

EDITORIAL.

Valley Home Herd.

The frontispiece in this issue represents a scene upon the farm of S. J. Pearson & Son, Meadowvale, Ont. The commodious barn shown in the background is the dwelling of the excellent Shorthorn herd represented by the four animals whose life-like portraits grace the picture.

The Valley Home herd numbers about 40 head of pure Scotch Shorthorns of Cruickshank and Campbell breeding. They are, as the specimens in the illustration show, of the thick-fleshed, useful sort so much in demand at the present day. The herd is in the most desirable breeding condition, as all the mature females are regular breeders. The heifers are a desirable lot, among which are many good show animals.

The bull represented in the foreground, British Statesman (63729), Imp., is within a few weeks of being 4 years old. He is of Campbell (of Kinellar) breeding; sired by Royal James (54972), a Cruickshank bull, and out of a Campbell cow, Red Bess, by Gladstone (43286). British Statesman is a rich, mossy roan of great substance, carrying a great depth of natural flesh. He is beautifully topped, bearing long, level quarters and deep ribs, and a capital fore end. As the illustration shows, he stands on remarkably short legs. His excellence as a sire is shown in the young bull and heifer in the background.

The large heifer in the group is Mina Lass 4th, just turned 3 years old. She is out of Mina Lass (Imp.) and sired by Tofthills (56656), Imp. She is a good representative of the grand old Mina family, which has produced many prize winners. This heifer is a thick, evenly-fleshed animal of good quality, with excellent level top and well-sprung ribs, and a greater depth of body is seldom seen. She is a likely heifer for future honors in the show ring.

The young bull is Mina Statesman = 22506 =, a model calf at 13 months old. He is sired by British Statesman and out of Mina Lass, Imp. He is a rich roan, of capital build and excellent style. He is well sprung and deeply ribbed, and is a mellow handler. He has a grand coat of soft hair, and was successful in winning first honors wherever shown last fall.

The young heifer, Cecilia 11th, is about 16 months old. She is a rich roan, beautiful in form, clean-cut and stylish. She should win an honorable place in the best show rings this coming season. Her sire is the present stock bull, and dam Cecilia 8th. There are numerous others in the herd equally as good as those mentioned. Among them are twelve Nonpareils, one of Mr. Cruickshank's noted families as prize winners and as great milkers. Others in the herd are of such noted tribes as the Jilts, Clarets, and Bessies.

The Valley Home farm is conveniently situated between the G. T. R., at Brampton, distance seven miles, and the C. P. R., at Streetsville, two miles distant, while the Orangeville branch of the latter at Meadowvale is about a mile from the farm. This herd has been built up with great care and skill, and it is with regret that the ADVOCATE learns of the decision of Messrs. Pearson & Son to disperse it by auction in April, as elsewhere announced.

The Book on Silage.

Mr. E. D. Tillson, of Tilsonburg, who has had 14 years' experience with ensilage and silos, of which he has five (as recorded in our January 1st issue), writes:—"I have some five or six books treating on silos and ensilage. I have the first one published in America, and the last one by Prof. F. W. Woll, of the University of Wisconsin; this is the latest and, I think, the best work on the subject I have seen. It is for sale by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, London, Ont.; price, 50 cents in paper, or \$1.00 in cloth. I would advise everybody who wants to build silos, or feed ensilage, to send for this book; it gives more and better information than I could give if I were to take six months at it."

[NOTE.—We are obliged to Mr. Tillson for his commendation of the work we are offering as a premium (or for sale at the price stated). A paper-bound copy can be secured by sending us the name of one new subscriber to the ADVOCATE, accompanied by \$1, or a copy well bound in cloth for two new yearly subscribers and \$2, which can be easily secured in any neighborhood.

It is claimed that by a system of inoculation swine plague has been virtually stamped out in Hungary, the mortality being reduced from 20 to about 1 of 1 per cent. Inoculation against pleuropneumonia is also reported to have been successful.

Railway Rates on Breeding Stock.

