

off in the crop of cattle fed this year is not doubted.

Old-timers in the trade, who have been successful in a combination of farming and cattle-feeding, take the view that the coming winter is to be a favorable time for fattening good cattle. The chances are that feed will be reasonably high, but they say: "We have made more money feeding cattle on high-priced corn than when it was very cheap."

The fear of the timid farmers and feeders who have not the courage, after the disasters of the last two years in feeding cattle, to look for their money where they lost it should work to the benefit of the men this year who again enter the speculation of providing good beef for American and foreign consumers.

Mating the Flock.

The question of the best time to mate the breeding ewes of the flock with the ram is one that each flockmaster must decide for himself, in view of his position and purposes. If he is raising pure-bred sheep to show or to sell for breeding purposes, he will probably have the flock mated before this date, as March is the favorite month in which to have lambs born for this purpose, but the average farmer is, perhaps, better suited to have his lambs come in April, as there is then less risk of loss from cold weather, and the ewes do not need extra feeding so early in the spring, and, hence, can be brought through the winter at less expense. There is, however, this advantage in the case of early lambs, that the ewes get exercise in the fields for a longer period during pregnancy, and the lambs are, in consequence, stronger when born and more likely to go on well. The present date, November 20th, is, however, a good time to breed the ewes, as this will bring the lambs in the last two weeks in March, and in case of the ewes that return to the ram, early in April. The ewes should be in good thriving condition at mating time, in order to get the best results in the number and vigor of the offspring at birth, and to this end they should have the run of good fresh pasture.

In this, as in other classes of stock, the improvement of the flock depends largely on the character and quality of the sire selected for service. The ram should be, at least, as good an individual as the best of the ewes. He should be pure-bred, whether the ewes are or not, and should be a good representative of the breed to which he belongs, strong in constitution, masculine in his whole appearance, with a ram's head, broad in crown and short in face, with a short, thick neck, wide chest, big heart-girth, short strong and well-set legs, standing straight up on his toes, and a good walker. His flesh, when in good condition, should be firm, and cover his backbone, and his fleece dense, fine, lustrous, and of even quality all over his carcass, with no black wool intermixed, while his skin should be of a fresh pink color.

A yearling or older ram, if in good condition, and not overfed for show purposes, may attend to forty or fifty ewes, running with them, with no extra feeding, if the pasturage is good, though he will be the better of a feed of oats once or twice a day, especially if he has been a show sheep and used to grain-feeding. A matured ram may attend to a larger number of ewes if kept in the stable and fed regularly, the ewes being brought up every morning, those in season picked out, and but one service allowed to each, at intervals of an hour or two during the day. A strong ram lamb, born in February or March, may attend to twenty to thirty ewes, according as he is fed and cared for. The better condition he is kept in, the better results may be expected from his services. In order to be assured whether the ram is proving fruitful or not, it is well to mark his breast, for the first two weeks he is with the ewes, with red lead mixed with water, and, at the end of that time, with lampblack, so that it can be seen whether any considerable number have returned to him. It sometimes happens that a ram is not very sure for the first two or three weeks after being brought under new conditions, and is more sure after becoming used to his new surroundings, but if many of the ewes return more than once, it is well to get a change of ram, lest there be a loss of a crop of lambs, or, at best, a very late crop. Where metallic ear labels with numbers are used, a record of the date of service of each ewe may be kept. This requires considerable time and attention, and is not likely to be attended to except in the case of high-class, pure-bred flocks, though, with a few hurdles in the corner of a field, to improvise a pen, the time required to keep such record is not great, and it is a satisfaction to know just when each ewe is due to produce.

Formerly I used to take a bee journal, but lately I find I have been getting as much practical information on bees from your weekly paper as in any \$1 bee journal I have taken. W. A. OSWALD.
Petit Brule, Que.

Judging Schools.

Of late educational methods have had a tendency to become more practical, and greater stress is yearly being laid on illustrations and object lessons. The efficiency of this system as compared with the more formal academic training is not doubted by those who have had an opportunity to compare the two, either as student or teacher. Intimate association with things is the quickest and most lasting way of gaining their thorough acquaintance, as in this way their distinctive characteristics are impressed first hand upon one's faculties, and a more vivid and lasting impression is created than can be secured by endless talking regarding it. The very best results are secured where the pupil before taking a practical lesson has previously been told somewhat of the characteristics and peculiarities of the object which he is about to study, as he is then in a position not only to see all that he would have without such a preliminary schooling, but also to verify his first impressions and value them according to their comparative importance.

After life on a stock farm itself, live-stock judging schools are, therefore, the most effective agencies in acquainting pupils with the peculiarities and characteristics of the various classes and breeds of live stock. Following in the steps of Farmers' Institute work of the last few years their work should be most effective, for while the institute meetings have been successful in stirring up a sentiment in favor of a better class of stock through the country, for some time it has seemed to many that the same story was being repeated to them year after year, and that the programme needed revivifying. This could be effected by the aid of judging schools, conducted, possibly to a limited extent, at fall fairs, but more generally at winter meetings. In years our fall fairs may so change that such work as this can profitably be carried on at them, but at present comparatively few people attend them who would be willing to spend sufficient time under an expert judge

Photos of Dwellings.

PRIZES OFFERED.

The success of our recent camera competition, and the desire to encourage the building of attractive farmhouses, leads the Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine to offer, under similar conditions, two prizes—1st, \$3.00; 2nd, \$2.00—for a photo competition of farmhouses erected in 1902, 1903 or 1904. Mark the name and P. O. of owner and the name and P. O. of the competing photographer on back of photos, which must reach this office not later than Nov. 5th.

to get any permanent good therefrom. The importance and the use of judging schools must, therefore, be demonstrated through the Farmers' Institutes, and when their utility is recognized they might be adopted at country fairs.

