

we as exhibitors have considerable cheek when far from home.

President Francis, of the Exposition; Col. Mills, Chief of the Live-stock Department; Mr. Rankin, the Secretary, and Mr. J. L. Thompson, our superintendent, appeared to favor Canadians from start to finish. Their good-will was felt throughout, and when we were so favored by railway authorities that all Canadian cars were first loaded, to escape the jam, and met with the still greater pleasant surprise of being given the opportunity to sell and ship out from St. Louis any or all of our exhibits, and that without even the payment of duty, if proper papers were furnished by us, you may readily imagine what a grateful lot of Canadians left for home on Friday night, October 14th. The parting proof of the management's splendid hospitality was a six-horse tally-ho drive around the grounds, in charge of Col. Mills, followed by a banquet to the winners of the premium championships as breeders and exhibitors, of which double honors no less than three Canadians were fortunate in securing, whilst several won one or other of the championships. So far as known to me, not a Canadian exhibitor of sheep left St. Louis without carrying away the pleasantest of memories of the treatment received at the hands of the management of the Exposition and of the Americans generally.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

FARM.

Wood Ashes Again.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I was much interested in what Prof. Hutt had to say in regard to wood ashes in a recent issue of your paper, and would be only too glad to believe that "the most of the so-called Canadian ashes are really American ashes," but from what I have seen all over Ontario I can scarcely accept the statement.

F. P. W. can get ashes in any town in Ontario, with, perhaps, the exception of Brockville, Toronto, Hamilton and St. Catharines. In these places, I believe, the farmers use all the ashes that are produced.

From what the freight agents tell me, substantiated by what I have seen myself, all the small towns of Ontario will ship from five to fifty cars of ashes each year, and as I said before, F. P. W. can get them if he will pay the price.

I know that the most of our fertilizer experts will say that the average price demanded for ashes is above their fertilizer value. This can be easily figured out. Ashes are sold to the U. S. on a guarantee of 1.5 phosphoric acid and 4.5 potash; fresh, dry hardwood ashes are much stronger. This, at 5c. per pound and about one-quarter cent. for the fifty per cent. lime which they contain, will tell whether the farmer had better mix potash, phosphoric acid and lime together for his fertilizer, or whether it will be cheaper to buy ashes.

Canadian farmers seem to have an idea that ashes do not give results on anything except fruit, and when they do not have orchards they are afraid of injuring the soil by applying ashes.

I saw a very convincing proof of the value of ashes a short time ago on a farm where the brush from an orchard had been piled in a loose windrow and burned, and the field afterwards put in corn. At the time of my visit, the corn where the ashes had been was much taller and stronger, and would give at least twice the yield of the rest of the field where no ashes had been applied. I asked what he would apply to keep up the fertility of the orchard to take the place of the ashes from the apple limbs, but he did not seem to understand that the fertilizing material in the ashes was produced from the soil of the orchard, and that it was just that much poorer.

Our U. S. cousins understand this much better, and use large quantities of our ashes on their clover and grain fields, as the following advertisement in a leading U. S. agricultural paper, by a Canadian not fifty miles from London, and about the same from Guelph, shows: "If you want to seed a field down with clover, or get a good crop of wheat or rye, use ——— Brand of Canadian Unleached Ashes."

The reason these same men do not advertise in the Canadian papers is because the Canadian farmer will not pay as high a price as the U. S. farmer will. Prof. Harcourt is authority for the statement that Ontario exports a million bushels of ashes each year. Canadian farmers cannot do better than follow the advice given in the above advertisement, and use their ashes on their own fields of clover and wheat and rye, to aid in the production of Canadian produce.

Grey Co., Ont.

G. FRED. MARSH.

Allow me to congratulate you on the success of the paper. It is all that a farmer could wish for in that line to help him to success in farming. Your space for questions and answers is specially helpful, for it brings out to farmers what they otherwise would never know.

