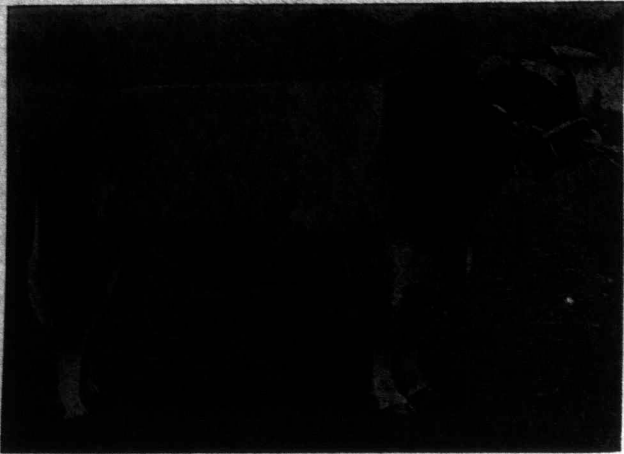


Judging Horses Inside and Outside the Showring.

As a rule, at the live stock shows, we find five or six spectators around the horse ring to one witnessing the judging of cattle or other stock. It is at the side of the horse ring, too, that the most adverse criticisms of the judges' decisions are heard. It must be admitted that occasionally such decisions are given as to warrant complaint, but, as a rule, there is room for more charity than is exercised, as the selection of the men to do the work is made from their believed fitness for the task. There are so many little, yet important, points connected with the judging of the horse, that affect his position in the eyes of the judge, which may be altogether unobserved by those outside the ring, and many little



CORNER STONE (68406).

Champion Shorthorn at the Highland Society's Show, at Edinburgh, 1899.

faults and failings that his owner may have never detected. We see, perhaps, standing, a beautifully-moulded stallion or mare, colt, filly or foal, in the hands of a showman who has trained his favorite many times to set itself in the most attractive form and position, and we go away saying, "That was a grand animal." Later on we learn that our favorite was left out of the place we had selected for it, and we can't see why. The trouble was we did not see the animal trotted out, and of course failed to notice that it travelled wide and awkward behind, or curved its fore toes dangerously near the other leg, or some such defect, which the judges in doing their duty conscientiously and carefully had easily detected, and very rightly placed the animal in its proper place, though to outside opinion decidedly wrong. Even when we see the competitors put through their various gaits, we are more likely than not to be standing broadside of the animals, which prevents us detecting faults that may entitle him to a place several points below a less likely-looking candidate. When we consider these points it will be seen how easy it is to condemn our judges unjustly.

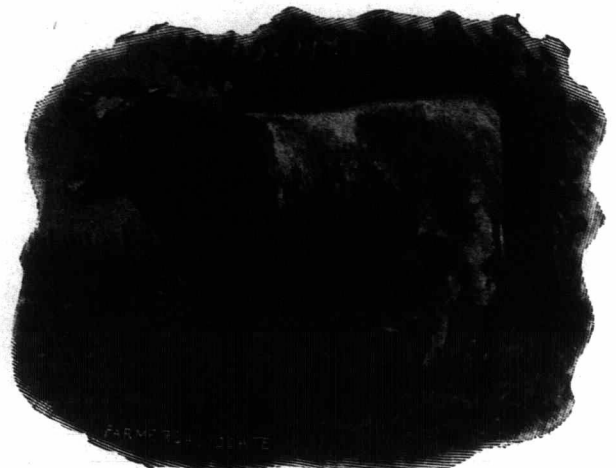
"There are points, however," says the *Stock-breeders' Magazine*, in discussing this subject, "in which one can scarcely feel so charitably disposed or place such a pleasant construction upon what takes place. It may be that we are looking at a class of heavy draft horses being judged, where we see a subject of the most representative character placed at the top; a real weighty, heavy fellow, full of bone and feather, and big in general make-up. For the second place the selection falls upon what is generally termed a quality animal, smaller, with beautifully fine joints, silky hair, more action too, perhaps altogether a very different type from the first. The third horse again we have many times found to be of a very similar type to the first. This does not often please, unless the third horse has an outstanding fault, and it is not teaching the public or amateurs anything at all regarding the most desirable type of the breed before them. We must not forget, however, that it may be the action, the twisted fore leg, or the wide going of the hocks that keeps the third below the second, or excellence in these points that placed the first one ahead."

