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## GOSSIP.

At Mr. Jas. Cooper's farm, "Oak Lodge," at Kippen, we saw a good, strong, even, well-covered bunch of twenty Shropshire shagging rams during a short call in the first week of May, and as Mr. Cooper has imported extensively from such flocks as those of Bradburn, Minton, Farmer, Batch, Williams and Thomas, acknowledged to be leading English breeders, it is needless to add that a sire to suit any flock may be selected from this lot, particulars of which will appear in later issues of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

During a short call at Mr. J. T. McKay's, at Parkhill, a member of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE staff was shown a splendidly kept and in every way up-to-date lot of poultry, as well as a nice lot of Poland-Chinas. In the poultry pens set apart for special breeding purposes are two fine lots of Barred Plymouth Rocks—fine, strong, vigorous birds, in healthy condition and good shape, and well and evenly barred, while the Light Brahmas are simply immense. The farm has also up-to-date Bronze turkeys and Pekin ducks from the best and most noted prize-winning pens.

## A COSTLY HOG.

The lawyers are having a harvest in the litigation which has grown out of the public sale of the Poland-China boar, Klever's Model, in September, 1897, to a syndicate at the "boom" price of \$5,100. After the animal had been in their possession for some time, the buyers claimed to have discovered that it was not Klever's Model they had bought, that he had died and that another hog was substituted for him. Action for damages was brought against Mr. Council, the seller, and a verdict for the plaintiff rendered. An appeal was made to a higher court, and the verdict was set aside and judgment given in favor of the seller. Now the latter has entered action for \$20,000 damages for libel and defamation of character. It is said that the litigation in the case has already cost \$10,000. A local paper tells the story in the following funny fashion:

"The story of Council, the Syndicate and the hog is a long one, but every child in Sangamon County knows it by heart. It began in 1897, at the State fair grounds in Springfield. Council decided publicly to auction off a famous hog he owned, known as Klever's Model. The hog came of an ancient and highly-respected race, and his fame was known the country through, so when he was put on the block on Sept. 26th, to be sold to the highest bidder, stockmen from all over the country were there anxious to secure the prize. The bidding rose higher and higher, and finally Klever's Model was sold to a syndicate for \$5,100.

"All was serene until Council's hired man whispered about the country a horrible secret. He was a Swede named Arthur Thielander. He said his conscience troubled him so that he felt he must speak. He declared the big Poland-China hog that went under the name of Klever's Model was not Klever's Model at all. The real Klever's Model, he said, had died nearly a year before the auction sale, of one of the pestilences peculiar to the hog race. The hired man said he had been with Klever's Model when it lay dead, and died, had been chief mourner at the funeral, and had acted as undertaker for the deceased porker. He related how at the dead of the night, by the sickly glare of a barn lantern, he had laid Klever's Model in its grave. The next day, he said, Council built a straw-stack over the grave and put the low-born hog, Columbia Wilkes, in the place formerly occupied by Klever's Model. This degraded hog was introduced around as Klever's Model, so the hired man alleged, and finally sold as the original animal.

"When the members of the syndicate heard the hired man's tale, they were greatly exercised. They sent a man to exhume the remains under the straw-stack on the Council farm. The grave was opened, but instead of finding the skeleton of one hog, they found all that remained of two. Council had not denied the existence of hog bones under the straw-stack, but said they were those of two hogs that had died of cholera, and he had buried them to prevent the disease from spreading. Neither of these hogs, he declared, was Klever's Model, which he insisted he had sold to the syndicate.

"The syndicate men, however, were not satisfied. They took the hired man over to see the hog they had bought, and the hired man pointed his finger at it and said, like the hero in the melodrama, 'I know you now. You are not the aristocratic Klever's Model, but the base-born Columbia Wilkes.'

