

EDITORIAL.

A report from Ottawa states that Mr. W. B. Scarth, of Winnipeg, has been appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture, taking office on Dec. 1st, in place of Mr. John Lowe, superannuated.

Canadian bacon, hams and pork continue to gain popular esteem with British consumers, the demand continuing strong. "Canadian" bacon, we notice, is being more frequently quoted in the produce reports of leading Liverpool houses.

From the particulars given elsewhere in the ADVOCATE, it would appear that an important trial shipment of live cattle and sheep from Australia to England resulted disastrously for those concerned. The expenses and deterioration consequent upon the long ocean voyage (over two months) stood in the way of success, and the same conditions militate against the trade in fruit and other products from that colony.

The New York State Tuberculosis Committee submitted to the State Board of Health lately a detailed report of the work done by them up to September. The total number of animals examined was 298; the total number killed, 101, and the total amount awarded, \$2,968.50, an average of a little over \$28 an animal. The disease was found to be much more prevalent among common cattle than pure-breds. A well-sustained activity is now shown by N. Y. State dairymen to purge their herds of the disease.

Judging from the correspondence we are receiving this season from breeders and others, in no branch of farming is the outlook brighter than for sheep rearing. The price of wool was higher the past season; the consumption of mutton grows apace, though probably not as fast as it should. Our shipments to the Old Country have continued large, and sales for breeding purposes have been brisk, though prices are hardly up to the mark, but still better than for a couple of years past. This trade, we believe, is better than for three or four years. Without any booming, sheep husbandry continues one of the successful lines of farming.

J. D. McGregor's Polled Angus and Tamworths.

Our artist has, on the frontispiece of this issue, produced a very faithful likeness of three female representatives of the large Polled Angus herd owned by J. D. McGregor, Brandon, Man. A couple of Tamworth swine belonging to the same owner are also portrayed.

Mr. McGregor owns one of, if not the largest herd of pure-bred "Doddies" in the Dominion, consisting at the present time of upwards of 200 head. In breeding and individual excellence they are equal to the best, and for several years past, whenever representatives from this herd have been out at the exhibitions, they have been very successful. This year at Regina and Brandon, the only places at which they were exhibited, they captured a goodly share of first places, and at the former show the competition in this class was keener than at any previous exhibition in the West.

About four years ago the proprietor purchased the entire herd of the Hon. W. F. C. Gordon Cumming (numbering some 40 cows and 10 heifers), who imported the original stock in 1889, selecting them with a view to establishing as good a herd as possible. From the herd of Sir W. G. Gordon Cumming, of Altyre, Forres, Scotland, were selected representatives of such celebrated Polled Angus families as the Prides, Mayflowers, Queen Marys, Oakleaves, and Roses. Five of the original cows were selected from the herd of Jas. MacKessack, Earnside, Forres, representing such families as Matildas, Lady Anns, etc. Two were from George Gordon, of Tullochallum, Dufftown; and others from John McPherson, of Mulben. One of the bulls imported with this herd, and whose blood has made a deep impression on the present stock, was Donald Dhu of Mulben (7457) 14928, bred by John McPherson, of Mulben, Keith; he was sired by Blinker of Drummuir 5931, out of Daisy 6th of Drumin, by Knight of the Legion, etc. Another sire that has been used to good advantage in this herd is Royal Souter 14949 (the sire of the heifer in the engraving). He was got by Souter Johnnie (1615), the sire of the prize-winning steer at the Smithfield and Birmingham shows; out of Ruth of Wellhouse 4th, by Wedgwood (2109), etc., tracing to Ruth of Tillyfour 2nd, by Black Prince of Tillyfour.

One of the cows in the engraving, occupying the right-hand foreground, is Lady Amy (12648) 16690, sired by Chancellor of Invermarkie 14934, out of Lady Ann of Earnside 3rd 5208. She was bred by Jas. MacKessack, of Earnside, Forres, and is a low-set, thick-fleshed cow of great substance and constitution.

