

THE FARM.

The Story of a Farm Boy.

Continued from page 1751.

the test but that had it not been for the practical farm experience and common sense he had obtained on the old place at home, under his father's guidance, he would many a time have been up against a nut he could not crack. He began to see that his College course was very valuable to bring out his latent powers and equip him to go on and complete his education in after years. He made good at this his first job. He saved money on it, which was more than most could or did do. His Chief gave him a desirable recommendation.

Then came the final year—year of all years. Jimmy was a senior—in the eyes of the lower years, weighted

agricultural college course had fulfilled its mission. It had trained its man to think. It had revealed to him how little he knew. It had prepared him to go on and add to his education day by day and year by year. It was worth while, and the \$1,000 and best part of four years which Jimmy had spent there were to him money and time well spent.

Jimmy was again packing his trunk. He had acquired books, notes, pennants, pictures, and what not. He was busy gathering up for another move. Where was he going this time—back to the farm to which his father had returned after one year in the village, or somewhere else? What do you think Jimmy's next move was? Remember Jimmy believed

"The Mind's the standard of the man,"

and that:

"The mould of a man's fortune is in his own hands," and acted accordingly.

We'll leave him packing his trunk, to follow him again in a new role.

(To be continued.)

Covering Root Pits.

When the roots are nearly piled up and ready for winter clothes, cover with about 6 inches of clean straw and allow this to extend well up over the top. At the first of November it is not too early to throw up the loose soil, and 5 or 6 inches of this should be spread on the sides of the pit, but the top should not be covered at this time. There is considerable heat in the mass of roots and ventilation is required. The hot air will find its way out through the uncovered straw at the top and the cool, pure air will gain entrance through the same channel. When one begins to cover, field tile should be stood up on top of the roots and allowed to extend above the covering. These can and should be capped during the severe cold, winter weather. There is an advantage in starting these tile from near the centre of the pile of roots, for in extremely cold weather one can suspend a thermometer in them and ascertain the temperature existing in the centre of the pit. There should be a tile every 10 feet at least, and many put them even closer than that.

As the winter closes in cover the top with soil and then add straw manure to hold the snow and furnish additional protection. The depth of this latter covering must be regulated entirely by the severity of the weather.

Work Backward in Leeds County.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I am one of those farmers foolish enough to buy an automobile about two years ago, and after getting fairly familiar with the machine, and having confidence in my ability to drive off at a moderate clip, the thing that surprised me most was the large number of drivers who pay so little regard to the rules of the road. In this county we have a great many sharp turns, narrow strips of road, and steep, rough hills, and in many places the roadside is lined with bush, so that it is impossible to see a car four rods away. In such places I have met several cars coming up these hills on high gear, without sounding their horn, and again one occasionally meets one of those fellows which the "Motor World" calls a "road hog." Well, all I have to say to these fellows is, that when they attempt to crowd me into the ditch they will find the worst crank in old Leeds County, for when I started to drive a car I started out to be courteous to all and to follow all the rules of the road in every detail, and I think I am safe in saying I have kept that course.

Now, in regard to farm conditions, at this writing—October 21—I don't think I ever saw the farm work so backward, chiefly on account of the extremely wet weather. In some cases corn is still lying on the ground, and in some instances lowland hay is still in the cock, and at this writing—with the ground already very wet—we are getting a soaker. Fall plowing won't be finished this fall, and I

see a great deal of valuable farm machinery still in the field, or being sheltered by a barbed-wire fence. But, I believe the Leeds County plowing match is having a good effect, for I notice where there is any plowing done the farmers are taking more pains to have their land well set up, and in most cases straight as an arrow, which augurs well for greater production in 1919. While we are short of help, to make the situation more acute and still more serious, the Spanish "Flu" is cutting off a great many young men and girls, just coming into manhood and womanhood, and it looks as though the end was not yet.

Leeds Co., Ont.

D. F. ARMSTRONG.

A Victory Bond is an absolute contract with the Dominion Government to pay its amount when due, together with a substantial rate of interest half-yearly.

reached greater weight than two hundred pounds and on the other hand sometimes larger profits are obtained from selling before the pigs are finished. These are conditions that depend upon the trend of the market.

We have used the self-feeder and found it to work satisfactorily although so far gains of pigs on the self-feeder have not been more economical than by hand feeding. They have been almost equal. Where skim-milk is not available up to ten per cent. of tankage may be used in the grain and roots and middlings should be freely fed.

Properly bred, fed and managed pigs will return a profit to the man who goes into the business on a small scale, grows up with it and stays with it year after year. The in-and-outer is always the loser.

Oxford Down Sheep.

The Oxford Down is not a particularly old breed of sheep, having been brought into prominence within the last sixty or seventy years. Its native home is an Oxford County, England, and the size and quality of the breed may be largely attributed to the pastoral conditions of its native land. According to history, good grazing has always been abundant in Oxford County, and roots and small grains which are suitable for sheep feeding do well. According to "Types and Breeds of Farm Animals," by Plumb, Samuel Druce was the leader in the movement for the development of this breed, and in 1859 he wrote to his friend, Mr. Pusey, describing breeding of this new class of sheep as follows: "The foundation of this class of sheep was begun about the year 1833 by using a well made and neat Cotswold ram with Hampshire Down ewes. At the same period several breeders of sheep in this neighborhood also tried the experiment, consequently there has always been an opportunity of getting fresh blood by selecting sheep which suited different flocks, and thereby maintaining the uniform character which is now established." It is believed that in the early days of cross breeding to establish a new breed that Southdown blood was used. For a number of years, crossing was continued with the aim of producing superior mutton and a heavy fleece. By 1860 the type of the breed was fairly well established. In 1846 the Oxford Down was first imported to the United States. Since this date frequent importations were made by different breeders, and the breed soon found its way on to Canadian farms, where it has done particularly well.