"So the syndicate men posted off to Springfield, and put the hired man in the grand jury room, and the hired man told the grand jury his story, and Council was indicted. The case came up for trial, and the State's attorney was preparing to wage a vigorous prosecution against Council and the false Klever's Model, when he received an affidavit from Thielander, stating that he had sworn falsely before the grand jury, and that the real Klever's Model was alive and not moldering in the lonesome grave under the hay-stack.

"The State's attorney thought this settled the matter, and dismissed the case; but it was not to end here. The syndicate members claimed Thielander had been bribed, a position in which they were enthusiastically sustained by the versatile Mr. Thielander himself during the trial of a suit which Council brought against the members of the syndicate to recover on the note. In the first trial the jury disagreed. In the second, both sides brought experts from every part of the country to swear for the defendants that Klever's Model was Columbia Wilkes in disguise, and for the plaintiff that Klever's Model was the only original.

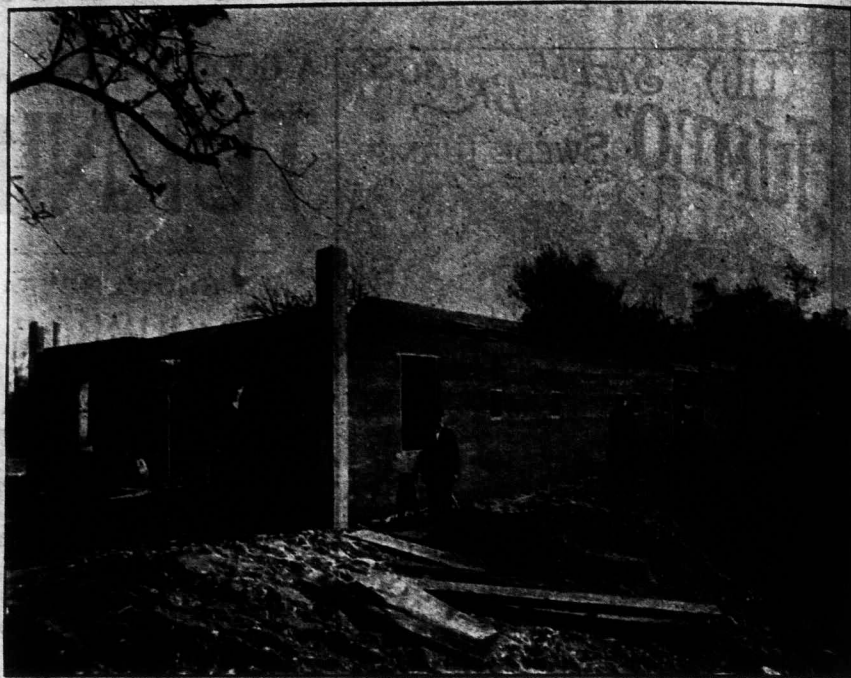
"Over eighty witnesses were examined, and the jurors were as muddled as they had been at the first trial, when Council won his suit by checkmating a move of the defense. The defense had exhibited to the jury the hog which they had bought as Klever's Model, but which they said was Columbia Wilkes. Council went out to his farm, and came back with a hog that he proved to the satisfaction of the jury was the original Columbia Wilkes. With Columbia accounted for, the jury decided that Klever's Model could be none other than himself.

"So the case was decided for Council, and now he has begun suing the men who have insisted that Klever's Model was Columbia Wilkes with another ring in his nose and his tail trimmed off. Meantime the hired man is silent and mysterious, and is expected to come forward soon with a brand-new sensation."

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ESTATE OF JOHN BATTLE, THOROLD, ONT.

Grimsby, Ont., Dec. 12th, 1898.

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Yours, etc., J. W. VANDYKE.

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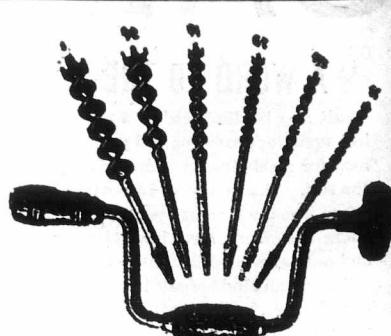
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