

FARMING WITH LITTLE LABOR.

OLD MAN, Bruce Co., Ont.:—"I find my health failing, and it requires a good strong back on the farm. Would you kindly advise me the best way to get along, and make an honest living with the least work on my farm of 150 acres, nearly clear."

[We would recommend the rearing of sheep, provided the farm is suitable, and "Old Man" has had some successful experience in handling a flock. A good flock of 75 to 100 grade ewes will not cost a great deal. They should, however, be wisely selected. From these we would raise lambs from good pure-bred Shropshire sires, to sell fat at about 8 or 9 months old. The males should be castrated and all should be docked at 2 weeks old. They should come not later than May 1st. It would be necessary to grow a field of rape for fall pasture, especially for the lambs from weaning till winter also clover hay, oats and peas; the peas to be cut on the green side, and fed unthreshed. It would be well to commence with a moderate sized flock, and learn by experience some of the lessons necessary for success. It is not well to keep ewes older than four years, nor in flocks of more than 30 head together. They require frequent changes of pasture.

Another easy way to farm is to seed down all to grass, and pasture steers, but this requires a deal of skill to purchase the right class of cattle, and even then there are chances of losses by uncertain fluctuations in the market. Another drawback in pasturing cattle is the frequency of droughts and the ravages of the horn-fly. By farming on either of these plans, or the two in conjunction, there is little heavy work, and the soil is not being depleted.]

FOUNDATION AND WALLS FOR A FRAME HEN-HOUSE.

FARMER, Oxford Co., Ont.:—"I am a subscriber to the ADVOCATE, and would not like to be without it. I think it is a paper which every farmer should have. Would you please let me know, through your journal, what would be the best thing for a foundation for a frame henhouse, and what is the warmest way to build the house at a moderate cost?"

[Since wood embedded in the ground is of short duration, we would recommend as a foundation for a henhouse either stone masonry or cement concrete. Neither will cost much, and either is satisfactory. The frequent references in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE to the use of cement give all the information necessary for building the foundation wall. A cheap, dry and draft-proof wall would consist of covering 2x4 inch studding inside and out, first with cheap sheeting, second with tarred paper, and third with siding outside and battens, strips of thin lumber inside to hold the paper on firmly. We believe this to be a better wall than a layer or lumber each side, the studding packed with sawdust between, as the sawdust works down and leaves the wall drafty at the top.]

RED CALVES BY HOLSTEIN BULL.

SUBSCRIBER, Frontenac Co., Ont.:—"Would you please let me know, if possible, through your valuable paper, the reason why a thoroughbred Holstein bull should throw red calves, when a half-bred bull threw black and white calves for two successive years from the same cows. The animals were fed about the same?"

[No definite reason can be given. Thoroughbred Holstein bulls generally stamp their color on their offspring from common or grade cows, but if the cow's breeding is mixed and miscellaneous, she may sometimes hark back to some vigorous ancestor whose characteristics will reappear in future generations. This explanation, we confess, does not satisfactorily account for the occurrence where a number of instances of the kind crop up in a herd, and one is almost forced to the conclusion that there has either been a mistake as to the breeding of the alleged pure-bred bull, or if not, that he is not a prepotent sire, else he would leave his impression more clearly on his progeny in regard to color.]

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

New Ontario.

STOCK FEEDING ON A LARGE SCALE.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I read with interest your excellent journal, but it seems we are so far out of your sight that our good Alzuma is lost sight of. Well, that is only for a time. My farm comprises six hundred acres, with the Neebing River running through about the center of lots of farm. Last winter I fed, for market, 1,013 sheep; this winter I am only feeding 400. My stock comprises 400 sheep, 86 hogs, 58 head of cattle, 10 horses. My feed is wheat screenings, bran, hay and straw. The dairy cows get all the boiled wheat and bran they can eat. The sheep are fed whole grain from self-feeders; the hogs also feed from self-feeders. Sometimes we feed crushed wheat and oats.

