

where it has been bred and raised. It gets naturalized to the climate from the first, and does not have to undergo the change incident to going from one country to another; and where is there a more healthful climate than our own? In the second place, suppose a man imports a mare in foal, and the man who buys her has good luck and raises a stallion, is that stallion any worse for being born on this side of the water? Certainly not, and, as I have said, I believe he is all the better for his being born on Canadian soil. For instance, take a look at the stock from Canadian-bred and imported horses, and which sells the best in the market for heavy horses? In this country, we find that some of the very highest-priced horses that have been sold were got by Canadian-bred sires.

In the next place, why should a few dealers who bring out horses, say, in effect, to the rest of us, "You must use imported horses," which is practically the aim and effect of their agitation for a stallion inspection and license law in the interests of the few? If farmers do not combine and emphatically protest, the man who has a good sound Canadian horse will have little chance of a fair show, since the clique and their friends will have the inside track in the naming of the inspectors. We don't need to go further than our own county fairs to see the get of Canadian-bred sires carrying off the ribbon of red. Why are a few importers going to be allowed to combine? If this is permitted in the case of horsemen, why not in the case of our breeders of cattle, swine and other stock. Why has one body of men got such a grip on the Government that they are invited to follow the Scripture admonition, "Ask and ye shall receive"?

In conclusion, let me say to the Canadian farmer. Who knows your business better than yourself? Don't be led away with any gold-brick story, for you will find them among horsemen as well as elsewhere, but use your own judgment; and if a brother farmer raises a good Canadian-bred stallion, and you know his breeding, and he is satisfactory to you, stay with him and encourage him. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder, and keep our business for the masses, and not hand it to the classes.  
J. C. H.  
Peel Co., Ont.

#### A FIRST ATTEMPT.

I received your letter last night, with express money order for \$10 enclosed, being awarded me for second-prize essay in Horsemen's Experience Competition. Please accept my sincere thanks. As it was the first time I had written anything for publication, the result was very gratifying to me. I will always speak a good word for "The Farmer's Advocate."  
CHAS. DUNLOP.  
Carleton Co., Ont.

### LIVE STOCK.

#### ANOTHER WORD FOR THE RECORD-OF-PERFORMANCE IDEA.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Any Shorthorn history that fails to provide for a Record of Dairy Performance would be incomplete. That statement, of course, at once raises the whole question of the milking Shorthorn, or, to be more strictly correct, the beef-and-butter cow. Here one must take issue with Professor Arkell in his Christmas article, "A Canadian Sees the English Cow," for it appears to me that the Professor studiously built up a straw bovine for the playful purpose of knocking it down, when he reiterated, on page 1990, the quotation of Mr. Carr, that, "not more than one cow in a hundred will put flesh on her back and milk at the same time," a claim, by the way, we do not believe was ever made by any reputable person for the breed in its dual-purpose capacity. If one is permitted to stray outside Shorthornism for an extra illustration, let us refer to some recent literature on the Red Polls, whose claim to dual-purpose qualities is not yet contested to any great degree, perhaps because it is not yet recognized by the ultra-breeders of the beef or dairy type of cattle. Why the Red Polls should be accepted as a breed with a dual purpose, and not the Shorthorn, is strange, yet not altogether difficult to understand, because the real onslaught on the Shorthorn began at the threshold of the country which it, in its dual-purpose capacity, was especially fitted for, namely, the great middle West of the Northern half of the American continent, comprising the following States and Provinces: Minnesota, the Dakotas, Kansas and Nebraska, and Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. This onslaught was led and engineered by Prof. Haecker, of Minnesota, and ex-Gov. Hoard, of Wisconsin, and was unfortunately accepted as true gospel by many farmers in Wisconsin and Minnesota, to their ultimate sorrow and loss, and was unconsciously helped by

the breeders of patchy, steery-looking females, oftentimes sterile, the result of the pedigree and family craze. It is the only breed that can make way against exclusive wheat or corn-growing; it accompanies the growing of legumes and the rotation of crops; the silo; and the other breeds are then able to follow the blazed trail.

This digression, however, must go no further just now, as opportunity says this is the time to impress upon members of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association the need for records of milk performance, and the encouragement by financial aid, in the form of grants to such performances, and for milking Shorthorns at the shows. Here, again, we find the British and U. S. associations have gone ahead of us, although we doubt if in either country has Shorthorn blood quite the preponderance over that of other breeds that it has in Canada. When referring to developing a market for the Shorthorns bred in the average herd, the ability to milk well (one of the qualities of the breed now in abeyance) was not given as one of the reasons for the lack of interest shown by the average farmer in the breed. This lack of interest is undoubtedly due to the farmer's observations. He has noted at the shows the nurse cows for the calf aristocrats, their milkless dams, and sterile females without normal udder development; he has also noticed that some Shorthorn breeders keep a cow of no breeding to supply the house with milk and cream. Is it any wonder that the market is sometimes slow for the fifty to one-hundred-dollar Shorthorn bull? As a business proposition, therefore, the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association must concentrate more attention on the milking abilities of its favorites, even if a slight estrangement from the all-Scotch ideal is the result.

