

Bone in Pigs.

A correspondent of the *London Live Stock Journal* writes: The following extract from one of the American papers devoted to the interests of pig breeders in the States has been submitted to me by a friend, with a request that I would furnish him with a solution of what he jocosely terms the riddle as contained in the paragraph forwarded to me, which runs as follows: "It is said that the 800-lb. boar, Right Kind, when sold, was driven into the ring was trotted around the circle six times on the jump to show his great action and good vitality, and that his eye was as clear as crystal, and no one came forward to claim the fifty dollars to be awarded to the person who had a hog of greater size of bone. He created merriment and admiration for the attending breeders."

I do not suppose that it is so much the peculiar style nor the somewhat mixed character of the par, which mystifies my friend, as the apparent offer of a bet of fifty dollars that none present could produce a boar which had more bone than Right Kind—presumably a boar of the Poland-China breed, a breed which its devotees rendered notorious some two years since by those extraordinary proceedings in connection with auctions, booms, etc., etc.

In connection with these facts, I am afraid that I am unable to assist my friend to any great extent, since I really do not know of any advantage in the possession by our pigs of this strong bone, of which so much is written and spoken on the other side of the Atlantic. The reiteration of the alleged fact that certain families and breed of pigs owned by our American cousins have such so-called immense bone are almost sufficient to lead one to think that their system of breeding or management has been so impractical that a very large proportion of the pigs sent to the large packing centers, such as Chicago, etc., arrive at their destination broken down or with fractured legs. I have often read of such a condition of affairs, of which the former appears to be due to neglect in selecting for breeders those pigs only which have good firm ankles and feet. Anyone who has attended our shows during the last few years will have noticed a considerable number of the pig exhibits to be what is termed "down on their joints"—i. e., their ankles are not strong and firm enough to bear the weight of the body; the feet also are so loosely put together that these spread out, the result being a wretched attempt to walk. These weaknesses are generally associated with that which our pig-men call strong bone, or bone of a round, soft, porous character, common to those pigs which have been tried for generations for fat rather than flesh and prolificacy. These big, soft-boned sows and boars are almost invariably slow breeders, and early become useless and barren for breeding purposes.

I am fearful that our American cousins are studying the size of the bone of their pigs rather than making a point of breeding only from pigs which possess quality of bone and joints, quite a different thing to mere size. The latter is, in my opinion, a thing to be avoided, as with it is invariably found a thickness and coarseness of skin and shoulder which does not betoken quality, and, unfortunately, both at home and abroad, not sufficiently appreciated by pig breeders.

**Dominion Incorporation for Live Stock
Record Association.**

The Dominion Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Fisher, has introduced a bill at Ottawa, making provision for the incorporation as an association, under the authority of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, of any five or more persons so desiring, for the purpose of keeping a record of pure-bred live stock of any distinct breed, or several records of a distinct breed. Not more than one association for each distinct breed of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine shall be incorporated under the proposed Act. Provision is required for constitution, rules, by-laws, etc., governing registration, meetings, election of officers, etc. All alterations or amendments are subject to the approval of the Minister of Agriculture. The associations will consist of annual and life members; the membership fees to be fixed at the annual meeting, or a meeting called for the purpose.

The liability of each member shall be limited to the amount of his membership fees due. The penalty clause is as follows:

"Any person who signs a false pedigree intended for registration, or who presents or causes another person to present a false pedigree for registration by the association, shall, upon summary conviction, upon information laid within two years from the commission of the offence, be liable to a penalty not less than one hundred dollars and not exceeding five hundred dollars for each false pedigree so signed or presented, together with the costs of prosecution."

The pure-bred records of Canada were instituted under the old Agriculture and Arts Act of Ontario and in that regard were provincial in character, though patronized by Canadian breeders generally, and having their head offices at Toronto, latterly in the new Ontario Parliament Buildings. In the matter of presenting false pedigrees for registration, incorporation under the new Act would doubtless facilitate prosecutions for offences occurring in any of the other Provinces of Canada.

Large or Small Pastures.