My sheep and hog barn is 35 feet wide by 150 feet long, having self-feeders down the center and outside wall. It has 14 ft. doors connecting all around building, so that a team with a load of hay drives around the building and fills the hay-racks inside of building. On warm days we leave the doors drawn to give fresh air to sheep. I have a steam boiler at river that sends water through an injector warm to barn, 180 feet, and also to another barn, where I keep breeding ewes and breeding sows. All the stock at these barns are watered with warm water. I have used it two winters with great success. At my dairy barn I pump by windmill into steel tanks. I have a rather nicely equipped dairy barn, supplied with my own patent hay rack and feeder. It is a swinging rack that shuts cows off feed trough or water at pleasure; a ten-year-old boy can feed with it very easily. The farm is two and a half miles from C. P. R. station, Fort William. I have owned it about three years. At the time of purchase it was covered with timber and stump. I have about 100 acres ready for crop. We have lots of rain here and no scarcity of pasture. R. SMITH.

A Trip to the Island of Cape Breton.

About the middle of November, 1900, I accompanied Mr. T. G. Raynor, of Rosehall, Ontario, on an Institute tour in the Island of Cape Breton, which is the eastern part of the Province of Nova Scotia, and we were very favorably impressed with the ruggedness and open expanse of its people, the picturesque beauty of its hills and lakes, and the undoubted fertility of its valleys. Most of the people are Scotch; as one noble son of Scotland remarked to us: "We are more Scotch than Scotland is, and all Presbyterians, sir. The land is nae polluted wi' Methodist, Baptist or Catholic, as far as the eye can see." And, indeed, such names as Skye, Glen, Lake Ainsley, and Inverness, with nearly every man being a McDonald, McGregor or McKay, with once in a while a Ross, were strong evidences of the truth of the statement. Many of the older people use the Gaelic dialect, and on Sabbath morning the preacher preached first in English, and after the first congregation had dispersed, he preached to a congregation of the older people in Gaelic.

Cape Breton is, first of all, a mining country, and seems to be only just beginning to be developed. Coal, iron, copper, manganese, gypsum and marble appear to be in almost unlimited quantities, while pockets of gold and traces of petroleum are also found. One cannot but feel that there is a great future in store for this Island. As the mines are being developed, railroads are finding their way to all parts of the Island, and its many good harbors afford ample opportunity to the products of the markets of the world. Small towns are springing up in all directions. Sydney, which two or three years ago was only a small mining village, is now a bustling town of twelve thousand and a coaling station for some of the big Atlantic liners. We were informed that some of the interval land is very productive, and is valued at from \$60 to \$100 an acre. But it seemed to us the most prominent feature of Cape Breton was its men. Who could look over the heads and faces of the men who gathered in the schoolhouses to hear us preach the gospel of clover and pure-bred sires, or look over that Gaelic congregation, without involuntarily exclaiming, "brainty, intelligent, manly men!"

The picturesque of the scenery makes Cape Breton a favorite resort for tourists, and the beautiful village of Whycocomah, situated among the hills at the head of the Bras Dor Lakes, looks comparatively desolate in the autumn when its summer guests have flown to milder climes. Some of the farms are in a high state of cultivation and so beautifully situated, where, from the large bay window you could look up and down the winding river and across the valley to the dark, wooded mountain, that we almost envied those who could call these places home. C. H. BLACK.

Cumberland Co., N. S.

Seed Grain Competition.

Prof. Robertson has distributed a portion of the \$10,000 which Sir William C. Macdonald, of Montreal, donated for cash prizes to encourage and stimulate Canadian boys and girls to observe closely and select carefully seed grain. The names of those who have been successful in Ontario in winning prizes with one hundred selected heads of oats are as follows: Duncan and Nellie McBeath, North Bay, \$25; Bertie Andrew & Co., Sheridan, \$20; E. & M. Cochrane, Ayr, \$15; Grace Judd, Doe Lake, \$12; John Price, Marshville, \$10; Claude Coo, Athens, \$8; Chas. Dixon, Bromore, \$5; Wilbert Prouse, Goderich, \$5; Harvey Lennan, Magalloway, \$5; Alfred Mountain, Avonbank, \$5. Prof. Robertson has undertaken to supply as many as he can of the competitors who entered the competition and were disappointed in their efforts last year with special selected seed in sufficient quantity to give them a start with a seed grain plot of a quarter of an acre this year. Competitors applying for this seed may receive either seventeen pounds of oats or thirty pounds of wheat of a good standard variety. Both wheat and oats will not be supplied to the same applicant or to different members of the same family.