The Oxford Down is a fairly large breed of sheep. From 250 to 325 pounds is an ordinary weight for a mature male, and a mature ewe will weigh 200 pounds and over. The breed is quiet by nature and consequently thrives and fattens rapidly. The Oxford carcasses dress out fairly well. The breed crosses well with others and the large size and heavy shearing quality of it has created a demand for pure-bred Oxford rams to mate with flocks of common ewes. Not only does the progeny of this crossing shear large fleeces, but they have excellent mutton qualities.

The Oxford Down shears a heavy fleece of combing wool. While individuals will shear 12 pounds and over, an average of from 9 to 11 pounds is quite common. The ewes usually make good mothers, and are prolific.

The breed somewhat resembles the Shropshire. They have dark-brown face and legs, with wool on the forehead. On close examination it will be found that the color of the Oxford is a lighter brown than the Shropshire, and the wool is longer and looser. The fleece is a trifle more open than that of the Shropshire. The present type, conformation and quality of the Oxford have been secured by years of selection and careful breeding. The breed did not always have the present uniform brown in the face, nor did it always have as high a quality. On examining an individual of this breed, one usually finds a strong broad back and a good leg of mutton. A good deal of improvement in the breed has taken place during the past few years. While the breed is fairly popular in Canada, it is not as extensively seen at exhibitions as are some of the other breeds, but what animals are brought into the show-ring are strong-framed, heavily-fleeced, high-quality individuals, of good breed type.

The Oxford is not particularly suited to range conditions, although it does well on a variety of soils and climates. It seems best suited to level or slightly rolling land. Representatives of the breed are to be found in practically every country where sheep are raised, which is an indication of the hardiness and quality of the Oxford. During the past year remarkable prices have been paid for Oxford rams in England.

The description of an Oxford Down ram as given in the Shepherd's Hand Book, issued by the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association, is as follows: Head—Bold masculine head, well set on a strong neck, with poll well covered with wool. Face—Of a uniform dark-brown color. Ears—Of good length. Shoulder—Broad. Breast—Broad, well forward. Back—Full, level. Ribs—Well sprung. Barrel—Deep, thick and long, with straight underline. Legs—Short and dark colored (not spotted), standing square and well apart. Mutton—Firm, lean and of excellent quality. Wool—Covering the whole body, of close texture, good length and fine quality.

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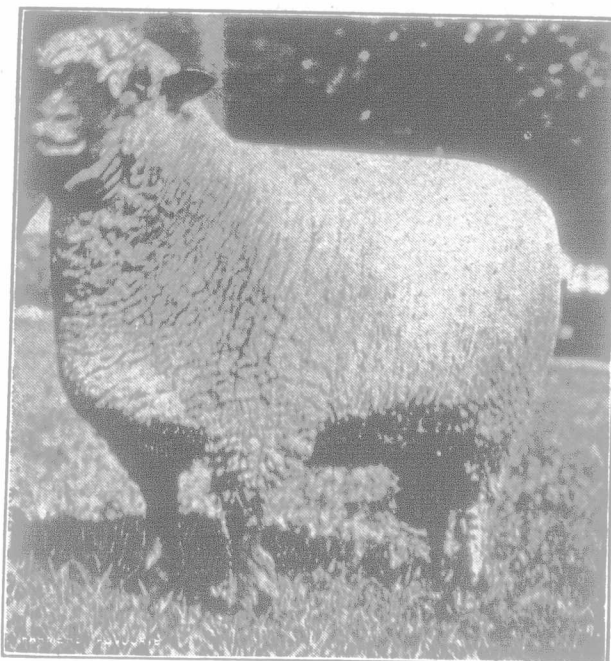
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A Typey Oxford Down.

down with knowledge; in his own estimation far from it, and facing a series of examinations which might set him back a year. Diligently, systematically, and eagerly he worked. He delved deeper into books. He thought more of his practical experience. When the time came to leave the old grey pile of stones on College Hill, he was loath to go. He had grown to love his Alma Mater. He found that the test for his agricultural degree was best met by combining his practical knowledge of agriculture with the book learning he had acquired. He passed. With the others he had his degree conferred upon him by the University with which the College is affiliated. He was a scientific farmer. He was a "book farmer." He was more, a practical farmer. But what was he to do with the B. S. A. appendage to his name? What good was it? Could



Lavender 47th.

Junior champion female at Toronto and London for J. G. Barron, Carberry, Man.

he realize on it? Most of his sheep money was gone but he was still clear of debt. However, he must get busy. Was his learning to prove a real education or just book learning according to a curriculum devised for the purpose? Could he realize on his investment? These questions came up and were turned over in the trained mind.

Jimmy's college days were over. He had enjoyed a good time and the hard work necessary to success. He had made friends. Rubbing shoulders with real men from all parts of his own country and all corners of the globe had smoothed out the wrinkles and worn off the sharp projections in his make-up. Associations had been half his college education. He had learned to be "a good mixer." He had taken advantage of the opportunity to study character. These things were invaluable to him, as his after life proved. The