

Lice on Hogs.

It is a fact well known to many hog-breeders that the presence of insects on hogs is not a matter to be ignored. It is not, however, generally understood that few hogs are free from lice. If this were more generally recognized, more attention would be given to keeping the hogs free. The thick skin of the hog makes his owner think that it is a complete protection against parasites. This is not the case, for the skin, though thick, is soft enough to be easily penetrated by the sucking instruments of the insects that live on the hog.

The lice naturally go to those parts of the hogs that give them the best protection from the hog as he tries to get rid of them. They gather back of the ears, along the back where the bristles are long and heavy, and under the breast. These parasites are blood-suckers, and the amount of blood they can take out of a hog is surprising. Very often there are many hundreds of them on a single hog. It does not take them long to produce a weak, debilitated condition of the animal, making him not only unprofitable, but bringing him down to a condition where he is susceptible to other diseases.

Fortunately, hog lice are large in size, and can be detected on the hog before they have become very numerous. If they are taken in time it is easy to exterminate them, but too often they are allowed to remain undisturbed, when they multiply. So far as we know hog lice do not cause the death of the animals, but they reduce their thrift and also help along any disease that comes. Many a hog that would be able to resist disease, is unable to resist both that disease and lice.

Professor A. T. Peters, State Veterinarian of Nebraska, says that he has found that where animals affected with cholera were free from lice there was much smaller percentage of loss sustained than where the herds were largely affected with lice. This observation was impressed upon him during a period of five years, when he was examining the herds of the State. He says that his first rule, where there is an outbreak of cholera, is to hunt for lice, and if they are found have them thoroughly destroyed before proceeding to other measures.

It has been suggested before that all of the contagious diseases among live stock may be spread largely by lice. We do not know it, but it is reasonable to suppose that the lice pass quite freely from one animal to another, and that they suck infected blood from one and do not always insert clean sucking instruments into the bodies of healthy hogs. We believe that war should be waged on lice till all are exterminated.

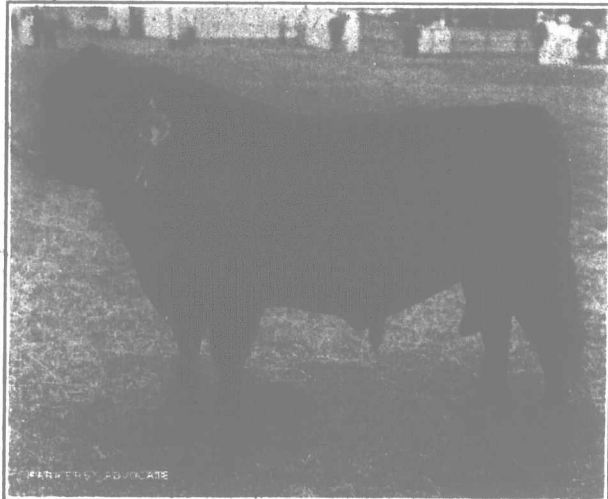
This preachment, by the Farmers' Review, of Chicago, should arrest the attention of all who keep hogs in any number, and should lead them to examine their stock for this pest. Hog lice are not difficult to destroy or get rid of, as spraying or washing with any of the sheep dips will quickly do the work, or the application of any kind of oil or grease will kill them. Perhaps the surest and simplest cure is a mixture of coal oil and lard, or other oil, as coal oil alone is apt to blister the skin. The application should be repeated, as the nits will develop into life.

"Pigs is Pigs."

