

shows that the last ten years the increase has not been great. In 1900 there were 728,000 horses in Ontario, and 76,000 horses sold; while in 1910 there were only 724,000, showing a decrease of 4,000, and there were 98,000 sold. A considerable proportion of the horses sold in Ontario went out of the Province. The trouble is, he said, to get enough heavy-draft horses, but there is a good market for any kind of good horse, from the broncho to the heaviest kind of drafter. He cautioned farmers to breed the best quality they could, and discouraged the practice of selling off the good brood mares, which was a mistake, as there was always a market at a high price for good youngsters. He cited a case of a man of his acquaintance who had sold from two mares in ten years sixteen colts, at an average price of \$200 each at two years old, and the two mares had at the same time done all the work on one hundred acres of land. He thought Ontario farmers had been selling too many of their brood mares, which was partially the cause of the decrease in horses here. All foreign markets, he said, recognized Ontario as a great live-stock breeding-ground.

Mr. Smith said the heavy-draft horse was in great demand, but that the horse most largely demanded was the agricultural horse, weighing from 1,300 to 1,400 pounds. This horse is used in the West, and sells from \$200 to \$225 per head. He referred to the old comparison of the horse and the steer. The steer, at three to four years old, might bring \$90, while a good colt at two years would sell for perhaps \$250. Mr. Smith thought the advantage was with the colt.

All classes of horses were hard to get. City express horses, weighing from 1,175 to 1,350 pounds, sold for \$200 to \$275, while other classes were equally high.

What is the remedy? asked Mr. Smith. Breeders were doing great things for the horse industry, but he thought that our Government should take hold of the matter, and give us some rules to govern the breeding of horses in Ontario. He thought our horsemen should get some assistance from the Government, and advised horsemen to wait on their Members, and coax and, if necessary, threaten, until they obtained what they wanted. He cited a case in Trafalgar Township where from 50 to 75 mares went unborn the past season for want of a suitable sire. He thought that the Government should appoint inspectors, and that horses of unsuitable pedigree and individuality should not be allowed to travel. What we want, said Mr. Smith, is more horses, better horses, better quality, and at a cheaper price—which is all very well, except the plea for a lower price. Still, we could make money on horses at less than they now command, if plenty of high-class sires were available, at a reasonable fee.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF HORSES AT SHOWS.

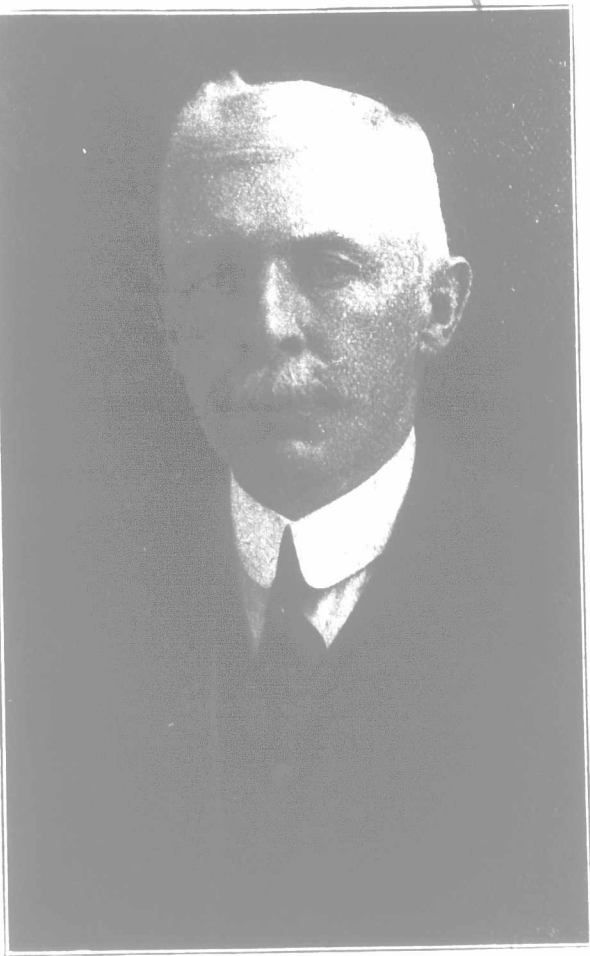
John Bright, President of the Winter Fair, spoke for a short time on the classification of horses at shows. This has been a vexed question for some time, because it is hard to define just what constitutes an agricultural horse and a general-purpose horse, and different judges have different ideas on the matter. The most common classification found at our shows is heavy-draft, agricultural, and general-purpose, some shows having all three, while others have only heavy-draft and either one of the others. The trouble is that draft horses are sometimes found in agricultural classes, and agricultural horses found in the general-purpose class at many of our shows. Mr. Bright held that it was necessary to have these different classes in order to bring a large number of horses out to our shows; thus, he thought that none of the classes could be dropped from the prize lists. All these classes of horses, he said, were important, and in good demand, hence they should receive recognition at our shows. To secure uniformity in judging is the object, and, if this could be attained, the classes would be all right. As stated before, different judges have different ideas, thus it is hard to secure uniformity of judgment.

