

the association for the current year are as follows:

**General Board of Management.**—Honorary President, Mr. Robert Ness, Howick, P.Q.; President, Honorable N. Garneau, Member of Legislative Council; 1st Vice-president, Thos. Drysdale, North Georgetown; 2nd Vice-pres., Arsene Denis, St. Norbert; General Secretary, Dr. J. A. Couture, V.S., Quebec. Directors—M. M. J. C. Chapais, Assistant Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa; Joseph Deland, L'Acadie; David Baxter, North Georgetown; J. H. Lloyd, St. Lin; Michael Bourassa, St. Bamahe.

For French-Canadian horses and cattle, animals to be eligible must trace to recorded inspected ancestry, and sheep and pigs to the flocks or herds of reliable British breeders whose registry is in the English records. The registration fee for horses and cattle is 50 cents, and for sheep and pigs 25 cents.

The section of Canadian Jersey cattle does not exist now.

It is claimed that this association has over 350 active members. Dr. J. A. Couture, V.S., Quebec City, is permanent secretary and registrar, receiving all fees as salary. The French language is chiefly used in this registry. The annual membership fee is one dollar.

In addition to those above mentioned, there is what is entitled "The Dominion Draft Horse Studbook, of which Mr. James Mitchell, of Goderich, Ont., is Editor. The standard of registry in this Record admits the progeny of accepted Clydesdale sires crossed upon Shire mares, and vice versa, and also provides for the admission of mares having a certain number of crosses of accepted sires.

### Preparing Steers for Finishing on Grass.

While the practice would not be possible in many districts, there are very large portions of the Provinces in which steers may be successfully finished for the export trade on the natural pastures. In those counties where the rainfall is sufficient to insure good pasturage during the early part of the summer, and where there is a considerable proportion of rough land unfit for cultivation, there can be no question as to the profitability of this practice, and, indeed, in some parts men have found it profitable to use good arable land to provide pasture for finishing cattle in this way. This has always been an economical way of producing beef, and with the present scarcity of labor it is probable that there will be a considerable increase in the amount of beef so produced, as this method involves less labor than any other. The tendency at present in some parts is to decrease the amount of cultivated land, and use a very considerable amount of land as permanent pasture for grassing steers. Many men are going into the business for the first time, and to these a few words as to the winter feeding of steers for finishing on the grass may not come amiss.

Given good pasture for finishing, the success or failure of grass-feeding will depend on the winter feeding of the cattle. It is a very common complaint of those who have been used to stall-feeding and who attempt grass-feeding for the first time, that their cattle go back when turned on the grass, and never do so well as they should. This, generally, is because they have not recognized that the feeding of cattle intended for grassing must be very different from that of those to be finished in the stall. The stall-fed animal is finished on a ration containing a large proportion of concentrated food. The grass-fed one is finished on nutritious, but watery and bulky grass. The preparatory feeding in each case must lead up to the finishing conditions, so that there shall be no sudden change in the finishing period; hence, it is a great mistake to feed too large a proportion of dry concentrated food to cattle intended for the grass, and where this is done there is generally a falling off and unsatisfactory progress when they are turned on the pasture.

In feeding cattle for grass-finishing, we should aim to approximate the condition of the finishing period. Grass is a very bulky food, and to do well on it the animal must consume a large quantity; hence, the winter food must be such as will encourage a large capacity—bulky as well as nutritious. The concentrated foods are here out of place. Clover hay, corn silage and roots will form the chief articles of diet, supplying a rich yet bulky food. Good straw may be fed in the beginning of the winter to some extent, but we do not favor the practice of forcing it on our cattle. They will eat and relish a certain amount, even when they get plenty of other food, but beyond this amount we do not believe it wise to go. Straw is too poor and too hard to digest to waste the digestive energies of our cattle on. With clover hay as a basis, and such quantities of silage or roots, or both, as will keep our cattle in good thrifty condition, they will gain in flesh very satisfactorily, and go on the grass in shape to go ahead. It is a good thing to feed some meal also, being careful to

feed very moderately—say a pound per day to start with, and finishing with not more than four pounds per day.

Our steers at present are getting about 14 lbs. clover hay, 20 lbs. corn silage, and 30 lbs. turnips per day, with about 1 lb. of mixed meal and what straw they will eat. Before spring the meal will be gradually increased to 4 lbs., and the silage and turnips will also be increased. When they go on the grass, about the 10th or 15th of May, they will still get their meal, mixed with chaff, but as the grass matures they will lose their taste for the meal, and finally refuse it. Then they will depend on the natural pastures, and having been fed on bulky food through the winter, will be in shape to make the best use of the grass.

Grass-feeding is very satisfactory where properly conducted, but—Don't feed too much meal through the winter.

