

most of our horses are mongrels in breeding and misfits in point of conformation and utility.

In this connection, there is a form of cross-breeding which, it seems to the writer, should be more commonly followed than is the case at present. We refer to the crossing of cows of the dairy breeds with bulls of the beef breeds. Steers of the dairy breeds make poor fatteners and killers. In many instances, the cow is merely bred to continue her in the dairy. In such cases it would be good policy to breed to a beef-bred bull, in order to obtain a better feeding animal. In order to keep up the necessary number of cows in the herd, it would, of course, be necessary to breed now and then to bulls of the dairy breed, or to always breed the best dairy cows to such bulls. As, however, very many dairymen do not raise their own cows, but sell calves at an early age, they might just as well have good calves to sell, instead of dairy calves, which do not prove so profitable to the feeder.

### The Scrub Steer and the Well-bred Steer.

If every man would take time to compare the well-bred steer with the scrub steer there is little doubt that the scrub steer would soon become so unpopular that he would drop out of the markets altogether. In the first place the value of the scrub steer and of the pure-bred differs greatly, even when they are to be used only for feeding, this difference amounting to about one cent per pound in many cases. When it comes to putting on weight the pure-bred animal is far ahead of his competitor, for he makes a far better gain. It has been said that scrubs make as rapid gain in weight as pure-breds in many cases, and this is true, but the gain consists in shank and, in tallow on intestines, and has little commercial value, while the high-priced porterhouse and sirloins remain small in quantity. The pure-bred makes little shank, and does not send the fat to make lining for his intestines. He works the fat into the grain of the lean meats, and increases in size in the parts that are to be sold for high prices on the market. As a result, when the finished pure-bred comes to be sold he is readily disposed of at a much better price than is the scrub. This is especially the case when the market is dull. Dullness affects first the poorer animals. The prime animals hardly ever feel the slackness in buying.—[Farm Review.]

### Character and Breed Character in Live Stock.

A short time ago, a novice in cattle lore and breeding queried us re the above terms, which are used so glibly by some live-stock breeders. Our explanation or opinion was that the term "breed character" was erroneous, and was intended to mean "breed type," and that the term, "lots of character," as applied to a male, indicated that he was masculine in appearance, virile, and that he possessed the needed sex characteristics in a marked degree. In order to clear away any clouds of doubt, we referred the matter to the eminent Canadian live-stock educationist, Prof. G. E. Day, for his opinion, which is given below:

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Dear Sir,—Your favor of the 15th inst., asking me to give my understanding of the terms "character" and "breed character" when applied to live stock. It seems to me that in almost every case when the term "character" is used as applied to pure-bred stock, "breed character" is included under the term. If we were to separate the two terms, then I should say the term "character" would appeal mainly to the peculiarities possessed by the different sexes; that is to say—a male animal would possess in his general make-up all those things which properly belong to the sex. We frequently speak of "masculine character" to indicate those things. In the same way, the female should possess, in a marked degree, the characteristic conformation and "character" of the female. Perhaps the most marked differences are to be seen in connection with the carriage, bone, head, neck and fore-quarters, and, in some classes of live stock, the conformation of the hind quarters as well.

When we speak of "breed character," we usually include all that has already been stated, but along with that we require, in a marked degree, those peculiarities which distinguish the breed in question from other breeds. Take, for instance, the case of sheep—a Shropshire and a Leicester may both possess "breed character," but they are very different. If they are males, both should give indication of strong masculine character, and in this respect they are similar, but, as you will readily understand, in order to possess "breed character," the requirements for the two are entirely different. For my own part, I may say I seldom use the term "breed character," but prefer the term "breed type," and even with this use of terms, it is difficult to draw a clear line of distinction between them.

When we say an animal possesses "character," we naturally imply that it conforms to the recognized type of that breed, but an animal may conform fairly closely to type, and still lack something of character. According to this understanding of the terms, "character" is a somewhat broader term than "type," and, in fact, practically includes type. I may be wrong, but I would prefer to discard the term "breed character," and, as I said before, use, in preference, the terms "character" and "breed type."