The general-purpose horse was defined as one suitable for saddle, buggy, wagon, express work, or plowing; the agricultural horse as simply a small draft horse, and stated that he did not think classification according to weight would do, because a large horse might be thin and get within the limit, while a small horse, very fat, would overweigh the limit.

John Gardhouse, of Highfield, agreed with all Mr. Bright had said, but thought, perhaps, it would be better, at some shows, to have prizes in breeding classes awarded only to pure-bred animals, though all the classes mentioned should be recognized at most shows. Too often the owner entered his animal in both the general-purpose and the agricultural class, and, after looking over his competitors at the show, pulled his horse out in the class that looked easiest for him to win.

W. TOOLE.

A set of staghorn carvers can be obtained by sending in three new yearly subscriptions to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." Look for the particulars in our premium announcement for page 2035 of this issue.



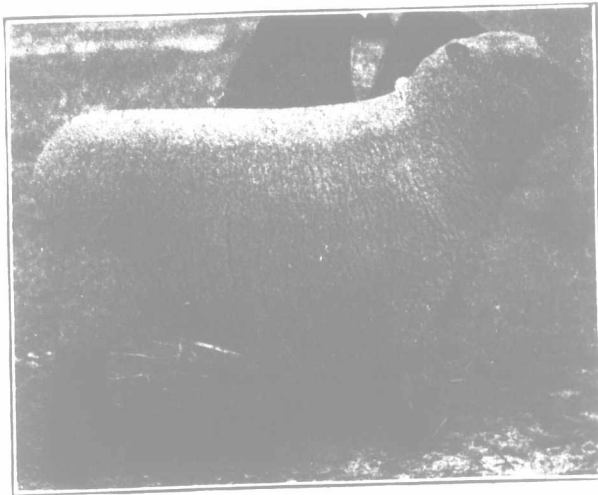
Fred Richardson.

Of the firm of Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Aged Sows the Best for Breeding.

An investigation at the Iowa Experiment Station, to discover the influence of the age of sows upon their prolificacy and the weight and growth of the pigs they produced, gave some interesting results. It was found, for example, that, fifteen sows, bred at eight or nine months, averaged 74 pigs per litter; while fourteen sows about twenty-four months old averaged nine and six-tenths pigs per litter; and aged sows average ten and six-tenths pigs per litter. Pigs from the younger sows weighed on an average 2.39 pounds per pig; from the two-year-old sows, 2.63; and from the aged sows, 2.61 pounds. When about six weeks old, the pigs from the young sows made an average daily gain of .32 pound, while the pigs from the two-year-old sows gained .40 pound. No data is given on the gain of the pigs from the aged sows.



Yearling Southdown Wether.

First and champion in his class, and grand champion as best of any breed or cross, at International Exposition, Chicago, 1910. Bred and exhibited by Huntlywood Farm, Beaconsfield, Que.

Stated in another way, it was found that the two-year-old sows farrowed 24 per cent. more pigs than the young sows, while the old sows farrowed 30 per cent. more. The weight of the farrowed 30 per cent. more. The weight of the pigs from the two-year-old sows was nine per cent. greater than that of the young sows, while the pigs from the old sows were 12 per cent. larger than from the young sows. The pigs from the two-year-old sows made a more rapid gain than those from the young sows, amounting to 26 per cent. In each instance the older sows farrowed more pigs per litter, heavier pigs at

birth, and their pigs made the most rapid growth after birth.—[From Coburn's "Swine in America."]