Agricultural Legislation in Nova Scotia.

In the Provincial Legislature, now in session at Halifax, Premier Murray has introduced three bills of importance to farmers, fruit-growers and stockmen. The first is an Act to encourage dairying in the Province, and calls for an annual appropriation of \$7,000 for the establishment of dairy schools and to aid in the equipment of factories that will annually for five years manufacture not less than 20,000 lbs. of butter or 40,000 lbs. of cheese.

The second measure is to encourage fruit-growing, the Government undertaking to establish model orchards of six acres each in every county in the Province as a model, setting it out with first-class nursery stock. The experimental fruit stations in Ontario, which are the property of private fruit-growers, conducted under an Advisory Board, and receiving Provincial aid for the work done in the public interest, have been very helpful in dealing with varieties and methods of culture suitable for different localities.

The third measure authorizes the Government to dispose of the present Nova Scotia Herdbook, and to affiliate with the Dominion Live Stock Registry Associations.

Can Hog Prices Stay Up?

While it is true that competition is a good thing in any business, and is indeed the life of trade, it would seem that the high prices for bacon hogs that have prevailed for several months cannot long be maintained. The continued buoyancy of the market is probably not due to an increased demand in England for bacon, but rather the need of our numerous packing houses have for hogs to keep their plants running at anything like a fair rate. We learn that several of the co-operative factories have been running on very short allowance, and have even considered closing down until the hog supply increased. In order to keep running, the competing factories are paying the present high prices, and, according to the English market, paying such prices at a loss. How long the losing game will continue is not easily determined, but there is little probability of a rise in England, because bacon is now selling at a price that warrants a liberal consumption, whereas, if the price advances, the consumption decreases accordingly, again reducing the price to the normal valuation. The writer recently had access to the books of one of our best packing houses, and learned that recent shipments have been extremely unprofitable. Hogs that cost \$6.25 at the farm, or \$6.75 off the cars at the packing house, when manufactured into Wiltshire bacon stands in debt to the packer at \$11.85 per cwt. This included several grades that sold in England at \$11.40 per cwt. for the best and \$8.90 per cwt. for the lowest grade, all grades bringing an average of \$10.40 per hundred pounds, being a loss of \$1.00 per hundred on the cured meat. This is not an exceptional case, but an ordinary one, with a well-established packing company, whose product bears a good reputation in the English market.

While the prices will slacken down to a normal condition sooner or later, hog-growers can help themselves by producing the highest possible quality. The range of values reported above as obtained in England, represents the actual prices obtained for the different grades in a mixed lot such as drovers usually take to the factories. Among them are pigs that sell in England, as bacon, at \$11.40 a hundred, and others that are worth only \$8.90 per cwt. Practically both sorts, and all between, cost the farmer about equally to produce, and, unfortunately for the education of pig-growers, the average drover pays a uniform price for all, so long as they are within the recommended range of weights and conditions. Now, the less a lot contains of the cheap sort, the higher price can the drover or packer pay for them. It does seem extraordinary that persons who make no objection whatever to taking graded prices for horses, cattle, poultry, or what not, according to their value, protest very strongly against the same treatment with their hogs. That there is an actual difference in their values is evident from the prices obtained in England for the various grades of bacon cured alike, and the sooner hogs are bought and paid for from that standpoint, the more readily will we learn the sorts to produce and the sorts not to bother with.

OBSERVER.

Toronto Markets.

The volume of trade at the western cattle market is not large. Butchers are not buying freely, and were soon satisfied; many loads left over. Hogs steady at the decline; run not large; supply is still reported small.

