

GAZETTE—Continued.

are arranged to facilitate the importation of stock in cases such as that to which you refer. It is provided that if the certificate is not at hand at the time of arrival at the border, duty on the animals is estimated and deposited, and the animals delivered to the importer, who may, within ten days, file a written stipulation with the collector to produce the proper certificate within six months from date of entry. Upon the production of the certificate in due form within six months of the date of entry, the amount deposited will be refunded to the importer. This arrangement seems to me to be sufficient to accommodate those who desire to import Canadian Ayrshires from Canada into the United States. During the six months the importer can forward his certificates of pedigree to the secretary of the American Ayrshire Herd Book, who will pass upon them, and if the cattle are purebred and entitled to registration in the Ayrshire Herd Book, then he will issue certificates to that effect to be sent to the collector at the port of entry. A similar arrangement exists for animals of other breeds. As noted in your letter, this department considers that the stock associations are competent and able to pass upon the pure breeding of animals, and those which are of a recognized breed and duly registered in the book of record established for that breed can be imported free of duty, while those which are not purebred are excluded.

Yours respectfully,
(Signed) D. E. SALMON,
Chief of Bureau.

A great many store cattle still continue to be exported to the United States. If closer trade relations existed between Canada and our neighbors to the south, a very strong American demand would rapidly develop for Canadian bred cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry. Already American packers have discovered they wish to secure the most profitable British bacon market they must buy and cure Canadian hogs. Canadians everywhere should unite their efforts to produce "The greatest quantity of the best quality" in all lines of stock breeding. The western ranches can produce meats cheaper than we in Ontario. Our hope is in producing animals of superior quality, not such as would please the buyers and consumers of twenty years ago, but such as are required to meet perfectly the demand of to-day. Let us do everything in our power to find out just what the consumers in Canada, the United States, and Britain demand, and then do our utmost to supply this demand with the best possible products. Doing this we will reap satisfactory returns. If we neglect to learn the requirements of the best trade or fail to supply what is demanded in the best markets, our products will surely be driven out of the most desirable markets and even our home will not be assured to us. Ontario's hope is that she shall produce products of the highest grade.

A full report of the above meetings will be published next week.

In Bavaria there are 959 distilleries in which spirits are made from potatoes.

THE BROOD SOW.

The point that the brood sow should not be allowed to get too fat has been urged, and very properly, for it is sound breeding sense that too high condition during the period of gestation is unfavorable to good litters, and too high feeding during the suckling period is bad for the health of the pigs. Still it is possible to create a wrong impression even in urging a truth. It is just as necessary to avoid allowing the brood sow to get poor as it is to prevent her from getting too fat, and it is not unlikely that caution against the latter error has sometimes been pressed so far as to cause some to err on the other side. The reason that the caution against fat is so often necessary is in part due to the fact that western feed stuffs are in the main fattening feeds, and that the improved breeds fatten very easily, there is a tendency, too, to feed a little too high in making preparations for sale, because, in the eyes of many, fat hides a multitude of defects and often makes an animal look better than it is. While, therefore, not a word in regard to the warnings against excessive fat is to be taken back, the opposite mistake should not be fallen into either before or after farrowing. The building up of the frames of a good litter of pigs takes lots of food and the feeding should be liberal, though of non-fattening foods, all through the period of gestation except towards the last, when it is well to reduce it somewhat to avoid trouble at farrowing time. So, after farrowing, the feeding should be light at first, but in the course of ten days it should be gradually brought up to a generous quantity, still avoiding fattening and fever-making feed stuffs. The draft that a lusty litter of pigs makes upon a sow's resources is a heavy one, and good feeding is necessary to meet the strain. The best test is the condition of the sow. She cannot fatten on the amount of feed she ought to have while suckling a litter, but she ought not to be allowed to run down, either. If it becomes evident that this is going to happen in spite of liberal feeding, for the sake of the dam's future usefulness the pigs should have subsidiary feed, even when very young, in order to relieve her of the strain.—*The Wisconsin Farmer*.

BROOD SOWS.

John M. Jamison says, in *The National Stockman and Farmer*:

One fault with so many sows kept on the farm for breeders is that they are too small. If the farmer is a careful and observing man he can, in a few years, produce by selection and feeding a herd of sows that will suit him better than any that he can buy. He breeds into them his manner of treatment and feeding. They are born into the world, as it were, accustomed to him and their surroundings. Sows that come nearest scoring perfect are not regarded as ideal brood sows. The show form is not the practical business or working form.

Leaving this point for the present, we will consider the one that concerns the general farmer, that of developing a form that is best adapted for the production and feeding of the pigs while they need a mother.

