

Dairy Cattle.—Saturday, 1 p. m., commencement of dairy test; Monday, 1 p. m., conclusion of dairy test.

Beef Cattle.—Tuesday, 2 p. m.; Wednesday, 10 a. m., continued until finished.

Sheep.—Tuesday, 2 p. m.; Wednesday, 10 a. m., continued until finished.

Swine.—Bacon hogs: Tuesday, 2 p. m.; other classes, Wednesday, 10 a. m.

Poultry.—Tuesday, 8 a. m.

#### BLOCK TESTS.

The killing of the different classes of live stock will commence as follows (exhibitors will carefully note Rule 11 of the prize-list):

Bacon Hogs.—Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 8 a. m.

Cattle.—Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 3.30 p. m.

Sheep.—Thursday, Dec. 12th, 8 a. m.

The exhibit of carcasses in the cooling room will be open to the public Wednesday evening, Thursday afternoon and evening, and Friday morning, and, if possible, Wednesday afternoon. This department will be in charge of Prof. R. W. Wade, O. A. College.

#### RAILROAD RATES.

General Public.—Single-fare rates for all Ontario points east of Port Arthur, on the usual certificate plan, will be available.

#### EXHIBITORS' LUNCHEON.

The exhibitors of live stock at the Winter Fair will be entertained at luncheon by the City Council from 12.30 p. m. to 1.45 p. m. Exhibitors of sheep and dairy cattle on Tuesday, exhibitors of swine on Wednesday, and exhibitors of beef cattle on Thursday.

#### HOTEL ACCOMMODATION.

The City Council, Board of Trade and Fat-stock Club have taken up the question of accommodation, and have placed a competent man in charge of the work. He will have an office in the City Hall, close to the Fair Building. Persons wanting accommodation should see him at once upon arrival at Guelph. Any person wishing to arrange for accommodation beforehand should write to Ald. J. M. Struthers, Chairman Reception Committee, Guelph.

[Note.—Detailed programme of lectures and list of meetings appear on another page in the back part of this paper.]

#### DON'T SACRIFICE THE BREEDING SOWS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Of late we have heard much comment on the matter of raising a fresh crop of pigs in the face of a 6-cent market and high-priced feed. This is the initial question that would naturally be asked by the fellow who uses his hands but forgets he has a brain. We have made it our business to inquire into this matter, and only last week, while in the stock-yards, were astonished to find so many fine specimens of brood sows, well advanced in pig, going to the slaughter-house. This was not the only thing that impressed us. Pigs half-grown, pigs half-fed, and pigs of all shapes and sizes were dumped on the packer. The only cause we can attribute this to is the farmer getting rid of his stock at sacrifice prices in order that he may sell his grain. This may seem very well for the present, but there is always a future. Indications are pointing to cheaper feed, and what are we going to do for hogs next summer. We are not going to have half enough. The packers are already predicting high prices for March and April pigs, and in our own locality a large packer has been going through the country and offering the farmer pigs and feed for nothing, and to give every tenth hog to the farmer for his trouble of feeding. This looks good to us, and we are filling every available space in our barns in order to be able to supply the demand for breeding stock to replace those valuable matrons that were sent to the factory. History will repeat itself, and soon the farmer will wake up and find cheaper feed, with hogs selling at top-notch prices, and many men with nothing to look at but empty pens. Much controversy has taken place from time to time as to the cause of hogs taking a slump, in the face of good local and foreign markets for the packers. Usually the packers have had to take the blame for such conditions, but the farmer, we believe, is wholly responsible for the existing low prices. Is it reasonable to suppose that any firm could be expected to pay even a reasonable price for goods that are totally unfit to put into their business; in fact, which, if continued for any considerable length of time, would ruin any trade? D. C. FLATT & SON.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

A prompt renewal of your subscription to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" is requested.