The cow to the left is Pride of Findhorn 10th (13693) 14930; bred by Sir W. G. Gordon Cumming, of Altyre; sired by Salisbury of Adiva (8) (4999), out of Pride of Findhorn 5th (7036), by Dustman (1667), tracing to Black Meg (766), who was one of the original cows of the breed. This, as will be seen by a reference to the illustration, is another of the low-down, blocky sort so typical of the breed.

The heifer is Susy of Brandon 2nd 18610, bred by the present owner and sired by Royal Souter 14949, out of Susy 3rd of Pitglassie 16435.

Needless for us here to expatiate on the merits of this hardy, beef-producing breed. In the fat stock shows of Old England no breed can successfully compete with the Doddies and their crosses. They are proving themselves a valuable breed on the Western ranches, and lately there has been a good demand for young bulls for the Indian Reserves, for which purposes they and their cousins, the Galloways, seem particularly well-adapted. Mr. McGregor keeps his herd in good, thrifty, growing condition, without pampering or over-feeding, and a more charming sight cannot well be imagined than this herd of shining black skins on their extensive feeding grounds on the ranch south of Oak Lake.

The last time Mr. McGregor was over to England, purchasing Shire, Coach and Hackney horses for importation to this country (he being associated with Mr. H. T. Munn in that business for a number of years), he brought out six brood sows and two boars of the Tamworth breed, at that time just coming into prominence in Canada. The fact that Mr. McGregor not only maintains the original number of his Tamworth herd, but has increased it till at the present time there are some 20 brood sows, is ample evidence of the high esteem in which they are regarded by him. The present stock boar "Catch Me" — 55 —, a very good likeness of which appears in the illustration, was bred by John Bell, Amber, Ont., whose Tamworths enjoy a wide reputation as prize winners at the leading Canadian fairs.

The sow represented in the engraving is Brandon Beauty 123 (imp.), bred by John Norman. Good results have been obtained by crossing with the Berkshires for feeding hogs, and he has now about 250 cross-bred ones. He sold, on the 10th of January last, 70 pigs that were farrowed in April, May and June that averaged 277 pounds dressed.

But the best evidence of the good qualities of this excellent breed is in the widespread and increasing demand. Mr. McGregor has sent pigs to all parts of Manitoba and into all the Territories and British Columbia, and 15 head to California, from which State he had at the time of our visit several orders to fill.

In the show rings Mr. McGregor has been as successful with his Tams, as with the Polled Angus exhibits. This year he did not show at Winnipeg, but in previous years has captured the bulk of the prize money. He made large exhibits this year at Brandon and at the Territorial Exhibition at Regina, and was very successful at both places.

Some of the Principles to be Observed in Profitable Farming.

BY D. F. W.

In these days of fast freights, cold storage and other means of bringing the produce of the farm into the markets of the world, thus causing keen competition and small profits for the producers, it is necessary that the farmers of this country use their brains to some purpose, and not depend on their hands only, if they would compete at all successfully in these markets. Looking ahead, there does not seem to be any chance of higher prices in the future. There will, of course, be rises and large profits made on some staples at times, and the farmer should ever be on the alert to take advantage of these rises; but, on the whole, the prospect is that profits in the future will be small, and consequently the cost of production must be reduced as much as possible in order that these profits be increased. To lessen the cost of production, two things must be practised, viz.: economy, and the best methods of farming.

Now, economy on the farm does not mean being niggardly in the necessities or comforts of life, the stinting of feed to the horses or other farm stock, nor the working of the hired man a day and a-half for a day's pay. Farm economy means not buying those things which you can do without; it means taking care of those things that you have, and not paying too much for those things that you do purchase. When a farmer buys anything he can do without, he too often forgets that he is reducing his profits, for the interest on the capital invested in the article has to be met by the products of the

farm, and this interest, if the article is not necessary, would be profit. There are some things which can be done without, but which it pays well to buy, for they will pay a good profit on the money invested in them; but farmers do not always discriminate very nicely between what is necessary and what they want, and in this discrimination there is room for the exercise of a good deal of economy.

