

beef type; and if they made arrangements to supply calves direct to a group of rearers, the entire cost of securing a good animal would be well repaid by the better price obtained for the calves. Even where heifer calves are to be kept it is seldom that the breeder intends to rear calves from more than a few of his best cows, and it is worth considering whether a bull of the beef type could not be used for the others. There would be little difficulty in carrying out such a suggestion if some system of co-operation were devised, whereby each man would have the use of two or more bulls. In order to inspire confidence in the minds of purchasers at a distance, it would be advisable to select for the two purposes bulls of which the progeny would be easily distinguished, e.g., in a Shorthorn herd an Aberdeen Angus bull, of which the calves would practically all be black and polled, might be selected to produce calves entirely for sale."

There is a lot of good sound logic in this statement. There are too many bulls used in grade dairy herds simply to "freshen" the cows. Why should the owner not make the calves a source of profit by using a good pedigree bull? Calves from the "scrub" are not satisfactory for milk or beef, and many are destroyed as worthless. Good calves would surely mean that more men would take up the business of rearing them, and making feeders of them. One experience in raising poor calves is enough for most feeders, and the "scrub" calf is a great drawback to the business.

The plan of two or more farmers co-operating and keeping a dairy bull for use on their best milkers, the heifer calves from the mating to be used to replenish, sounds practical. No up-to-date dairyman or stockraiser will keep the heifers from his poorer or average cows. "Like tends to produce like," so the calf from the heavy producer is the one to keep for milk. Only a few really good cows are present in most herds, so if a few farmers could co-operate and get a good dairy sire for these and good beef sire to use on the common cows, more good calves for future feeders would result. If we get the right kind of calves, people will be found to rear them.

Raising Pigs with Little Milk.

Can pork be produced at a profit without dairy by-products?

This is a question for which many farmers have arrived at a negative conclusion. Of course the answer varies with the price of feed and the price of pork, but as a general proposition the majority would probably say no. Still there are certain conditions under which the trick may be turned, though a little milk or whey for a month or two after weaning is a very great help indeed. At Weldwood we have been selling whole milk up to date, though now equipped to separate and sell cream instead, as soon as the values of cream and milk come nearer a parity. We have been feeding a few pigs, however, and recently sold the third bunch. They were farrowed at the farm from a Yorkshire sow, sired by a Berkshire boar. The litter of eleven, out of which eight were saved, came May 10th, and were weaned June 30th. They were divided into two lots of four each, and put on clover stubble in portable pens about 8 ft. by 12 ft., with a board shelter over one corner. After the weather became so excessively wet and chilly, a movable sleeping platform was put in each pen. The pens were shifted by hand once or twice a day, thus keeping the pigs on fresh ground. About 120 square rods of second and third-growth clover was thus covered. On account of teaming entailed by building operations there were not always two men handy to shift the pens, else they would have been moved over at least an acre of ground. The labor of shifting pens and carrying feed is an objection to this plan, but otherwise it is an ideal way of utilizing pasture for pigs. To save labor we intend to provide paddocks in future. It could not be well arranged heretofore. The sow was kept in the sty all summer for lack of fences. She did well and now has a nice thrifty (though small) litter of pure-bred Yorkshires. Account was kept of all the feed consumed by sow and shoats from May 1st to November 23rd, when the pigs were shipped, they having been sold on the previous week's basis at \$7.60. Two pigs were kept for home use, but averaging these at the same weight as those delivered, viz., 212 lbs., the proceeds would have been \$128.89. The cost of feed for both sow and pigs from May 1st to November 23rd (which is more than half the year for the sow) was \$113.62.

Separate account of feed was not kept for the shoats right from the time of weaning, though it was so kept latterly. We are in a position to estimate it closely and have figured that from weaning to shipping, it took about 3½ pounds of shorts and grain feed to produce a pound of gain—not bad for pigs getting no milk or whey, nor was the weight of 212 pounds at six months and two weeks of age, though with more milk we have done much better and expect to do so again.

All feed bought was charged at purchase price

plus cost of hauling. All feed produced on the farm was estimated at liberal rates, though some of it, such as the green alfalfa fed the sow, the clover eaten by pigs and the spoiled peas used as bedding would probably have been largely wasted as the season turned out, but for the swine. Some eight hundred pounds of skim milk returned from the city at irregular intervals was valued at 40 cents per cwt., though in reality it cost us nothing in cash. Still the credit for it belongs to the cows.

