MANSWRAES.

A few miles out of Paisley, at the Brig 'o 'Weir, is the farm of Manswraes, the home of Mr. Robt. Wilson, well known as a successful breeder of and dealer in high class Clydesdales and Ayrshires. Born at the Cross of Kilbarthan, in the heart of a district long noted as the home of some of Scotland's best Clydesdales, and reared on a farm which time and again has sent Ayrshires out to conquer at all the leading shows in Scotland, Mr. Robt. Wilson, at the age of twenty-seven, on his father's death, took up the business of breeding and exhibiting both Ayrshires and Clydesdales. To-day Mr. Wilson's herd stands in the front ranks, having gained, we are told, more prizes in the last fifty years at the Highland Society's shows for cows in milk and calf, than any other herd in Scotland. A glance over the cattle last February, as they stood in a long double row in the byre, was enough to satisfy us that we were looking at a herd that not only could hold its own in the show ring, but that also has been bred with a view to practical utility. There was no evidence of pampering, the cows being all in simply good store condition, while the young stock were all out in the fields; but a finer display of cattle, showing every point requisite for milk production, it would be hard to find. Mr. Wilson's first venture in English show rings was in 1868; since then at the Royal Agricultural shows at York in 1883, and Preston in 1886, and later still, at the British Dairy Farmers' London show of 1886, he has been most successful, while in Clydesdales, he has also made a lasting record, having sold some of the best horses that have crossed the Atlantic, among them that well-known stock horse of Messrs. Galbraith's, St. Columba, by the Prince of Wales's horse Duke of Hamilton. This horse won numerous 1st prizes in Scotland, and since his advent to America has distinguished himself by winning 1st at the Chicago show as a two-year old, and 2nd as a three-year-old in competition with some of the best horses in America, while among those that have gone from Manswraes to Canada we might mention The McKinnon, by Lord Erskine, and out of a sister to the Glasgow premium three-year-old of 1892. This colt was sold last fall to parties in Ontario. Besides breeding and handling Clydesdales and Ayrshires, Mr. Wilson is proprietor of the Paisley cattle Mart, where he holds weekly sales. His card will be found in another column, and we can confidently recommend him to buyers, as a thoroughly reliable man.

Snow Eating and Abortion.

I have some experience to report in reference to sheep eating snow. Last winter I had my sheep in a stable about half a mile from the house, and watered them from a pump and trough about four rods from the stable door every day till about the 1st of February, when the pump gave out by being frozen. The sheep ran out during the day, both before and after the pump was frozen, and were housed at night. They drank the water freely once per day. I then allowed them to eat snow for a couple of weeks. About the end of that time they began to cast their lambs, and in less than two weeks I had lost nine. When eating snow their health was not so good as when drinking water; they did not seem to thrive as well, though none was actually sick. When changed from water drinking to snow eating no change in feeding was made; they got sheaf oats and timothy hay all along. I next resumed watering them regularly, and in two weeks after stopping the snow eating the trouble had ceased. I have, therefore, concluded that snow eating is not good for sheep, and, for my part, shall take care that this is not repeated. For three years before, my sheep had been watered from the pump, and I never lost a lamb by abortion.

SHEPHERD.

NOTE—Since cases have been reported where snow eating did not produce such results, the trouble in this instance doubtless arose from some derangement caused by *the sudden change* rom drinking an abundance of water to the very limited supply of fluid the sheep would take in the form of snow.—[ED. FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Profitable Feeding of Cattle.

During the few months past a number of Farmers' Institute meetings and cheese factory meetings have been held—a good many subjects have been discussed relating to farming, especially to mixed farming. One great object in these meetings is to find out how the farmer can increase his profits, and at the same time maintain or increase the fertility of his farm.

It is now generally received as an established fact, beyond all dispute, that growing grain and hay, and selling nearly all the produce off the farm in its natural state, is an exhaustive system, and will only require time to reduce both the land and its owner to poverty.

To prevent this, and also to restore land that has been so treated to a good, fertile condition, are questions worthy of the best thought of our best men, to assist in this laudable and really necessary work. The experimental stations that have been established are doing a good work for the Dominion in assisting to solve the problem of profitable farming.

As our conditions have very materially changed of late years, it makes it necessary that our system of farming must be changed to meet the changed conditions. Not many years ago both grain-growing and feeding beef cattle were paying the farmers well, but now it is conceded neither of these branches are paying the farmer for his investments and labor. The farmer is powerless to raise prices on the markets where his produce is sold, and where he is met in open competition with other producers whose conditions are more favorable for cheap production than his own. It is well known by all practical men that beef cannot be produced at a profit to sell at 4 to 5 cents per lb. along the old lines of procedure by feeding on hay, roots and meal—the food is too costly; and so far as any help can come to the beef producers, it must come by cheapening the food from which the beef is to be produced, and also by supplying to the animal the proper kind of food in proper quantities and in proper proportions, so that no food may be wasted, but the animal be enabled to utilize and assimilate all the nourishment from the food it consumes. It is now well known that an animal's powers of digestion and assimilation are limited. All feeding should be kept within the limitations of the animal's capacity to fully utilize all the food it eats, and the animal should be fed with food containing the necessary material from which it can manufacture beef with the greatest comfort and ease to itself. One experiment carried out last winter by the Dairy Commissioner at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, is very instructive as to the cost of feeding for beef:—

NO. 1 RATION.

