

LIVE STOCK.

In the Stable and Feed Lot.

Dates of the Live-Stock Meetings.

The following is a list of the dates of the Live-stock Meetings to be held in Toronto the last day of January and during the first days of February:

Monday, Jan. 31, 2.00 p.m., Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, Directors' Meeting; 2.00 p.m., Canadian Hackney Horse Society, Directors' Meeting; 3.00 p.m., Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, Annual Meeting; 7.00 p.m., Canadian Hackney Horse Society, Annual Meeting; 7.00 p.m., Canadian Jersey Cattle Club, Directors' Meeting; 7.00 p.m., Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society, Directors' Meeting; 8.00 p.m., Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, Directors' Meeting; 8.30 p.m., Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society, Annual Meeting.

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 11.00 a.m., Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, Annual Meeting; 11.00 a.m., Canadian Jersey Cattle Club, Annual Meeting; 2.00 p.m., Canadian Standard-bred Horse Society, Directors' Meeting; 3.00, Canadian Standard-bred Horse Society, Annual Meeting.

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 10.30 a.m., Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, Directors' Meeting; 11.00 a.m., Canadian Hereford Breeders' Association, Directors' Meeting; 2.00 p.m., Canadian Hereford Breeders' Association, Annual Meeting; 3.00 p.m., Canadian Kennel Club, Annual Meeting; 6.00 p.m., Ayrshire Banquet; 7.30 p.m., Canadian Pony Society, Directors' Meeting; 8.00 p.m., Canadian Kennel Club, Directors' Meeting; 8.00 p.m., Canadian Pony Society, Annual Meeting; 8.00 p.m., Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada, Directors' Meeting.

Thursday, Feb. 3, 9.00 a.m., Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association, Directors' Meeting; 10.00 a.m., Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, Annual Meeting; 10.00 a.m., Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association, Annual Meeting; 1.30 p.m., Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, Directors' Meeting; 1.30 p.m., Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada, Annual Meeting; 7.30 p.m., Canadian Shire Horse Association, Directors' Meeting; 8.00 p.m., Canadian Shire Horse Association, Annual Meeting; 8.00 p.m., Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, Annual Meeting.

Friday, Feb. 4, 9.00 a.m., Ontario Berkshire Club; 9.30 a.m., Ontario Horse Breeders, Directors' Meeting; 10.00 a.m., Ontario Yorkshire Club; 10.30 a.m., Ontario Horse Breeders' Annual Meeting; 11.00 a.m., Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, Directors' Meeting; 2.00 p.m., Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, Annual Meeting.

Pig Competition Criticism.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I took much interest in results of hog feeding test in Nov. 25 issue. I was surprised at the gain of the winning bunch for the amount of feed consumed. During the 16 weeks or 336 feeds they consumed 1,025 lbs. of whey, which is 3 lbs. a feed, or $\frac{1}{4}$ of a lb. per hog. The grain averaged 9-10 of a lb. per hog. This looks like only a maintenance ration. The four hogs weighed 832 lbs.—the weight at 6 weeks could be placed at 25 lbs., making 732 lbs. gain for the 1,125 lbs. of grain, plus 1,025 lbs. whey. This is equal to 1 lb. gain for $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of grain plus 11-3 lbs. whey. How does this compare with the results of official tests with hogs on pasture?

NORMAN McCUTCHEON.

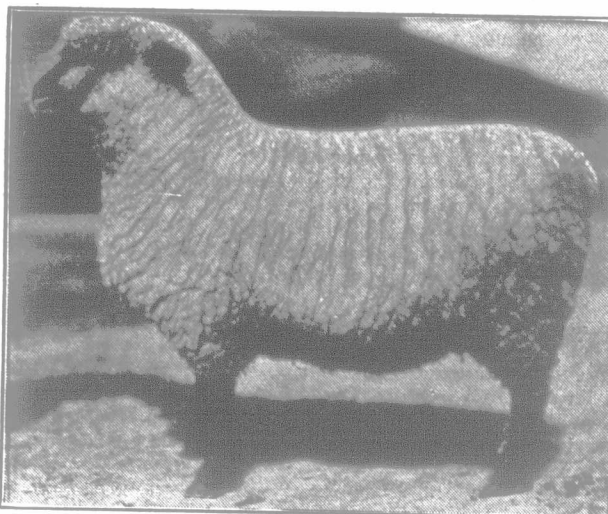
Middlesex Co., Ont.

