

STOCK

It is not a good plan to take all the pigs from the sow, unless one or two of them can be turned with her some hours after, to draw the milk she will have at that time, and again, say after a lapse of twenty-four hours. The preferred way is to leave about two of the smallest with her for several days, and after that leave only one for two or three days more, by which time the flow of milk will have been so gradually diminished that no injury will result to the sow by keeping them entirely away from her. This extra supply of milk helps also to push the smaller pigs along in growth and put them more nearly on an equality in size with their thriftier mates. — COBURN'S "Swine in America."

Lighter Clip in Alberta

The clip of Alberta range sheep for this year has been estimated at 400,000 pounds, which is rather lighter than the clip of 1908. The yield per sheep is less than last year, due to the dry fall of 1908 and the late spring this year. Grass on the ranges has been rather light. Wool is selling around 13½c. per pound. Boston buyers are bidding actively on the clip, and it is probable that quite a quantity of wool will be exported to eastern American manufacturers despite a duty of 11c. per pound. Prices are averaging 2c. higher than a year ago.

Advertising the Breed

The Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association of America have recently issued a pamphlet from headquarters in Chicago bearing the title, "Supremacy of Aberdeen-Angus Cattle." The matter has been prepared with the object of giving to the black cattle all the publicity possible. It contains a mass of information regarding the winnings of the breed at all the great shows in Great Britain and America, which is not to be found summarized elsewhere. It also gives an account of the sales and prices realized for several years past, showing the fluctuations in the markets. But perhaps its most useful feature is the photographs of typical groups of Aberdeen-Angus cattle and their grades. These are invaluable, and all breeders should see them.

It should be the object of the breeders of any particular breed, to gain for the stock they are working with all the publicity which the record of the breed in the show or sales ring, in production or in popularity entitle them to. Aberdeen-Angus breeders have started out in the right direction. There is in connection with all breeds a mass of information that could be published annually or more frequently and which if not gathered together and summarized into readable form cannot be brought before the public at all. An illustrated bulletin, prepared each year by a breed association, and distributed among those interested in the breed as well as among those whom it would be profitable from a breeder's standpoint to interest in it, would go a long way in keeping the merits and records of that particular breed before the public. And that is partly what live stock associations exist for.

Opposes Co-Operative Marketing

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

I have read with much interest an article in your Exhibition Number, by Prof. D. A. Gaumnitz, of Minnesota Agricultural College, on "Co-operative Live Stock Marketing." The Professor would have us believe that the farmers of Minnesota have at last found a panacea for our economic ills in the stock trade. The line of action followed and recommended is for farmers to form co-operative societies and put the grasping middleman out of business. This is the rock on which farmers' co-operative crafts have been wrecked during the last few decades. I am not here discussing farmers' co-operative ventures in private business matters, but the distribution of wealth in our great industries which is of municipal, provincial and federal import. What organizations promised better results? Where are they today? Why were they short-lived? Why the complete and ignominious failure of the Patrons

of Industry, Farmers' Alliance, Society of Equity, Co-operative Harvesting Machine Company, and kindred organizations? The war has been, supplant the greedy middleman, smash the trusts and combines, and curse the governments that foster these by special privileges in charters and other regulations. This course of action is not only unscientific but irrational. The middlemen are an essential factor in our industrial and commercial life. Why supplant these by the farmer? Why drive experts in their own line of business into the ranks of the unemployed or to the farm, a calling to which they may be entire strangers? Why supplant these by farmers unaccustomed to the experiences required in business?

If I were asked to recommend and advocate such a line of action in regulating the live stock trade as would be most acceptable to those middlemen who are today getting the lion's share of the profits I would recommend such independent co-operative effort as the Professor describes and endorses. At best it only touches the fringe of this great problem. We have had such organizations for years and economic conditions instead of improving are becoming worse. This should open our eyes. We have in our governments the most perfect machinery possible to regulate such matters, and the only logical course open to us is to use our governments in providing those conditions that will give producers, middlemen and consumers a square deal in distributing between them the wealth produced in the stock and meat trade. We elect men to our municipal, provincial and federal governments to manage our affairs, and adjust social relations that are continually developing out of the increasing complexity of the social organism. We provide them with the required equipment and pay them a salary. Why should we farmers at our own expense leave our business to regulate matters that by human and divine right are the duties of these representatives of ours? We have the privilege of nominating the men of our choice at our party conventions. We have the privilege of electing them. Behind these we should also have an organization as broad as our industry whose object should be three-fold: First, to conduct a campaign of education along economic lines on all matters affecting our industry; second, to watch and direct legislation in our own interest; third, to inspire executive action, and, if necessary, bring pressure when required.

