

shade to be used as a nursing crop with good results. In this they are right if the seed is sown at the usual thickness, but the amount of seed can be lessened so that even our rankest growing oats will serve as an excellent protection for the young clover plants. The reason we usually get a catch of grasses in our summer-fallows is, that the soluble plant food in the surface soil has not been entirely washed out by the fall rains, or used up by the wheat plants, and the tender clover plants are able to obtain such nourishment as will stimulate an active growth while very young. This will also hold good for sowing with the spring grain, and the success which Mr. Rennie has achieved with his clover meadows, is due to a clear understanding of the requirements of such a crop, and a fair knowledge of the underlying principles whereby such conditions may be attained.

It can hardly be denied that at the time of spring seeding, the physical condition of the newly-stirred soil is better for sowing grass seeds, than that of the wheat fields early in April, and if we can so contrive that we may obtain the proper chemical conditions, it will undoubtedly pay us to modify our nurse crops to suit the requirements.

G. H. C.

### The Stock Farm for the Young Man.

**T**O a young man starting in life there is no branch of a farmer's occupation which offers a better return for investments of capital, than the judicious laying of a foundation of an improved flock or herd, together with courage, intelligence and enterprise, which should characterize the efforts of every successful stock-raiser. In fact, it matters not into what business a man enters, unless he cultivates a taste for his occupation, he will eventually find himself in the rear. Of course, the conditions under which he is subject will determine the class of stock he should keep. Those on low lying lands will require to keep one class of stock and those on high lands another, while others following a mixed system of farming will need a variety of stock to meet the several requirements of the case.

True, for several years previous to the last, the prices paid for live stock and other farm produce have not been very flattering, but even during this time everything else was low in proportion, and there really was not much encouragement to enter upon any business, as bankruptcy had already been the fate of a good many.

However, before starting on this special branch of agriculture, a man should thoroughly acquaint himself with every little detail in connection with the business, and obtain his experience from some reliable source that he is confident would not be likely to err, and probably discourage him in his noble project. We cannot help but admit that many a young man's life is totally ruined by the negligent manner in which his employer conducts his business, and no man can ever entertain the slightest hope of success under such conditions.

To readily obtain a knowledge of live stock, it has been found practicable in many instances, for young men throughout the continent to attend some agricultural school, where specimens are kept for their education along this particular line, but it is a deplorable fact that our College does not offer better advantages for this purpose, especially in the class of stock in which the farmers of the present

day are most interested. When this is the case, a young man leaving the institution at the end of his second year is not at all competent to go out into the country to seek his fortune. Nevertheless people look to him as being a graduate of the O. A. C., and expect a great deal more from him than he is capable of producing. To remedy this condition in the third year, the specialists are taken around to inspect the different leading flocks and herds of the county of Wellington, which, although there are a few choice ones in, to say in the least, most unsatisfactory, as here the knowledge and experience is obtained only by being in daily touch with the animals of his choice.

Up to a few years ago farming was generally considered to be more of a mixed character, but with the advent of different ideas, and of facts previously mentioned, the public have become more critical, and as a result specialization has become a marked feature of the industry. With this feature becoming more and more prominent and competition growing keener and keener, a concentration of effort and energy is required, so that the animal produced will not only hold its own but will force its way to the front of the market. To accomplish this requires a thorough knowledge of the requirements of each animal, and how to manage them under all circumstances, so that a maximum of profit will be obtained at a minimum of labor and expense. This knowledge can be obtained only by long experience and rigid attention to details. We conclude then by saying that if every farmer could be induced to make his farm self-supporting, by his live stock, the ups and downs of the market would be least felt by him.

G. W. M.

### The Sale.

The annual sale of pure bred stock and poultry was held on Wednesday, the 13th inst. An unusually large number of buyers were present, and Mr. Rennie reports the best sale there has been for many years. Evidences of the increasing prosperity among farmers was seen in the increased prices paid for all classes of stock, but in spite of this the buyers all seemed satisfied that they got the worth of their money, as the animals were all in excellent condition. The prices obtained for the poultry were not very large, but even here there is no cause to complain.

A comparison of the prices obtained for the different breeds is of interest, as showing the regard in which each is held by the farmers throughout the Province. Speaking first of cattle, the highest price paid for any animal was \$105, for a fine Galloway bull, purchased by Mr. T. Lloyd Jones, A.O.A.C., of Barford. The next highest price was paid by George Webb for a Hereford bull. Shorthorns, Devons, Sussex and Holsteins stand next in order, with prices ranging from \$80 to \$50. The lowest place was taken by the Jerseys, although this may be partly explained by the fact that most of the calves offered were very young. Then turning to sheep we find the Leicesters leading the list, the average price obtained being \$16.25. The other breeds follow with average prices as follows: Cotswolds, \$12.30; Oxford, \$12.20; Dorsets, \$12.00; and Southdowns, \$5.90.

In the case of hogs, we find the Berk's considerably in the lead. Eighteen of this breed were sold, the average price being \$16.86. The other breeds come in the following order: Yorks, \$14.65; Tamworths, \$10.68; and Chester Whites, \$8.53.

The result of the sale must be very gratifying to Mr. Rennie, as to his careful management the excellent condition of all the animals is mainly due.