Every observant shepherd knows that his flock delights in frequent changes of pasture. Even though they are exchanged from a luxuriant to a more scanty lot, the sheep seem to respond favorably. With cattle this is not the case. Where pasture is to be entirely depended upon, it is well to allow cattle of any class the entire run of the land they are to have when first turned out in spring, or as soon afterwards as circumstances will allow. While the fresh, green growth is abundant the cattle will select their preference, leaving a fair quantity over the entire lot, which they will come back to during the dry season, whereas a closely-cropped surface would yield nothing for their support at that trying season. Prof. Henry, in his admirable work on "Feeds and Feeding," says:

"The subject of large or small pastures is frequently discussed. The majority of experienced American feeders favor a single large range rather than numerous small pastures. Grasses, both in variety and quality, are never quite the same over the whole of a large pasture, and cattle soon detect the slight differences and satisfy their desire for variety by ranging from one spot to another. In large pastures the habits of the animals become regular, and it is interesting to study their movements. The herd will be found in the morning on one side of the valley, feeding on the more abundant vegetation; later, as the sun's heat increases, they appear on the hillside, where there is a movement of air and where the grasses are shorter and more nutritious; while at noon they are to be seen resting in the shade at still another point. This regularity in grazing certainly conduces to comfort and quiet, and is of importance to profitable returns. Where the pastures are cut up into several lots, the fresh bite of rank herbage which comes with each change leads to irregularity and unrest, thus reducing the gains."

Selecting and Judging Dairy Bulls.

BY F. S. PEER.

In my last letter (page 221) I gave my reasons for not judging by signs. In this I shall simply call attention to the principal points or characteristics of a bull that decide me in his favor, and will attempt to give my reasons for each point.

The Head.—I want the head to be as near the ideal type of the breed as possible (Jersey, Guernsey or Ayrshire, as the case may be), because I want a Jersey bull to look like a Jersey and not like a Shorthorn or Brown Swiss. I like a beautiful head because there is no one feature of a Jersey cow that is so strikingly different from all other breeds, and because the style and beauty of the Jersey cow's head adds essentially to her market value.

Neck.—I like a bull to carry his head well up, because it is a common fault among Jersey cows to drop in front of the shoulders—*are-necked*. The Ayrshire breeders have paid considerable attention to this point, and have been well repaid for their pains. Nothing adds more to the grace and symmetry, and especially to the carriage of the animal—bull or cow—than a well-placed head on a level or slightly rising neck.

Masculinity.—I always want to see a thoroughly masculine bull—strong, vigorous, courageous, with neck large and full, but without coarseness and without being throaty. The latter point has never been criticised in America as it deserves. It is a useless appendage, and detracts very much from the beauty and symmetry of the head.

Shoulders.—I do not insist on too fine a shoulder in a bull; if he is a masculine bull he will have heavier shoulders and narrower hips in proportion than the female. This insisting on bulls being built as we like a cow—with flat, sharp withers and broad, prominent hips—is founded on a mistaken notion in animal economy, as is evident when we attempt to apply the same rulings to the human family.

We have carried fine shoulders too far. No one likes to see a fine shoulder and sharp wither on a cow better than I, but we must not sacrifice breadth through the heart—a point where too many Jerseys fail. I refer to lung capacity because milk is a product of the blood, and to produce a large amount of milk the cow must first manufacture a great quantity of blood; to do this she requires large lung capacity to purify the same. Therefore, I insist on great breadth through the body back of the elbow joints. For the same reason I like to see a large, open nostril, and as there must be a great amount of “milling” done by a cow in the mastication of a large quantity of food, I like a rather heavy, muscular jaw.

Barrel.—The barrel of a bull should be good size, with large, heavy ribs, well sprung, because his daughters must have capacity and strength of machinery for disposing of an enormous quantity of forage. I like a rather deep barrel on a bull unless the depth is made at the expense of width, as is sometimes the case in flat-ribbed, narrow-loined bulls. For this reason a bull should be better sprung than a cow, as he has not had the weight of feed and a calf to carry to bring him down.

Hips.—I like to see a bull long from the hips to the setting of the tail, because if a cow follows him in this respect she will have room for length of udder corresponding (usually) to length of hips. Cows with short hips, cows with sloping rumps (which generally amounts to the same thing), have short and deep udders instead of long udders running well forward. I like good breadth of hips,

although I do not look for a bull to be as wide in proportion as a cow. While I am not so particular about broad, pronounced hips in a bull, I like to see the hind legs so placed under them that there will be plenty of room for breadth of udder in the females.