The economical farmer houses his implements and tools; and there are instances of binders that have been so cared for whose life equaled that of three successive binders left out-of-doors; and what is true of binders, is also true of less costly implements right down to hand-tools. An immense amount of money has been squandered in the past in this way, for no expensive buildings are necessary—any sort of a structure being sufficient with a properly built straw or cheap board roof. Harness, too, might be made to last twice the length of time it does if well oiled twice a year.

In buying, always pay cash; cash almost invariably commands a reduction in the price, and this difference between the cash and time price is really interest, which, when added to the nominal 10 per cent., say, on implements and horses, has in the past amounted to from 20 to 30 per cent. Does farming pay well enough at present prices to warrant anyone borrowing money at that rate of interest, to carry it on? It takes a business with larger margins to stand it. While the interest has been so high, it is impossible to estimate the very largely increased price of all commodities in the past, owing to the credit system, dealers requiring large margins to cover their losses. Notwithstanding this, those who have gone slow and never bought anything till they were able to pay for it, have come out best in the end—a practical illustration of the benefits to be derived by avoiding debt. Debt is a terrible load to carry, and one which only too often gets heavier the longer it is carried. It is a thing which school districts, municipalities and governments should avoid as much as possible, and farmers should do their utmost when it concerns them—and it generally does—that it be avoided.

There is economy in time by having a few tools kept in their place in a small workshop, thus enabling small repairs to be made without hitching up a team and travelling miles to get it done, often during the rush of work; it will also save, on most farms, a considerable cash outlay. There is also economy in taking time to attend the farmers' institute, and there picking up an idea or two from brother farmers; it pays to give the hands a rest for this, so that the head may be better enabled to do its share of the farm work. There is economy in expending a dollar on an agricultural paper; some farmers do this who do not read them; in this a wise economy is not exercised. Every profession and trade have now periodicals published in their interest, and they are taken and read. Why should the farmer not do the same? He must do so if he would keep abreast of the times. We are now in the last decade of the Nineteenth Century, and the man who ignores reading, and thinks there is nothing to learn off his own farm, is out of date.

The principles of economy are also to be applied in the saving of all manure, liquid as well as solid; in the use of good, pure seed; in the destruction of weeds which use up fertility and crowd out economic crops; by devoting, especially in the older Provinces of Canada, less land to pasture, which in many Ontario districts for the past few years of drought did not produce two months' feed out of the twelve, which admittedly is a great waste of capital; by having larger fields and certainly fewer of those weed-harboring snake rail fences; by the use of drains wherever needed, and the cleaning up of waste spots (often the richest of land) overgrown with willows, etc.; by raising good stock, whether horses, cattle, sheep, swine or poultry; and the invariable use at least of pure-bred males; by applying strict business methods to farm management; and lastly, by more thorough soil cultivation, coupled with the means before mentioned, to produce more and better crops off the same number of or fewer acres.

Sacaline -- Plants Tested.

Early this year a number of American seedsmen advertised and strongly recommended Sacaline as a forage plant. In some quarters it was industriously boomed, a few papers being induced to publish illustrations representing it two or three times as high as an ordinary picket fence, with great spreading limbs loaded with foliage. In our April 1st issue, we promised to test a number of plants, which we have very carefully done on good ground, light in character but properly enriched. Out of six roots obtained, two developed good, healthy plants; two were very small, and the others did not materialize. The best plant was 3 ft. 6 in. high, about October 1st, some of the numerous leaves being 7 inches long and 4½ wide. The plants took a branching form from the bottom, and the leaves had a bitter taste, something like a beech leaf. The stalks were quite woody and brash, with a little pith in the centre. Frost, on October 15th, wilted the leaves completely. What these plants may do next season remains to be seen. If cattle had nothing else to eat they would undoubtedly browse on it, but with our enormous corn crops at hand, we surmise that Sacaline will not fill a "long-felt want."