#### Type and Quality More Important Than Breed.

There is a definite type fixed for beef and dairy cattle, for draft horses, for mutton sheep and for bacon hogs, and all animals must conform to those types regardless of breed. The butcher cares not whether it is an Angus, a Hereford or a Shorthorn carcass, so long as the fleshing is deep and the expensive cuts are thick and heavy. The side of bacon must be such that it will cure into something acceptable to the trade, and whether it comes from a black, white or red pig is a secondary matter. A good deal of this breed controversy is piffle, and if the ave age breeder would make his choice and then be as much of a stickler for strain and type as he generally is for breed he is pretty sure to make a success. By strain we mean those families within the breed which have made good and speak for themselves, while type is that combination of characters which render an animal most efficient in its particular field. A Holstein, an Ayrshire or a Jersey which is off type and not productive is a poor thing no matter how well bred, and so is an Angus, a Hereford, or a Shorthorn. From good grades to good pure-breds is a wise step; from good grades to poor pure-breds is not. In the latter case a farmer who has been producing something of actual and definite market value engages in a business which not only makes his own labor of less value to himself and country but he turns out inferior breeding stock sure to have a detrimental effect at large. We have no complaint to record against the pure-bred; it is the corner-stone of the industry, but in such times as the present men go to extremes, forgetting type and those things upon which breed popularity is and must be based. A good pedigree is worth money, but it must be discounted when attached to a poor individual. We need good-doing meat animals, and the breeding stock must give evidence of being able to produce such regardless of ancestry.

Excessive prices were never known to do a breed any particular good. It simply means the conservation, for breeding purposes, of all males and females, which can be recorded, regardless of their quality. When values range high the less extensive breeder and the farmer with grades content themselves with a herd header below their usual standard in order to keep within the price limit beyond which they seldom go. When confronted with the difficulty of obtaining a sire do not quibble over a few dollars and lower your standard. Your competitor may invest that extra \$50 or \$100, which you are unwilling to pay, and get it back many times while your sales decrease owing to the growing inferiority of your herd. The type and quality must be maintained even at enhanced prices. Select your breed and allow your personal likings to be gratified to a considerable extent. would be unwise for the

average man to invest heavily in any breed which he does not like, simply because he thinks it the most profitable. The most successful breeders cannot see anything attractive about minute which do not belong to the particular kind with which they work. They are wrapt up in their breed, so to speak, and are more successful on account of their admiration for it. Have a high standard or ideal and make your herd, of whatever breed you choose, attain to it.

## Directors of Canadian Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations.

In electing the directors of the Canadian Sheep and the Canadian Swine Breeders' Associations for the Provinces outside of Ontario, the votewas taken by mail and counted in the office of the Secretary of the Association, R. W. Wade, at the Parliament Buildings, Toronto. The returns are now in and the following are the directors to the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association for 1918; Manitime Provinces, W. B. Bishop, 85 St. Germain St., St. Johns, N. B.; Quebec, V. Sylvestre, Chirvany de Berger, A. Dents, St. Norbert Sta., and J. Bryson, L. Skirner, Indian Healt Alberta, if I. A. Lyang, E. Skirner, Indian Healt Alberta, and I. A. Lyang, St., Laconober British Columbia.

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Admission of Store Cattle to England Delayed.

The Live Stock Journal of November 23 contained the following regarding the admission of store cattle into England. "Last week, in the Commons, Captain H. Fitzherbert Wright, M. P., asked the President of the Board of Agricultures whether it is the intention of the Government to remove the present restrictions upon the importation into the United Kingdom of live cattle, store or otherwise; if so, is the necessary legislation to be introduced during the present session; and will he, before introducing such legislation, in view of the risk to our pedigree herds entailed by such removal, consult with the representatives of the various breed societies and give them an opportunity of making such representations as they may think fit?"

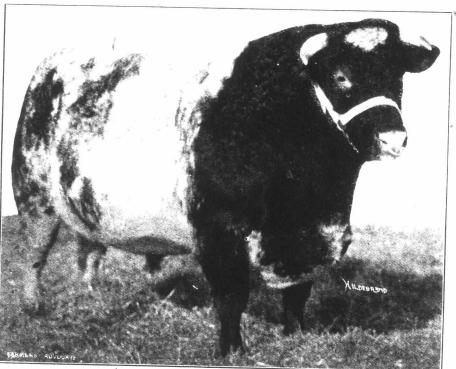
"Sir Richard Winfrey replied: 'It is not the Government's intention to remove the present restrictions upon the importation of live cattle into this country. In the case of Canada no legislation will be introduced unless and until the importation of live cattle born and reared in that country is found to be both practicable and consistent with our domestic policy after the war. Before any legislation is proposed the Board would naturally take steps to obtain the views of breed societies upon this subject, and to impose whatever measures might be thought necessary to ensure that no appreciable risk of the introduction of disease should be run."

Grading Up The Herd.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Having read with interest several articles in your paper on the subject "Pure-breds vs. Grades," to-night after a day at the chores and about the stable I am going to give you a few of my ideas on that subject.

Some people seem to think that a pure-bred animal



Maxwalton Commander.

Grand shampion Shorthorn bull at the International, 1917. Exhibited by F. A. Gillespie & Son, North Muskogec, Okla.

is of more value and of better quality than a grade. A pure-bred is certainly worth more than a grade of the same quality.

With certain breeds of horses the breeder can "grade up" by breeding to registered stallions till the offspring has sufficient top crosses of pure blood to make it cligible for registration. A man may improve the breeding of his cows from year to year by "grading up," but it is not possible to get enough pure-bred crosses to warrant the offspring a place in the records of the breed worked with. Why should this be? I cannot understand why it would not be a good plan for the farmer, and, at the same time, it would hold out some inducement for him to grade up and this would improve considerably upon the quality of the cattle, which is of such importance at a time like the present. Rules

could be hid down as thought advisable.

