

of the West being especially fortunate. Those who have been in the sheep business for any considerable time, who have seen the day when they could not part with their sheep as a gift, and were obliged to sell wool at less than one-third of its present value, are most deserving of congratulation. This unprecedented period of prosperity has awakened a world-wide interest in sheep, and has helped to break down the barriers of prejudice which have prevented them from being estimated at their proper value. Among farmers a new life has been infused into the sheep husbandry. The high price of wool, the increased demand for mutton, and the value of sheep as a soil restorer, have convinced these tillers of the soil that the sheep is the most profitable of farm animals. From every section of the country, especially from the corn-belt region, come reports of an all-devouring demand for breeding ewes. Anything which could be considered capable of bearing a lamb has been placed at a premium. It must be admitted that a good deal of stuff which should have been fed off has gone to swell the number of small flocks which have been started this season. The wisdom of this policy is questionable, but we have no desire to dissuade those who can afford to make the experiment, though it were to be wished that the desire to increase the number of sheep were less persistent than the efforts made to improve the quality.

The demand for long-wool lambs has been a feature of this year's Western lamb trade. The desire to produce a dual-purpose sheep is doubtless a strong factor to be reckoned with in explaining this demand. Many flockmasters have expressed a wish to produce early lambs, and choose medium-wool rams for this purpose, while others are on the lookout for Cotswolds, Lincolns or Oxfords, as a means of improving the size and frame of the finer-fleeced types.—[Shepherd's Bulletin.]

### Breed as a Factor in Feeding Animals.

By Prof. G. E. Day.

Nearly every farmer who feeds stock has his favorite breeds, and is firmly convinced that certain breeds are more profitable to feed than others. While there is little doubt that some breeds of stock are better adapted to certain conditions of climate, systems of management and environment than others, it is a significant fact that when different breeds of flesh-producing animals have been fed side by side under the same conditions, no constant difference in favor of any one breed has been discovered, so far as ability to make economical gains is concerned. Even in such extreme cases as where steers possessing considerable dairy blood have been fed in comparison with steers of the purely beef breeds, no marked advantage in economy of gains on the part of the beef breeds has been found to exist. Such a statement seems almost incredible, yet investigators have never been able to show that cattle of the beef breeds produce flesh more cheaply than those of other breeds. It is only when it comes to marketing the cattle that the difference between the different classes becomes apparent, the beef breeds producing much superior beef, and consequently selling for a much higher price per pound.

Comparisons of the breeds of sheep have not been very fully worked out, but, so far as they have gone, the indications are that the same rule practically holds true.

In swine, experiments with breeds have been conducted by the Ontario Agricultural College. At this institution six breeds of swine were compared as to the cost of producing 100 pounds gain live weight, and the table which follows shows the standing of the breeds with regard to economy of production in each experiment:

Breeds arranged in order of economy of production.

1st Exp.—1, Berkshire; 2, Tamworth; 3, Poland China; 4, Duroc-Jersey; 5, Chester White; 6, Yorkshire.

2nd Exp.—1, Berkshire; 2, Tamworth; 3, Poland China; 4, Chester White; 5, Yorkshire; 6, Duroc-Jersey.

3rd Exp.—1, Yorkshire; 2, Berkshire; 3, Duroc-Jersey; 4, Tamworth; 5, Chester White; 6, Poland China.

4th Exp.—1, Berkshire; 2, Tamworth; 3, Yorkshire; 4, Chester White; 5, Duroc-Jersey; 6, Poland China.

5th Exp.—1, Berkshire; 2, Yorkshire; 3, Duroc-Jersey; 4, Chester White; 5, Tamworth; 6, Poland China.

If we considered only the Ontario experiments, we would come to the conclusion that the Berkshires, Yorkshires and Tamworths had scored a decided advantage; but when we refer to the Iowa Experiment Station's tables, in similar experiments, we find the Duroc-Jersey and the Yorkshire taking a leading place, while the Tamworth and Berkshire occupy a much less prominent position.

