

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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### Agricultural Teaching in Rural Schools.

The Legislature of Minnesota has made an appropriation of \$2,000 per year, for the next two or three years, for the encouragement of the study of agriculture in the rural schools of that State. In writing on methods for utilizing the appropriation, Prof. Hays, of the Minnesota Agricultural College, says in part:

The sum appropriated is small, but if wisely administered it will lead to much that is desirable. Our schools do much to mold our national ideals. As now organized, a powerful influence is exerted away from rural life. In our rural schools, in our elementary town schools, in our city high schools, in sectarian academies and colleges, and in state and independent universities, the text-books and teachers' ideals all lean toward city life, and too much toward the mere scholastic and professional rather than toward the productive industries. The life of the people and the life of the nation demand a broader scheme, that will better emphasize and encourage both lines of education and of individual effort. We want not more preachers, lawyers and doctors; we want better preachers, lawyers and doctors. More than all, we need legions of farmers educated in their business, and in farm living, and educated in a broad citizenship. If the faculty at University Farm can gain an influence with the children in every rural school in the State, they will be able to turn the tide more rapidly toward a better agriculture and a richer country life.

Increasing the respect and love our rural children have for the country life will lead many more of them into the schools of agriculture. When our graduates in each grade have reached large numbers, and our farms are generally studied agriculturally, all kinds of co-operative enterprises will be possible. A large agricultural society, strong county agricultural societies, and local farm clubs and groups will be formed. The special studies of district societies, such as horticulture, dairy farming, will be given more emphasis, and the agricultural press will be greatly increased and more generally patronized and read, and more effectively taught.

### The Fence Problem.

Farming in the older-settled sections of the West is undergoing a transition from the rough-and-ready way of the pioneer to the systematic and scientific methods of the advanced agriculturist. A systematic rotation of crops, including seeding down to grass, is now recognized by all thoughtful men as a present-day necessity, if the productiveness of the soil and ability to grow a No. 1 hard wheat is to be maintained. In order to properly utilize the grass land, fencing becomes imperative, and herein lies one of the most difficult problems, owing to the cost of fencing material.

#### THE HEDGE FENCE.

An active demand for fencing, together with the expense of good fence pickets and wire, creates the opportunity for the faker with the patent fence, the slickest of whom is the patent hedge-fence man, with his alluring colored plates of beautiful blossom covered hedge-rows, with nature's growth so marvelously trained that the mesh is close enough to intercept the gopher and, at the same time, strong enough to be "bull-proof." These wonderful combinations of hedge plants (at so much a thousand), that are sure to grow, and a few strands of barb wire (at wholesale), are bound sooner or later to be offered to the Manitoba farmer, and, like the farmers in every other civilized country, experience bought and paid for is likely to be the only thing that will convince them of the uselessness of the hedge fence. Doubtless, too, local companies will, in due time, be organized to sell and plant hedges, and farmers will be offered special inducements to invest some of their surplus cash in the shares of these companies, whose only hope of success is in the gullibility of the public. Those who remember the osage-orange and locust hedge fakes that were successfully worked some years ago—and many may have cause to remember—will not be so easily caught in the meshes of the patent-hedge man.

#### HEDGES UNSUITABLE.

Hedge fences are totally unsuited to the conditions of prairie farming, when one considers what the growing of a hedge means. For the growing of any kind of trees or shrubs in this country, cultivation is absolutely essential. Think of the labor necessary to thoroughly cultivate a strip of 3 or 4 feet along both sides of a hedge a mile or two in length, and to keep down all weeds and grass (including twitch-grass), for several years; then, to insure a thick undergrowth in the hedge, it must needs be kept closely and frequently trimmed for all time to come. As a reward for all the labor, the hedge, even if it has grown fairly well, is at best a poor substitute for a wire fence. It collects snowdrifts, which break down the hedge and keep the land adjoining wet until late in spring, and in the event of soil drifting from the adjoining fields, the results to the hedge would be disastrous. Anyone who desires a nice bit of hedge along the garden border will be well repaid for the labor necessary to obtain it and keep it in shape, but few who stop to consider are likely to undertake to hedge-fence even the boundary line of a quarter-section farm.

### Extension of Canadian Pure-bred Stock Trade.

The recent purchase in Canada, by Mr. Alex. Bruce, in conjunction with Mr. Wm. Nelson, of Liverpool, England, of a number of Shorthorn bulls for shipment to the Argentine Republic, in South America, elsewhere referred to in detail in this issue of the ADVOCATE, while not the pioneer exportation of pure-bred stock from this country to that—a trial consignment or two having been made a few years ago by Mr. W. C. Edwards, of Russell County, Ontario—indicates the possibility of a new and particularly desirable market for Canadian pure-bred stock, should the venture prove a financial success, as it is earnestly hoped it may. The present relations between Great Britain and the Argentine in regard to the importation and exportation of live stock, owing to recent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, are such as to prohibit, for the time being, trade in that line, and the South American cattle-breeders in the meantime, in looking around for available supplies, have naturally turned their attention to Canada and the United States, where, for nearly a century, such stock has been propagated from importations from the parent land and bred with a gratifying degree of success, adding immensely to the value of the farm stock—and, consequently, to the wealth of both countries on this side of the sea. It is well known that Argentine breeders are discriminating buyers, that the best is none too good for them, and that they are not open to the imputation of haggling over the price if the quality of the animals is good enough to suit them. A knowledge of the discretion used by our new customers in buying should prove an incentive to Canadian breeders to produce superior stock in large numbers, giving the necessary care and treatment to ensure their best development, in order that we may secure and hold the trade that has been opened.

