

sixth, lack of co-operation; seventh, competition with dairying; eighth, the tariff. Relative to the prejudice against mutton as a food, it was brought out in discussion that 9,500,000 sheep and lambs were slaughtered for food in the United States in 1907, and 113,000,000 head in 1915. The per capita consumption of mutton and lamb has increased materially.

A Few Words About Hogs.

There is no kind of live stock, we believe, so much affected by panicky conditions as are hogs. It is evident that fewer swine than usual will be fed this winter and fewer sows will be bred to farrow in the spring. There can be no doubt regarding the price of pork next spring and summer. It has been pretty well proven by investigation and practical farmers that a pound of gain can be accomplished with about four pounds of meal. In many cases a pound of gain can be accomplished with less, but, under average conditions, we are safe in saying that four pounds of millfeeds or chop will produce a pound of pork. This being true, it appears that even with the present price of feed, hogs can still be fed at a fair margin, when the farmer does not put too much value on his labor. If prices are as attractive next summer, as conditions indicate they may be, it is likely that the man who feeds hogs this winter may receive a good average return for his efforts.

Some farmers make a practice of wintering young pigs without making any attempt to finish them for spring delivery. They prefer to let them run a while on the grass and finish them in warm weather. It appears that cheaper gains result under summer conditions than in winter. It may be that many farmers with lighter stores than usual should carry their young pigs through the winter in a thrifty, growing condition, and then turn them to grass in the spring until the wheat is threshed if need be. They could then be finished off at weights averaging around 200 pounds, at moderate cost. Farmers should give this matter some consideration for it is poor policy to follow the crowd at a time like this.

THE FARM.

Plans for Fall Fairs.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

With your permission I would like to add a few statements to the letter of "A. R. Mac," of Elgin Co., Ont., on the subject of improving the Fall Fairs, in support of which "The Farmer's Advocate" is giving its effectual influence. The directors of these exhibitions should be given credit with a desire to make them useful and successful, and a discussion now, when plans and prize-lists for next season can be properly prepared, is timely. If the subject is not ventilated, exhibition authorities are to that extent deprived of suggestions, and desired reforms perhaps delayed. It is claimed that the people want mainly a recreation and racing event, and the business of the directors is simply to cater to the craving. It is well to look a little farther down. If the people are hankering for this sort of thing who is responsible? Very largely those who educate them. An annual fair may be a valuable educator and a wholesome, economic factor to a community, or it may have the opposite effect. Like a newspaper, the character of an exhibition will depend on the ideals, information and energy of those in control, and its constituency may be educated either up or down.

Now, speed is a proper factor in the development of a high-grade, light horse, but unless regarded as a mere racing machine for betting purposes, is not the most important, and probably will become less regarded, with the ever-increasing application of the motor on the road, the speedway and in the air. A prize-list before me devotes about one-half as much money to race events as it does to six regular classes of horses. The track spreads over acres of ground. A grandstand is provided from which to view the racing, and fences prevent the public from seeing the display and judging of horse classes in which farmers and farmers' sons are really concerned, unless with the aid of a telescope or operaglass, and we are not equipped with such luxuries. At one fall fair which I attended the supply of pens or covers for other live stock was hopelessly inadequate, and in several cases big loads of animals were never removed at all from the wagon racks, and judges had to maul around among them in order to discover their sex or age and distribute the prize tickets. Of what earthly educational value to a locality is that sort of work? Absolutely useless except to the man who secured the premiums. No effort whatever appeared to be made to make a feature of any competition in live stock except the racing which, being spread over most of the afternoon, diverted attention entirely from the more useful events and displays. This surely is an ill-balanced conception of fair management.

At one fair that attracted large numbers of horses and other stock and was attended by several thousand people, the broken-winded pump on the grounds refused to operate, and exhibitors and visitors had to scale fences to borrow water from neighboring wells. The main building space and table room were quite insufficient either to properly display or protect the ex-

hibits from molestation in the afternoon when owners were left to look out for their own. It is probable that a general inspection of local fair grounds and buildings would show a lot of defects and deficiencies which a little forethought and outlay would make good. The lay-out of grounds and buildings and the size and model of tabling on which fruit and other products can be adequately and safely shown for the convenience of judges as well as the public, deserves more systematic attention, and most boards of directors will be ready to avail themselves of plans for the betterment of the exhibitions of 1917.

