

### Lucerne for Swine.

There are few parts of Canada where agriculture is followed that pork-raising is not to some extent carried on, either for home consumption or for the market. When only a few hogs are raised annually on a farm to supply meat for the table the question of suitable rations is not a serious one, as many of the wastes of the farm are utilized to feed them, supplemented with pasture, roots, grain, inferior apples, etc., but when hog-feeding enters into the operations of the farm as one of its revenue-returning branches the question of using food that is both suitable and cheap becomes an important consideration, as without profit the enterprise becomes a failure and has to be abandoned. To conduct pork-raising successfully on an extensive scale, then, requires favorable natural advantages and wisdom in appropriating them. It is generally considered that apart from dairying pork-raising cannot be profitably conducted, and properly so, we believe, under ordinary circumstances, except some other food material can be found as suitable and cheap as dairy by-products, such as whey, skim milk or buttermilk. It is true that in similar situations one man will fail while his neighbor will prosper. Keenness of perception and systematic application give a man a great advantage in any calling, and perhaps more in swine-rearing than in many others. The question, however, we wish to discuss is not one dealing with man so much as with some of the conditions external to him that favorably affect profitable pork-raising, and perhaps one of the greatest of these is a soil and climate suitable for the growth of lucerne or alfalfa. We find that in alfalfa-growing States, such as Kansas, for example, no swine breeder thinks of raising hogs without a patch of alfalfa for pasture during the summer and hay during the winter. It does appear to many of us somewhat ridiculous to speak of wintering hogs on hay, but we have the facts from reliable sources that with the addition of very little grain many Western hogs winter on well-cured lucerne hay. It is claimed by those who have tried it that a hog fed on alfalfa hay will do better on one-half the grain required to winter a pig without hay. In putting up the hay for pig feed it should be put in the stack very green, simply allowing it to wilt about twenty-four hours, and that in the windrows instead of in the swath. "Where alfalfa grows luxuriantly one acre of a well-established crop will pasture about fifteen head of hogs, and then furnish enough hay to winter them," so said G. W. Watson at an annual meeting of the Kansas Improved Stock Breeders, where he gave his methods of raising pigs on alfalfa. He went on to say that in summer, after pigs weigh about 60 to 70 pounds, all grain feed and slops are cut off, and they are put in pasture where they have plenty of lucerne and fresh water. With fifteen head to the acre, with an average season, it will be necessary to mow the field regularly, the same as when no stock is allowed, but the yield of hay will not be so heavy. Pigs fed with a liberal use of alfalfa it was claimed would not cost more than half as much as those that are grain fed. There are many parts of Canada where lucerne yields heavily, and where such is the case its value as hog feed can be easily ascertained by a trial that need not be expensive nor incur any risk. Elsewhere in this issue we publish a concise letter from Mr. F. C. Elford, Huron Co., giving his method of raising good pork very cheaply upon lucerne and whey, with the addition of grain for a brief finishing period.

### Origin of the Galloway.

This breed resembles the Aberdeen-Angus so very closely that Galloways have been known to win in the Aberdeen-Angus classes at shows. This, of course, reflects adversely on the judges, though the two breeds undoubtedly have much in common. They are both black, and both have a polled head, and, as their names indicate, they are both of Scottish origin.

But their origin is nevertheless entirely different, as different, indeed, as it could possibly be. The Galloway differs from the Aberdeen-Angus in the shape of the head, which in the former is flatter on top. The Galloway has a head of moderate size, with large, hairy ears and very full eyes. The head is short and wide, with a broad forehead and wide nostrils.

The head is a most important point in the Galloways, and no breeder will use a bull whose head does not come up to the mark. They differ from the Aberdeen-Angus in having an abundant coat of soft, velvety hair (often inclined to curl) over the head, neck, and shoulders. The black color is not infrequently tinged with red, and red Galloways were not uncommon in the early years of this century.

The origin of the breed is not quite certain. All breeders are agreed that the West Highlander is the origin of the Galloway. Such a statement will doubtless seem strange to many because the West Highland cattle are such strong-horned, shaggy beasts. Yet there is very little doubt about the matter. A cross may have been used to get rid of the horns, and the horns may have been got rid of without the introduction of alien blood. All breeds, somehow, will produce sports without horns, and by using a bull come by in this way a lot of polled cattle will soon be obtained. In the early part of the century West Highland cattle were not so carefully bred as they are now. Pedigree was not kept, and perhaps alien bulls were not

infrequently used, which might account for the fact that numbers of polled animals could be got amongst them. By selecting these the Galloway breed seems to have been got up.