#### THE WHY AND HOW OF THE SHEEP INDUSTRY.

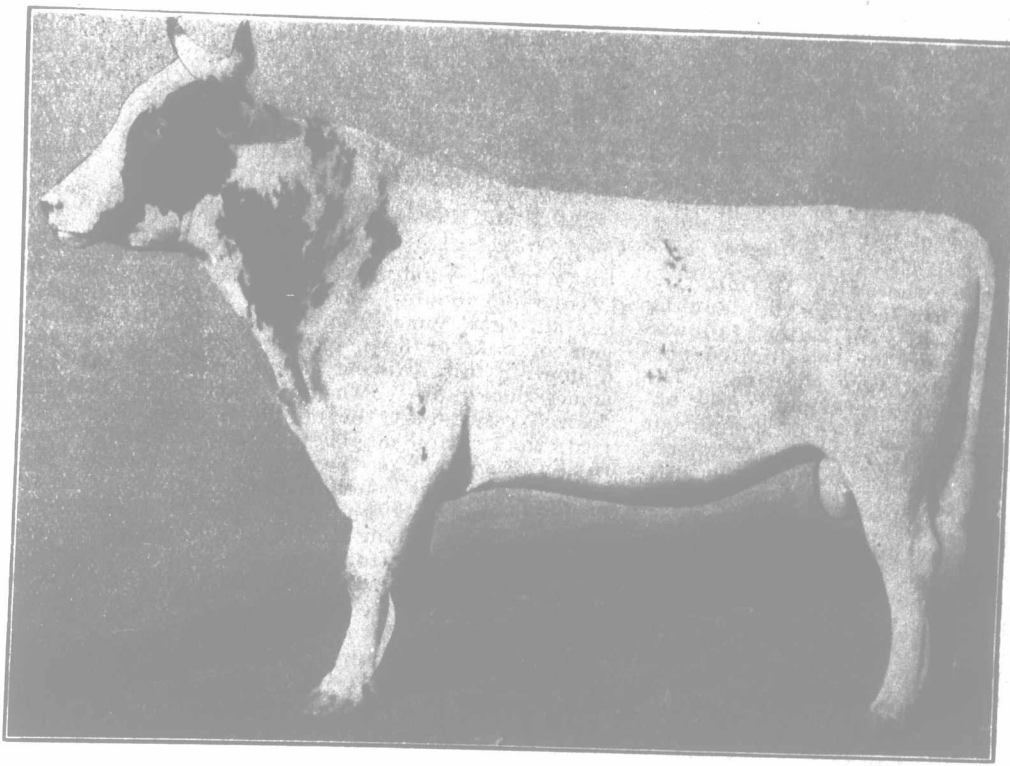
During the last decade of the last century the sheep industry was at a low ebb. Mutton, in common with other articles, was low, while wool was away down, at a price which made selling seem like giving away. The census of 1901 actually found rather fewer sheep in the country than in 1891. Since 1901, sheep have not increased very rapidly in numbers, because the increased demand for mutton and the consequent high prices led farmers to sell many of their ewe lambs, as well as wethers. The growth of the



Two-year-old Southdown Ram.

First prize and champion of the breed, Royal Show, 1907. Shown by W. M. Cazalet.

dairy industry in some sections caused farmers to do away with their sheep, because sheep are thought to be hard on pasture. Others, with suitable environment for sheep, did not go into raising them because they feared low prices again. To-day, on the average farm, all sides of the question considered, and the debits and credits duly brought down, sheep are the BEST-PAYING CLASS OF LIVE STOCK. They require less handling than other kinds. Handling takes labor, and labor is both scarce and dear. They will do well on land unsuitable for any other class of stock, and they will help clear a dirty farm of most of its noxious weeds. There are upwards of six hundred weeds and grasses in America. Of these, horses will eat eighty-three, cattle fifty-five, and sheep five hundred and fifty. These facts, coupled with the steadily-increasing demand for mutton, at paying prices, and the high price of wool, should lead many farmers to double their flocks and improve their management, and



Pearlstone 18510.