If there is anything in the breed to which swine belong which influences their ability to turn food into flesh, how is it that some one breed did not maintain a position at or near the top of the list throughout these experiments? There is only one logical answer to this question, and that is, breed is not a factor in influencing the economy of production. Further, there

is only one way of accounting for the variations which occurred in each experiment, and that is on the ground of the individuality of the animals. There is little doubt, therefore, that animals possessing good constitution and quality will make economical use of their food, no matter what breed they may belong to.

When it comes to the question of marketing, we find that, as in the case of cattle, there is a marked variation in the kind of meat furnished by some breeds as compared with others. The carcasses from swine used in the Ontario experiment were sent to the slaughter-house and critically compared by experts, and the following tables show the breeds arranged in order of their suitability for the manufacture of bacon for the English market:

Breeds arranged in order of suitability for the manufacture of Wiltshire sides.

1st Exp.—1, Yorkshire; 2, Tamworth; 3, Berkshire; 4, Duroc-Jersey; 5, Poland China; 6, Chester White.

2nd Exp.—1, Yorkshire; 2, Tamworth; 3, Berkshire; 4, Chester White; 5, Duroc-Jersey; 6, Poland China.

3rd Exp.—1, Yorkshire; 2, Tamworth; 3, Berkshire; 4, Poland China; 5, Chester White; 6, Duroc-Jersey.

4th Exp.—1, Yorkshire; 2, Tamworth; 3, Berkshire; 4, Chester White; 5, Duroc-Jersey; 6, Poland China.

5th Exp.—1, Yorkshire; 2, Berkshire; 3, Chester White; 4, Tamworth; 5, Duroc-Jersey; 6, Poland China.

6th Exp.—1, Yorkshire; 2, Tamworth; 3, Berkshire; 4, Duroc-Jersey; 5, Poland China; 6, Chester White.

A mere glance shows that there is much more constancy about these tables than about the preceding ones. The Yorkshires and Tamworths hold their place at the top of the list in each of these tables, except one, where the Tamworths were placed as low as fourth place. The Chester Whites, Duroc-Jerseys and Poland Chinas appear at the bottom of the list in nearly every case, being essentially fat-producing breeds, and suitable for the production of the type of hog popular in the United States, but entirely unsuitable for supplying the markets to which Canadian packers cater. The Berkshire, it will be noted, holds a sort of intermediate place between the bacon and fat type. Though unsuitable on the whole for making the best Wiltshire sides, at the same time it comes nearer to meeting the requirements of the packer than the three American breeds.

### How Should Breed Associations' Grants be Divided?

[From our Manitoba and Western edition.]

There seems to be some misapprehension in the minds of many as to the principle underlying the giving of grants by breed associations. That principle is to advertise each particular breed as much as possible, and to stimulate emulation among breeds and breeders. Some breeders, intensely loyal to their Province or locality, would have the grants divided pro rata, based on their contribution to the association's funds, which, if followed out to its logical conclusion, would mean the dissipation of the grant into a lot of small prizes at local fairs, with no corresponding benefit to the breed association contributing.

We are entirely in accord with the idea that the Provinces should each receive a share of the association's grants for shows, the size of that grant to be based on the membership and registration fees paid, and that the members of the association in each Provincial live-stock association should advise the executive of the breed association as to how such grants might be distributed, but believe that the final allotment should be in the hands of the Dominion executives, which, of course, should be representative of the Provinces.

If the methods advocated by some were followed out, the Provincial associations would have the handling of the moneys, which would then be divided among the smaller shows, and might go into the pockets, via the show-ring, of course, of the breeders happening to be on the live-stock associations' executives, and the advertising results for the breeds would be nil!