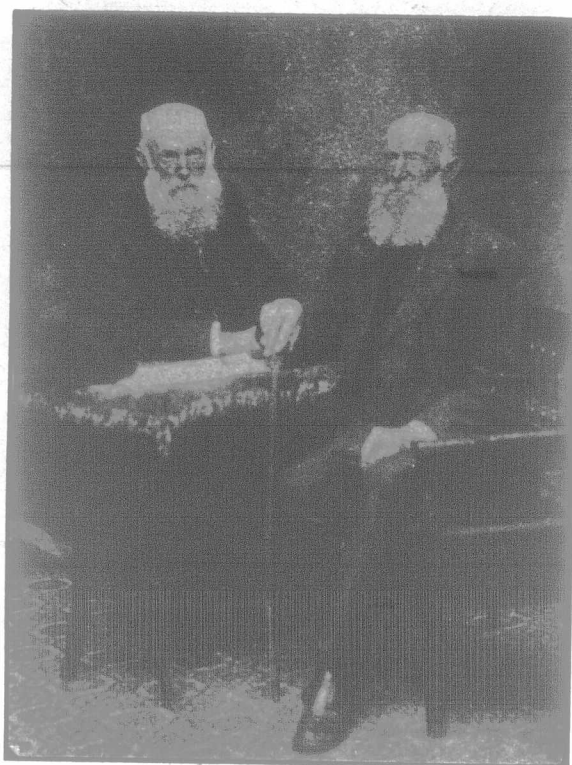
"A. R. Mac" is entitled to the thanks of the public and the authorities for turning his flashlight upon the mischievous mistake of introducing such a feature as a horse race at a public school fair, which is a new educational movement and should be kept right from the start, and it will pave the way for better exhibitions and a better agricultural community. The fall fairs receive grants of public money on the principle that they are educators. Wrong at any time to mis-spense our resources, it is doubly so in a crisis when the country is called upon by a world conflict to strain every financial nerve for the rescue of human liberty.

ON THE WING.

These Men Have Taken "The Farmer's Advocate" Forty-Three Years.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I enclose photo of my father and myself which was taken recently, and I thought it might be of interest enough to be reproduced in "The Farmer's Advocate."



J. H. and P. P. Fowler.

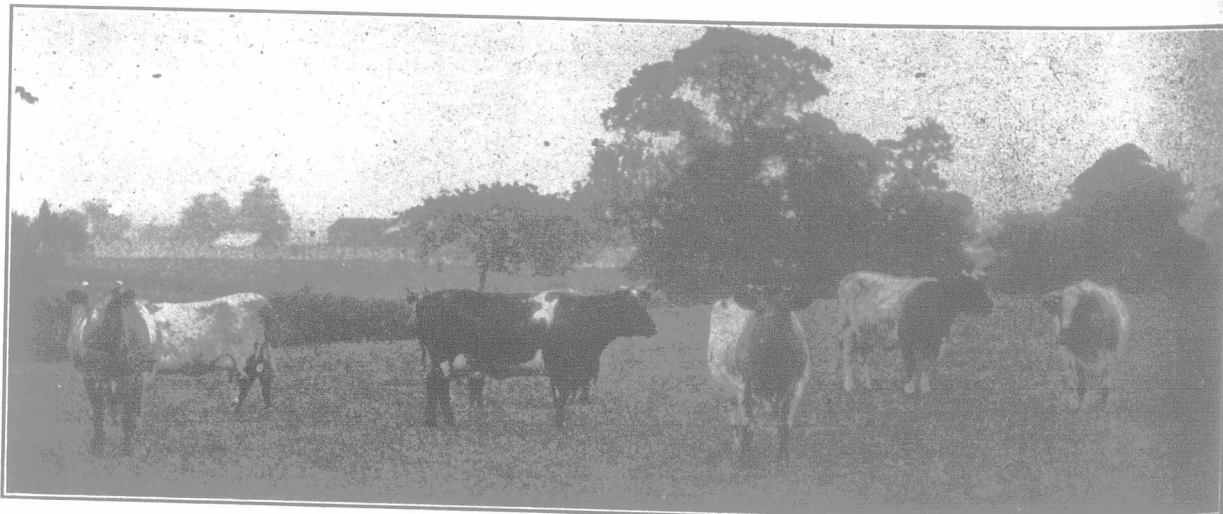
Father and son.