Ayrshire bull, three years old. First in aged class, Canada Central Exhibition, Ottawa, 1907. Exhibited by D. M. Watt, St. Louis Station, Quebec.

consequently treble their returns. Almost every farm could keep two dozen good breeding ewes without very materially lessening the number of other animals kept now. Northern and Eastern Ontario and Quebec have much land that would yield a good revenue from sheep that is being unsuccessfully cultivated or grazed by cattle—i. e., if a suitable breed is kept and properly managed.

#### MISTAKES IN MANAGEMENT.

Those acquainted with the industry know that on many farms the management is bad. One of the first great mistakes is the use of grade and scrub rams, with the consequent result, poor

lambs and a run-out flock. There are sections where a good pure-bred ram is not to be found. The ewes are long-legged, ragged of fleece, and usually altogether bare underneath. Long, thin necks, hollow backs, with a lack of heart-girth, and consequently lack of good heart and lung power, without which the whole body cannot be properly nourished, are those most frequently met with. These sheep are fine in the bone, and it is not necessary to feel to be sure there is no flesh on their bodies. From districts like this come to the market the lambs that average up the lower side of sixty pounds, and are dear at any price, because they will not kill out much over forty per cent. dressed weight. This is not the worst feature. The carcasses are so lean and tough that, to the consumer, they are dear at any price. Lambs of this sort are bought at from 1½c. to 2c. per pound below the ruling prices, if bought at all. It invariably happens that in districts where poor sheep are raised the rams are not castrated, and both sexes are allowed to wag long tails.

#### GETTING NEARER THE TOP.

Other districts have slightly better sheep. Good rams of fair quality are used, and better food is given, with the result that the lambs run, from 60 to 80 pounds, the average being between 65 and 70 pounds. Lambs of this class usually average up in price from ½ to 1c. less per pound live weight. Very many districts raise this class. There are still other districts where the lambs average 100 pounds or better. These lambs are of good type, well-fleshed and woolled. All tails are trimmed off, and no ram lambs are to be found amongst them. This class of lambs top the market, and pay the breeder and butcher good profits, and supply the consumer with a choice article. They invariably come from sections where nothing but pure-bred rams are used, and the ewes look, in many cases, like pure-breds. There, for many years the breeder has used nothing but pure-bred sires, and of one particular breed—not a Leicester this year and a Shropshire next year. While both these are excellent breeds, it is impossible to grade up a flock by such a practice.

#### A FEW FACTS TO THINK OVER.

This fall, one breeder we know of brought in 17 lambs to the buyer, his whole lamb crop from 20 ewes. They averaged barely 60 pounds. The buyer, under protest, paid 4c. per pound, or \$2.40 each. A man in another district brought in 20 lambs that averaged 102 pounds. He kept 20 ewes, and his lamb crop from these once reached the 28 mark; this year it was 24. He was paid 5½c. per pound, or \$5.60 each. The 20 brought \$112, to say nothing of the four best ewe lambs

retained as breeders. The first man's lambs brought \$40.80. Bad luck or a dozen other excuses may be made for the poor lot, but sheep-breeders know that well-bred, well-fed and properly-mated sheep raise a good percentage of strong twin lambs, while in run-out flocks that are neglected, one is the limit, and well if it lives. Poorly-fed ewes, served by poor scrub rams, produce weak, sickly lambs that give no end of trouble trying to get them to live—very often trouble taken in vain. The second man is making the

first man was in it because in some way he had to make a bare living, and sheep seemed easiest. The good pure-bred ram used cost \$40, the scrub was valued at \$5; we doubt if he was worth it. The four ewe lambs could not be bought for \$25. Say the 21 lambs were worth \$137; the 17 brought \$10.80—\$96.20 of a difference. This great difference came not by the use of one superior sire in one year—breeding operations do not work so fast—but by the continued use of good pure-bred sires of this one breed, and by a rigorous culling out of the inferior ewes, coupled with good feeding and management.