### Silage for Beef-making.

Silage is becoming more favorably regarded by American beef-makers, but even yet it is not so generally used as its value warrants. The results of an interesting line of work have recently been published by the Pennsylvania State Experiment Station, in which the value of silage has been well demonstrated. In the experiment four lots of 12 steers each were used. Lot I. was fed a full feed of grain, and one-half full feed of corn silage; Lot II. was given a two-thirds feed of grain and a full feed of silage; Lot III. received a full feed of grain and a full feed of silage. The above three lots were fed in the barn. Lot IV. was fed as Lot III., only being placed in an open shed. All lots received roughage ad libitum. Ear corn and cottonseed meal formed the concentrates, shredded stover the roughage. The maximum amount of concentrates, 20 pounds, was reached in the last of the five months on feed, and the maximum amount of silage, 20 pounds, was fed in the second month. For the five months, Lot I. averaged 2.09 pounds daily gain; Lot II., 1.98 pounds; Lot III., 2.138 pounds; Lot IV., 2.363 pounds.

Previous experiments have shown that cattle make as good gains on dry feed in the open shed as in the barn, and the labor, of course, is much less. This experiment would strongly support the idea that when silage makes up the main part of the roughage, cattle still do equally as well in open sheds as in the barns, and seems to puncture the notion that warmer barns are needed when feeding steers on silage.

Lot II., which received the least concentrates, made the cheapest gains, but the silage-fed lot in the open shed made the greatest daily gain and the greatest profit per steer of all the lots and the cheapest gains of all the lots, excepting Lot II. The test also indicates that the free use of silage in feeding fattening cattle reduces the cost of production and increases the rate of gain. The steers fed in the open lot, in comparison to those fed the same amounts in the barn, made more rapid gains, at a saving of \$1.02 in the cost of every 100 pounds gain. The following conclusions are drawn in the bulletin:

The most economical ration for fattening steers in Pennsylvania is composed largely of roughage, with a limited amount of concentrates.

Increasing the proportion of corn silage in a ration for fattening steers, increases the profits and gains from feeding.

Protection from cold is unnecessary for fattening cattle on succulent feeds, any more than on dry feeds.

The margin between buying and selling necessary to prevent loss when bulky rations are used was \$1.23 per cwt., and for concentrated rations, \$1.68.

### Feeding the Chicago Grand Champion.

The making of a grand champion invariably is both variable and interesting. The history of Shamrock II., recently awarded the highest honor at the 1910 International Live-stock Exhibition, from the time he made the start for this distinction, is here given in short for the perusal of beef-makers, especially.

#### HOW SHAMROCK II. WAS FED.

Shamrock II. came to the Iowa State College about May 1st, 1910. He was at once put on a nurse cow. He was kept in the barn during the day, and allowed the run of a grass lot at night. He was fed good clover hay, all he would eat; a pound each of the three parts corn, two parts wheat bran, and one part oil meal, up to September 1st. After September 1st he was given two nurse cows, fed green corn, stalks and ears, clover hay and roots. The grain ration was changed to boiled wheat and oats. During the month of November he was eating from nine to eleven pounds per day of the cooked feed, about twenty-five pounds per day of roots, and five pounds of clover hay, in addition to the milk of the nurse cows. He never missed a feed from May 1st until sold in Chicago, and never appeared the least bit nervous or restless.

This steer was sold by public auction on December 1st to C. H. Morgan & Co., Chicago butchers, for 60 cents per pound. He weighed 1,420 pounds, netting \$852.00. He is the second-highest-priced grand champion steer ever sold in America.

Gains made by Shamrock II. from May 1st until November 20th.—May 1st he weighed 346 pounds; June 1st, 461 pounds; July 1st, 589 pounds; August 1st, 700 pounds; September 1st, 822 pounds; October 1st, 941 pounds; November 1st, 1,060 pounds; November 20th, 1,130 pounds.