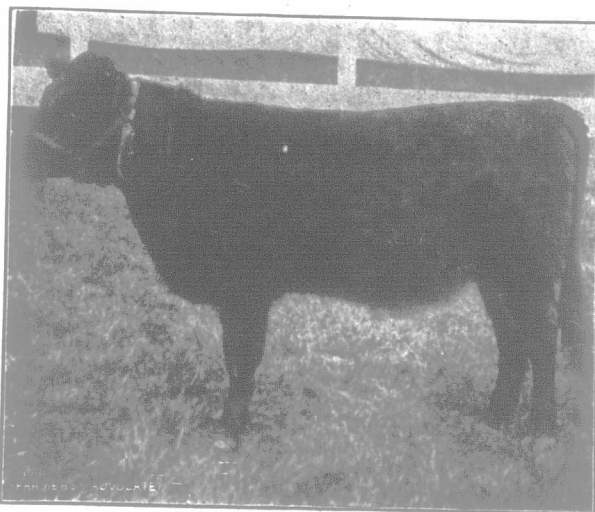
HENRY TILSON.

Stella, Ont.

Mixed Farming Best.

The kinds of farming we wish to draw conclusions from in this article are three in particular, viz.: "Mixed," "specialty," and "speculative."

To some mixed farming always appeals as being the most profitable, and the safest in the end; to others there are times when mixed farming is the most attractive, and there are years when seasons and markets disappoint, and which compel nearly everyone to agree that mixed farming is the best. In mixed farm-



Toronto Maid 24196.

Galloway heifer calf, by Viceroy of Castle Milk 19064 (7062), dam Belle B. of High Park 11738, 1st in her class at Toronto and London, 1904. One of the nice, mossy youngsters in Robt. Shaw's herd, Brantford, Ont.

ing there is a rotation of the most suitable crops, one following the other to the best advantage, and thus never over-taxing the land, but rather improving its condition year by year. Also in this we have the live-stock accompaniment, horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. These, if properly managed, are constantly growing into money the year round. While the farmer sleeps his crops grow and make increase; so also while mother earth sleeps the winter through the farmer's stock are growing and making increase. Besides this there is the factor of constant employment, which is one of the means of keeping the most desirable class of laborers in the country.

As far as grain crops are concerned there is no best crop to grow year after year. One crop is dependent upon the fitting of the soil by the growth of some other crop preceding, and in turn fits the soil or unfits it for the following crop. Moreover, prices are always fluctuating, and no man can tell when the best crop is to have a suitable year, or what the price is to be. But if the farmer has his field of wheat and one or two each of barley, oats, peas, clover, corn,

live-stock capacity, and there is a constantly growing profit year after year.

Specialty farming, as a rule, can only be carried on successfully by men of means, or those excelling in judgment regarding certain lines of live stock, or naturally gifted in the aptitudes necessary for the production of fruit, etc. If a man be a specialist in any line of live stock, and have means to procure the blood he wants, and to withstand a few years of outlay without income in building up his herd and his name, he can then make money quite fast, providing he has hit on the line of stock that the public are wanting. Any man who has large herds and flocks can be a successful farmer if he puts his shoulder to the wheel and lifts; for in this case he has an abundance of good manure, with which farming for good crops is made comparatively easy. There is, of course, the danger of giving the stock the best possible chance, and this sometimes means the sacrifice of a nice catch of clover, and, perhaps, the tramping of a field until it is spoiled for plowing. But in keeping a large stock of fancy animals one generally feeds well, and that means feeding all the farm will produce, and in many cases buying much, and this is good for the land. Besides, in such cases the stock-raiser plans to have clover in abundance, knowing its value as a useful feed. There is no better crop to grow to increase the fertility of the soil than clover. So it is plain that even in special farming a certain amount of mixed farming must be carried on. The cattleman must have his hay, corn and straw, so he must of necessity grow these to make a profit. The fruit farmer must also have some stock, unless he is near to places where he can purchase fertilizer. This he must have, and in abundance, for the best fruit is grown upon the best fed land. But it is purchasing in the market at market prices that a specialist must do to carry on business, and this is the very thing which robs him of his profits. It is not only what a man can get for his products that shows his skill or success, but it is how much he has left after the cost has been deducted which tells the tale. There are many sources of income which appear at first sight to be desirable, but which when both sides of the account are considered leave little or nothing to the credit of the producer.