Your paper has come to our house regularly for forty-three years. The first numbers had no colored cover. Father always admired the distinguished writers of the Advocate in years gone by, as well as the present writers, such as Peter McArthur and Sandy Fraser.

As we have always lived together and conducted business as J. H. & P. P. Fowler, we have had many amusing incidents on account of looking so much alike. We often hear our acquaintances remark "there go the brothers," or "which is the older man?" And quite often in recent years we have been taken the one for the other. Probably we appear really more alike than we look. Father is eighty-six and I am sixty-three, so I am still called the young fellow.

Shefford Co., Que.

P. P. FOWLER.



Shorthorns at Home.

What of the Sugar Beet, the Sugar Companies and the Price of Sugar?

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Seeing the article in your issue of Nov. 16 on sugar-beet growing, and as some figures do not exactly tally with our own figures, I am taking the liberty of sending you figures collected during ten years of sugar-beet growing. In starting I might say our land is a clay loam, and that our longest haul of beets to the shipping point is about three-quarters of a mile, also that the land is nearly all tiled every six rods.

In 1906, when we grew our first beets, the price per ton was \$3.50, delivered on cars. At that time Wallaceburg factory was the only factory in the field. However, during the last few years Crosswell and Marine City firms, operating in Michigan, have taken part of the acreage offered, and, as competition always helps business, we are getting this year \$5.00 per ton and free seed, and the company has promised a bonus of 50 cents per ton. There is also another contract used, called the percentage system. A 12 per cent. sugar beet is worth \$4.75 a ton, and 33 1/3 cents for every per cent. over that. In 1914 we shipped some cars of beets percentage and the beets tested as high as 18.9, but we had to pay for seed and also freight to factory. This year, on account of the late spring, the cars we have shipped so far have tested from 15.9 to 17.4 per cent. of sugar.

Now, I will give you figures on the growing part. There is absolutely no use sowing beets on ridges of any sort, so we must use our best land. We use a special drill and a team cultivator, as the beets are sowed mostly in 20-inch or 22-inch rows.

The following table will explain itself:

Rent of land plowed in fall.....	\$12 per acre
Discing and sowing.....	2 " "
Cultivating 5 times (for season).....	3 " "
Thinning, hoeing and topping (done mostly by Belgians).....	18 " "
Lifting with team and lifter.....	2 " "
Drawing 4 two-ton loads (for 8-ton crop).....	4 " "
Total expense.....	\$41 per acre

Your article placed the expense at about \$30 an acre, so there is some difference. We have averaged about 10 tons per acre most years. So we shall see some of the facts of what the company pays.

A 15 per cent. beet will run 300 lbs. refined sugar to the ton. Beets testing 17.4 per cent. (which we received for one car) should make 340 lbs. refined sugar, which at \$7 per hundred should bring \$23.80 from each ton of raw beets. There is also another by-product, beet meal, made by drying twenty tons of the green pulp down to one ton of dry meal, retailing at \$30 per ton at present. There is also a low-grade molasses left after refining. It is reported that the beet meal and low-grade molasses pay cost of operating the factory, leaving a good, wide margin of profit.

A ten-ton crop, with expense of \$41 for growing, if sold at \$5.50, the present price, would bring \$55.50. Taking off \$41 for growing, leaves \$14.50 per acre of profit. On a percentage contract, with beets testing 17.4, the beets would bring \$6.55 plus bonus of 50 cents, or \$7.05 per ton. Freight would be about 85 cents and seed 15 cents per ton, leaving \$6.05 per ton, or for 10 tons at \$6.05 equals \$60.50. This minus \$41 expense leaves \$19.50 per acre, where the company gets \$23.80 multiplied by \$10 or \$238 for sugar alone, not to mention meal and molasses. Last winter a prominent member of the Wallaceburg Sugar Company stated that the Company had never paid less than 23 per cent. on capital invested and had laid up a surplus of \$1,200,000 with which they are building a new 1,200-ton-capacity factory at Chatham. I might also add that for every ton of sugar-beet sugar refined they are entitled to one ton of cane sugar free of duty.

However, the sugar-beet growers of Kent and Essex were not satisfied with the price, and a public meeting of beet growers was called in Harrison Hall, Chatham, on October 28, to consider some action to get nearer a square deal. After much discussion they decided to organize each shipping station and get members to pledge themselves not to contract for less than \$7 a ton. Before the meeting adjourned they decided to

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