Back.—I insist on a level top line from the horns to the setting of the tail, because nothing looks much like a deformity, nothing so disfigures the symmetry and beauty of a cow or bull, as a sloping rump. That some great cows are thus formed has led some to think it a good sign, but it is entirely unnecessary and has nothing in fact to sustain the theory, as thousands of great cows are as straight as a line. To me it always looks like a case of in-and-inbreeding, where the animal has degenerated to its original type.

Breeding.—When I find a bull that comes the nearest to my ideas in conformation, style and beauty, I then look up his ancestors—not on his tabulated pedigree, but the individuals themselves, if living. I have ridden hundreds of miles to see the dam and grandams of a bull. If I am satisfied with these animals individually, then I look up the breeding of his sire, or the sire himself, if he is unknown to me. I would not buy the best-looking bull in the world for myself that had a dam with a rump like a mansard roof or no fore udder, if she had a record of 30 lbs. of butter a week. In general I prefer a fairly good all-round bull to one that is exceptionally good in most points, with one decided weakness or failure.

Turning Steers Out to Pasture.

Out in the Western States of America, where beef-raising is very generally engaged in, a great many steers are fed well during the winter and finished on grass. We find it is the general practice when making the change from dry feed to grass to make it gradually so as to prevent any setback by reason of an abrupt change. Especially where cattle have been heavily fed is this precaution necessary, or quite a loss to the feeder will result. One extensive feeder in Iowa, writing in the *Homestead*, has adopted the practice of putting the cattle out for an hour or two at first when a fairly good bite can be secured, keeping up the grain and other dry feed for considerable time, gradually reducing both until the animals have become thoroughly accustomed to the grass and appear satisfied. Some lower feeders allow their steers the freedom of a pasture field as soon as the grass makes a start, and continue full feeding for some time afterwards, reducing it as the pasture improves. In a few weeks the cattle are turned into fresh fields, and the first fields are allowed to grow up for later feeding. In any case it is well to bring the cattle up to the yard at nights for a short period, and give them a good feed of hay in the morning before turning them out. In this way scouring is largely prevented, and practically no setback will be experienced by the stock.

The Dog Law Again.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have read with interest the communications on dogs worrying sheep and the remedies suggested, but do not think they go far enough. I would suggest the following:

Let each corporation supply to the assessor numbered tags when commencing his rounds, and every ratepayer or other person owning or having in his possession a dog shall pay to the assessor \$1, and for each bitch \$2. The assessor shall then give to such person tags, the numbers of which he shall enter on his roll book opposite the person's name.

The corporation shall pass a by-law granting a bounty of \$1 for dogs and \$2 for bitches to any person who shall shoot the same when found anywhere without tags; and a bounty of \$2 for each dog and \$3 for each bitch shot when in the act of worrying or killing sheep, when such dogs have tags on.

The owner of such dogs or bitches to pay the bounty and all damages. The names of the owners could be found by referring to the roll.

I think this would put a stop to so many escaping the dog tax as applied at the present time.

Lambton Co., Ont. S. C. SMALE.

Ensilage Six Years Old.

Mr. R. W. Stevens, of Lambeth, near London, Ont., informs the FARMER'S ADVOCATE that he fed from his silo last month ensilage which was stored in 1893, and which had kept in as perfectly good condition as it was the first winter after being stored, and was relished by his cattle, although, being made from the Southern Sweet varieties of corn, imperfectly matured, it was not as nutritious food as that made from earlier varieties such as he has used in late years and which have been more nearly matured before being placed in the silo. This instance confirms the keeping quality of ensilage and its value as a food for stock which can be stored conveniently to the stables to be drawn upon if need be during the dry season in summer when pastures fail. The heavy loss sustained by dairymen in Ontario last summer in the shrinkage of milk owing to the drought should lead many to make provision against the possible recurrence of such a contingency. Indeed, there are few summers in which there is not a term of failing pastures when it would pay well to feed the cows something extra, and the silo presents the readiest and the cheapest solution of the problem.