Hay	20 lbs.
Turnips	40 "
Straw	5 "
Chopped Barley	2 "
Chopped Peas	2 "
Ground Oilcake	1 lb.
Cotton-seed Meal	1 "
Total	71 lbs.

Valued at:—Hay, $8.00 per ton; turnips, $4.00; straw, $4.00 per ton: peas and barley meal, 1c. per lb.; oilcake and cotton-seed meal, 1½c. per lb. This ration of hay, roots and meal, the old-fashioned way of feeding, cost within a fraction of 19c. per day for each animal, and every pound of increased weight cost 14.44c., or say 14½c. per lb.

NO. 2 RATION.

Corn Ensilage	50 lbs.
Straw	5 "
Chopped Barley	2 "
Chopped Peas	2 "
Ground Oilcake	1 lb.
Cotton-seed Meal	1 "
Total	61 lbs.

The ensilage costs $1.40 per ton. Straw and grain, as in No. 1, cost per day per animal the first two months, 9.01c.; one pound of oilcake meal and one pound of cotton-seed meal was then added, which raised the cost to 11.60c. per day, which gives a difference of 7½c. per day of less cost than the other. And that is not all; those fed on the cheap ration made an average of 33 lbs. more weight in the same time than those whose food cost 7½c. per day more. The cost of the increased weight under this ration is 7½c. per lb., and even at this figure there can be no profit in producing beef if the food had all to be bought and paid for at market prices.

The same food that would produce 1 lb. of beef would produce 1 lb. of butter or about 2½ lbs. of cheese, if fed to a good milk cow. It does not need a great knowledge of arithmetic to see which would be the most profitable way of converting the crop from the land into money. This would open up a wide field for thought, but I give the facts as above, taken from the published report of Prof. Robertson's examination before a Select Committee of the Government at Ottawa.

This winter, at several farmers' meetings I have attended, a number of farmers gave very favorable statements of their experience with ensilage. A number of them had gone into it last season who formerly were a little sceptical about the silo, but without exception they spoke very much in favor of it, as it had even exceeded their expectations as a cheap and wholesome food. When it is fed with solid food, as bran or chopped oats and peas, or peas and barley or corn, it makes an excellent food for milk cows in winter, supplying the place of roots to a very great extent, and at little more than half the cost of hay and roots.

DAIRYMAN.

The Hog Question.

BY F. W. FEARMAN.

There has been considerable correspondence in reference to the values of the different breeds of hogs for breeders and packers' purposes, more particularly referring to the improved Yorkshires and Berkshires. I have long been acquainted with the latter breed, but not until this season have I been able to secure any quantity of the former. While the Berkshires have for many years held first place it was during a quite different state of demand from the trade that prevails at the present time. Then it was for a large, fat hog, suitable for the lumbermen and the backwoods farmer, and the Berkshire with its heavy head and shoulders, and almost all fat sides filled the bill. Now the farmer's family, with their much lighter labor, refuse to eat the solid fat of the log rolling and rail splitting days of long ago, and require the long bodied, mixed fat and lean, as well as the resident of the city and town. Then, again, the lumbermen get their pork in at half the duty that anyone else does, thus the demand for a lighter and a leaner hog. Recently Mr. Jas. Blogden, of Carlisle, brought in to our market a fine load of three-quarter bred Improved Yorkshire dressing hogs. There was a keen competition for these and they brought over the market price. I bought them and measured and weighed one of them as follows in length:—

	Size.	Weight.
Head	10 in	
Shoulders	10 "	16 lbs.
Sides	27 "	56 "
Hams	12 "	107 "
Girth	3 ft. 8 "	58 "
		5 "
Total		242 lbs.

The head and sides cut close to the shoulders, all untrimmed, lard left in the sides. This was one of the litter of eleven that at eight and a-half months old averaged 224 pounds, and was two and a-half months on stubble, and two and a-half months in the pen, and fed on chopped oats and peas, and were quiet, good feeders, and increased in weight very fast. These hogs were finer in the limbs, longer and deeper in the sides than any Yorkshire that I have seen, but still too heavy in head and shoulders. I will, if I have the opportunity, make a similar test on the Berkshires and Tamworths, and should like to see it done by other packers, and the results given. The meats are fat, too fat for choice stuff, and not so streaky or as mixed fat and lean as I would like or have expected, but still there is a larger proportion of side than is usual