

ing a critic is to place him on the next committee of selection. In nine cases out of ten the eager critic of the action of others himself proves the most incompetent committee man. The great hiring fair for the season is the Glasgow Spring Stallion Show. It is divided into two sections, one for horses competing for the Glasgow district premiums, the other for horses competing for certain graduated prizes. All entered in the first section are under obligation to accept the premium of the society, and travel in the district round Glasgow during the season. Those entered in the other classes are under no such obligation. The winner of the Glasgow premium may, however, compete in the other section. The secretaries and committees of other societies are invited to make their selections at Glasgow, and on intimating their intention to be present, free passes to the show-yard are sent to them, and a ring reserved for their special use, in which they can obtain a favorable view of the competing horses. This is a system that should be adopted at the Toronto Spring Stallion Show. It does not preclude societies from making arrangements beforehand, but it affords special facilities for making local selections. As a matter of fact in Scotland a good many selections are made before the Spring Show is held. Already, *e. g.*, for the season of 1893, the Stranran District Societies have secured Handsome Prince and Mains of Airies; Stirling has got hold of Belvidere; the Strathmore Horse Breeding society have hired Prince of Carruchan; Lower Wigtownshire secures Orlando; Ayr and Kilmarnock has got hold of Crusader of Orchardmains; Lord Polwarth has hired Prince Alexander for thirty mares at £10 10s., payable at service, and £10 10s. additional for each mare proving in foal; and Eirvan and Ballantrae District has secured the H. & A.'s first prize horse Goldfinder.

SCOTLAND YET.

Should Farmers Grow More Pork?

BY WM. DAVIES.

Many of your readers suppose that we have "an axe to grind" in urging farmers to raise and feed more hogs, sell them alive, and at the proper age and weight. We own "the soft impeachment"; we are desirous of having a regular supply, in order that we may keep our expensive plant and extensive staff of men fully employed. In our last we mentioned the experiments of Prof. Robertson, at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and his remarks thereon, and it is abundantly clear that all we have been advocating for the last few years is in the interests of the farmers as well as pork packers, and we give the following extract from page 93 of his report:—

"The Danes have learned to cater for their customers, and have not believed in trying to sell lard to a man who wants to eat lean pork. So it will pay us to get leaner and less lardy hogs. The quality that is wanted is lean pork from dairy fed swine. To meet the requirements of the English markets, larger numbers of our swine should be sold by our farmers alive. They could then be slaughtered at packing houses, where the carcasses could be treated and cured in a uniform satisfactory manner. As a rule, it pays the farmer and feeder better to sell his swine on foot than to market them as dressed hogs. Canada competes in the English market with the United States, which sent to England the largest proportion of the bacon she imports. We can increase the profit by reducing the cost through economical fattening and selling the animals before they are too large and old. In the course of feeding experiments at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, six pens of pigs were fed for over five months. The experiments at the farm at Ottawa show that four and one-half pounds of grain will give one pound of increase in live weight of swine, and that it is not profitable to fatten swine for any market after the weight of the animal exceeds 200 pounds alive. In some feeding tests, during the first month of feeding, when the pigs weighed from 77 to 103 pounds each, only 3.31 pounds of grain were required for each pound of increase in weight. During the next month, 3.07 pounds of grain

were consumed for every pound of increase in live weight. During the third month, 31 per cent. more grain was consumed for every pound of increase, 86 per cent., 110 per cent., and 125 per cent. more grain was consumed for each pound of increase during the next three months, respectively. At the end of the test the pigs weighed an average of 231 pounds each. For the last month's feeding 6.93 pounds of grain were consumed for every pound of increase in live weight."

All who read the newspapers will see that there is a probability of an extensive export pork-packing establishment being operated in London, Ont. The firm contemplating this venture, of course, expect to have a supply of hogs, and as matters now shape they can only obtain them by abridging the supplies of others, there being no surplus at present raised in Ontario, hence we again urge and entreat farmers to pay more attention to this branch of agriculture. The universal testimony of those who have done so is, that it is profitable. Your readers should bear in mind the difficulties attending the future of the cattle trade, the fact that even if the course is clear for their selling, they are unavailable till they are from two to three years old, whereas pigs can be bred, fed and sold without any difficulty at the age of at most seven months. Then, why should so many farmers stand in their own light by refusing to embark in an enterprise in which we and one or two others are engaged by slaughtering their hogs? Messrs. J. L. Grant & Co., Ingersoll, have made an affidavit, which they have printed in circular form, with results of the loss in weight from live to dressed weight on a number of lots of hogs they have bought. These circulars have been scattered far and wide, and any reasonable man may see from them that export packers are paying considerably more dressed weight for the hogs they buy alive than dressed hogs are selling for on the market. It is time this back number, old fogey business was stamped out, for no matter for what market the product may be intended, it is infinitely superior when manufactured from hogs slaughtered on the premises of the packer, to what it is when killed by the farmer, drawn miles through the mud and rain to a rail road warehouse, piled up like cordwood for a week or more, then again piled into the cars, and on arrival in Toronto or Montreal dragged out and tramped on in the delivery wagons, to receive the same treatment in the warehouses where they are chopped up.

