

STOCK

Comment upon Live Stock Subject Invited.

Our English Correspondence

The Departmental Committee, appointed by Mr. Churchill to inquire into the question of the control of prices and supplies of foreign meat, has completed its work. The committee recommends that no interference is made with the American beef companies, as Britain needs all the meat that America can send, and any restriction would be followed by an increase in price to consumers.

It is estimated that the supply from North and South America last year was 37.88% of the entire meat imports of the country.

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Recently, it was agreed that North America shippers have been sending meat to Britain at a loss.

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Another effort to settle that thorny problem—the meat warranty question—has failed at a further conference held in London under the Presidency of Lord Northbrook. The farmers' representative stated that there was not the slightest possibility of the farmers altering the terms which they had submitted to the meat traders. The butchers seemed to be squarely stubborn, and so the matter is at a deadlock.

Both parties are agreed that the law as to prosecutions, as administered in some localities, had inflicted great hardships on respectable and honest meat traders. The crux of the whole problem is upon whom shall the cost of insurance fall.

The chairman was of the opinion that the matter would have to be settled in different districts in accordance with local practice and custom. Under present conditions the meat dealers are buying more foreign meat and fewer live animals, so as to minimize the risk of loss through condemnation.

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British farmers hear very often of the wonderful success of the Danish farmers in butter production, and they are urged to follow the methods of the Danes. Certainly, Denmark is to be congratulated, but there is a point which well explains the comparative indifference of the English farmer. Denmark is almost purely an agricultural community with few industrial towns, while England has many thriving industrial centers which call for enormous supplies of new milk for direct consumption.

In England, the farmers receive from 8d. to 9d. per gallon for new milk;—in Denmark, 4½d. per gallon is counted a very satisfactory price from co-operative butter making. Allowing for the value of the skim-milk on the most liberal basis, the English farmer is still far ahead in the price he receives.

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Veterinary surgeons are pressing for the passage of an act by parliament, in the coming session, to prevent men from acting as practitioners who have not taken the requisite degree or certificate. While stockmen recognize that veterinarians have a grievance in the present condition of the last law, and should have reasonable protection, they claim that no amendment should be passed which would prevent stock attendants from dealing with various ailments and simple operations which they have usually done in their ordinary course.

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The question of direct agricultural representation in parliament is still being vigorously discussed by various societies. The claims of agriculture are said to be neglected by the government as there is not a single independent agricultural member in the House of Commons. One suggestion is that tenant farmers should contribute one farthing per acre for the land they have in use, and that the owners should do likewise, and this course would provide £100,000 per annum as the nucleus of a party fund.

Chambers of agriculture and farmers' clubs are also calling for greatly increased grants from the government for the furtherance of agricultural education, and for a readjustment of local taxation.

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Rural education is receiving considerable attention in the daily press, and various are the suggestions advanced as to how young people may be kept on the land instead of flocking to towns already overburdened with idle labor. Prof. Wallace of Edinburgh University, contributes a forceful letter giving his opinion on agricultural instructions in schools, in the course of which he writes:—"With a personal knowledge of what is being attempted in most of the leading countries of the world in the teaching of practical agriculture in any type of school, I unhesitatingly affirm, without fear of contradiction, that nowhere can it be taught under sound economic principles, with advantage either to the individuals concerned or the country as a whole, except where it is conducted on commercial principles, and managed by people who make it their life work. The creation

of a practical agriculture side to any educational system, to be conducted by the ordinary schoolmaster or any teacher, dealing with an experimental plot or demonstration farm, would be merely the creation of a gigantic sham which would do infinitely more harm than good to education."

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An interesting address on "British Wheat Supply" was delivered recently before an association of Birmingham flour travellers. The British demand is said to be 33,000,000 quarters annually, and the home supply 7,000,000—leaving 26,000,000 quarters to be imported.

Forty years ago Britain had grown as much as 16,000,000 quarters in one year, and if this average could have been maintained, 50 per cent. of the demand could have been supplied by home grown wheat.

The Argentine is at present Britain's greatest asset in the supply of wheat—exports from that country having increased from the insignificant total of 85,000 quarters in 1889 to the enormous volume of 17,500,000 quarters in 1908.