A regulation which cannot fail to be disastrous to the farmers of Canada, if allowed to continue in force, is the recent change in the freight rates upon the carriage of small lots of young cattle by the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways. Previous to Jan. 1st last animals up to one year old were rated at 1,000 pounds, after which the rate increased correspondingly with the age. The present regulations provide that any animal over six months be rated at 4,000 pounds! This would not only be a great blow to breeders in getting new bulls, but it would render the purchase of pure-bred animals by smaller farmers to a large extent prohibitory, which neither the one nor the other is in a position to endure at the present time. In all conscience, the margin of profit on pure-bred stock has been narrow enough all along, but this new "tariff" will operate something like the proverbial "last straw" that fractures the patient camel's back. An equally severe but far more general blow, should this new regulation be allowed to stand, will be that dealt to the producer of grade cattle for beefing purposes, and the dairy farmer, who would resort, in many instances, to the use of locally-bred sires, be they good, bad, or indifferent—too often of the two latter classes. In fact, this regulation might very appropriately be designated "An Act to promote the general use of scrub sires." We were in hopes that the "scrub" was a "back number," but the railway men have evidently determined to reinstate him. (The ages of young bulls shipped usually range from six to fifteen months.) But, seriously, the effect of this upon the cattle stock of Canada in a few years would be widespread and disastrous. It will affect females as well as males, thus hindering the establishment of young pure-bred herds. Especially at this juncture is it important that everything possible be done to improve the quality of our stock, for several reasons: 1st. The keenness of competition between the many countries of the world makes success possible only when quality is the chief factor. 2nd. The cost of production in beef and dairy produce is materially lessened by regular introductions of new (always pure-bred) blood into the herds. 3rd. We can no longer ship live cattle into the interior markets of Britain; we must therefore export animals of only the highest quality or be beaten in the race by United States and Argentine beef. One great necessity in connection with the proposed Canadian dressed meat trade will be to keep up a sufficient and continuous supply of choice beeves for slaughter.

For these and other obvious reasons we heartily endorse the action of the various Canadian cattle breeders' associations at Toronto, as recorded elsewhere, in passing resolutions protesting against the tariff change referred to, which surely must have been made by the railway companies without proper advisement or a due consideration of its far-reaching consequences, and which would in the near future include a serious curtailment of their own freight-carrying trade. When the facts have been properly laid before the authorities by the able committees having the matter in hand, there will surely at least be a restoration of the previous tariff. In this connection we might mention that the Manitoba and Northwest Cattle Breeders' Association has taken similar action, realizing as they do that the question of rates on breeding stock is, if possible, a matter of even more vital import in the West than in Eastern Canada.

The Bacon Trade.

SIR,—The low prices ruling for hogs the last few months have been very disappointing to farmers, drovers, and pork-packers. Probably the two former have been under the impression that export packers have been coining money, but the market report enclosed you from the "London Commercial Record" will show what has been the cause of the very low prices, viz., the great increase of hogs in Denmark. We would naturally suppose that it would bring about a reaction in that country, and we earnestly hope this will be the case, though it is to be feared the number of young pigs in the hands of farmers in that country is very large. The greatest difficulty in making sales in England at the present time is that all heavy bacon, fat or lean, is in decreasing demand, and the increasing demand is for lean sides from hogs weighing alive, 160 to 190 lbs. It is evident that this is in accord with the interest of farmers, because many experiments at Government farms in Canada, the United States, and foreign countries have demonstrated that all feeding animals yield the best returns for feed when marketed young, say pigs at six or eight months old.

WM. DAVIES.