As the name implies, Galloways have their home in the south-west of Scotland. They originally belonged to the district of Galloway, comprising Wigtonshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, and Dumfriesshire, but the breed has now spread over a much wider area, and at present they are bred a good deal in other parts of Scotland, in England, and Ireland. They have also been exported to foreign countries.

Many who breed their own cattle for beef purposes prefer the Galloway to the Angus. Some think they stand the winter better on account of their abundant coats of soft hair. Others greatly prefer the Aberdeen-Angus on account of their larger size. The Galloway is bred entirely for beef, and its origin gives little hope for milk. The West Highlanders have been kept for very many years on rough land in a semi-wild state, so that their milking powers have never received much attention. With such a foundation, the Galloway could not be expected to be much of a milk producer.

The West Highlanders are noted for the remarkable care they take of their calves. A West Highland cow will leave her calf in a tuft of ferns or some place of concealment in the morning, where it will lie quietly all day till she returns in the evening to nurse it. She will roam over miles of mountain during the day, and return at the proper time to look after her young. This makes them a valuable breed in South America, where cattle have to go miles to water.

### No Degeneracy of Sheep in Canada.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I was more than pleased when reading your editorial "Do Sheep Degenerate in Canada?" in reply to Mr. J. McCaig's well-written but most misleading article in your last issue. Surely it must be a great mistake for any writer to attempt belittling and discouraging the flockmasters of our country at this period in our history, when such strides are being made in the development of greater excellence in sheep of the different breeds.

There is little need for me to attempt adding to your very able and telling defence, but as the subject is of very great importance it will be well for breeders to spare no pains in exposing the fallacy of Mr. McCaig's statements, so authoritatively set forth.

It is wisdom to consider the authority before heeding some of the newspaper talks nowadays, and in reading the article under review the reader would naturally suppose that the writer was a breeder of long practical experience, who made a deep and thorough study of his subject, both in Canada and the motherland. We find his name of late in several agricultural and stock papers under articles relating to sheep, which, considering circumstances, are creditable pen productions, but in the present case the space used is worse than wasted, and why? Because he unsparingly casts reflections on Canadian importers, breeders and farmers and their flocks, oiled words of discredit being flung right and left. That we may measure his value as an authority, I ask him to kindly tell us how long he has been breeding sheep, what his personal success or otherwise has been with the flock, how many imported and Canadian-bred sheep he owns, and how often and long has he studied the British flockmasters' doings and their flocks? The knowledge which constitutes a reliable authority on such subjects is not generally gathered mainly from books nor within the four walls of a schoolhouse.

He asserts that "Canadian importers do not get the best English sheep even for show purposes." I will ask Messrs. Tolton, Jackson, the Arkells, the Whitelaws, Kelly, Miller, Douglas, Smith, McGillivray, Oliver, Gibsons, Walker, Main, and many others whether they have imported England's best or not.

And the greatest satisfaction lies in that fact you mentioned, of the best from across the sea having had on many occasions to take second place when in competition with Canadian-bred sheep in this country. Deterioration, indeed! Why, instances without number rush to my mind where imported sheep have so improved in condition here as not to be recognized in a few months; and the descendants of imported sheep have very frequently developed into better animals than the ancestors. Disliking at present to make but little mention of personal experience, yet some instances are necessary to strengthen my argument. At the World's Fair, of the 35 possible first-prize-winning sheep in the Shropshire class, 22 were awarded my flock, and of these 17 were home-bred. My imported champion ram never weighed over 310 pounds, then three years old, while a yearling home-bred son of his (a first winner) weighed then 275 pounds, and at maturity 400 pounds. His dam, an imported first winner in England, never got over 220 pounds, while my home-bred two-shear winning ewes at Chicago weighed 250 and 260 pounds. In 1897, at Madison Square Garden Show, in New York, my home-bred first-premium shearling ewe weighed 240 pounds, and a ram lamb was good enough to win easily. In each case several of England's winners, and later winners at the American fairs, were competitors. Both were sired by the Chicago champion, weighing but 310 pounds. Does that show degeneracy, of quality or size?