It was asserted in a previous article that the great business need of the Shorthorn breed so-



Pair of Yorkshires.

Under twelve months old. First and breed cup in class, and champions over all breeds in the Show, Smithfield, London, England, 1907.

ciety is to help the small breeder sell his bulls, and one way was suggested; but the campaign must not end there, or it will be one-sided. By fostering the milking qualities by means of Records of Performance, milk tests at shows, and classes at the shows for milking Shorthorns, it will be impressed upon the owners of grade herds, who are intending to purchase pure-bred bulls of some breed, that they will make no mistake in selecting from the roster of the Red, White and Roans. If the demand is made good for the bulls at the bottom, we need never fear unremunerative prices for the uppercrust.

"HOMECROFT."

#### BABY BEEF ON TORONTO MARKET.

The most economical beef to raise and sell, and the most satisfactory to buy, is that from cattle one to two years of age, that have been well fed from birth to block—never been permitted to lose their calf flesh. Especially where skim milk forms a small part of the ration, such heaves produce the very spiciest and tenderest of steaks, and are bound to cut a larger and larger figure in our local meat markets. In this connection, the opinion of the Harris Abattoir Co., of Toronto, in a recent letter to this office, is significant:

"You ask us our opinion in regard to baby beef. There is more satisfaction in handling choice beef of this class than any other. It always pleases both the retailer and the consumer, and we could sell any quantity of it—providing the quality is good—to the family butchers who cater to the best trade. An epicure might per-

haps say that it lacks the real flavor of the roast beef of Old England, but our opinion is that the great majority of consumers prefer it to any other class of beef."

#### PIG BREEDING.

There is every probability that the supply of hogs for the market next summer will be short, and prices high. Owing to the scarcity and high price of feed, many breeding sows have been sent to the butcher's market, and the stock of pigs reduced to a lower limit than usual; and, unless the coming spring proves unusually favorable for the expected litters, there is sure to be a shortage of suitable shoats for the packing-houses. As a rule, April is a safe month in which to have the litters come, as they need not be long confined to close quarters, and are much safer to thrive if allowed to run out on the ground for exercise in fine weather. The period of gestation in the case of the sow is generally sixteen weeks to a day or two, no other class of stock producing so nearly within the allotted time. To facilitate the service where a large, heavy sire is in use, or, indeed, in any case, whether the boar be large or small, a breeding crate kept in his pen is a great convenience and saving of time, and those who have adopted it would not think of doing without it. As a rule, one service is sufficient, and as effectual as more, though, in the case of sows that have proved difficult to settle, a second service at a later day of the period of heat may prove successful. The sow, after service, should be kept quiet in a pen alone for a day or two, or until her heat has passed.

Success in securing strong litters depends largely on the treatment of the pregnant sow. Regular exercise, and plenty of it, is essential, and to this end the feed should be, to some extent, whole grain, scattered upon the ground or upon a plank platform, to keep the sows on their feet. A raw mangel or sugar beet thrown on the ground to scoop, will also tend to keep them employed. Cold, sloppy feed fed to the sow is believed to have a bad effect on the pigs she is carrying, and, if meal is fed, it is safer to give it dry, the water or swill being given in a separate trough. A mixture of pulped mangels and cut clover or clover leaves, with a little meal sprinkled over it, is ideal feed for a brood sow.

A dry bed in an open shed, or one with an open door to the barnyard, where she can go out at any time, is a better arrangement than keeping the sow in a close pen where regular exercise is not easily available. If a litter is due to come in the winter months, provision should be made to secure sufficient warmth. The sow should become accustomed to her quarters a couple of weeks before she is due to farrow. If the pen is not considered warm enough, it may be improved in that respect by putting up extra studding by the outer walls, tacking rough lumber on them, and filling in between with straw or horse manure. A second covering overhead of a temporary character will also help to make the place warmer. The sow's feed at this time should be relaxing, in order to avoid constipation. Roots and bran slop will tend to keep the bowels open. The bedding should be of dry, short straw, and not too plentiful. It is well to keep watch over the sow when her time is up, and to see that the little ones do not get away from her side. As a rule, it is not wise to interfere more than is necessary with the sow, but if she is restless, and gets to rising often, it is well to have a basket at hand, covered with a blanket, in which to put the pigs till all are born and the sow is quiet, when they should be placed beside her, and, if necessary, helped to find the needed nourishment. The sow should not be disturbed for feeding for twelve hours after farrowing, and only a warm drink of bran slop given. Her feed for the first two or three days should be light, and gradually increased.

#### ROAD ARTICLES WORTH TEN TIMES THE MONEY.

Please send your valuable paper for this year. It is a credit to any country, and your articles on road management are worth ten times the money.  
Nanaimo, B. C. C. BAZETT.