It is a very difficult matter to express in words all that is meant by "character," and yet it is a very necessary thing that a judge of stock should be able to recognize "character" when he sees it.

G. E. DAY.

### Wide Spread in Cattle Prices.

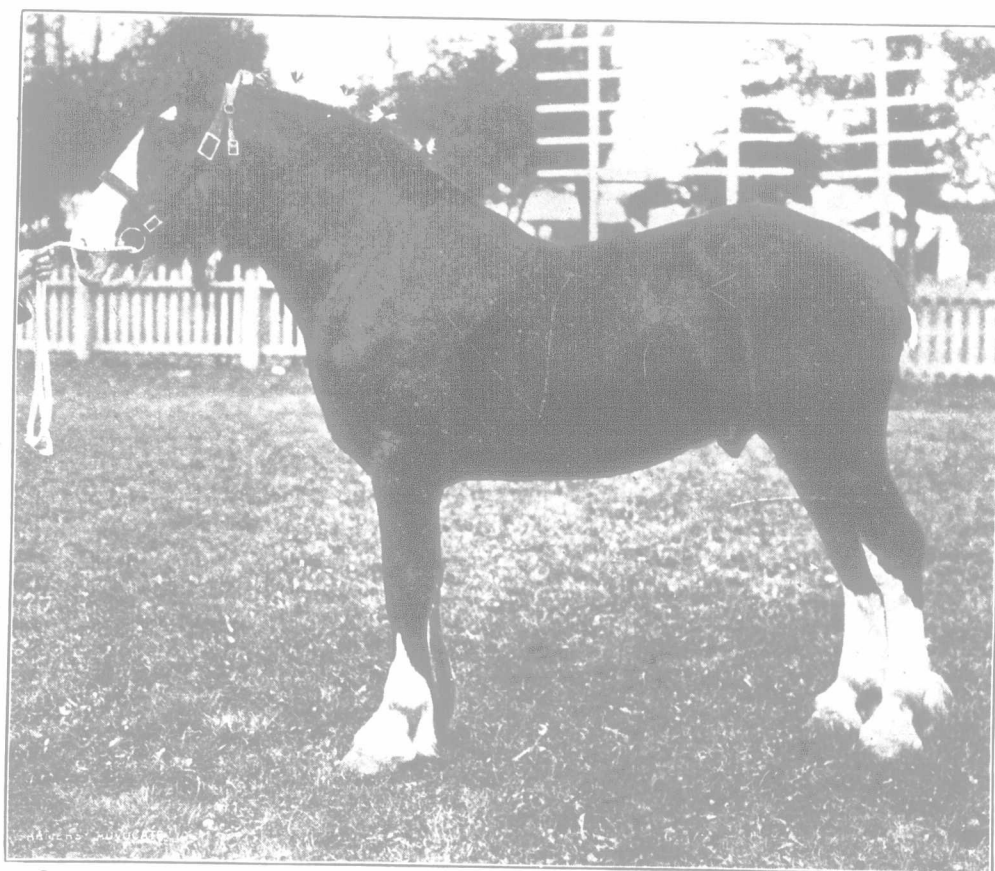
There is at present a very wide spread in cattle prices, and from present indications this condition will be likely to last some time.

Thoroughly ripe cattle are so very scarce as to command prices that are unusually high, while the cattle that are down close to the range line—not to say "danger line"—are selling at prices that leave no margin of profit for breeder, feeder or handler.

Just now is the best time of all the year to finish cattle, and it is a great waste of opportunity, time and money to put unfinished cattle on the market at present.

The new corn is full of nutriment, and the weather is the best of all the year for putting on flesh to the best advantage and least expense.

Scores of car loads of cattle are being pushed to market in unfinished condition and have to sell as second and third rate stock, whereas a little more time and finish would put them in such fix that they would pay richly for not only new high-priced corn, but for all the corn they have consumed in the past.—[Live-stock World.]



Imported Clydesdale Stallion, Adam Bede [4783] (11992).

Two-year-old Clydesdale stallion. Third in his class at Toronto and second at Ottawa. Sire Baron's Pride. The property of R. Ness & Sons, Howick, P. Q.

