

for best results in breeding stock, most of the lambs are dropped just previous to this period.

Preparing for the Litter.

The fall litters are now or soon will be arriving, and the breeder must be prepared for them, at least a short time before they are farrowed. There is very little difference in the period of gestation in different sows. Observations have borne out the statements often made that young or weakly sows generally bring forth their litters a short time, usually about two days, previous to the expiration of the 112 day period, which the average sow takes. On the other hand, an uncommonly robust high-conditioned sow may carry her litter over 114 days. From two to four days is not a very wide variation, so by keeping a record of the date of service, no difficulty is encountered, and no excuse can be offered for not having prepared for the litter upon its arrival.

The sow should be in the pen in which she is to farrow, at least one week before the pigs arrive, and ten days would be better. This is necessary that she, in her nervous state just previous to parturition, become thoroughly accustomed to her new surroundings, that she may be contented and quiet when her litter arrives. Many a pig has been killed by a discontented sow, in her rambling about her new pen, and in her tossing and turning in her uncomfortable bed, uncomfortable because she has been accustomed to roaming over larger fields or paddocks, and has perhaps sought out and prepared what she intended to be the nest for her offspring in some secluded spot in the woods. Never allow the sow to choose her bed before she is placed in the farrowing pen. It means loss in nearly every instance.

Use little bedding in the pen, cut or short straw preferred, and keep it clean and dry. At parturition the sow shows unmistakable signs of desiring to be alone, and she should be left alone as much as possible. During the time she is penned before farrowing handle her, scratch her back, become acquainted with her, so that in case trouble arises during deliverance she will be used to attention, and will not get cross and excited. Keep watch of her, feed her lightly before and after farrowing, and place a ledge around the inside of the pen, to prevent her from lying on her pigs, crushing the life out of them.

An Auction Mart in Scotland.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Being in the town of Montrose, on the east coast of Scotland, I went on a Friday to the Auction Mart of the Montrose Auction Co. This Company has an authorized capital of £10,000, of which about 15,000 shares are sold at 15s. per share, of which only 10s. per share is paid up. They have very commodious premises, very well suited for the trade carried on. There are pens for cattle, capable of accommodating four or five hundred, besides smaller pens for sheep and pigs. There is a sale ring surrounded by raised seats in amphitheatrefashion, capable of seating 250 people. The cattle are first driven on to the scales, which have a large dial plate facing the auditorium, so that all the people can see exactly how much each animal weighs before it comes out to be sold. There is a separate door where the cattle are driven out when sold. There is a small office where the clerks are seated by the auctioneer's platform. I saw fat bullocks sold one at a time, and I don't think more than a minute was occupied in selling each animal. And the auctioneer told me that he had sold two per minute when the bidding was brisk. I saw quite a number of cattle sold that we would call just medium-fat. Many of them, running about 1000, were sold at from £20 to £24.15s. and those weighing 1200, from £25 to £28.10s., of course their cwt. means 112 lbs. Some year-old steers, good thrifty fellows, were sold at £9.10s. each, eight of them weighing 4,100, six store steers weighing 54 cwt., sold for £19.10s. each. The Auction Co. charges farmers three pence per pound for selling. This pays auction fees, storage and all charges. The Auction Co. pay the auctioneer a yearly salary, and they collect all the fees that the auctioneer earns in conducting other sales in the country, during the other days of the week. In some years the auctioneer has sold at the mart, as much as £165,000 worth of live stock. This method of doing business seems to be very popular with the farmers, and the majority of them bring their live stock to be sold. The auction mart is beside the North British Railway Station, and I went out immediately after the sale was over, and found cars already loaded with cattle, that had been bought at the sale, so that the whole business is done quickly and expeditiously. The Auction Co. collect the money for the cattle sold, and pay over to farmers the price of their cattle, less the three pence deducted as fees. Fence posts and other commodities used on the farm are also sold by the Auction Co. They have a number of offices, which they rent to grain merchants, and others who do business with farmers; as practically all the farmers' business is transacted on the Auction Co's premises. I might mention that a

number of pigs were sold, the day that I was there. These were not driven into the sale arena, but the auctioneer went around to the pens and sold the animals. It might be asked, does the auction business pay? The auctioneer told me that the company had paid a dividend of 7½ per cent. per annum for some years. Why cannot farmers in Canada, in the best agricultural districts co-operate and build auction marts, and sell their live stock in this way? The butchers and dealers like the system very much, because they are saved a great deal of time driving all over the country looking for stock, as the stock is taken out to be sold and they can get it for what it is worth. I might mention, that the sale arena and quite a large number of the cattle pens are roofed over, but a number of the pens are open.

