

while, according to the above reasoning at the meeting, is not a reality, should have a class created for her. The argument advanced by one speaker to justify this class of general-purpose mare and colt, was that it would help the exhibit, and, by another, that it would encourage the small boy. The argument of exhibit is a very old one, and has had value, but it has frequently been overdone. It has been used to justify the class for grade bulls, because so many people had one to bring to the fair and make a display. In the case of the mare and colt, since there is a class for the colt, if he has any class at all, both he and his mother will be on exhibition. As for the other argument, the writer recalls that he himself has played the part of this small boy and led his mare into the ring one year, landing the prize, the next year to be turned out with, "You have a good mare, but she is out of her class." And he has shared fully in the confusion of ideas on this class, in which, after all, there was not so much encouragement, but rather more disgust with the fair, and more or less lack of confidence in anything the so-called expert judges might do or say.

This class for general-purpose mare and colt is no doubt doing more than any other thing to mix matters up on this question. It is, moreover, encouraging the use of brood mares which as a class can never do much to raise the standard of horseflesh in any community. In some sections of the country this class, which, of course, is very broad, is a menace to advancement in horse-breeding. It is not difficult to point out sections distinguished for the agricultural or draft horse, but where is the section distinguished for the general purpose horse? Perhaps the great weakness in our county fairs is that they are not educational enough, and, therefore, not fulfilling the purpose for which they exist. A number of them probably are a restriction on agricultural education, for the reason that inferior material is recognized and given a standing, and thereby wrong production encouraged. We are in need of direction in horse-breeding, and in this general-purpose mare-and-colt matter there seems an opportunity for at least one step.

Jacques Cartier Co., Que.

H. B.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Beef-making Business Attractive.

Quite a spirited discussion on certain phases of the beef-making situation was opened with an address by Thos. McMillan, of Huron Co., at the recent Ontario Winter Fair. While not contending that there had been a deterioration in the quality of the beef marketed, he gave some factors whose influence had tended in that direction. Shorthorn breeders had been shipping sires to the Northwest and to the Western States, and had forgotten that the Shorthorn was a milking animal, running to beef, till it was almost impossible to get a sire that could be relied upon to transmit milking quality. Agricultural experts have been preaching that it was impossible to have beef and dairy qualities satisfactorily combined, yet, as a boy, he had handled 20 or 24 cows that were milkers, and some of the heaviest milkers produced some of the best steer calves. He saw the same thing in Ontario and Middlesex Counties, and, if further evidence were needed, we could look to the present experience at Macdonald College, where good beef animals are raised from deep milking Shorthorn cows. At the Wisconsin Experiment Station, in Prof. Carlyle's time, they had a cow of Bates breeding that produced 585 pounds of butter in a year, and gave a steer calf which weighed 1,700 pounds at 32 months, winning third prize in the agricultural college class at Chicago, in 1900. While he did not claim that the dual-purpose animal would represent the highest type of either capacity, the combination was, nevertheless, very useful in a farm cow.

Another factor was that the extraordinary demand for beef the last few years has led to the marketing of many young, unfinished animals. In many sections, owners of Shorthorn grade cows have vealed their calves. We must still preach the doctrine of more-skillful breeding and a better system of feeding and management. We must awaken the enterprise of beef-makers, arouse their dormant interest, and show them the business is not only interesting, but profitable as well. We must follow a system of management and feeding that will bring beeves to early maturity. We want a type of animal with broad, smooth, well-covered backs, while the cows must be able to give milk, and plenty of it. We can have this combination, if we will only try. And we can do it without cross-breeding. It is a serious mistake to cross even animals of the beef breeds, save a first cross, to produce a good individual. Never breed from cross-bred females, and never use the dairy breeds for beef purposes. The young animals should be fed from birth such full rations as will keep them thriving, and through the whole period of growth deposit fat between the tissues of the body. The palates of the people at

home and abroad will always demand those delicious and juicy cuts.

