

to secure a satisfactory sire without selecting one that is closely related to our own stock. It is true that there are some breeders who still practice using sires that are more or less closely related to their females, but they use the greatest care in making selections, and no one can say how soon they may have to change their methods. Sometimes, no doubt, the use of a closely related sire is the best thing that can be done, but the advisability of such a step can be pronounced only by men of sound judgment and wide experience, after considering all the facts bearing upon the case in question. To say the least, in-breeding should never be practiced by the inexperienced, and required to be used with the greatest caution by the most expert and keen-sighted stockman.

If the writer in the "Tribune Farmer," mentioned by your correspondent, recommends breeding cows to their own progeny as a rule of practice, he is simply talking stark madness. There may be cases where such a course would be advisable, but the breeder would need to be sure that he could not obtain as good blood from any other source, and that he was running little or no risk of accentuating some constitutional weakness. The same applies to the sheep-breeding problems advanced by your correspondent, and because no one can pronounce with certainty upon the probable outcome of the step suggested, the wisest and safest plan for your correspondent to pursue would be to purchase another ram.

O.A.C., Guelph. G. E. DAY.

About Grasses

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

In passing through the province during early summer, one comes to the inevitable conclusion that only about three different varieties of grass are utilized by the farmers to the slightest degree, and not more than two of these are generally grown. There may be local exceptions, but this is generally true. Timothy, of course, is pre-eminently the grass for hay. June or Kentucky Blue Grass appears as the main component of permanent pastures, and occasionally Orchard Grass is seen rather as an exception, however. Timothy is among the most useful grasses, but it has limitations, and very serious ones in certain cases. It produces good average yields per acre on a variety of soils, and gives hay of the best quality. It produces little second growth in average years, however, and will not stand pasturing. This latter characteristic is a very decided disadvantage. In spite of its poor grazing quality, it is used largely for this purpose, many thinking, apparently, that what it gives only one growth in a season, becomes dry and dead in midsummer, and is easily destroyed by tramping, it is, nevertheless, the only grass which farmers can profitably grow. It undoubtedly is one of the most valuable, but there is just a possibility that the reason of its nearly exclusive culture lies in the fact that other grasses have received no fair or general trial.

Unfortunately there are few private farmers who have experimented with different varieties of grasses, but most of these who have will concede that some other grasses decidedly surpass timothy for grazing purposes, and at the same time will give higher yields of hay per acre, hay of good quality, if properly handled. By consulting the Experimental Report (Bulletin 140, Ontario) it will be found that for hay production, for an average of seven years, Timothy stands fourth in point

of yield. Above it are Western Rye, Lymn Grass and Fringed Brome Grass. When it comes to a pasture test Timothy is ninth in order, the more important ones above it being Tall Oat, Orchard, and Western Rye Grass. These results are at least suggestive, and the details of the experiment are worthy of careful study. Is the well established timothy bringing the largest returns to the farmers of the province, or would a change be for the better in some cases?

Other considerations beside yield are involved in this question. Timothy is more conveniently handled and cured than some of the grasses which rank above it in point of yield. Seeding is conducted with less difficulty and at less expense for seed. Orchard and Tall Oat Grass are somewhat coarser than timothy. Their seeds are light and bulky, and are best sown by mixing with the grain and sowing grass seed and grain together. Both, however, give large yields of hay and pasture. Western Rye Grass is finer in texture than the other two, the seed is heavier and easier to clean and handle, and it likewise yields heavily both of hay and pasture. Thus the difficulty of seeding and curing these grasses make this a question in which advantages and disadvantages must be balanced. At the same time, it is not a question to be passed lightly in the assumption that these difficulties incident to the production of heavier yielding grasses will counterbalance the lighter yields of timothy.

The problem is one which can best be solved by each individual farmer on his own land and under his own peculiar conditions. The man who is looking for abundance of pasture will do well to give this question not only careful consideration, but also a practical trial, not necessarily very extensive, but extensive enough to satisfy him as to what is best for his own conditions. A need not despise what we already have and what has given good results in the past, but success lies in improving what we have or in discovering and using something else just a little better.

C. W. ESMOND,
Wellington Co., Ont.

Farm Reforestry

A year ago a plantation of seedlings was started at the Agricultural College, Guelph. The first of these seedlings will be ready for planting in the spring of 1906. In setting out these trees it is intended to have local Farmers' Institutes select two or three plots in each district, either as wind-breaks or as a section of regular forest. It is thought that the plots will serve as demonstrations in forestry work in each county in Ontario. The cost of the seedlings will be anywhere from \$2 to \$5 per acre. A light gravelly or sandy soil will serve well for the purpose, though good agricultural land will be suit-

able. Institutes wishing to co-operate in this work should arrange at their coming annual meetings for what they consider to be the most desirable locations for plots and then communicate with Supt. Putnam, who will arrange to have the plots, which will be.

Sheep Scab in Western Ontario

A rather serious outbreak of sheep scab is reported in Middlesex, Lambton and Kent counties in Western Ontario, and the movement of any live sheep out of the affected districts is prohibited, except when accompanied by a certificate that they are free from disease and intended for immediate slaughter.

Sheep scab is a parasitic disease of sheep, the parasite causing the disease is known as the scab mite or itch mite. The disease is similar to mange or itch in other animals. The scab mite is so small as to remain often undiscovered until the disease is so far advanced as to be an injury to the sheep. It is destructive of both fleece and skin, and is treated promptly and vigorously. It spreads more rapidly during the winter months while sheep are penned and the fleece long.

The most effective treatment of sheep scab is dipping in a lime and sulphur or tobacco and sulphur dip. The lime and sulphur dip is very difficult to make and requires some time in its preparation and is only advisable where there is a large number of sheep to be dipped. To make the tobacco dip, take 16 pounds of tobacco stems or leaves and cover with warm water and let stand for a day. The amount of water used should not be less than 30 gallons, and it is preferable that it should be the full quantity to be used, 100 gallons, if the receptacle is strong enough to hold it. At the end of a day bring the tobacco infusion to the boiling point for a few minutes and allow it to stand over night. Strain off the infusion. Take as many pounds of flour of sulphur as tobacco used, mix the sulphur in sufficient water to make it a smooth, creamy mass. When ready to dip, warm the infusion to 100 degrees, and if only thirty gallons of water has been used, dilute to 100 gallons and add the sulphur and keep it well stirred during the dipping.

The tobacco and sulphur is the most effective, but it is tedious and disagreeable to make, and the average farmer can be best served, perhaps by some one of the good proprietary dips on the market. By following the directions given, a farmer can dip his sheep at little expense and with far less trouble than that involved in making the tobacco and sulphur preparation. By combining a number of farmers co-operatively the tobacco and sulphur can be made. The main thing is to dip the sheep, and if every sheep owner would attend to his there would be no scab in the country.

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