### FARM.

#### Lice on Turnips.

A Lambton correspondent writes that he has a remedy for lice on turnips. As soon as the lice appear he takes a sharp hoe and cuts the tops off the crop. In a few days they leaf out again, apparently uninterrupted in their growth.

Knowing the nature of plant lice, it is hardly credible that so short a check to their development would affect them seriously. While the plan of our correspondent may have worked well in his case, the good effects may have been due to some other influence—the weather, for instance. Of course, if the tops were drawn off and fed to stock or piled to rot, the lice would be almost entirely destroyed. One thing is certain, that the application of insecticides can scarcely do much harm to turnip lice, since they work on the under side of the leaves.



Some of the Sheep Exhibitors at the Western Fair, London, 1903.

#### The Sparrow Pest.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—If you permit me to use a little space in your most excellent paper, I will give, briefly, my experience with the English sparrows. Years ago we were richly blessed with numerous singing birds, as well as swallows, which came every year and made nests, laying and hatching their eggs in the trees surrounding our dwelling; but later on the quarrelsome sparrow made its appearance, attacking the other birds in swarms, the consequence being that the birds were gradually driven away, and last season we were practically without any birds, excepting the fighting sparrows, taking possession of every nest, nook and corner on the place. A few weeks ago I observed a small gray bird in the barn, resembling an owl. This fellow, I believe, went for the sparrows, and the consequence was they fled for dear life, and almost completely left the place. Now, if this pest, which will in a very short time, if let go, rid the country of its useful and pleasurable birds, could be driven out or destroyed by such a simple way as to keep a little screech-owl, would it not be well to provide some way to breed a sufficient number of them in order that they could be distributed among the farmers, as well as in towns? I know no better medium through which to bring this very important subject before the farming public than the "Farmer's Advocate."

Waterloo Co., Ont.

G. BETTSCHEN.

#### Training a Hedge.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your January 14th number, H. H., Grey Co., asks what he had better do with his hedge, and you practically advised him to dig it up, or to cut it to four feet in height. Now, no hedge will ever be made that way. You will have a row of bushes, but the thick part will be at the top, which should be at the bottom. Now, let H. H. take one-half of his hedge, or as much of it as he likes, for that matter, and cut it down so close to the ground as only to leave two branches or buds (if the plants are small), and keep the center from growing up in a single shoot. You must get the bottom thick first, or you will not have a properly formed hedge. If you want your hedge to be four feet high, then you want it to be one and a half feet through, and so thick with branches that a robin can not fly through it. Keep it at this broader proportion. If five feet high, let it grow broader. Just try it for five years, and you will have a hedge that you will be proud of.

Bruce Co., Ont.

W. H.

#### Applying Farmyard Manure.

According to James McFadyean, an experiment conducted at the Ottawa Experiment Farm, and covering a period of years, indicated that an equal weight of fresh stable manure and of well-rotted manure were of practically the same value for application to all the principal crops. Practically the same results have thus far been obtained at that station. Mr. McFadyean says:

It is a great mistake to believe that manure wastes to any extent when spread upon the land. Unless there is considerable fermentation, there will be very little of the valuable elements escape by evaporation. I do not recommend too heavy an application at one time. We seek to have it divided, so that it will cover all the land every second year, if possible. If the manure is reasonably short, so that we may have it incorporated into the surface soil with the disk or spade harrow, cultivator or gang plow in the spring, and to about the same depth as we wish to sow our grain, its indirect value to the growing crop is greatest. Farmyard manure is the most natural and perfect plant food available, and it has indirect results that no commercial fertilizer can give, because it adds to the soil so much vegetable matter, so much humus, by which all clay and sandy soils especially are greatly benefited, though not just yet available as plant food. But whenever there is a decaying of vegetable matter there

is always a certain degree of heat formed. We see this very plainly in the manure heap. Then let us have this heat formed in the soil, that the growing plants may derive some benefit from it, and the soil will be made more mellow, crumbly and porous, because of the heat and moisture. — [Prairie Farmer.

#### Preparing Seed.

In writing us with regard to seed selection and seedling, H. M. Weeks, Middlesex Co., says:

"In screening we remove all impurities and light grain. We would prefer to sow only large kernels, but do not practice this method. The larger seed naturally gives the plant a better start. We do not think the degree of fertility of the soil has any effect upon the prolificacy of the seed, and would not change seed from one locality to another unless there were an apparent improvement in the seed so secured. When sowing we set the drill according to the amount we desire to sow, making no allowance for the size of the kernels, and prefer to drill rather than to broadcast. We seldom have smut, and never treat seed to prevent it.

#### Delighted with the Weekly.

Enclosed please find postal note for \$1.50. We are delighted with the "Advocate" as a weekly. Wishing you a prosperous year. J. J. RING.