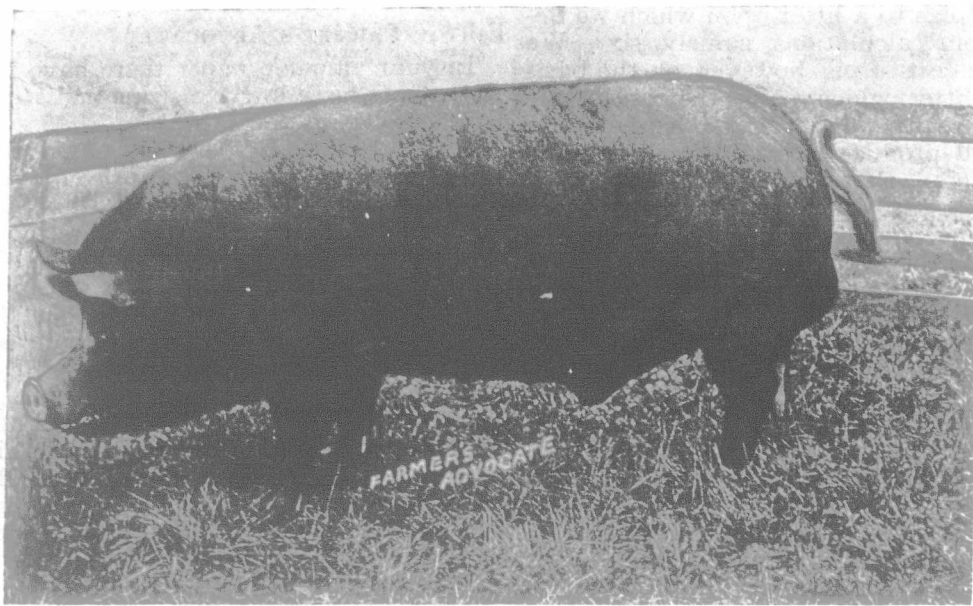




BOAR OF THE BACON TYPE.
Note the length and depth.

results. I am afraid Mr. Freeman has over-looked the statement at the close of my address at the Winter Fair, that the figures offered are not considered as final, but are merely thrown out to start people thinking, while we are at work obtaining further results. Evidently they have accomplished their purpose, though I am sorry to see the position taken by some is rather that of the adverse critic than of a person anxious to sift the matter to the bottom. I would like to repeat that the figures in the paper at the Winter Fair were never intended as final, and they are subject to revision. We may find that it costs much more than the amount stated in the article, or we may find that it costs less. In either case the results will be made public. We have no axe to grind in this matter. Our simple aim is to get at the truth, and we trust that farmers and others will give us their assistance in the effort.

Mr. Freeman cites a disastrous hog-feeding enterprise undertaken by Mr. A. R. Fierheller & Sons. Nobody will dispute what he says, and everyone is willing to admit that a man may easily feed hogs and lose money on them; but if we undertake to prove from a single instance of this kind that hog-feeding in general is unprofitable, would not the same kind of reasoning prove that every business or undertaking under the sun is unprofitable, even the running of a packing-house? We find money lost in almost every undertaking, and we also find other men who are making money in the same kind of business.

I would also like to call attention to a very short letter from the pen of Mr. E. R. Soper. This gentleman fed a number of hogs from the time they were two months old until they weighed 200 pounds alive at a cost of \$5.50 per hog for meal purchased. He does not state what else he fed, but we would have to attach a very high value to the ordinary by-products of the farm in order to make out that these were expensive hogs, and it will be noted, also, that they were of the despised Yorkshire breed. I have no doubt that other gentlemen could give us equally favorable figures from Tamworths, as well as from other breeds of swine, but it is a significant fact that these apparently very cheap gains were made by swine of approved bacon type.

O. A. C. Guelph.

G. E. DAY.

Strong Plea for the Dairy Shorthorn.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Concerning the Shorthorn cow for dairy purposes, combined with her present popular position amongst the beef breeds, I do not think Canadian breeders make the best of this strongest claim the Shorthorn cow has to popularity, the combination of milk and beef.

I think the English Shorthorn Society has the better plan for encouragement along these lines in offering prizes, with a minimum limit of production to be eligible.

Much has been done by our Dominion Association, in a way, to encourage an exhibit of good milking Shorthorns at the Provincial Winter Fair, with the result that several Shorthorn cows at these exhibitions have made records which would be no discredit to any strictly dairy breed. But contrary to the trend of the times in the mother-land, as well as in the United States, where greater efforts are made each year to give prominence to the deep-milking Shorthorn, at our last annual meeting a motion was carried cutting

down the prizes at the only places in Canada where prizes are offered for encouragement of dairy qualities in Shorthorns—the Winter Fairs—and a corresponding decrease was noticed in the exhibit at Guelph in December.