In the best sense of the axiom the above heading, which is the unique title of the latest humorous production in book form, is at the present time a truism, as applied to the market for live pigs, with prices hovering around the eight dollars a hundredweight mark, and more wanted at these figures than are available. If there ever was a time when farmers found no excuse for grumbling about market prices for hogs it is surely now. If there was even a remote possibility of profit in raising hogs in the past, as was the case, within the memory of the writer, when they were generally kept till twelve to eighteen months old before being fattened, and were finished on peas worth nearly a dollar a bushel, the market for the product open for only about four of the winter months, the price seldom up to eight dollars a hundred dressed weight, and often down to less than one-half that figure, there surely must be good money in selling at present prices, pigs six to eight months old that have been mainly raised upon pasture and by-products of the dairy which would otherwise go to waste. It is, we believe, proverbial in some countries, though, perhaps, not in Canada, that farmers as a class are not happy unless they have something to complain of, a statement which reminds us of the English tenant whose crops were so good that when questioned as to whether he had any "kick coming" in that regard, replied, "Such heavy crops were very hard on the land." If Canadians have a complaint regarding the hog market of the present time, we presume it is that they have not enough porkers to part with in order to reap to a satisfactory extent the benefit from the booming prices that are going; and, if in a complaining mood, they probably lay the blame on the buyers, the perverse packers, for "bearing" the market last year by bringing in hogs from the "States,"

where they could buy them cheaper than here, though not of as good a class as ours. Whether the ground for the grumble was well founded or not, there is nothing to be gained now by reflection or recrimination on that score, and the question of interest for the future is how best to prepare to benefit from present and prospective market prices. We are not informed as to the probable number of early autumn litters to be counted on, and to be prepared for the spring market, but we should hope that many have provided for that contingency by breeding to have a good share of pigs farrowed early in September, as later litters are apt to become stunted in winter, and prove unprofitable feeders.

Pigs born early in the fall, if given liberty to run out on grass, grow strong in their limbs and lungs, laying a good foundation of healthy muscle, which goes a long way towards carrying them successfully through the often enforced confinement of the winter months, while later litters often prove unprofitable, becoming crippled from confinement, or a lack of balance in the food supplied, causing indigestion and attendant ills. And right here is room for study and experimentation, in order to arriving at a more satisfactory conclusion as to the best method of winter feeding, with a view to avoiding those checks in the growth of pigs so often experienced in that season in this country. The question of "dry-mash" feeding of poultry in winter is being freely discussed, and is seemingly growing in favor, and it may be worth considering whether the too free feeding of sloppy rations to pigs in cold weather is not largely responsible for the unthrifty condition found among so many lots of pigs during the winter months. Food swallowed in a sloppy form, without mastication, is unmixing with saliva from the glands of the mouth, which serves to make the food more fitted for digestion, and, if fed cold, it must have an injurious effect on the circulation of the blood, tending to indigestion and general debility. It would appear to be worth while to try the experiment of feeding the grains or meals dry, or, at least, mixed with pulped roots or ensilage, with the addition of chaffed clover, supplying



Chancellor of Balyboly.

Three-year-old Galloway bull. First and champion at the Royal Show, 1906.

liquids in a separate trough to be taken at will, and in such quantity as the demands of nature call for. This system of feeding we know has been successfully adopted by some feeders; some of the most thrifty winter-fed hogs we have ever seen were fed by this method, and the wonder is that it has not been more generally tried. The pig is too important a factor in the farmer's operations nowadays to be neglected, and every point in his breeding and management should be studied, in order to bringing out the best that is in him financially.

Recommended for Calf Scours.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having seen an inquiry for cure of scours or diarrhoea in calves, I send you the following cure, which I have never known to fail, I care not in what stage the disease may be: Take from one to two tablespoonfuls of spirits of turpentine, one-half cup raw linseed oil, and one egg, and put it in a bottle, with a pint of new milk. Shake so as to mix; give to the calf from the bottle (the milk should be quite warm); afterwards feed sparingly a pint of new milk twice a day for two days; then increase the quantity of milk to a quart twice a day for a week. One dose is generally sufficient to effect a cure. The cause of scours is over-feeding—that is, giving too much milk at a time—or calves being kept where water drips on them from leaky roofs, or mixing chopped feed along with the milk. The best way I have found to feed the latter is to throw a handful of chop in the pail just as the calf is about finished drinking; they soon learn to eat it dry.

Crossfield, Alta.

CHAS. GRASLEY.