An abundant world's crop, and consequent lower prices, would throw even more British wheat land out of cultivation, and a serious question was how far this reduction would be allowed to go.

With almost entire dependence on sea borne wheat a few cruizers might stop the supply in case of war, and on all hands the cry would be for bread. Was it sound policy to allow our wheat growing lands—the finest in the world—to pass out of cultivation?

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Considerable criticism has been directed against the tardy working of the Small Holdings Act in many districts.

Special commissioners are to be appointed by the government to give advice, and to assist County Councils in their efforts to provide land for the numerous applicants. A peculiar feature of the applications for land is the lack of desire to own the land. Although many thousands of acres have been applied for, in only one case has an applicant desired to purchase a small holding—the desire being to rent from the authorities, so that capital may be used for development purposes.

The Board of Agriculture has associated itself with a munificent offer by the proprietors of a popular weekly, *Lloyd's News*. This paper offers prizes to the amount of £1,000 for the best cultivated small holdings and allotments in several of the home counties.

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An excellent average of prices prevailed at the first Shire sale of the season at Peterborough. Lord Rothschild paid the top price of 500 gs. for the mare "Desford Future Queen." A then three-year-old stallion from the same stud brought 410 gs.

The averages were £129 for 43 head; £105 for 15 head; and £99 for 24 head.

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The number of entries for the coming Shire Horse Show at the Royal Agricultural Hall is practically the same as last year. The entries comprise 349 stallions, 267 mares and fillies, and 30 geldings. For the auction sale 310 animals are entered. At the last meeting of the Society 49 new members were elected.

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January trade returns show heavy shrinkages in both imports and exports, largely due to the decided fall in prices of commodities.

Wheat imports are less, being 6,224,900 cwt. in comparison with 7,032,500 in 1908. Flour shows a great decrease, 1,086,574 cwts. against 1,612,010. Cheese imports were slightly larger at 138,740 cwts. Beef and mutton showed considerable increases.

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The English wheat market shows some advance in prices. The official average of home grown wheat is 33s. per quarter of 480 pounds. For the five months of the crop year, deliveries show an increase of 370,000 qrs. English barley is quoted at 27s. 6d. per quarter of 400 pounds, and oats at 17s. 9d. per quarter of 312 pounds.

Fat cattle demand is slow in London at higher prices. Fat sheep are lower in price. There is a fair demand for lean bacon, but fat bacon is not wanted. Milk is in demand at 10½d. per gallon, delivered at London railway stations. Butter and cheese are selling fairly well.

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In spite of the sharp frost and fog at the end of January, wheat is in a healthy condition of growth. The average temperature of the month was too low to admit of anything but the most trifling growth, but the pause will do good. The color is excellent, and growth even and strong, and so far as can be judged at so early a date the promise is for a good crop. There are still complaints of shortage of rain in some localities.

Herds and flocks are in good condition. Early lambs are above the average in number, and mortality has been small so far.

Leeds, England.

F. DEWHIRST.

Why Thoroughbred?

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have been a reader of your paper for many years, and from time to time, information is wanted with regards to the words "thoroughbred" and "pure-bred," and the relation of each to stock.

At the recent agricultural meetings we heard much about the "thoroughbred Clyde" they have at home. I have seen Clydes you might mistake for thorough-breds, but I think it a great reflection on a man's stock when he speaks of them as thoroughbred Clydes. Mr. Stockman, don't steal the name, to make a good horse out of him.

I had several pedigrees to sign for the transfer of Ayrshire cattle, and the third rule of the Canadian national records speaks about thoroughbred Ayrshire cattle. I would like to know if he wishes us to register the steers, and why should this term thorough-bred Ayrshires be sown broadcast to the public.

In our language we have synonyms suitable for each individual business. You wouldn't expect a lawyer to speak of you as his customer, the Judge might in passing sentence.

Now, Mr. Editor, if these few rambling words are your sentiments. I suggest that a change be made in the term "thoroughbred Ayrshires."

Man.