But, perhaps, the most uncertain and the most unsatisfactory system of farming is speculative farming. There are men who speculate on everything. They call it reading the signs of the times, etc. They guess that wheat will be the real thing for the next year, and they plow everything that time will permit, and sow wheat regardless of any of nature's laws as to rotation or system in cropping the land. Some years they hit and think they have done well, but supposing wheat that year is a failure, see the condition of their purses, fields and minds. No profits, fields out of order, and dissatisfied farmers anxious to get off the farm. They have studied the moon and the stars, figured how the Government is going to increase or decrease duties, prophesied on the strength of the Chicago market or something else, and in the end

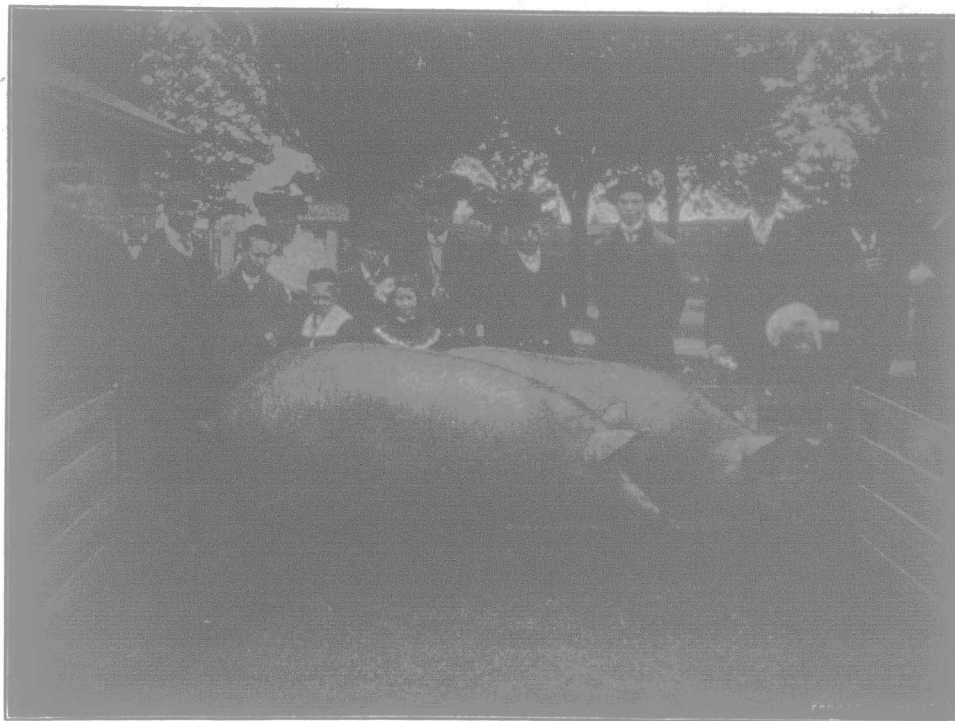
can look back and see that it has been but a huge speculation and a disastrous failure.

I knew a man once who thought peas were the best crop to grow, so he banked on peas, but that year peas were a failure, but wheat was a good crop; then he tried wheat and left peas out of the list, but that year the reverse was the case, so there were two years of heavy loss on his speculation, whereas had he been moderate in use of both crops he could have had a fair profit, and his land would have been in better condition.

The speculation in crops is no worse than that of live stock. There is no safer way nor more pleasant than for a man to decide what stock his farm is adapted to, and then arrange the buildings, fields and paddocks in accordance. In the speculative way we

find a man who will buy a horse, for instance, which he has no use for, except that he thinks he is cheap. He feeds him for six months or a year to get his price, and spends with him many an hour which could be turned to good account on the farm or in the home, fitting and driving and talking sale, and perhaps sells for \$40 or \$50 more than cost, which looks like a good thing, but when time and ability which might have been used to advantage otherwise are considered, the whole transaction is a loss to the farmer.

Take cattle, hogs or sheep, and a man might buy, feed and sell, but if he adopts this method he should



A Good Tamworth Pair.

Winners of 2nd and 3rd prizes in the yearling sow class, and two of the females in the first-prize herd of Tamworths at Toronto, 1904. Bred and owned by A. Elliott & Son, Galt, Ont.

roots, etc., the chances are he will have some of the best crop each year, and always have sufficient in the aggregate to ensure a profit. Besides, he has raised a colt, a few young cattle, his lambs and pigs; also poultry and eggs, butter, cheese, etc., all of which is produced from these crops, which have been useful in making a fine rotation to build up the land, and in turn also to furnish the variety and adequate amount of feed to produce the various kinds of stock for the market, and the stock having consumed the food on the farm furnish a constant supply of manure to return to the fields; so increased crops give increased