[Note.—These pigs we understood weighed considerably more than 25 lbs. each when started, but even so the gains were phenomenally high and the pasture they ate must have been very good feed. We invite those who fed the pigs to give us more details.—Editor.]

A few days ago we read a long harangue about the high prices farmers were said to be getting because of the war, and the big profits they were making at the expense of the "helpless" consumer. Of course, as usual, it was written by a man who never farmed and never intended to. The funny thing about it all is, why these soft-handed chaps who see so much money in farming do not try it. They seem to think that farming requires no special ability, little capital, a minimum of work and a maximum of profit. Now is a good time for them to put on the overalls.

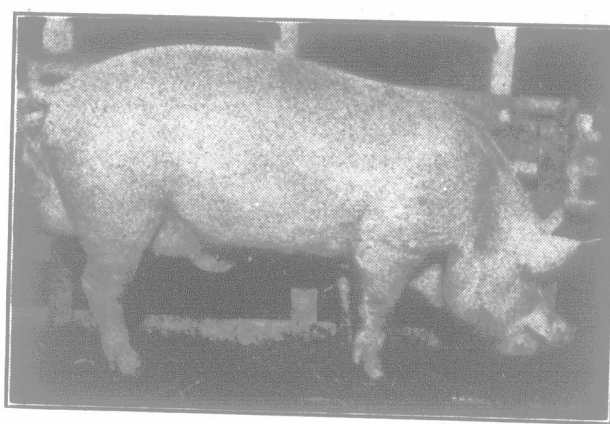
If things have not been going right in municipal affairs it is the duty of some of the reliable and capable men in the township to offer themselves as candidates for the township council and then it is the duty of farmers to elect them. It is time politics were obliterated from municipal elections.

We are now in the midst of the winter-feeding period. The grass for this season is no more, and stock must be fed on hay and grain with silage and roots added to make the rations as much as possible like the succulent and nourishing feeds of summer. There is a good supply of feed in the country but not a whit too much. There cannot be too much feed so long as the farms are properly stocked. From an individual point of view no hay or grain should leave the farm except in the form of animals or animal products. Yet, there is a large demand in villages, towns and cities for feed and they must have it. Some farmers east or west will produce the stuff for the urban customer, but the best farmers don't do it. Let the other fellow sell



Arkell's Winning Ewe at Toronto, 1915.

his raw commodity if he cares to; a good farmer cannot afford it. Neither can a twentieth-century stock farmer afford to feed haphazardly. Every pound of grain and hay must be fed so that it will do its bit. Cheap roughages, where possible, must replace expensive hay; grains must be blended to make the proper mixtures while roots and silage must be administered daily to nourish and maintain the health of the animal. Feeding is a science that only the wide-awake herdsman can master. The chemist with his knowledge of food constituents and the veterinarian who knows every muscle and bone of the animal body are not experts in actual feeding. However, science has rendered invaluable services. The information we have gained about balanced rations would alone pay for the inception and up-keep of our agricultural colleges and experiment stations for some time. Our duty as farmers is to mix scientific information with experience and common sense, and from this we should compound a ration that will produce economical gains.



John Duck's Champion Yorkshire Boar at London, 1915.

This season there is a quantity of sprouted or unmarketable wheat and discolored barley to feed. The former is uncommon and makes it necessary to modify our old established rations in many regards so we can make as much 'as possible out of the grain which usually goes to the market direct.

FEEDING FOR FINISH.

