

ENCOURAGE OUR SHEEP INDUSTRY.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The move for an amendment of the "Act for the Protection of Sheep and to Impose a Tax on Dogs," is timely, and should provoke a broad discussion among those interested in the development and protection of our sheep industry. Much of the decrease in Ontario's flocks and the falling off of the industry of sheep-rearing, and the proclivity of many sheep owners at present to abandon the industry, may be traced directly to the existing jeopardy their flocks are held in, owing to the existing numbers of worthless, sheep-worrying mongrels in our Province, and the inadequate protection against same that the law affords as the act reads at present. That the sheep, the most profitable stock, and most adaptable to all conditions existing on our farms, most inoffensive when given half a chance, and most ornamental on our landscape of all our domestic animals, should be eliminated in numbers from our farms, and the number of curs, prized only for their worthlessness, should be allowed free rein, along with their owners, is, to my mind, an injustice to Ontario agriculture.

We are learning each year to value more highly the destruction of noxious weeds and the conversion of otherwise unprofitable areas into very productive fields. Our need of more intensive farming teaches us to prize the worth of the sheep for such purposes more highly. We are nearing more intensive farming each year, and, where kept, the sheep is a great aid to this end.

Our sheep should enjoy a more prominent place in Ontario agriculture; they have a purpose to fill. There are vast areas in our Province that are not adaptable to cultivation, but rather afford excellent sheep pasturage, being high and rocky, or shrubby. From such areas the sheep will pay us most revenue, giving us a dividend twice a year, first from the wool, and later from the lamb crop. Not only do they give us a profit from practically waste lands, but on our most desirable farms, and farms of the highest state of fertility, the sheep is the best-paying class of farm stock. Many of the world's husbandmen paying the highest rents per acre, are doing so with the aid of the sheep. It is for this class of farm stock we seek protection. Are they worthy of it? What industry of the many seeking protection to-day needs it more? We are not asking the Legislature to subsidize us or hide us away behind a tariff wall, but merely to give us legislation that will enable us to protect ourselves. The present law is inadequate. In it there is a weakness, also the proposition advanced by one correspondent to ask sheep owners to insure their flocks against damage wrought by a dog or dogs belonging to a neighbor who is not a sheep owner, and consequently not paying into the insurance fund, is unfair. What we want is that these men share the responsibility of the dangerous and troublesome dogs they harbor, and also that they be obliged to contribute to a fund from which sheep owners may be compensated liberally for any loss sustained through the instrumentality of these worthless curs. The present law on the Provincial Statute Book in this connection discloses through its reading a marked weakness. This has been taken advantage of in many municipalities, and, as a result, the Act stands repealed in about as many municipalities. Not only does this step leave the sheep owners without any protection, but what is worse, there is no provision for restoration upon counter-petition.

Unless the dog or dogs are caught in the actual work of destroying sheep, and their owner can be shown them at their dastardly work, or is fair enough to believe the sheep owner should be the only one to see the work, there is no chance of recovering any damages for loss sustained. This is very poor protection. Let the wording of the proposed amendment read so as to make the act operative in every municipality, with no clause inserted that would grant any right to repeal the act by local by-law.

In many townships sheep are not kept at present in such numbers as would necessitate a tax of one dollar on each dog therein to reimburse the losers of sheep destroyed or injured throughout the year by dogs. The amount to be levied on each dog could be adjusted by the councils to an amount that would seem enough to pay all damages sustained. The point is we want to be guaranteed protection. Let us also have a competent sheep inspector in each municipality to approve damages where sheep are molested, the act reading that not less than two-thirds actual value of animal be awarded those who sustain loss. The appointment of this inspector would obviate any variance between council officials and sheep owners in regard to value of animals destroyed or injured, and would insure the sheep owners just value for the animals killed or injured.

Before our sheep industry can claim the prominence it deserves in our Province, we must have enforced such stringent measures. We are proud of the flocks of Ontario, and their worth is inestimable. Let us encourage their increase by affording owners the protection they deserve. The number of worthless, sheep-worrying mongrels is on the increase, and our flocks and their numbers are on the wane. Let there be an adjustment. Dundas Co., Ont. CLARK HAMILTON.

THE DUROC-TAMWORTH CROSS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed in the issue of February 21st an inquiry from R. J. M., about breeding a Duroc-Jersey sow. If space will permit, I would like to make a few statements from my own experience. A number of years ago my father and I went into the business of raising bacon hogs for the market. We started with Berkshires, and bred them for two or three years, then we got some Duroc-Jersey sows and crossed them with a Tamworth boar. We also tried several other breeds and crosses, and after giving them each a fair trial, we find the Duroc sows bred to Tamworth boars gave us the best results, producing, in our estimation, about as near a perfect bacon hog as could be desired. The Duroc sows being good milk producers and careful mothers, also good feeders, when bred to Tamworth boars will usually produce good, lengthy and well-proportioned pigs. We have no difficulty in getting a 220 or 230 pound hog at seven months age, and seldom if ever have a pig that is not active and always able to keep on his feet. I have no hesitation in saying that R. J. M. would do well to give the cross I have mentioned a trial. A. E. BROWN. Kent Co., Ont.

BEEF CATTLE SCARCE IN WELLINGTON CO.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In a recent issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" I notice an item with reference to beef cattle, and a request from feeders to state what are the prospects for supplies and prices. In this district there never were fewer beef cattle for the spring months, either butcher or export, and what we have are practically all bought up. The prices range from 5jc. to 6c. for choice export cattle, to be delivered in April and May. We usually feed from 20 to 25 head of export cattle. This year we had 19; 16 of these we bought on the 28th of September, and marketed them on the 16th of February. In that time they gained 230 lbs., and were three months stall feeding. For these cattle we realized 5jc. per pound. JOHN CAMERON. Wellington Co., Ont.