Of course we have never had an exhibit of dairy Shorthorns such as is seen in Smithfield, England. But we have not been trying to loaf. The Winter Fairs are pre-eminently the time and place to have prizes offered for dairy classes or tests. The larger fall fairs would necessitate the calving of the cows at a very unsuitable time of year, and often weather is not safe for pushing them to their best production of milk in the test. Even fairs held in September after, say 25th, are too early but might be utilised; yet all the more important and best attended exhibitions are held earlier.

A special record for milking Shorthorns, such as is proposed by the American Shorthorn Association, would probably not reach the class from which quickest and best results may be expected, the farmers or breeders who are now really using

their cows for the dual purpose, developing the milking qualities, while retaining the highest excellence as beef animals; as a case in point, with the beautiful and almost unbeaten heifers, "Fair Queen" and "Queen Ideal," whose dam made a very creditable showing in the dairy tests in connection with the Winter Fair at Guelph.

The procuring of these records, to have them authentic, would be costly to the owners of the cows, unless some cheaper method is found than has so far been devised, and few would take advantage of them.

Unfortunately, for many years a large portion of our most prominent breeders have scoffed at the idea of developing the milking qualities of the Shorthorns; and, to be sure, it is much easier to have the herd looking sleek and fat if a large flow of milk be successfully discouraged. But a large flow of milk is an inherent trait of the breed, and when reasonably careful methods are followed with that as one of the objects in view, there are comparatively few failures. Milking qualities are not monopolized by any one tribe or group of families. It has been asserted that there is no use looking for milk in Scotch families of Shorthorns, but one of the most remarkable sires of extra good milkers we ever used in our herd was bred by Mr. W. S. Marr from one of his favorite families, yet many ascribe dairy qualities to Bates families alone.

I am very pleased to note that, wherever Shorthorn cattle are known—and that means wherever any attempt has been made to improve the cattle stock—agitation is on in the line of recognizing properly, and improving and developing the deep-milking tendency of the breed.

A. W. SMITH.

The programme for the Killarney, Brandon and Neepawa meetings is meaty and deserves encouragement from the farmers, by a large attendance.

The Horticultural men stand for the building of permanent and beautiful homes in the West, and as such should have all possible support. The future of Canada lies in the happy homes of her citizens.

THE SCREENINGS AND THEIR DESTINATION

During the last year the interest in the destination of the screenings from cars of wheat shipped by the farmers has become much keener, owing to the increase of such hitherto wasted material and the interpretation of clauses of the Noxious Weeds Act by which it was made to appear that the farmer unfortunate enough to grow weed seeds was also to be mulcted of those seeds when grown. From time to time advice has been tendered as to how the weeds are to be eradicated, but until recently few attempts were made in Canada to utilize either the weed seeds or the screenings to advantage, what quantities there were available at the big elevators at the head of the Great Lakes being shipped across the line to Minneapolis and St. Paul, where such were purchased by the feeders, after paying freight and duty, bringing the screenings up to a cost of \$11 to \$12 a ton, duty \$1.50, freight \$3.50, the net price at Port Arthur being \$6.00.

The North American Live Stock company was organized at Port Arthur to turn the screenings into mutton on the spot, the head of the company believing in the maxim, "take stock to the feed, not feed to the stock," and with the annually increasing quantity of screenings, it requires no extra quality of prescience to imagine that Port Arthur will yet be a great, possibly the greatest, feeding and finishing point for Western Canada. Sheep were first stocked up with last fall to the extent of some thousands, and the project from all appearances promises to be successful, the only fly in the ointment being the question of a market for the finished product.

Considerable care has to be observed in the feeding of sheep on screenings, especially at the start, overfeeding and the subsequent loss from indigestion being sufficient to render the venture an unprofitable one, in fact to use a technical phrase

"care has to be exercised in getting the sheep on to feed," a week or more being allowed to elapse before the sheep are allowed to take their fill at the self-feeders, and even then the screenings are selected and, as seen by us, would not contain more than a dozen grains of wheat of any kind in a handful of the screenings, which were made up of weed seeds and short straws, a couple of inches long. From the appearance of these screenings, we assume that the dockage from the farmer's wheat is subjected to a grading process, the screenings as fed to the sheep, being the low grade stuff, and a pertinent query is "what becomes of the high grade stuff made up of small wheat?" As \$6.00 a ton is obtained for the low grade screenings considerably more, it is fair to assume, will be obtained for the higher grade stuff, and the only conclusion any fairminded person can come to is, that so long as the farmer shipper has to pay freight to the Lakes on the dockage, for which he receives, nothing, great injustice is done him—in plain English—he is being robbed! The dictionary does not contain a word descriptive enough of the toll usually taken by the local elevator or millmen from the farmer, who markets by the load on the street.

In one yard was noticed a bunch of 2000 lambs, range bred, carrying considerable Merino blood, but with a dash of some of the blood of the British mutton breeds, the Shropshire, being shown markedly. Ninety to one hundred days are calculated as the feeding period, the lambs being put in about the end of November, put on to feed a week later, which is gradually increased. During February shearing is done, after which the lambs just jump ahead in the matter of gains, being relieved of the fleece and the ticks. The shearing machine is used, as with such large numbers, hand work with the shears would be out of the question.