To some it might appear like threshing old straw to discuss feeding fat cattle, nevertheless buyers cannot secure the same spread or margin they formerly could, and consequently must feed as economically as science or practice can advise. A pound of gain will cost the average feeder in the vicinity of 12 cents. If he can do it more cheaply so much the better; if it costs him more he must needs pay strict attention to his balance sheet, for it might be too heavy on the wrong side. Oat and barley chop as well as corn are good old orthodox rations in this country. Many a bullock weighing between 1,500 pounds and the even ton have crossed the ocean leaving

behind them a huge pile of cobs from which in their feeding days they were fed the savory kernels. Nowadays the market here at home wants more meat, but it asks for the sappy, smooth, well-fleshed yearling or two-year-old, fed well from a calf up on silage, roots, straw, chop and hay. The steers of years ago got roots but no silage, and some, we are sorry to record, get none yet. It is wrong of course, but farmers are erecting more silos year after year and some day only the poverty-stricken will be without them. There is need of an educational campaign to encourage the production of greater quantities of roots and silage. With plenty of these two essentials or either one, store cattle can be wintered on exceedingly plain feeds and do well, while with them fattening animals will put on finish and weight more cheaply than can be accomplished in any other way. The element of labor during the growing season enters into the proposition, more particularly with roots, but that problem can be solved if plans for the future be made in time.

It is assumed that every stockman of this era will have a good supply of either roots or silage. Generally speaking there is no excuse for a lack of them. Then there is the time-honored mixture of oats and barley chopped together. Next in order but not inferior comes wheat, which, this year, a great many farmers must feed. They should do so without any regret, for it is worth to feed what the Westerner is netting for his No. 1 Northern even though he sell it as high as \$1.05. Corn is plentiful in some sections, but in those districts steer feeding is not practiced as much as elsewhere in Ontario. Throughout Kent, Lambton, Elgin and parts of Middlesex County considerable corn is stored in cribs to be fed in winter, but elsewhere the greater part of it which is not fed from the shock goes into the silo. Essex County, of course, grows corn abundantly but there beef takes second place to pork. Corn may almost be considered as king of the grains in the feed runs; it is a standard by which the efficiency and worth of other feeds are valued. Unless fed with clover hay or other grains it would probably pay to purchase some cottonseed meal or oil cake and feed along with it. Experiment stations in the United States usually report a profit from the use of cottonseed even when corn is abundant. We also have in mind a nice lot of steers that were finished last spring in Lambton County on silage, hay and cottonseed meal, getting as much as 6 to 7 lbs. per day per steer of the concentrate. That occurred where the farm grains were scarce and when cottonseed was cheap. The steers did well and were a choice lot when finished. We cite this circumstance only to suggest that one can feed steers without the corn, wheat, oats or barley if necessary, but, of course, the silage would contain ingredients common to shelled corn plus succulency.

Admitting then that corn, when available, is one of the best of feeds, we might proceed to the common grains usually fed. Oat and barley chop is probably most common and it gives good results, but wheat would improve it as a fattening ration. The latter grain by some is considered equal to corn, while others claim that it will produce 10 per cent. less gains. It, like corn, is rich in carbohydrates but it has more protein and less fat. Consequently it is superior to corn for feeding store cattle or growing animals, and should be used in that capacity so far as needed. When mixed with oats and barley, wheat is quite the equal of corn and steer feeders can use it on exceedingly good advantage if they have it on hand this winter. Equal parts of the three grains, ground together, fed along with about 30 lbs. of silage and 20 lbs. of roots to each 1,000-lb. steer per day should produce gains as economically as any allowance that could be fed. A concentrate that might improve this mixture would be a small quantity of oil cake or cottonseed meal. Two years ago at "Weldwood" we fed $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of oil cake in addition to oat and barley chop and got profitable gains. Silage and roots were fed in the amounts previously mentioned and the steers gained on the average 235 and two-fifths lbs. in 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ months, or 2.2 lbs. each per day. Three of the best made an average daily gain of 2.5 lbs.; a fourth gained almost 2 lbs. and another which did not do well gained 1.6 lbs. per day. These were, as previously stated, young steers weighing about 1,000 lbs. They probably gained more quickly than older steers would have done in such a short period, and they were started on more feed than would be advisable where a longer feeder period is the practice. One rule recommended by Mumford, an authority on feeding, is to start heavily on roughages, including clover or alfalfa hay, and give the steers all they will consume without wasting any. In addition start with 2 lbs. corn per steer per day, increasing 1 lb. daily until 10 lbs. are fed. After 3 days increase 1 lb. daily until 17 lbs. are fed; 15 days later let this be increased to 22 lbs. per day. Although this is quite applicable to our