

notably greater and better sustained than others. A case in point occurred in one of the rings at St. Louis. An exhibitor whose flock ranked 1, 2, 4, 5 and 3, aggregating 15, could have substituted an animal ranking second in another ring for the one that stood fifth, thus reducing his total to twelve, but he considered his flock stronger with the fifth-prize animal than with the second. This is evidence that the exhibitors themselves do not rate their flocks purely on a mathematical basis.

Leicester Sheep.

The Leicesters are among the oldest of the English breeds. The breed originated in the county of Leicestershire, and its improvement was commenced in 1755 by Robert Bakewell, of Dishley, near Loughboro, in that county. At that time, and for many years after, it was commonly spoken of as the Old Dishley breed. Bakewell was a genius in his way, and is rightly credited with being the first to adopt a system of breeding live stock by which a distinct type might be evolved, embodying the ideal character with the power to reproduce its type with reasonable uniformity. It remained for him to demonstrate to the stock-breeders of his century that in the concentration of the blood of animals possessing desired characteristics a method was provided whereby results could be quickly and definitely attained. Incestuous or in-and-inbreeding of animals closely related in blood, was up to that time held in abhorrence, and when Bakewell began the breeding of long-woolled sheep, Lancashire long-horned cattle and draft horses from close affinities he was considered by his neighbors little short of insane. In effecting the desired improvement, he invariably chose animals for breeding which possessed in the highest degree the qualities and approximating the type he sought to establish, and his work, at least in so far as sheep are concerned, proved signally successful. His example may also rightly be credited with the origin of the Shorthorn breed of cattle, as it was during his lifetime that Charles Colling, Sr., and his sons and successors, Charles and Robert, observing Bakewell's work, made a study of the theory and practice of in-and-inbreeding, and set about improving their cattle on the same principle. The improved qualities sought by Bakewell were greater symmetry of form, earlier maturity, a reduction of bone and offal, and he succeeded so well that within fifty years from the establishment of the new Leicester breed it had superseded nearly all the long-woolled breeds in England at that time, and was later used in the improvement and evolution of nearly all the other breeds, whether of the long-woolled or the middle-woolled classes. Leicesters were first imported to Canada about 1800 by Rev. Mr. Poofy, of Quebec, and before 1850 were quite numerous in Ontario, and were the leading breed in numbers and importance in these Provinces long after that time. Owing to their early introduction into this country, the number of grades of this breed is relatively much greater in proportion to the pure-breds than with other breeds.

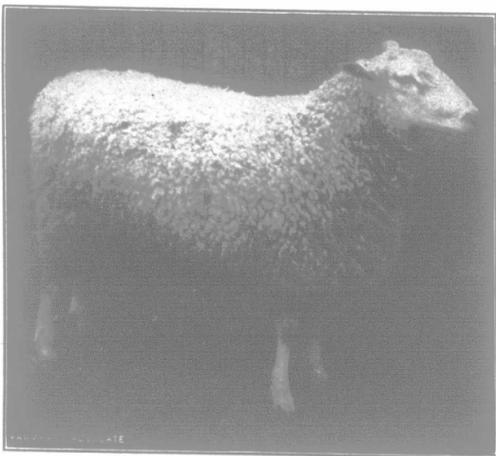
The American Leicester Breeders' Association was formed in 1888, and a pedigree registry instituted soon after, of which Mr. A. J. Temple, Cameron, Illinois, is editor, and of which four volumes have been published, containing the pedigrees of 7,000 animals, the number of owners being 440, of which about 400 are residents of Canada. These figures by no means represent the number of breeders of Leicesters in Canada, as there are hundreds of flocks whose owners have not availed themselves of the privileges of membership or registration. Leicesters are still popular with a large proportion of Canadian farmers for easy-keeping qualities and for crossing with other breeds and with common stock, and large numbers are taken every year by United States breeders and rangemen, where they are highly thought of for crossing purposes.

The Border Leicesters, a later production, differ from the Bakewell or English type, in being larger, longer and more rangy, with clear white legs and head, and a slightly Roman nose, while the English type is shorter, has a bluish-white face, a tendency to grow a little tuft of wool on the forehead, and is woolled on the shanks. It is said that the Border Leicester breed was created by crossing the Dishley type with the Teeswater breed, which was in high favor in the eighteenth century. The two types of Leicesters became so different that in 1869 the Royal Agricultural Society made distinct classes for them, a classification which has been continued to the present time. The Border Leicesters have been most in favor in late years with Canadian breeders, and they sell for very high prices at the Scottish ram sales.

The early-maturing qualities of the Leicesters is a marked characteristic of the breed. They are easy keepers, and the lambs can be marketed early. The quality of their meat is juicy and plentiful, and the offal light. Their wool is perhaps the finest of the long-woolled breeds, is of even quality, and a well-kept flock should shear,

on an average, from ten to twelve pounds of unwashed wool. They are not so heavy, as a rule, as the Lincolns or Cotswolds, but weigh more than any of the middle-woolled breeds, except the Oxford and Hampshires.

The average weight of a mature Leicester ram in good condition may be put at 225 to 250 pounds, and of a ewe at 175 to 200 pounds. Show sheep highly fitted, of course, weigh much heavier. Leicesters are well adapted to the climate of all the Canadian Provinces, and all the Eastern, Middle and Western States. In general appearance, they are among the handsomest of the breeds, stylish, symmetrical, breezy looking, plumply developed, and, when in good condition, a really beautiful animal.



Leicester Ram.

Winner of first in ag'd ram class, Western Fair, London, 1904. Owned by Frank Kelly, Aylmer, Ont.

Character and Breed Character in Live Stock.