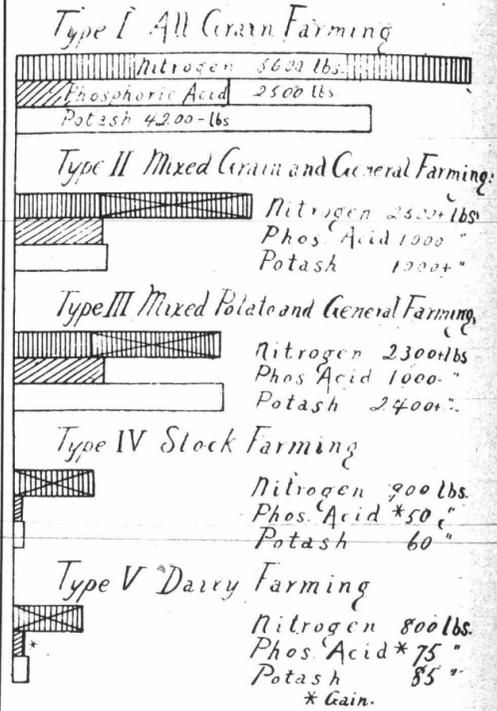
Toronto, Feb. 25, '06. Pres. Wm. Davies Co. (Ltd.)

[NOTE.—The report referred to states that during the week prior to Feb. 14th some 9,000 hogs

were killed in Ireland, and 30,000 "on the continent," meaning, we understand, Denmark. Though shippers' prices have fallen, complaint is made that British retail dealers are unreasonably keeping up the prices of bacon in the face of strong competition for cheap dressed beef, mutton, poultry, thus discouraging consumption.—EDITOR.]

Different Methods of Farming Compared.

The tendency, especially upon new farms, is to presume upon their fertility, and also to fall into a careless rut, the inevitable result of which is soil impoverishment and loss to the occupant. Just as certain as night follows day, crop after crop removes the materials from which they are built up, and unless replaced soil-poverty and man-poverty ensue. The divinely implanted laws of Nature cannot be violated with impunity. As a man sows so will he reap.



The accompanying illustration, reproduced from the Minnesota University Bulletin, No. 41, teaches some valuable lessons upon the conservation of soil fertility by the different methods of farming. By Type I, or All-Grain Farming, no stock is kept except work horses, the manure from which is not preserved or used. One hundred and sixty acres are under the plow. The grain is all sold from the farm and the straw is all burned in piles and no attention given to the ashes. One hundred acres of wheat is raised, yielding 15 bushels per acre; also, 40 acres of barley yielding 40 bushels per acre, and 20 acres of oats yielding 50 bushels per acre. The table shows the amount of fertility taken from the farm each year. This estimate is decidedly under the mark because the plant food used up by weeds is not taken into account. The calculations are all based upon a farm of 160 acres.

Type II.—Mixed Grain and General Farming.—Eighty-five acres are in grain, 65 of which is sold and 20 reserved for feeding on the farm. The animals kept are 10 cows, 4 head of young stock, 15 sheep, 8 hogs, 4 work horses, and 2 steers. All of the straw is used for food and bedding for the animals. Forty acres are sown to wheat, yielding 20 bushels per acre, all of which is sold; 20 acres are sown to oats, half of which are sold, while the other half is fed to the stock. Ten acres of barley is raised, yielding 45 bushels per acre, one half of which is sold and the remainder fed. Seven acres of rye and 3 of flax are raised and sold, also 50 bushels of potatoes. Two steers, 5 sheep, 8 hogs, and 1,500 pounds of butter constitute the animal products which are sold. The table shows the amount of fertility removed from the farm.

Type III.—Mixed Potato and General Farming.—With this system of farming about 40 acres of the grain is replaced by potatoes. In other respects the farm is managed in about the same general way as the preceding example. The draughts upon the soil in potato farming are the heaviest upon the potash and least upon the phosphoric acid. Provided a sufficient amount of clover is grown the loss of nitrogen is not so serious.

Type IV.—Stock Farming.—Ten beef cows, 10 dairy cows, 10 horses, 5 steers, 10 head of young stock, 30 sheep, and 20 hogs are kept. No grain is sold. Twenty acres of the farm are sown to oats, 20 to barley, 10 to corn, and 5 to peas. Five acres of oat hay is raised for soiling purposes, if necessary; one acre of potatoes and one of millet are also raised. The remainder of the farm is in meadow and pasture. When stock farming is followed, and all the grain raised on the farm is consumed as food, and a small amount of milled products or other food purchased, there is no loss of fertility to the farm, but in most cases there is