J. H. NESBITT.

Count the Cost of Raising the Steer

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your recently published article, "waiting for Conditions to Improve," you cite, as examples of men who are raising cattle profitably, your correspondents from Alberta, we will only deal with Mr. Reister, with the other, who I suppose is a rancher; he would rather the farmer fed the steer. Now did your correspondent really make \$12.00 profit on these steers? Certainly not. To get to the root of the whole matter, estimate what it costs to raise a steer till he is two and a half years old. The cheapest it can be done for in Manitoba is thirty-five dollars, divided, something like the following:

First cost, cow and calf.....	\$35.00
Keeping cow and calf, 1st year.....	17.00
Int. on \$35.00.....	2.00
1 year old.....	19.00
Pasturing 2 years and wintering.....	16.00
	\$35.00

This is the steer that your correspondent bought for \$28; it gives him seven dollars profit, which should hardly be credited to the steer. Of the other part, the feeding, little can be said; with 10,000 lbs. of oat chop for \$75, wonders can be accomplished; some one dropped something raising it. All farmers are not theorising on live stock conditions. Most of us believe there is going to be a big change before long. The great trouble with the market so far, is that it has been lowest just when it was most advantageous to market, and it was better to keep fewer stock and tell the buyer to come back some other time. Another reason, it may be a better one, is the great advance in the price of grain, to which cattle and hogs, to have maintained their hold, should have responded. To use for an argument oat chop at ½ cent per lb. and wheat at 50 cts a bag, is putting a great many of us at a disadvantage, at the same time, it is a very poor advertisement for the country, although it will stand it, less booming might mean a sounder foundation and better prices for the products of the farm.

Man.

"RUSTICUS."

Argentine Live Stock Census

The live stock census of the Republic completed a few days ago contains some very interesting figures as to the changes which have taken place in the animal population of the Argentine during the past thirteen years. According to this publication the total head of live stock in the Republic, and their approximate values in May last, stood as follows:—

	Head.	Approximate value in dollars, gold
Cattle.....	29,116,625	\$413,021,767
Sheep.....	67,211,754	126,437,993
Goats.....	3,245,086	3,661,609
Pigs.....	1,403,591	6,895,960

With regard to the breed of the different species, thoroughbred cattle form about 3½ per cent., cross-bred nearly 52 per cent., and *criollo* or native animals

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about 45 per cent. of among the sheep stands. and 15.7 per cent. respect improvement which has ta past thirteen years, the proportion per every hu in three of the principa interest:—

	Criollos.	1895	1900	Per cent.
Buenos Ayres	50.2	8.		
Santa Fé	70.0	57.		
Entre Rios	80.6	40.		

According to the pre the numbers of live st follows:—21,791,526 ca which show that there 7,345,099 in cattle, but of sheep to the extent o

Cripp

We have a herd of se floor, and a board platf of them seem to be ver and weak in the bac chopped barley and oats turnips. Have kept a and have kept them w rarely warm. Will you

Ans.—It is very diffic with these pigs. The far as described, seem t food has been a little he should tend to overcom culty is rheumatism, it r ness in the building, co it would be better to t which they are in. If p plan to fix up a comi cattle stable, where the place should be so arra very dry, with plenty of do no harm to give ti in their feed. The dos of the pigs. Pigs two o about a teaspoonful o weigh over 100 pounds increased, even as high Sometimes even heavie but it is doubtful wheth case of this kind. Crip different causes that a p things in the hope of h may relieve the trouble somewhat bulky and la plenty of pulped roots, what sloppy. It might at any rate, scald it bef bably help make it mo very many cases, when they never make a satis are comparatively small I think it would pay the head, rather than attempt are that the longer he l he will lose, if they are re Guelph.

Prof

What Would be

EDITOR FARMER'S ADV

Regarding this questi on which are going on i ad my opinion. I bel to raise enough pork with pork the year rou for hog products in this raising his own supply. does, for twenty cent twenty cents, breakfast ham at the same figu retailing for sixteen cer for any farmer to give a

I find that a profitabl pure bred Berkshire bo not too blocky and the should be kept in such plenty of exercise, and of foods but not too mu place to sleep in. The s similarly if a good smar

After the litter is bo stiff pull at the teat, th five hours or so, and the she goes to lie down aga that the young pigs a required by the sow for feeding should begin i creasing the ration unt should be at the end c feed of a heating nature have a bad effect upon mixed chop and shorts stock food is a good thi the young pigs will eat,