A short time ago, a novice in cattle lore and breeding queried us re the above terms, which are used so glibly by some live-stock breeders. Our explanation or opinion was that the term "breed character" was erroneous, and was intended to mean "breed type," and that the term, "lots of character," as applied to a male, indicated that he was masculine in appearance, virile, and that he possessed the needed sex characteristics in a marked degree. In order to clear away any clouds of doubt, we referred the matter to the eminent Canadian live-stock educationist, Prof. G. E. Day, for his opinion, which is given below:

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Dear Sir,—Your favor of the 15th inst., asking me to give my understanding of the terms "character" and "breed character" when applied to live stock. It seems to me that in almost every case when the term "character" is used as applied to pure-bred stock, "breed character" is included under the term. If we were to separate the two terms, then I should say the term "character" would appeal mainly to the peculiarities possessed by the different sexes; that is to say—a male animal would possess in his general make-up all those things which properly belong to the sex. We frequently speak of "masculine character" to indicate those things. In the same way, the female should possess, in a marked degree, the characteristic conformation and "character" of the female. Perhaps the most marked differences are to be seen in connection with the carriage, bone, head, neck and fore-quarters, and, in some classes of live stock, the conformation of the hind quarters as well.

When we speak of "breed character," we usually include all that has already been stated, but along with that we require, in a marked degree, those peculiarities which distinguish the breed in question from other breeds. Take, for instance, the case of sheep—a Shropshire and a Leicester may both possess "breed character," but they are very different. If they are males, both should give indication of strong masculine character, and in this respect they are similar, but, as you will readily understand, in order to possess "breed character," the requirements for the two are entirely different. For my own part, I may say I seldom use the term "breed character," but prefer the term "breed type," and even with this use of terms, it is difficult to draw a clear line of distinction between them. When we say an animal possesses "character," we naturally imply that it conforms to the recognized type of that breed, but an animal may conform fairly closely to type, and still lack something of character. According to this understanding of the terms, "character" is a somewhat broader term than "type," and, in fact, practically includes type. I may be wrong, but

I would prefer to discard the term "breed character," and, as I said before, use, in preference, the terms "character" and "breed type."

It is a very difficult matter to express in words all that is meant by "character," and yet it is a very necessary thing that a judge of stock should be able to recognize "character" when he sees it.

G. E. DAY.

Soiling Cows.

A correspondent in Waterloo County, Ontario, asks these questions:

1. What is your opinion of soiling cows during the summer on a farm where twenty or twenty-five are to be kept, and the land is all workable?

2. How much land per head would be required for six months' soiling?

3. Would cows do better soiled, or on good fair pasture?

4. Would extra manure pay for extra work?

Soiling cows for six months of the year is one of the phases of what is called intensive farming. It is usually associated with high-priced land, somewhat limited in extent, high taxes, long prices for products, and a fairly convenient market. With these conditions, soiling and intensive farming not only pays, but is practically compulsory. It is sometimes followed, however, where all these conditions do not obtain, as, for instance, where one wishes to make the labor of a large family on a small farm profitable. In the farming communities of Canada more remote from the large cities, we doubt the advisability of extremely intensive methods, but, to a certain degree, soiling of dairy cows and the growing of fall pasture crops should be practiced, not so much, however, for the better handling of the manure, though that is by no means an unimportant point, but rather because it is a more economical and less speculative method of feeding than to trust to pasture alone to carry the cows through. If we were to undertake to keep from twenty to twenty-five cows on the average Ontario farm (100 acres) we would like to have at least twenty acres in good pasture of blue grass, orchard grass, alfalfa, red clover and timothy, and to supplement this we would like to have from five to ten acres available for soiling crops. This we would sow to different crops. On one plot we would sow fall rye and fall wheat for early feeding; on another peas, oats and tares, sown at different intervals; on another, corn, sown quite thickly; on another mangolds, sown early. On the first plot could be sown alfalfa seed, after this crop had been cut, and on the second, rape, kale or other crop, for young cattle or sheep, so that the land would be occupied all season. With these crops and good pasture, cows could be kept milking during the period of dry pastures, generally beginning about July 1st, until the silo was filled in the fall, when ensilage could be used. Where more intensive methods are preferred, we would suggest and advise putting up ensilage enough to last over summer, to be fed with the green crops. In fact, it is almost certain that ensilage is the cheapest fodder to be had, and is a very popular feed in many places, even when pastures are fairly good. This degree of intensity in farming is, we believe, about what conditions in Ontario demand to-day, but if our correspondent has several boys, or a good market for dairy products, it might be advisable to keep less land in pasture and more in green fodder crops or ensilage corn. Certain it is that pasture yields a very poor return per acre, as compared with other crops, and one must direct his operations accordingly.

Care of Fall Pigs.

Those who have bred for fall pigs have been fortunate if they have had the litters come in September or early in October, as early fall pigs, if given freedom to run out for exercise, get strength of bone and muscle, which serves them to good purpose in tiding over the term of confinement during the winter months, when, if snow is deep, it is difficult to get them out for exercise. Pigs born in November and December are liable to miss the benefit of free exercise in their early life, and it should be made a point to give them license to run out on all the fine days, in order that they may profit by the exercise and the grass and grit, which seems to be essential to their best health and the strengthening of their constitution. In cases where it is not practical to let them out they should be encouraged to exercise in the pens as far as possible. A shovelful or two of gravel or sods with grass on them, thrown on the floor of the pen, helps to keep them working, and serves as a tonic to their stomach. In the absence of this, or in connection with it, a low box, in which ashes and cinders and salt mixed is kept, will also be helpful in keeping them healthy. Before weaning, the pigs should have a separate trough from the sow, low-sided and flat, in which warm milk is given them at the same time or before the sow is fed, in order that they may be encouraged to