Assuming that the manure pays for the labor, which it will in the case of pigs kept in fields, there would be a profit of \$14.27 over cost of feed and sow service. It is true that the price of pork is higher than usual, but so was the cost of feed. A dollar-sixty for shorts is enough to give one pause.

The itemised statement tells the rest.

	lbs.	Value
Mixed chop (oats, wheat and barley)	905	\$13.56
Shorts	2590	38.07
Tankage	60	1.80
Low grade flour	2075	36.02
Corn meal	167	4.73
Ear corn	500	5.00
Waste and skim milk	800	3.2)
Pasture, 120 square rods after-math		1.00
Bedding, straw	435	1.74
Bedding, unthreshed peas largely wasted in field	1530	6.00
Green alfalfa for sow	1000	2.50
Total value of feed and bedding		\$113.62
Service of sow		1.00
Total		\$114.62
Proceeds		128.89
Profit over feed		\$14.27
Manure set against labor.		

The majority of feeders would have figured a much larger profit from this instance because without feed records, they would have forgotten or overlooked many items such as five bushels of rejected seed corn, also probably the bedding, the alfalfa, the milk and the pasture. We are not, however, intent so much on making a big showing as in getting at the truth. Facts make for success. Exaggeration may gratify but misleads. Pig feeding is a good way to market farm produce, while at the same time maintaining fertility.

A Sheep Letter from New Zealand.

W. T. Ritch, one of the Canadian Sheep Commissioners, after concluding his work in Canada, accepted a situation with a very large wool-dealing firm with whom he had previously been employed in New Zealand. Upon getting well into his new work, Mr. Ritch wrote an interesting letter to J. B. Spencer, Editor of the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, who has sent on a copy for publication. The letter, which is dated November 1st and was written at Christchurch, New Zealand, reads in part as follows:

"I found a good many changes in New Zealand

since my previous visit eight years ago, and as far as sheep are concerned, a great many improvements. The farmers are born sheepmen, and you would be charmed with their conversation as well as their advanced methods. The results they have recently obtained would astonish you. I have seen several large flocks of Romneys in which mobs of over five thousand ewes carried fleeces of 14½ lbs. each. I could scarcely believe it until I saw them pass through the shearing shed. They have now succeeded in cultivating fleeces on this breed approaching Downs in density. The belly covering is really wonderful. Romneys are the chief favorites here, and are taking the place of other longwool breeds so fast that they are likely to be the only breed in a few years. Downs are never used for crossing now, except for "freezing" lambs. Down-merino-cross-bred wool is not in strong demand at present, and the general opinion is that it will never return to favor. Wool growers are very pleased because this cross carries a light fleece, while the pure-bred Downs do not keep their wool on well, and get very bare on the belly on new rough pasture land. The Down is the sheep of the small and the medium-sized mixed farmer, who possesses cultivated pasture fields and practices close folding on green feed during the fall. They go off-type and get out of condition when continually pastured over a wide range in a rough new country. With all their smartness here, I am more firmly convinced than ever that the Old Country farmer is still the king of livestock men, because he thoroughly understands the natural requirements of each particular breed, and abides by nature's laws.

"As a wool-growing specialist, however, the Australasian surpasses the Old Country man with certain breeds, yet, in spite of local advantages, I find several instances here of excessive wool production resulting in impaired constitution and lack of general utility. Of course, these were exceptional cases, but the production of extraordinarily dense fleeces on Romneys seems to be quite a craze with the best breeders. Some of the old breeders in Kent would be inclined to say that such density, combined with extra length, was too severe on the sheep. I have no doubt that this would be the case during early spring in the native home of the Romney, but the cold penetrating winds of the New Zealand spring are terrible. Midwinter winds on the Canadian prairies are mild compared with the early spring winds on the bleak hill-sides of the South Island here.

"Most of the advanced methods of the Australian wool-growers would be a revelation to the sheepman of Western Canada, and they would bring great wealth to the country if he adopted them. When you turn from the large flocks on the wide range to the smaller flocks on the mixed farm, you would come to the conclusion that the methods of the Old Country sheepman should still be the "copy-book headline" for scientific breeding and skilful feeding.

"Everyone specializes in Sheep Farming here, and it is the leading industry in the country. Experts of every kind are thoroughly appreciated, highly paid and well treated. Their responsibilities are great, but they get every encourage-



Proud Monarch = 78792 =.

Shorthorn bull. Owned by F. W. Ewing, Salem, Ont. Sire Blood Royal (Imp.), bred by Wm. Duthie, Collynie.