The following provided by the government responsible in each case would, in my opinion, helpfully regulate the live stock and meat trade: Schedule stock trains during certain days of the week; union stock-yards in the city of Winnipeg under independent management; provision for feeding and watering stock before weighing; a public abattoir, or one under public regulation; a stock commissioner whose duty it would be to look after the interests of shippers, and cold storage equipment for exporting in the chilled state.

Until recently there were a number of abattoirs and slaughter houses in the city of Winnipeg; but when the federal government passed the Pure Food Act, put inspectors into the leading abattoirs, stamped their product with "Canada Approved," it means that all other slaughtering concerns are discriminated against, and must eventually go out of business. The big dealers have, by a process of natural evolution, obtained a quasi control of the trade, and the action of the government in guaranteeing these as the only concerns from which pure meat can be obtained completely specializes the trade. No one will contend that this is not along the right line, but in the evolution of the stock and meat trade there are many relations to be adjusted and the class that puts up the most persistent appeals to the government for legislation get their demands attended to, no matter how such legislation aggravates conditions in other branches of the trade. This shows the weakness in our general methods of regulating the affairs of society under modern co-operative conditions, which is, generally speaking, simply class legislation. We should have some more comprehensive method whereby all the changes that have taken place in the evolution of the trade would be so adjusted that producers, local buyers, abattoir and retail dealers would be partners in the production of the best possible meat products under government regulation, rather than as at present being warring factions under the regulation of private greed.

Man

ALEX. M. CAMPBELL.

FARM

Topics for Discussion

To afford an opportunity for the interchange of ideas, and to provide a place where information may be given and received, we publish each week at the head of this department a list of topics, which our readers are invited to discuss. Opposite each topic is the date of publication of contributions on it and readers are reminded that articles contributed on any of the subjects given, must be in our hands at least ten days earlier than the subject is scheduled for discussion in our columns.

Readers will understand that this department of the paper is theirs. They are invited to write the editor freely expressing their opinion of the manner in which it is conducted and to suggest topics. If any reader has in mind a question which he or she may think can be profitably discussed, it will be given a place in the order of subjects, if it is deemed of sufficient general interest. Because this notice runs weekly at the head of the Farm Department does not mean that farm questions, only, may be taken up. The discussions will be spread over every department of the paper.

For the best article received on each topic, we will award a first prize of Three Dollars and for the second best Two Dollars, paying the latter sum for other contributions on the subject received and published in the same issue.

Articles should not exceed 500 words in length.

August 25.—How can garden crops best be stored to ensure having them fit for table use to as late date as possible? What precautions are necessary in harvesting to avoid undue loss?

September 1.—What treatment of stock do you advise during late summer and fall in order to have them in fit condition to winter well? Particularize for the class or classes of stock with which you have most experience and also distinguish according to age of animal. Under what conditions would you advise the feeding of grains or green crops and what feeds do you prefer?

September 8.—How do you feed and care for the early hatched pullets and older hens at this season to induce fall and early winter laying?

September 15.—What has been your experience in marketing wheat, as regards selling immediately after threshing or holding until the rush was over? Does it pay as a rule to hold wheat? What do you intend doing this year?

Plowing Timothy Sod

Discussion this week is on the question of breaking timothy sod. When and at what depth should timothy sod be plowed, and how should it be handled after plowing to have the soil in best condition for the growth of the succeeding grain crop? Those who have grown timothy have found some trouble in bringing the land in sod back to a satisfactory condition for grain growing, and experience shows that about the only way in which the grass can be thoroughly eradicated, and the sod broken down, is to plow the land shallow immediately after haying, work it on the surface at intervals during summer and backset it late in the fall. First award in the competition goes to Thos. Walker, Manitoba, and second to C. D. Blackburn, Manitoba.

Breaking Timothy Sod

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

The methods of preparing timothy sod for a grain crop depend upon the nature of the soil and the length of time the land has been under sod. In the first place a great many farmers seed down to timothy with the idea that the grass cleans the soil and enriches it at the same time. I think a great many make a mistake by seeding down and not leaving the land in sod long enough. One year is about as long as the majority of farmers leave land in meadow. This, I think, is a mistake and the land will neither be cleaned nor enriched by the seeding.

As a rule land that is seeded to timothy is dirty, and the prospects are that the timothy will be very dirty and a poor crop, consequently if broken after the first crop and prepared for wheat as many weeds will remain as were present in the first place. I have tried both ways of breaking