At present, the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association gives annually from five to seven hundred dollars to Manitoba, which has generally been allotted to Winnipeg and Brandon. The suggestion has been made by some interested people—men enthusiastic for the success of their local fairs—that Killarney, Neepawa, Saskatoon, Carberry, and shows of that class, should participate in these grants, a suggestion that is ridiculous when the basic principle—advertising the breed in competition with other breeds—underlying such grants is clearly understood, and also that such shows are merely county shows, and local in their patronage, although striving to do good work in their respective districts.

Time brings a good many changes in its train, and five years hence opinions may, by the logic of events, be forced to change, but from an experience of the various shows in the prairie country, we consider it would be inadvisable for the breed

associations to make grants, bearing in mind the interests of each breed, and not of individual breeders, to shows other than Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, Calgary and Edmonton. The breed associations would do well, however, to stipulate to the quintette of shows mentioned, that the size of the grant would depend somewhat on the amount offered by each fair board from its funds, so as to ensure a strong prize-list for the breed, and to prevent the recipients from pruning down their own list and substituting the breed association grant therefor. Further, we would suggest to the Shorthorn, Hereford, Clydesdale, and other associations, that the major grant be alternated between shows, so as to get the maximum amount of advertising, by giving the big end of the grant allotted to each Province, or all of it to Winnipeg in 1906, to Brandon in 1907, and similarly to Calgary and Edmonton. By such a method the best herds would move around more, and bring the breeds mentioned to the attention of people who are not yet interested but have the money to invest, and only require their attention to be drawn.

## THE FARM.

### The Farm Labor Question.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

That the scarcity of farm help is hampering farm operations, is a fact apparent to all familiar with the agricultural conditions of this country, and it must be confessed that the quality of a considerable portion of the available supply is far from satisfactory. Now, we are facing a knotty question, and it rests with the farmers to find the solution.

A recent writer suggests that the source of the trouble lies in the common schools, wherein most of what is taught alienates the child's thought and ambition from rural life, and imbues him with the idea that manual labor is degrading. The remedy suggested by this man is reform of the rural schools, and we are pleased to see that some reforms are being made which we hope will prove to be effective. While I believe he struck close to the mark, there are other reasons. The remarkable development of manufacturing industries that has taken place during the past few years has attracted thousands of men away from farm life to places where they secure increased wages.

It is true that the Canadian farmer is conservative in his business methods, oftentimes to his detriment, and in the methods employed we can find a key to a partial solution of the problem. We find that the work is generally so planned as to keep men employed only about eight months in the year, and the rest of the time they have to find some other employment. They find it in some industrial concern at increased wages, and when spring comes do not feel obliged to return to farm life, so the farmer loses his men. Such being the case, does not one remedy lie in increasing the earning power of farm labor by the use of more intelligent business methods? We should put more brains into our work, and plan so as to economize labor in our stables and fields. Much manual labor can be saved by the use of larger and faster-working implements thereon, by the saving of unnecessary plowing and other work, by the culture, in suitable sections, of some hardy perennial forage plant like alfalfa. Then, the work should be so arranged as to find employment for a man during the whole year, and at a profit. To put it concisely, the solution of the question, at present, seems to lie in the adoption of more businesslike methods, thereby increasing earning power of farm labor, and the use of machinery operated by steam or horse power, or any power other than hand labor, wherever possible.

Missisquoi Co., Que.

C. A. WESTOVER.

### How to Reach the People.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have not seen your admirable paper for some time, but there must have been a reference in it recently to Children's Aid Work, as I have received in the last three days fifteen letters, inquiring if I can supply a girl ten to fifteen years of age, and mentioning "The Farmer's Advocate." Now, girls are always in demand, and, I regret to say, are very scarce, but I know of several bright, attractive little boys, from six months to five years, for whom I would be exceedingly pleased to secure adoptive homes. If anyone would write me on this subject, I certainly will be glad to hear from them. The agreement is a very simple one, and there is no difficulty about returning a child if it should prove unsuitable.

J. J. KELSO.

Supt. Children's Aid Societies.  
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.