Variations and awards made as indicated, it will therefore be seen, are often unavoidable, and therefore must of necessity be excused. It occasionally happens, however, that a distinctly superior animal is placed below a more inferior one on the score of some apparent unsoundness. It may be a sidebone or a tendency to curbsness, and where such is the condition, if it debars the candidate from first honors, it certainly should deprive him of a prize at all. To grant that a horse is sufficiently unsound for the first prize, and yet sound enough for second, is absurd on the face of it. If a horse is too conspicuously, or even suspiciously, unsound to be awarded the first prize, surely he ought not to be awarded the second; and where judges are so fixed, the *Stock-breeders' Magazine* recommends that the proper course would be to let the veterinary surgeon determine the extent of the unsoundness, and that not verbally, but by a certificate. In doing this the judges would remove the onus of rejecting the animal from its proper place, and the animal, if from a "clean bill," would be allowed to occupy what was his perfect right—the top place; but if rejected by the veterinary, he would of necessity be out of the competition, or at least ought to be.

Light and Heavy Meal Rations for Steers at the Ontario Agricultural College.

During the past winter there has been completed at the Ontario Agricultural College the third of a series of experiments in fattening steers. The object of the experiments has been to study the relative economy of feeding light, medium and heavy meal rations to fattening steers, when the feeding extends over a period of five or six months. In this third experiment no ensilage was fed. The meal used was composed of equal parts by weight of corn and oats. In addition to the meal, the animals were given a limited quantity of roots, together with what hay they would eat. The hay was of very inferior quality, and was cut and mixed with pulped roots a day in advance of feeding. The roots and hay were mixed in the proportion of 20 pounds of roots to 15 pounds of hay, and each animal was fed all it would eat of the mixture. All fodders were carefully weighed and recorded. The object was to feed only such foods as are available on practically every farm. Had ensilage been fed, or had a better quality of hay been used, no doubt the gains would have been larger.

The steers of the light-ration group were started on about one-third of a pound of meal per day per 100 pounds live weight, and this quantity was increased as deemed advisable. With the medium-ration steers the aim was to feed about two-thirds of a pound of meal per day per 100 pounds live weight. With the heavy-ration steers an effort was made to feed one pound of meal per day per 100 pounds live weight. It was found impossible, however, to keep all the steers up to this limit, so they were kept as near it as was deemed safe. The manner in which the rations were increased can be most easily shown by means of a table. The following table shows approximately the average daily meal ration per steer for each group during the different periods:



ROYAL JUDGE.

First-prize Shorthorn bull calf under one year, Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, 1899.

PROPERTY OF JOHN S. ROBSON, MANITOU, MAN.

PERIOD.	Heavy ration meal per steer per day.	Med. ration meal per steer per day.	Light ration meal per steer per day.
December 6th to January 3rd.....	10	8	4
January 3rd to February 1st.....	11	8	6
February 1st to March 1st.....	12	9	8
March 1st to April 1st.....	12.5	9	8
April 1st to May 23rd.....	12.5	9	9

The meal consumed by the heavy-ration group amounted to nearly nine-tenths of a pound of meal per day for every 100 pounds of the average live weight of the animals throughout the feeding period. The medium-ration group averaged two-thirds, and the light-ration group slightly over one-half of a pound of meal per day per 100 pounds of the average live weight of the animals during the feeding period.

The results, briefly stated, are as follows:

The heavy-ration group made an average gain of 1.77 pounds per day, at a cost of 7.68 cents per pound of gain.

The medium-ration group made an average gain of 1.74 pounds per day, at a cost of 7.22 cents per pound of gain.

The light-ration group made an average gain of 1.62 pounds per day, at a cost of 7.21 cents per pound of gain.

It will be seen that while the heavy-ration group made the largest gain, the light-ration group made most economical gain, though the light and medium ration groups were practically equal in the latter respect.

It is a significant fact that in each of the three experiments, the heavy ration group made the most expensive gain. The average cost of a pound of gain in the three experiments is as follows: Heavy ration, 7.25 cents; medium ration, 6.69 cents; light ration, 6.53 cents.