The increasing interprovincial trade resulting from the rapid development of the West, the general prosperity prevailing in the country, and the demand for pure-bred stock from the Maritime Provinces and also from the sister Provinces of British Columbia and the Northwest, is gratifying and encouraging to breeders in all sections of the Dominion.

The organization of the Dominion and Provincial

Stock Breeders' Associations is properly created with much influence in bringing about this increased trade by their successful efforts to secure from the railway companies favorable freight rates for the shipment of registered pedigree stock, making it possible and practicable to spread the influence of good blood over wide areas of the Dominion. A policy which we are confident will prove profitable in the near future to the railway companies as well as to the farmers. The opening up, and settlement of new sections of the country results in the production of commodities the transportation of which brings revenue to the roads, and so the improvement of the breeding and quality of live stock brings trade and commerce in the shipment, for home and foreign consumption, of a better class of stock and of its products in the form of beef, bacon, mutton, wool, milk, butter, cheese, poultry, etc., and the benefit to producers and carriers is mutual.

The United States, our natural outside market for this class of stock, owing to its nearness and the adaptability of large areas of its territory for stock-raising, will doubtless continue to take a large share of our surplus, as it has done in the past, and all that is needed to give the fullest scope to this great industry is the removal of the unnecessary and galling restrictions which, under the guise of protection, and at the whim of interested officialism, have been fastened upon it, vexatiously hampering a trade which, but for this, would be one of our most prosperous and satisfactory enterprises.

### A Beef Ring for 20 Members.

Enclosed please find chart which I use for cutting up beef for a ring of 20 members. I have used it for three years, and it has given the best satisfaction of any ring in this locality. Several applicants have asked me to give my chart, and to explain how to run it. I think it will be readily understood. It is run just the same as the one for 16 members. Our rules are just the same as for a ring of 16 members. The only difference is, we have the members furnish a basket or cotton bag to put the beef in when cut up.

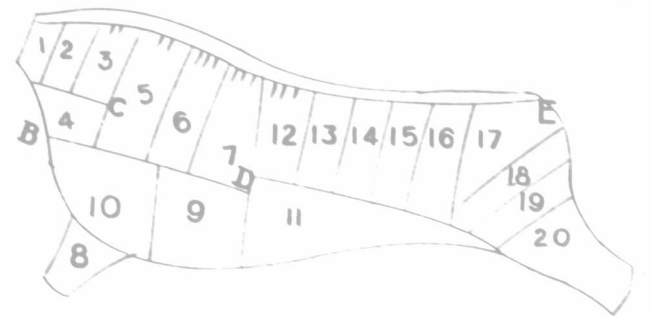


CHART FOR BEEF RING OF 20 MEMBERS.

Then we hang it up, with their names on it. You will see by my chart that the beef will have to be quartered a little differently from yours for cutting the beef up in 10 pieces. To give each party a boil and a roast, it must be divided after the beef is cut down in halves. You must cut it across between Nos. 7 and 12, leaving four ribs on the hind quarter. After laying the front quarter on the table for cutting up, you will cut off front shank, No. 8; then cut from line B, making two pieces (Nos. 10 and 9); then take off neck, No. 1; then take roast No. 7 (3 ribs in it); roast No. 6 (2 ribs); roast No. 5 (2 ribs); then cut across to line C, taking piece No. 4 (boiling piece); then No. 3 (2 ribs in it), leaving piece No. 2. After cutting up the two fore quarters, you will let down the hind quarter on the table, and cut from line D, leaving flank, No. 11; then cut roast No. 12 (3 ribs in it); then follow along 13, 14, 15, 16; then cut across line E (rump roast), No. 17; then cut off Nos. 18 and 19, leaving hind shank, No. 20.

This is a table to put the pieces for each one:

Nos.	1 and 18	2 and 16	3 and 12	4 and 13	5 and 17	6 and 20	7 and 11	8 and 15	9 and 14	10 and 19	Boil and roast.
1	18	2	12	13	17	20	11	15	14	19	Boil
2	16	1	10	9	7	6	5	4	3	2	Roast

The weight of the beef is supposed to be not less than 100 lbs., and not to exceed 500 lbs., all to be cut up and divided into 20 shares. I think the beef should not be less than 150 lbs. It cuts up in much nicer pieces.

JOHN I. BALDWIN.

The recent United States census shows that the total number of farms in the Republic has increased during the past ten years from 4,500,000 to 5,700,000, an increase of 26 per cent. more than keeping pace with the growth of population. Hence the big farms are not swallowing up all the small ones. The number of farms worked by their owners is 500,000 more than ten years ago, or an increase of 18 per cent. At the same time, tenant farmers increased about 40 per cent. The greatest increase in tenant farmers has been in the Eastern and middle Western States, where owners have retired to cities and towns, leasing their farms to others. Very recently a popular movement has set in whereby men of means purchase and run fine farms on which they reside with their families throughout the summer season instead of going to high-priced and often stuffy fashionable resorts. Altogether, from these points of view the outlook for American agriculture is encouraging.