THE FARM.

Preparation for Wheat Sowing.

There are large areas in Ontario in which fall wheat can be successfully grown with comparatively little expense in the preparation of the land. Crops of this cereal have been harvested this year which are reported as averaging thirty bushels per acre, and some as high as forty bushels, which is a considerably better yield than the new lands of the boasted West can show in the most favorable of seasons; and the expense of preparation of the seed-bed here need not be greater than in the newer provinces. A clover sod plowed once in July or August, rolled immediately after plowing, and well harrowed, makes an ideal preparation, and the sowing should, as a rule, be not later than the first week in September, unless the Hessian fly has been working in the neighborhood, in which case it is well to continue surface cultivation, especially after each rain, to conserve moisture, and delay the sowing a week or two longer. A pea field or barley stubble, provided the land is in good heart, or a corn field after the crop has been siloed, may, in some cases, be prepared in time to be sown to wheat, especially if the season in respect to rainfall is favorable. Pea or corn stubble may not require plowing at all, but by disking or cultivating may be prepared in good condition for seeding early in September, and with good prospects for a successful crop. The success of wheat-growing depends very largely upon the proper preparation of the seed-bed, which should be fine, firm and moist, so as to encourage rapid and vigorous growth, giving the roots a strong hold on the ground, and the top sufficient bulk to afford some protection from the frost of winter, and hold the snow as a covering, though there may be danger of the top growth becoming excessive in the case of early sowing in a moist season, causing smothering of the plants when covered with snow. In this, as in most cropping, the farmer must use his judgment and act in accordance with the circumstances and the weather conditions. No cast-iron rule can be laid down or followed successfully in all seasons, or under varying conditions, but in a general way, and in average cases, the course indicated in this article may be safely adopted with fair prospects for success in fall-wheat growing, which may be profitably prosecuted to a limited extent in many districts of Ontario, and some of the more eastern provinces.

The Gasoline Engine for Farm Use.

The modern farmer of to-day, who is abreast of the times, realizes that in order to carry on his daily routine work, such as exists on every up-to-date farm, it is necessary to have power; and as he has read and studied the different classes of power, he is forcibly impressed with the advantages of the farm engines as a means for assisting with the work on the farm. Perhaps the class of power which is best suited for farm use is the gasoline or kerosene engine; or, perhaps at no far distant date, an engine burning alcohol.

Some of the kerosene engines now being manufactured will, without any alteration, also burn alcohol. This puts the manufacturing of fuel almost in the hands of the farmer, as cheap alcohol is made from potatoes, sugar beets, as well as cereals; in fact, potatoes produce a greater amount of alcohol per bushel than any of the other farm products, and since the passing of the free alcohol bill, alcohol can be made and sold at approximately 10 cents per gallon; and as the farmer produces the products from which alcohol is made, there is no reason why he could not make his own fuel, should the day ever come when gasoline or kerosene was too high for power purposes.

The amount of power necessary for the farm depends entirely upon the purpose for which it is to be used. There are thousands of farms to-day which are using from 2 to 6 h.-p. Power of this size would be used for pumping water, the grinding of feed for the stock, sawing wood, running cream separators, and the like; in fact, doing all the work that was previously done by hand, and up to the capacity of 4 to 5 h.-p. sweep. They again, there are farms which require a much larger amount of power, wishing to run a baling press, ensilage cutter, separator, large corn sheller and feed mill—the sizes ranging from 8 to 32 h.-p.

Either stationary, semi-portable or portable engines may be purchased, according to the use to be made of them. Many modern farms of to-day have a portion of the barn or granary equipped with an engine, belted to a line shaft, and from this shaft numerous machines are operated. Creameries are also fitted up with a gasoline engine, belted to a line shaft, from which is driven cream separators, churns, washing machines, pumps, butter workers, etc.—all of which can be operated at the same time at a very small cost, probably not to exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ of a gallon of gasoline per hour per h.-p.

The life of a gasoline engine is about four