Mr. McMillan is not losing any sleep over the matter of prices. To-day, in many European countries thousands of people have to be content with horseflesh, and they are crying for relief. The recent unprecedented liquidation of beef cattle in the United States, along with the past season's bumper crop of corn, might lead us to expect that prices had gone down to stay, but statistics from the five principal American meat markets for the first ten months of 1910 show that there were only 38,944 more stockers marketed than twelve months ago. The year 1907 was the big year in the stocker and feeder business, and 1909 showed a reduction of 213,712 head from 1907. Then, if farmers in the Canadian West continue along their present lines of farming, the Northwest will soon be one of the best markets for Eastern beef, and he expects in a few years we shall have access to the United States market, the best in the world, lying right at our doors, and open all the year round, a country where more people command incomes of \$10,000 a year and over than any other country under the sun. We have the climate and the people, and can breed the choicest beef found in the world. As the situation is now, we are practically shut out of our market (the United Kingdom) for six months in the year, by the long overland journey that precedes shipment from our winter ports. The American market at our door is large and growing. Access to it would be very profitable, and wouldn't hurt our loyalty, either.

Following Mr. McMillan in the discussion, John Campbell emphasized these two requisites: Get the right quality of cattle, and then carry them on from birth to block so as to get the highest price. The man who raises the steer should finish him, and, on high-priced land it will be impossible to get the best returns unless he is marketed at from fifteen to thirty months, according to conditions.

Good feeding does not imply the use of a great deal of expensive feed. Let us keep in mind the ideal of cheaper production. With plenty of summer feed, grass, rape, etc., he considers it possible to produce weight at a quarter to a third the cost of winter feeding. He knows of nothing else from which it is possible to get such good results as from a rape field, with the cattle having access to long grass. Alfalfa will have, he thinks, perhaps the most important part to play of any fodder save rape. He advocates both. Speaking of dairy Shorthorns, he had had the pleasure the preceding week of viewing a herd of Shorthorn dairy cows at Chicago, in which were three or four as good combinations of milk and beef as he ever had seen at the Royal.

He quoted Will Dryden, recently returned from the Old Country, as saying that in Mr. Duthie's herd he had found no nurse cows to bring along the calves.

The young man to-day in Ontario who goes into the meat-making business, paying particular attention to the principles above enunciated, has prospects for one of the best lines of business in

the Province. Ontario is becoming more and more a manufacturing Province, with the markets such a population affords. Aim, above all things, he urged, to get up the productive capacity of your farms and double the return for your labor.

Lt.-Col. McCrae rose to take issue with the speakers, declaring somewhat vehemently that he had no sympathy with having dairying and beef-making on the same farm. We are not anywhere near where we were in beef production ten or twenty years ago. Dairy blood had killed the beef business. Neither Dominion nor Provincial Governments had done anything to push the beef industry. Trenching dangerously on political ground, he proceeded to declare that, but for the British cattle embargo, our finished cattle would be worth \$5 to \$10 more per head than they are now. This started some cross-firing. An inquirer wanted to know whether Col. McCrae would keep the beef type entirely. He replied that he would have the cows raise their calves.

Jumping to his feet, Mr. McMillan declared that admission knocked Col. McCrae's other argument in the head. The cow that breeds the beef animals, he reiterated, with the ring of conviction, must give milk, and plenty of it. Then, as to the embargo, if that were lifted, and our stockers allowed to go over to Britain, the feed would go after them. Nor is it true that our finished cattle would bring \$5 to \$10 a head more.

Col. McCrae retorted that he had been told so by the dealers in the Old Country.

"And I," said Mr. McMillan, "was one of a firm that shipped cattle to Britain for 19 years, and we made more money after the embargo was put on than before."

After which the debaters shook hands.

In the corn belt, most farmers find their abundant and inexpensive corn a feed which cannot be avoided or ignored, nor should it be; but while its use need not by any means be omitted, it should be but moderate, and, as a part of a reasonably-balanced ration. Sows kept for breeding should not herd with fattening hogs kept on corn, but be in pasture and given a supply of slop, such as equal parts of shorts, corn meal and wheat bran. Feeds which furnish considerable bulk are preferable, and those tending to prevent constipation are important.—[From Coburn's "Swine in America."]

The National Records Office at Ottawa continues to do an increasing volume of business. The year 1909 was an exceedingly good one, registration receipts being far ahead of 1908; 1910 will surpass this high-water record, as, up to the first of December, the receipts were already ahead of the whole of 1909. There is a heavy increase in the registration of swine, all breeds showing an improvement, following the decrease of the last few years. The biggest swine increase is in the registration of Yorkshires.



Breed-study Contest: What Breed is This Bull, and Why?

For the correct answer to the above question, supported by the best reasons, and received at our office by January 13th, 1911, we will give as a prize any bull from our list valued at \$1.00.