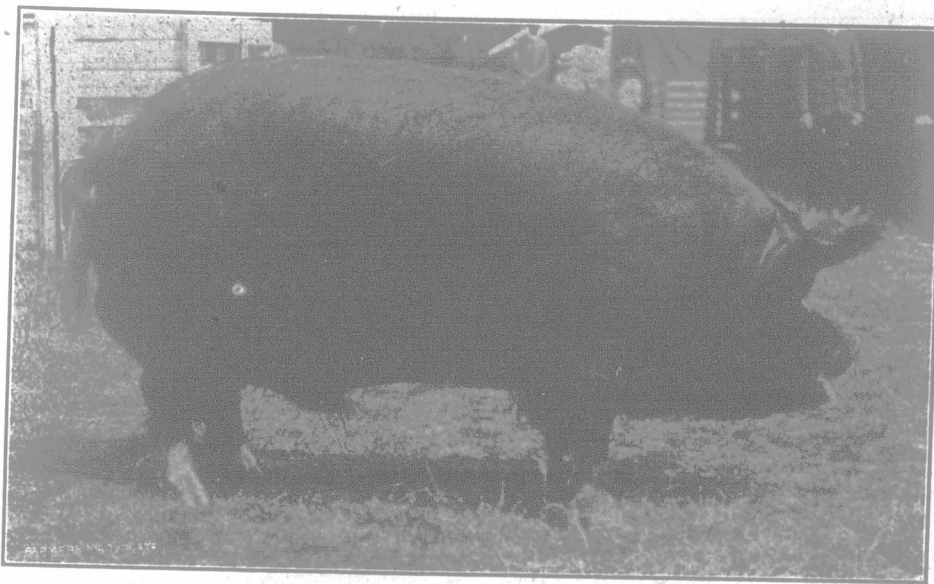
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and excessive immediate individual production are produced at the expense of constitution, which is only another word for vigor or vitality, each succeeding generation, no matter what the class or what the breed, must suffer, and the longer such a policy is carried on the weaker and more degenerated the race will become. At first the effects may be scarcely noticeable, but as this kind of breeding is further pursued the evils gradually become apparent. Persons who have made a careful study of breeding questions have come to the definite conclusion that in every animal there is a correlation of parts. Certain organs in the body are in very close and intimate relation with certain other organs, and a modification of one has a marked effect upon the other. The vital organs are, of course, the most important of the body, and if for any reason they are hampered, in development or over-worked to enhance some other portion of the body, constitution is weakened, and in time the family must dwindle unless different breeding methods are followed.

Purchasers of machinery care not who made the machine as long as it does the work. Farm animals are in a sense machines, manufacturing pork, mutton, beef, milk, or energy.

If care is to be taken in selecting an ordinary inanimate machine, how much more important is it that it should be exercised in selecting breeding stock. When the machine is worn out it goes to the scrap heap; when the breeding animal's race is run, thanks to the laws of heredity (like tends to produce like), all the characteristics subject to the laws of variation are carried on to the progeny, and so on generation after generation.