It would seem, therefore, that when the fattening period extends over six months or more, the animals should be started on a very light meal ration, which should be increased as gradually as circumstances will allow. In this matter the feeder

must be guided by the rate at which his animals are gaining. The aim should be to have the animals ready for market on the day they leave the stable, and not the day before, if it can be helped. After a steer is finished he is fed at a loss, so that an effort should be made not to have him finished long before he is shipped.

No fixed rule can be given as to the amount of meal a steer should receive at the beginning, as much depends upon the condition of the steers. It is probable, however, that in any case it is not advisable to start animals on more than half a pound of meal per day per 100 pounds live weight. For a short feeding period no doubt this quantity would be small enough, and would need to be increased somewhat rapidly. For longer feeding periods the experiments described would indicate that a lighter ration to begin with, somewhat gradually increased throughout the feeding period, is the most economical.

It must also be borne in mind that the more attention paid to making the coarse fodders palatable, the better the results obtained. G. E. DAY.
Ontario Agri. College, Guelph, Aug. 14th, 1899.

Cause of Goitre in Lambs.

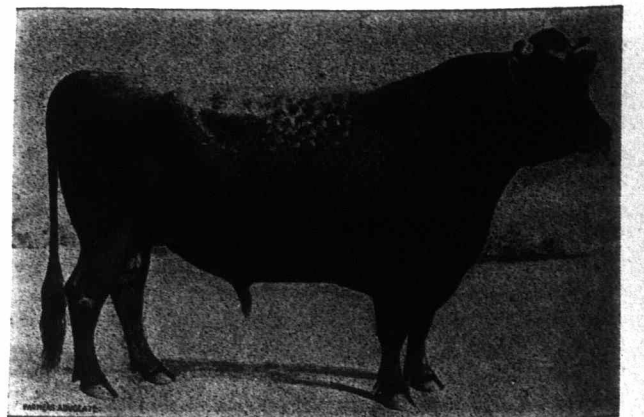
To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—From experience I find that goitre in lambs is due to three causes. The greatest mistake is in the rams being too fat at mating time. Keep the rams thin, but see they are kind and in good health; also the ewes the same. Don't feed too free with roots in the winter. A little bran and oats and oil cake, just before they start to lamb, is far ahead of a lot of roots; but after the lambs come a few turnips are good. I put some hot lime round all of the trees—just dust it around for the sheep to lie down in; also put some coal tar round the edge of the trough that I put salt in, it is good to keep the grub out of the sheep's heads. If sheep are properly handled, we can get as good sheep in Canada as in England. E. L.
Beaconsfield, Que.

The Impotent Ram.

That the cause of impotence ascribed to the ram is not infrequently due to the ewes, the following instances cited by the *Live Stock Indicator* show:

Here are a couple of instances, says this journal, where rams were thought to be impotent which were afterwards found to be potent. A man sent for a ram of a reputable breeder, but he did not have the kind he described. He knew who did have, and he sent the order to another breeder and asked him to ship a certain ram to his customer. The ram arrived, and was put to work, and the breeder was dissatisfied with him because he believed him to be impotent. He sent him to the man from whom he bought, but who was not the man who bred him, who bred several ewes to him and had neighbors breed to him, and found him to be an excellent breeder. The other case was that of a ram lamb. He was put with a few ewes, and left there three weeks, when all of them were supposed to have been served, and he was sold to a neighbor. At lambing time the first purchaser of the ram failed to get lambs, and reported the fact to the seller and breeder of the ram. The neighbor who bought the ram had plenty of lambs, and good ones at that. Now, it is often the case that the condition of the ewes has as much to do with success in breeding as that



GENERAL MARIGOLD 45486.

Jersey bull sold at Mr. Cooper's sale, Coopersburg, Pa., May 1899, for \$800.

of the ram. As a rule, sheep are not required to mate like certain birds, but there is a sort of an acquaintance they have to make in order to obtain the best results. Then, ewes may not be in such a condition of flesh as to breed readily and promptly, and all service of the most potent ram in the world would come to naught. Be sure that all conditions are right before making a kick. We know of a man who owned a few fat ewes with long tails who bought several rams and failed to get lambs. The rams were potent, but the ewes were fat and tailed, both of which are hindrances to successful breeding. We believe in doing the square thing, and if the purchaser wants the seller to do what is square, he should at least do what he knows to be square himself. If you are sure you're right, then go ahead.