Export Cattle.—The demand for choice export cattle is not brisk, although there were several loads of well-finished exporters on offer. Choice lots of export cattle are quoted at \$4.00 to \$5.00 per cwt. Light export sold at \$4.00 to \$4.50 per cwt. Messrs. Lunness & Halligan bought six loads of exporters at \$4.50 to \$4.90 per cwt. Mr. Wm. Dulmage sold 14 exporters, 1,250 lbs. each, at \$4.50 per cwt. Messrs. Dunn Bros. bought five export steers, 1,375 lbs. each, at \$4.70 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—The demand for best butchers' cattle was good. Messrs. Harris & Co., abattoir, have taken all supplies of good butchers' cattle for the last two weeks. This has helped to sustain prices. Choice picked loads of butchers' cattle, equal in quality to best exporters, weighing 1,000 to 1,100 lbs. each, sold at \$4.25 to \$4.35 per cwt. Loads of good butchers' cattle sold at \$3.40 to \$3.75 per cwt. Medium mixed butchers' cows, heifers and steers sold at \$3.15 to \$3.30 per cwt. Common butchers' cows sold at \$2.75 to \$3.00; inferior rough cows and bulls sold at \$2.40 to \$2.60. Mr. James Harris bought one load of extra quality steers, average 1,100 lbs., at \$4.20 per cwt.

Bulls.—Heavy export bulls sold at \$3.85 to \$4.25 per cwt. Light export bulls sold at \$4.25 per cwt.

Feeders.—Heavy steers, weighing 1,000 to 1,150 lbs. each, of good breeding qualities, sold at \$3.60 to \$3.80 per cwt., while those of poor quality sold at \$3.40 to \$3.60 per cwt. Steers, weighing 800 lbs. average, sold at \$3.35 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Stockers.—Yearling steers, 500 lbs. to 800 lbs. average, sold at \$3.00 to \$3.25 per cwt. Mixed colors, black and white, all those of inferior quality, sold at \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cwt. Yearling bulls, average from 600 lbs. to 900 lbs. in weight, sold at \$2.00 to \$2.50 per cwt.

Sheep.—Deliveries small. Prices easier, at from \$3.00 to \$3.50 for ewes, and at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per cwt. for bucks.

Lambs.—Grain-fed lambs sold at \$4.00 to \$4.50 per cwt. Barnyard lambs sold at \$3.50 to \$4.00 per cwt. Messrs. Whaley & Co., of Buffalo, bought 14 lambs, 90 lbs. each, at \$4.70.

Calves.—About 30 on offer, sold at from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per head. Mr. H. Reynolds sold 11 calves at \$4.50 per cwt.

Milk Cows.—Good milk cows and springers wanted. Ten on offer at from \$30.00 to \$47.00 per head.

Hogs.—Only 1,000 per day, with the average below our usual supply. The most notable feature about the hog trade at the present time is they are either much over weight or too young to have the desired weight. Best select bacon hogs must be 160 lbs., not over 200 lbs., live weight, and the price is \$6.25. Light and thick fat at \$5.75 per cwt. Sows at \$5.50; stores, \$4.50, and stags at \$2.00 per cwt.

Grain Market.—Roads in the vicinity of Toronto are reported very bad, and the deliveries of produce on the street market to-day were not up to the average of usual market days. **Wheat** steady; 200 bushels of white sold at 68c; per bushel; 200 bushels of red wheat sold at 68c; per bushel; 300 bushels of goose, at 68c, per bushel. One load of spring wheat sold at 70c, per bushel.

Barley.—Three hundred bushels sold at 46c, per bushel.

Oats.—Seven hundred bushels sold at 34c, to 34c, per bushel.

Rye.—One hundred bushels sold at 52c, per bushel.

Hay.—Small deliveries during the week made the price firmer, at \$14.00 to \$16.00 per ton for loose, and \$9.50 per ton for baled.

Straw.—Two loads on offer, at \$9.00 to \$10.00 per ton; one load of loose straw, at \$6.00 per ton. Baled straw, in car lots, at \$4.50 to \$5.00 per ton.

Dressed Hogs. in sympathy with live hogs, fell to \$7.75 and \$8.00 per cwt. Mr. Wm. Harris purchased 100 dressed hogs, at an average of \$8.00 per cwt.

Eggs.—Only a few lots of eggs on offer from farmers' wagons, at from 20c. to 25c. per dozen for choice new-laid.

Butter.—Demand good, supply not large; prices easy, at 20c. to 23c. per pound, for choice gilt-edge.

	Comparative prices to-day.	2 weeks ago.	Same date last year.
	March 9, 1901.	Feb. 26, 1901.	March 9, 1900.
Export cattle.....	\$ 4.90	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
Butchers' cattle.....	4.35	4.40	4.60
Bulls.....	4.25	4.50	3.40
Stockers.....	3.25	3.15	3.50
Feeders.....	3.50	4.25	4.00
Sheep.....	3.50	3.50	3.75
Hogs.....	6.50	6.75	5.37
Lambs, each.....	4.70	4.75	5.60
Milk cows.....	45.00	50.00	45.00

Chicago Markets.