### Sheep Breeding.

The revival of interest in the sheep-breeding industry which has sprung up during the past few months, as the result of better market prices for wool and mutton, and the consequent increased demand for pure-bred sheep for breeding purposes, has suggested the timeliness of a series of articles, with illustrative cuts, descriptive of the many different recognized breeds of sheep most generally kept in this country. The first of these appears in this number, and others will follow in the succeeding issues of the "Farmer's Advocate." Regarding the origin of the breeds, the only available source of information is the various books which have been written upon the subject. The origin, however, is of secondary importance to the present-day breeder, who is more interested in the fixity of a desirable type, and its ability to reproduce that type with a satisfactory degree of uniformity, and, unfortunately, this feature has become so slighted in the case of all of the recognized breeds of the day that there is little cause for concern in that regard, all that is required to maintain the distinctive qualities of the breeds being a judicious selection of sires of the best stamp to mate with the flock.

### The Shortage of Wool.

The only explanation of the continued rise in wool values, in the face of indifferent trade, is the shrinkage of supplies. Everywhere the number of sheep has been declining. In the United Kingdom there has been a considerable decline in our flocks, and home-grown wools have in many cases about doubled in value during the last two years. On the Continent of Europe the falling-off has been much more marked, for in the German Empire alone the number of sheep during the last thirty years has fallen from 25,000,000 to 10,000,000. Now statistics are coming to hand which show that in the United States and Canada also, the same process is going on. But, of course, the chief factor in the present position has been the terrible havoc caused amongst the flocks by the late seven consecutive years of drought in Australia. Out of 106,000,000 sheep more than half succumbed, and shipments of wool fell away from about 1,600,000 bales, at which they stood in 1894, to about 1,000,000 bales during the wool year which ended on June 30th last. The effects have been very serious. Scores of thousands of English work-people have been badly hit by this short supply of wool. In Australia, not only have thousands of pastoralists been ruined, but it is estimated that shearers and other station hands last year earned less by half a million sterling than they did ten years ago.—[Manchester Guardian.]

### Choice of Breeds.

Inquirer writes: I am a young farmer just beginning for myself, and would like to get some pure-bred cattle. Which would be the most profitable to get, the Shorthorns or the Aberdeen-Angus? Please give points of difference and preference between the two breeds. I intend to go into mixed farming.

Both these breeds, as commonly bred at present, are essentially beef breeds, and the preference is largely a question of taste and choice. Good individuals of either breed are well adapted to the profitable production of beef of the best quality, putting on flesh rapidly and smoothly, either while grazing or being stall-fed. The Shorthorns, which were formerly, and are yet, claimed to be a dual-purpose class of cattle—that is, the cows being good milkers, as well as good beef producers—have, as a rule, in the last twenty years at least, been bred mainly for beef-production, though many of the cows are yet good milkers, which may also be truly said of many Aberdeen-Angus cows, although we are not aware that they are claimed to be dual-purpose in the strictest sense of the term. The common practice of

breeders of the beef breeds of keeping their animals in high condition from calfhood is believed to have a tendency to lessen the milking propensity and to increase the quality of flesh and fat production. For this reason, breeders of the dairy classes avoid feeding their young animals fattening foods, raising the calves on skim milk, and giving them a large proportion of bulky food and plenty of exercise while growing. As to the choice between the two breeds mentioned, it may be said that, judging from the number of herds in this country, Shorthorns are more popular, but the number of breeders keeping this class makes the competition for the sale of surplus stock keen, while the fact that there are comparatively few Aberdeen-Angus herds, their breeding would seem to afford a clearer field for a young man desiring to establish a pure-bred herd. The position taken by Aberdeen-Angus cattle in the show-ring at fat stock shows in Great Britain and at the Chicago stock-yards, and the International Show there where the battle of the breeds is keenly fought, leaves no room to dispute their claim to being first-class beef-producers, as they certainly hold their own against all comers. There is ample room in this country for more good Aberdeen-Angus herds, and an enterprising man, with a fair amount of means and good judgment, may find here a fine field for the exercise of his ambition in founding a first-class herd of this breed.