I have a herd of grade Shorthorn cattle, principally of my own raising, which I have been grading up for the past four or five years, and it would seem a great mistake to me to go back to careless, inferior breeding. I now have a heiter call out of my best cow from a registered Shorthorn bull which has recently been sold to an American buyer for over \$1,500. The calf is a grade but in a a setub. She is still sucking the cow, and I consider this method has paid better than any other way when the question of shortage and high cost of labor is taken into consideration. There not being any inducement for the grading up it is a great temptation to year the calves and make other use of the milk

which gives quicker returns

Some people have an idea that the term "scrub" applies to all animals which are not eligible for registration, but I claim there are scrubs in all classes, whether it be pure breels of not I cannot understand why some breeders will cling to the old method of using a scrub sire. If a man cannot afford to buy a good sire, neither

can he afford to breed his eows to a scrub. Let a number of farmers co-operate and purchase a sire which will be growing into money and at the same time be providing the farmers who are shareholders with first-class calves, which means better cows. Or, if this plan fails, breed the cows to a neighbor's good bull even if you have to pay a large service fee. Where a great many farmers make a "blunder" is by just breeding their pure-breds to bulls "with papers," disregarding quality or strain, and this will land them with pure-bred herds of scrubs before they are aware of the fact; but, if the breeder will "grade up" he will succeed in getting a herd of higher standard than he expects to. The main thing is to "stay with it."

I believe a good grade cow is worth more to the farmer and his country than an inferior pure-bred. But if a man will not take the necessary care of his breeding and the top crosses he makes he will never accomplish much. I believe it is each farmer's duty to do his bit by breeding each cow to a good bull of the same breed and avoiding mongrels.

York Co., Ont.

GRADE SHORTHORN BREEDER

York Co., Ont. Grade Shorthorn Breeder. [Note.—Grading up by the use of better bulls is highly commendable practice. Use nothing but the best. But after once thoroughly familiar with the breed and its management it is not a difficult undertaking to pick up one or two choice pure-bred females and gradually by careful mating replace the grades with pure-breds—better individuals and with pedigrees to back them up.—Editor.]

## THE FARM.

# The Annual Meeting of the Experimental Union.

The Annual Meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union is to be held at the Ontario Agricultural College on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 8th and 9th of January, 1918, starting at 9.30 on the forenoon of the 8th. Even in spite of the great scarcity of labor throughout the country it is interesting to note that there were fully one thousand more co-operative experiments throughout the Province in 1917 than in the year previous. This was likely due to the fact that the farmers were anxious to secure pure seed of the best foundation stock for crop production, and also that they may keep in touch with the best methods of farming operations. At the Annual Meeting results of co-operative experiments will be presented such as Varieties of Farm Crops, Mixed Grains for Grain Production and for Fodder, Quantities of Seed per Acre, Farmyard Manures and Commercial Fertilizers, the Eradication of Weeds, the testing of Cattle for Tuberculosis, Reforesting of waste Places, etc.

In addition to the reports on co-operative experiments the following subjects are to be discussed at the Meeting: "Ontario's Agriculture in the Present Crisis," "Root Seed Production in Canada," "Seed Potatoes from Northern Ontario," "Sources of Seed Supply for Ontario," "Agricultural Survey," "Cooperation in Wool Marketing," "Underdrainage and Tile Making," "Practical Suggestions in the Production of Food Materials for the Coming Year." All interested in Agriculture are invited to the Meeting. Cheap railway rates have been arranged on the Certificate plan. For fuller information and a copy of the program apply to Dr. C. A. Zavitz, Agricultural College, Guelph,

Dominion Grange Elects Officers.

The Annual meeting of the Dominion Grange was held in Toronto, Friday, December 21, with J. C. Dickson of Moorefield, Master, presiding. Secretary A. G. Burton of Port Stanley, reported twenty subordinate Granges chiefly in Elgin, Essex, Simcoe, Wellington and Ontario Counties.

The officers elected were as follows: Master, J. C. Dickson, Moorefield; Overseer, H. Bertram, Midhurst; Secretary-Treasurer, Neil Burton, Port Stanley; Assistant Secretary, Miss Hattie Robinson, St. Thomas; Chaplain, Wm. McCrae, Guelph; Lecturer, A. Gifford, Meaford; Steward, W. Oke, Whitby; Assistant Steward, Henry Glendinning, Manilla; Stewardess, Miss Alice Palmer, Middlemarch; Gatekeeper, W. J. Goodfellow; Ceres, Miss Phelp, Whitby; Pomona, Miss Lena Hill, St. Thomas; Flora, Miss Thompson, Palmerston; Executive Committee, W. A. Wardell, St. Thomas; Judson Austin, Simcoe; Wm. McCrae, Guelph, Auditor, John Pritchard, Gorrie.

### In The Substantial Class.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We are so immensely pleased with your Christmas Number that I am writing this note to express our high appreciation of your work in issuing such an excellent number at a time when everything in the way of production is so heavily handicapped.

These are days when the quality of the printing paper calls for comment: yours would be in the substantial class at any time. The men in the printing office deserve commendation for the excellence and style of the letterpress. And the men in the editorial departments gave the other stuff that was worth setting up well, so as to reach your subscribers in such form as to lead them to believe really and truly that farming and farm literature were at last really examing to their own.

literature were, at last, really coming to their own.

Heartiest congratulations then on the outstanding excellence of your Christmas Number in every respect, and best thanks from one subscriber, for giving us so much that is the very best at one time. May The Farmer's Advocate" prosper!

Ontario Co., Ont. B. W. MACKAY.

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