It is a general complaint with farm

breeders and feeders that their hogs "run out," that they get too fine boned. When there is this degeneration it must certainly be manifested in the sows. As a rule, the farmer expects to overcome this fault by the purchase of new blood, in which he is as likely to fail as to succeed. Fail, because breeders have been trying to get rid of all superfluous bone and coarseness. If he succeeds in keeping his herd up in size this way it will be costly and not entirely satisfactory, for the reason that the offspring of new males purchased are not satisfactory feeders, because too coarse. Consequently, if the farmer wishes the kind of a herd that will give him the best satisfaction, he must work on his sows and develop them in the line that will give him the desired results. And here comes in a time, if there is such a time, when feeding cuts a stronger figure than selection. For it matters not how much of an expert he may be in selection, if the feeding is not right the selection goes for naught.

As success hinges on feeding, the question is, How shall we feed? It is as clear as sunshine that a sow cannot be developed in a dry lot with only corn for feed and a wire or rail or plank fence for shelter. Neither can she be developed on frozen grass and corn. The exercise taken in gathering frozen grass is about equal in value to the grass.

The farmer that has a large timber range for his sows during winter, where they are allowed the free use of their noses, may get them well developed and feed only corn. But few men have this timber range.

We have found that sows kept in the feed lot where they get the waste from other stock, cows and horses, the droppings from the cows and grains of corn, fodder blades and clover hay, will do well at farrowing time and work for a period of six to nine years. But under this treatment their resources are exhausted in developing and caring for their young, they themselves not developing the form or size desirable in number one brood sows. As a help to this we found it advisable to give the sows the range of a blue grass pasture or clover sod. Still we were not satisfied with the size the sows attained, and found that we must do more, give more feed containing bone and muscle-forming properties.

Most farmers think they do well if they feed their sows slop when they are suckling their litters. They only work with the idea of hastening the growth of the pigs, having no intention of making the sow individually better. We concluded that if such feed was good for the sow to aid her in suckling the pigs, and in giving them strong development, why was it not good for the sow herself?

Now in winter, while the sows have the treatment and surroundings as indicated above, we also feed to some extent bran and middlings with satisfactory results. Our sows grow to better size than formerly, give us larger litters of pigs, are careful mothers, and are even tempered. We have not had a sow kill and eat a pig for years, nor do we expect to have one guilty of this barbarous act in years to come. We are satisfied that if farmers will strive to develop stronger-framed sows, and keep them till they fail to produce good litters, they will get better returns. It is folly to develop a sow

as indicated and then condemn her because too large.

CASTRATING LAMBS.

By J. S. WILKINSON, Niagara County, N. Y.

It always seems strange to me to see how little some very wise men in other things know of the little things which are of great importance in ensuring success in the business in which they are engaged. I have just read an article in a "sheep paper" written by a very extensive and noted breeder of the West, on the topic that heads this article, in which he severely criticized the practice of castrating lambs before they are from a month to six weeks old.

Either the writer of this article has had no experience in this line, or his faculty of observation is so obtuse that he cannot trace the effect from a cause. When a lamb is born its generative organs are very imperfectly developed and there is but very little blood circulating in the parts, and if it be then castrated scarcely any blood will be lost and the lamb will hardly mind the pain. But every day after the lamb gets well on its feet and taking a full share of milk the more pain it will suffer and the greater will be the loss of blood and damage to the lamb. If the lamb is castrated when no more than two or three days old there is no better way to perform the operation than to take a pair of strong sheep shears and with a quick motion cut the entire scrotum off near to the belly; especially is this desirable if the lambs are to be kept to be several years old, as when this is done there is left no purse to annually shear which, while yielding but little and very inferior wool, takes ten times as long to shear as a like amount on any other part of the carcass.

I have castrated hundreds of lambs in this way and never yet lost one by the operation; in fact we castrate all our male lambs even when they are to be sold as winter lambs at from eight to ten weeks of age. We have found by experiment that they will be more quiet and will average several pounds more weight, and when killed will show double the caul and kidney as when left entire.

But no animal develops faster than a lamb, and if left until from four to six weeks of age the organs will be much developed and filled with blood, and if then castrated in ever so careful a manner they will often dump around for several days and occasionally one will be lost.

Of course if the lamb be left until four weeks old it won't do to sever the entire scrotum and the lamb must be castrated by in some way pulling the cords of the testes out their whole length, and this to judge from the action of the lamb must be extremely painful, and as the wound is so deep it takes a long time to heal. Any one who has watched the operation and seen the little fellows writhe in pain, lie down when released, and act almost as though going to die, and then has seen a lamb castrated when only a couple of days old and when let go run for its mother and go to sucking as though nothing had happened, could not but be convinced that the time to castrate a lamb is at the earliest period after it is well on its feet, and not wait until it is even three weeks old.