Twenty years ago dressed hogs could be found piled up in cords by the acre in Boston and New York, sent there from the West. We believe we are safe in saying that the business in this line is now defunct.

Cows for More Than One Purpose.

BY A STOCK BREEDER.

Dairymen or, more properly speaking, dairy writers, who breed dairy cattle, are exceedingly fond of heading their articles under such capacious titles as "More special breeding," "The day of the general purpose cow is gone," and other equally appropriate headings, each suggestive that neither milk, butter nor cheese can be profitably produced except from a cow of one of the modern dairy breeds, and not unfrequently before the end of the article the writer comes down with a clincher in which abnormal yields at the pail and churn are given as a matter of every day occurrence, where cows of his or her favorite breed are the reigning belles, proving by figures, if not by facts, that the ordinary one-pound-of-butter-per-day cow or the thirty-pound-per-day-of-milk producer is a thing of the past, only to be forgotten with the obsolete implements of the early days.

Now this indiscriminate warring against breeding cattle that will fill the bill for more than one purpose is the correct thing for the champion of the little Jersey, which cannot be fed for beef, or the notoriously hard-keeping

Holstein, that must be supplied with immense quantities of bulky food, and whose flesh is of mediocre quality at best. It may suffice for the dairy writer in the dairy paper, who incessantly harps on this well-worn string, but it is a question if the general farmer is of this opinion. He is not yet satisfied that every calf born will prove a heifer, and that every heifer will become a cow, and every cow (even if she is bred in strictest line of the highest producing blood) will become such an exceptional milk and butter producer.

Only a few amid the rank and file of patrons of creameries and cheese factories ever hope or expect to own a pure-bred herd of cattle. With them the high grade is as high a notch as they expect to attain, while more farmers expect to make no special effort at supplying either, but rather breed with a view of producing large shipping steers to sell or feed, as the case may be. Therefore they are careful how they throw away the substance to grasp the shadow, and find, when too late, that they have retained nothing but a bag of bones. Again, in repeating here the argument, "Better throw away at the latter end an unprofitable feeder than keep an unprofitable milker," which is a "werry pretty sentiment" as Mr. Weller would say, but is there not really a lack of truth and excess of poetry in the everlasting hash that is served up by a few of the writers of this day? One would really think they could at least control the sex, and that all heifers are sure to breed, and that bad quarters and blind teats were not known in their vocabulary, nor any other of the ills that dairy cattle flesh is heir to, and that no one ever heard of a proper dairy cow that did not give churns full of milk up to the day she was ready to die of old age.

But those stubborn things which are commonly called facts point in a totally different direction; and when we come down to the realities of cow life, we find that there is a large proportion of those which we have had every reason to believe have been bred in the line of record breakers that are after all rather inferior; and many of their sisters, for some inexplicable reason, have gone wrong in some of the above particulars, and that after all they must be consigned to an ignominious death, and their carcasses hung up in the shambles, and before they will make even a moderately presentable carcass they must be fed. And just here a few common-sense points present themselves. Beef will be wanted as long as the world lasts, and is one of the articles that cannot be substituted with a shoddy imitation, like the other productions from the cow. Beef is as much in demand as butter and cheese, and even the special beef cow must give a little milk at certain periods, and in such quantities that it will not pay to throw it away; therefore, after all, we must have milk and beef combined, and although the former may not be obtained in immense quantities, yet both may be profitably produced from cows not belonging to the special dairy breeds.

Ontario has had four annual public trials at the Industrial Exhibitions, and the figures taken from the tests indicate that the so-called general purpose cow does not suffer by comparing them. The first three of these tests I refer to are for the prize awarded by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, for which all breeds were invited to contest.

In 1889 Ayrshires and Jerseys alone came forward.

In 1890 three herds, consisting of three cows in each, two herds being Jerseys and one of Devon cattle, competed.

In 1891 six herds in all competed, three of which were Jerseys and three were Ayrshires.

In 1892 prizes were offered by the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, and for Shorthorn cows, three years and over, which would make the most butter in a ten days' test.

The following are the results of each year:—

In 1889 six cows competed, comprising two herds, three Ayrshires and three Jerseys. The former averaged 27.22 pounds of milk per day, which produced .7631 butter fat per day, the highest Ayrshire giving 27.75 pounds of milk. .793 butter fat. The latter averaged 19.5