All great breeders have had ideals toward which they worked. Some ended in success, some in partial and others in complete failure. Concentrating all effort on any one point never proves successful in the end. We all like to see smooth animals, but extreme smoothness comes with fineness, and fineness is not always a mark of vigor. Some of the most noted breeding animals that ever lived have been anything but show animals. Champion of England, one of the greatest of Amos Cruickshank's breeding bulls, was so ungainly that he was only used as a last resource. Yet he was the making of his owner's herd. Why? Largely because he had great constitutional vigor, in short, prepotency. He was massive, strong boned, but rough, and his great



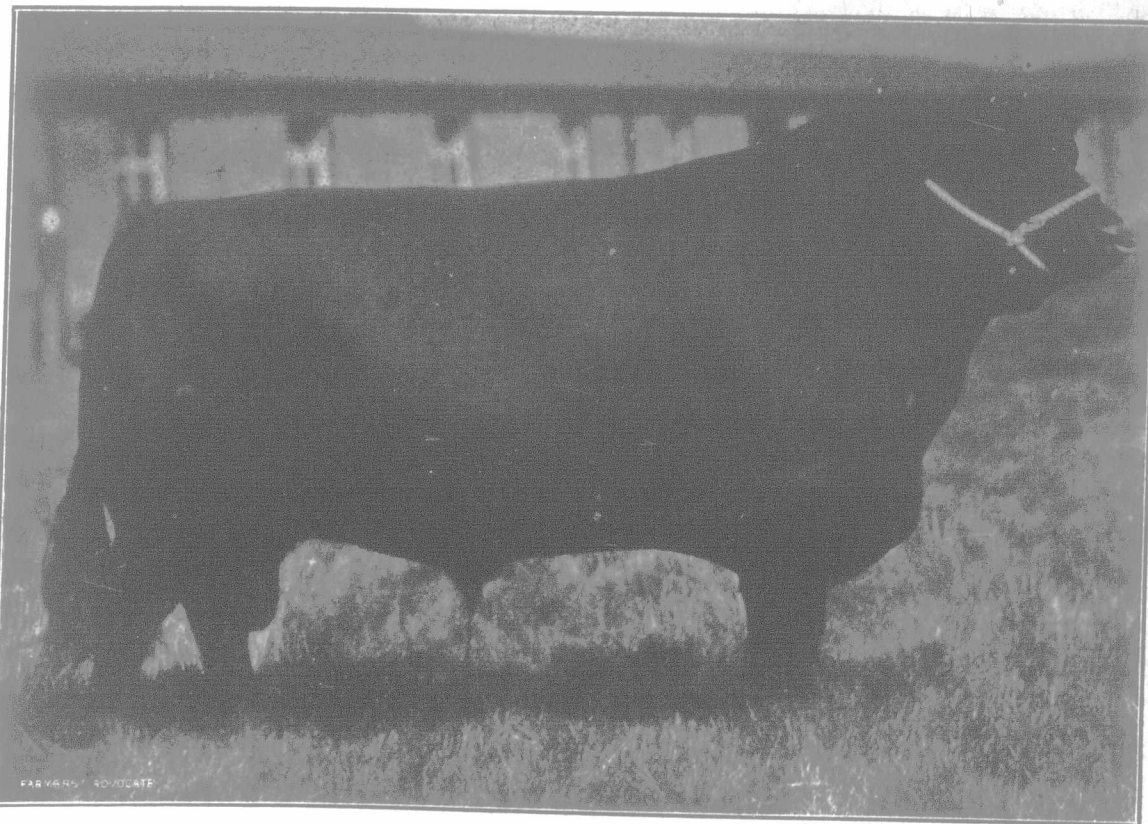
Oxford Viscount.

English Berkshire boar, winner of many first prizes.

Vigor and Vitality in Live Stock Husbandry.

What is vigor? What is vitality? Vigor is sometimes defined as something essential to or supporting life and vitality as the capacity for maintaining life. Too often this capacity is looked upon in relation only to the present life of the individual animal and not as it should be in relation to all the progeny springing from that parent and all future blood lines emanating therefrom. Vitality or vigor, whichever you choose to call it, is hereditary in the strongest sense of the term. Pedigree peculiarities, color fads, type characteristics, economic production, too frequent periods of parturition, scanty feeding, over-feeding, and a host of other factors, are at work today, not always improving, but often materially injuring the vitality and vigor of the individual race, or breed as a whole.

Vitality is the next thing to life itself, and must not be sacrificed to meet immediate aims without weighing carefully the result in years to come. When fancy pedigrees, extremes of quality



Prince Blueblood of Ballindalloch.

Aberdeen-Angus bull. First in aged class and champion, Highland Show, 1912.