Chicago, March 11.—**Cattle.**—Receipts, 22,000, including 1,200 Texans; good to prime steers, \$5 to \$6; poor to medium, \$3.60 to \$4.90; stockers and feeders, \$2.75 to \$4.65; cows, \$2.50 to \$4.25; heifers, \$2.50 to \$4.40; bulls, \$2.75 to \$4.20; calves, \$4.50 to \$6.25; Texas fed steers, \$4 to \$4.90; Texas grass steers, \$3.35 to \$4.

Hogs.—Receipts, 35,000; mixed and butchers', \$5.35 to \$5.65; good to choice, heavy, \$5.50 to \$5.70; rough, heavy, \$5.37 1/2 to \$5.45; light, \$5.35 to \$6.02.

Sheep.—Receipts, 15,000; good to choice wethers, \$4.40 to \$4.90; fair to choice mixed, \$4 to \$4.50; western sheep, \$4.40 to \$4.90; Texas sheep, \$2.55 to \$3.75; native lambs, \$4.50 to \$5.35; western lambs, \$5 to \$5.35.

Official receipts of stock for the week ending March 9th were 46,954 cattle, 1,641 calves, 126,567 hogs, 53,254 sheep, and 2,901 horses. Shipments were 17,149 cattle, 71 calves, 29,964 hogs, 13,071 sheep, and 2,770 horses. By comparing these figures with those of the corresponding week a year ago, we find very little difference in the receipts of cattle and calves, a decrease of 24,600 hogs, a decrease of 7,578 sheep, and an increase of 429 horses. Shipments last week, as compared with the corresponding week a year ago, show an increase of 1,091 cattle, a decrease of 10 calves, a decrease of 5,344 hogs, an increase of 7,183 sheep, and an increase of 476 horses.

Buffalo Markets.

East Buffalo, March 11.—**Cattle.**—Best smooth, fat export cattle, desirable quality, \$5.50 to \$5.60; good to best, \$4.85 to \$5; shipping steers, \$4.60 to \$4.85; export bulls, choice to extra, \$4 to \$4.25; good to choice butchers' steers, \$4.25 to \$4.50; good to best butchers' steers, \$4 to \$4.25; good to best fat bulls, \$3.25 to \$3.50; fair to good fat bulls, \$3 to \$3.25; feeder bulls, \$3 to \$3.25; stock bulls, \$2.75 to \$3.25; yearling steers, good to choice, \$3.25 to \$3.50; good to best fat cows, \$3.25 to \$3.50; fat heifers, choice to extra, \$4 to \$4.25; light butchers', \$3.75 to \$4; Canada stockers, \$4 to \$4.25; good to choice do, \$3.50 to \$3.75; common and stock heifers, \$2.75 to \$3; stock steers, good to best, \$3.75 to \$4; feeding steers choice to extra, \$4 to \$4.15; good to choice, \$3.25 to \$3.65; Canada feeders, good to choice, \$4 to \$4.25.

Sheep and lambs.—Basis on extra lambs, \$5.65, bulk of sales being at that figure; offerings, 75 leads; market steady; lambs, choice to extra, \$5.50 to \$5.65; good to choice, \$5.25 to \$5.50; common to fair, \$4.50 to \$5.25; sheep, choice to extra, \$4.75 to \$5; good to choice, \$4.50 to \$4.75; common to fair, \$2.75 to \$3.50.

Horses for South Africa.

Montreal, March 10.—C. M. Bosworth, freight traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, has been advised by cable from London that Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal has completed arrangements with the Imperial Government to send an officer of the War Department to Canada to purchase horses for use in South Africa. It is understood the officer will soon sail from London, arriving in Canada during the latter part of this month or early in April, and will purchase from 1,500 to 2,000 horses, which will be shipped from Halifax.

Old Country Markets.

London, March 11.—Supplies of cattle are moderate and trade is better. United States cattle, 6 1/2d.
Liverpool, March 11.—Canadian cattle, 5 1/2d.