The primary object of such schools is to provide a means whereby people may become acquainted with the most desirable and profitable types of live stock. It is very easy to put down on paper what type of animal is best suited to a particular purpose, but it is a different matter to recognize the type when it is seen. A few there are who can fully appreciate the description of a profitable as compared with an unprofitable type of bullock, but the great majority require to have the animals before them, to see them with their eyes and handle them before the lesson is of permanent good. It is necessary to see good action in a horse before it can be understood or recognized when seen again. Practice is, of course, required before a person becomes competent to balance the good points and deficiencies of a number of animals so as to be able to properly place them in a ring, but such proficiency is not usually aimed at in a short course.

Even in a very short course of judging of the merits of animals, in the balancing of their qualities and discriminating against their weak points, there is a valuable training of the perceptive faculties. The eye is trained to take in quickly what is seen; to as quickly turn it over and give its value. To have one's faculties alert and eager is worth a great deal more to a man in his daily routine of life than a store of knowledge that can be called into play only after deliberation. This can be accomplished only by giving them constant exercise of the right kind. J. M.

Has no Equal.

I have just received a copy of the "Farmer's Advocate," and can say that I have never seen a journal, treating on all agricultural subjects, that can equal the "Farmer's Advocate."

Wishing you success. C. M. TOWNSEND.
Victoria Co., Ont.

Our Scottish Letter.

The season rapidly draws to a close; the harvest of 1904 is all but over. Its outstanding feature has been the difference between it and that of 1903. Seldom does Scotland enjoy so dry a harvest season as that now concluded. September is usually a good month. This year it has surpassed itself, and the farmer has every reason to be satisfied. Crops, however, are light, and the general result of the year will not be wonderful, although, of course, a good harvest, even with a light crop, is much to be preferred to a bad harvest with a heavy crop. The days of heavy crops and good harvests appear to have passed; at least, we do not seem to hear about them now. The potato crop is the sensational one this year. Fabulous prices are being reported for new varieties, and the public ear is being regaled with wonderful fairy tales. The number of firms now engaged in the production of new varieties is legion, and the new varieties are also so numerous that one wonders where it is all going to end. In some cases, the hint is given that the "new" varieties are not new; a good many are old friends with new titles. This is, perhaps, true in a measure, but one can never tell whereunto these things will tend. To resist disease, new varieties are necessary. The best varieties all seem, sooner or later, to succumb to disease, and the only remedy lies in reinvigorating the stock in the direction indicated.

One of the most interesting events of the past month was the trials of motors, under the auspices of the Highland and Agricultural Society at Perth. The object of these trials was to learn whether the new motor power could be successfully applied to the purposes of agriculture. Two motors were in evidence at the Perth trials—one put upon the market by an English gentleman named Ivel, and bearing his name; the other of Scots origin, patented by Mr. John Scott, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. The former is a very nimble machine, and took its harvester round the field in double-quick time. It went round and round, and did not make a bad job. The Scott went more deliberately to work, and, perhaps, did fully the best work while going on. Both, however, have a good deal to do before they can be regarded as commercial successes. The trials were not competitive; the object was not to discover which was the better machine, but simply to see whether the new motive power can be successfully applied to agricultural practice. Besides the application to the harvester, we had a trial of the motors in plowing, and here, again, good work was done. Indeed, on the whole, the "engines" were more at home in drawing the plow than in circumnavigating a field of growing oats. The crux of the question is whether these machines are more economical than horse-power. On this problem no light was cast. The one machine was ticketed £300, the other £200. If they could be adapted for continuous work on the farm, the question of cost might be solved, but until it be so, most farmers will pin their faith to the quadruped. It is said that there is not now more than one steam plow in East Lothian, where once there were a dozen. The horse has recovered his position, and he is likely to do so in many more instances than this.

Two notable men in connection with agriculture have recently been taken away. Mr. James Hunter, of the noted firm of Austin & McAslan, seedsmen, Glasgow, and Mr. James Wallace, the head of the firm of John Wallace & Sons, Ltd., Agricultural Engineers, Glasgow, died in the beginning of September. Mr. Hunter was long a prominent figure in agricultural circles, and took an active part in organizations connected with agriculture. He was a warm-hearted, kindly man, and was held in much respect by his employees. Mr. Wallace was in every respect an exemplary man. His ability in business was widely recognized, and not less was his widespread charity and interest in everything that tended to the amelioration of the social condition of the poorer classes. He was a broad-gauged man, and made many friends on both sides of the Atlantic. His firm were agents for the famous Oliver chilled plows, and the intimacy between his firm and that of James Oliver may be inferred from the fact that his home was called South Bend, after the Oliver town in Indiana.

Numerous sales of pure-bred A.-A. cattle have taken place during the past few weeks. The dispersion of the Glamis herd was, of course, the outstanding event. The average price of 66 head was £11 10s. 9d. The highest price was 165 gs., made by a cow named Verdant Vine. Her daughter, a yearling heifer, made 105 gs. Several Erics, as usual, made good prices. One went at 125 gs., and another at 110 gs. The average of the 21 cows was £52 5s. 7d., and of 10 yearling heifers, £51 19s. 6d. These figures show how good a demand there is for first-class female specimens of the polled breed. At Danesfield, in England, at a draft sale a fortnight later, 16 head made an average of £33 19s. 6d. each. This sale took place near to London, the exposé being Mr. R. W. Hudson, the proprietor of the