And I well know that other breeders can tell of similar or better success.

I can say, fearless of successful contradiction, that many of our pure-bred flocks of the different breeds can show better averages of quality than the general pure-bred English flocks, and as good size at maturity. Two or three months' earlier lambing gives them the advantage in producing lambs and yearlings more forward in size at same dates, but not at similar ages.

If Mr. McCaig has visited British breeders he must have observed what has been a great surprise to young importers, viz., how small a percentage of *real good yearling rams* can usually be found in lots of fifty or more. And we must bear in mind that those lots are severely culled of the objectionable ones before importers reach them. And I most heartily agree with you regarding our climate being, everything considered, as good for sheep production as that of the Old Country. Did we have the difficulties to contend with that British shepherds have in growing sheep, possibly there would be good grounds for Mr. McCaig's charges. Had we scab, foot rot, maggots, stomach worms and such (all very much the results of climate) to contend with, as they have so persistently to battle with across the sea, verily I think few of us would remain long in the business. Severe winter weather, which forces us to provide shelter and succulent feed, is a great "blessing in disguise," preventing, as it does, many diseases and ailments.

While conditions vary greatly, from all I can gather, my choice, so far as growing sheep is concerned, would be the Canadian weather and climate. Of course we have not the markets of Britain at our doors. Had we, why we could drive them out of their own markets, as Manitoba is deluging our home markets with easily-produced wheat. We have soil and climate that enables us to grow comparatively cheap succulent feeds for winter use, and so hold our own with any country in the production of high-class sheep for breeders and butchers.

And does not Mr. McCaig say so himself, thereby contradicting his own theories, when he writes, "The good reputation that Canadian mutton has enjoyed in the American markets has given rise to a demand for stock animals, etc.?" Does that look like deterioration? Are the peaked-backed sheep he writes of the kind that Americans want or will have? They need not come to Canada for them, having all they want of such.

Surely our friend McCaig has got badly mixed up somehow, or is it a case of "a little learning is a dangerous thing?"

I can truly say that since my boyhood, thirty years ago, the common sheep of our country have improved beyond measure, and the skinny, peaked-backed ones are of the long ago and forgotten. While the general progress accounts for that condition in part, the importing of good sheep, handled intelligently, and the owners of common sheep realizing the importance of better quality have so infused the imported blood into their flocks that now a most noticeable improvement is seen in their flocks, and a corresponding increased profit results from that infusion.

We have the material near at hand to keep on improving, in common ewes (so-called) and pure-bred sires, of which latter so many go across to the States, without considering the establishing of a new breed. Life is too short for the practical man to undertake such a great work, and the field in the line of producing still greater excellence in the established breeds is wide enough for the present generation. 'Tis hard to stop, but in conclusion I will state to beginners that, having been in touch with the pure-bred sheep business for some twenty years, the prospects at present are the brightest I have seen. Don't be discouraged by theorists. Consult the men who have been for years and years breeding the different kinds of live stock, and my judgment is that you will find a score who are ready to say that good sheep are the best rent-payers, mortgage-lifters and debt-destroyers we have to one who will agree with friend McCaig in his crying down Canadian sheep and methods.

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### Summer Feeding of Hogs --- Lucerne as Pasture.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I read with interest the report of Mr. Whaley's plan of feeding hogs during the winter. The experience of such a man is of great importance to the farmers of Canada—many times the subscription price to the valuable paper that gives us the information. The summer feeding is perhaps not so difficult, but of even greater importance, as many farmers have not the necessary buildings for the winter, but endeavor to feed off several lots during the summer months.

The method we follow in feeding our hogs during the summer may be of interest to some. We use a pure-bred Tamworth boar for all our sows now. Our sows are principally Berkshire, though we have some Poland-China, Tamworth and Berkshire cross, Yorkshire and Chester White cross. They have not all given satisfaction, and we are putting away all but the English Berkshire and the Yorkshire and Chester cross; these crossed with the Tamworth boar are most satisfactory for our purpose.

Our young pigs are from two to three months old when we turn them in to pasture about May 1st,