THE FARM.

ROTATION—MANURING—FEEDING—BREEDING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

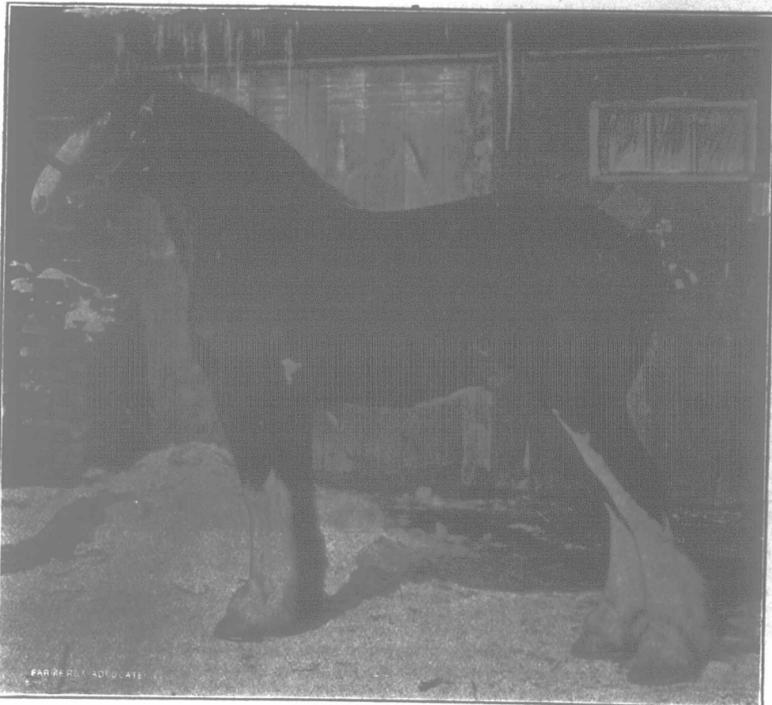
One cannot travel through Ontario with observant eyes and not take stock of what is going on on the farms of the Province. A few such observations I shall endeavor to relate.

Rotation.—A number of years ago Farmers' Institute speakers advocated a seven or eight year rotation of crops. Year by year they have shortened this, until at present we find them generally advocating a three or four year rotation, and I heard one local speaker advise a two-year rotation which he was practicing on his own farm. Whether this is carrying it to the extreme or not, I am not sure, but I do know that the shorter the rotation we follow on our own farm, the better we like it, and it certainly is a great aid in the destruction of foul weeds, as well as increasing the fertility of the soil.

Manuring.—It is evident on every hand that farmers generally do not pay enough attention to the care of manure. On too many farms in Ontario we find it dumped in a loose heap in the yard or put in large, loose heaps in the field. Quite a number are hauling direct to the field and spreading, and this is justifiable under present labor conditions. It certainly is a good system when the manure can be directly incorporated in the soil, as there is something in it then that we never get afterwards. But at this season of the year I think the ideal way is to keep it under cover, spread, mixed and tramped reasonably solid, and it will keep in good condition for any length of time. Suffice it to say that if the farmers of this country would care for their manure better, it would eventually mean an important addition to the profit side of their account.

Feeding.—Never in all my travels have I seen so many poor cattle in the country as this year. This is due, no doubt, to the high price of grain and hay. Does it pay to sustain our cattle largely on the flesh they have put on during the summer, with the result that they go out in the spring lighter and poorer than when stabled in the fall? By feeding our grain, we return to the soil over seventy-five per cent. of the fertility taken out of it by the growing crops. I believe in marketing all our grain and hay on foot, and had I not practiced this I would not be where I am to-day.

Stock-breeding.—Perhaps no other line of farming needs such an overhauling as this one. While there are a few who are progressing favorably, a very large majority have no ideals before their minds, no definite system or aim in type and uniformity. It seems to me we should fix in our minds a certain type, and have all the animals in our flocks and herds conform as nearly as possible to that type, and have them uniform in size and quality. Uniformity counts for more than we



Royal Ardlethen (imp.) [6902].

Clydesdale stallion; brown; foaled in 1904. First in class of seventeen at Ontario Horse Show, Toronto, Feb., 1907. Imported and exhibited by Thos. Mercer, Markdale, Ont.

APPROVES A MILKING RECORD FOR SHORTHORNS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

About every third farmer around here keeps a registered Shorthorn. I tried buying my cows for two years, but found that no use; farmers generally do not train their heifers to milk for a sufficiently long period to make profitable milkers; they are idle too long. For past three years I have tried training my own heifers, and, if I don't get heavier milkers, I will at any rate have cows that will keep at it for a longer period. In this district the dairy breeds of cattle seem to be decidedly unpopular. I don't know of a single dairy bull in a range of 10 miles. There are Herefords and Polled Angus, but Shorthorns are greatly in the lead. One rarely sees a Holstein, though there evidently have been a few at some time. Jerseys are popular as "town cows." In raising Shorthorns for dairy purposes, a man is greatly handicapped, as it is usually impossible to secure any information of a definite character as to the milking qualities of the ancestors of any animal he may think of buying. I think a milking record of Shorthorn cows would be an excellent thing. Personally, I am quite a believer in feeding and training, but it should go hand in hand with breeding. ALFRED HUTCHISON. Bruce Co., Ont.