerned as if he were going to be fed. When the scale is needed in other places, simply lift off the two cross-timbers of platform, and draw the scale to granary or wherever wanted.

Frontenac Co., Ont.

H. L. GREEN.

"I have found it well, in cutting down trees in tillable fields, to cut them so low that the binder will go over the top of the stump, thus saving the grain tramped down in going around a stump that is too high to run the binder over."

"The Farmer's Son."



Home of W. R. Newton, Oxford Co., Ont.