

until about 3 pounds of cottonseed meal and a couple of quarts of bran make up the grain ration. These two feeds have been used quite freely in the past, but Mr. Robinson has not yet made up his mind as to what feeds he will use this winter, considering the unsettled condition of the market and the exceedingly high prices prevailing. Towards spring this feed is made a little heavier by the addition of some oat and barley chop. Last spring chopped wheat and oats were fed. These cattle are superior of course to those wintered more roughly by the farmers, and they are usually the first to be sold off grass. Last year the first load averaged 1,480 pounds each and sold for 10 cents per pound.

Good Grass the Reason.

Good cattle are bred and reared in the territory referred to and in the adjoining districts but we feel safe in saying that the fundamental reason for this

exceptional cattle trade is to be found in the grass lands. There are 100-acre farms that never had a plow in them and yet are producing pasture grasses in great abundance. Other farms have not been broken up for 40 years, but they still maintain from 22 to 25 full grown steers which gain from 200 to 300 pounds during the summer, according to the type and quality of the bullock. That district enjoyed frequent showers throughout September with the result that men who have been in the business for many years claim that they never saw the fall feed better than it has been this season. During the last six weeks the writer has had an opportunity to observe conditions as far east as the Atlantic seaboard, and after seeing the results of the lack of moisture in other parts, the abundance of fall feed in the area mentioned presented a very pleasing appearance. Of course they are not always so favored with seasonable showers, but it is natural grazing land upon which cattle are sure to make good gains.

The Feeding Problem in the Maritime Provinces.

During the latter part of September the writer visited the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, at Truro, and learned from the Principal, Professor M. Cumming, a little of what was being done to foster the live-stock industry of the Maritime Provinces, and more particularly of Nova Scotia. Space will not permit of a detailed description of the animals maintained on the College farm, but suffice it to say that the big, typey, strong-constituted Holsteins impressed us most in the cattle department, but the Ayrshires, at the head of which herd is a son of Jean Armour, were a good lot. The immense Yorkshire stock boar and his get were outstanding in size, type and quality and should constitute a good example to the farmers of that Province as well as a source of breeding stock to improve their herds of swine. However, it is the important question of feed to develop and maintain live stock that influences to a very large extent the numbers and quality of the herds or flocks as well as their production. This matter is receiving considerable attention in the East and it was the factor which Professor Cumming dwelt upon largely when discussing the condition of the industry in the Maritime Provinces. Relative to this he said: "We have been giving too much thought to the winter feeding of our cows and young stock and not enough to summer feeding. It used to be our policy on this farm to put our milking cows on our home pasture and to summer our young and dry stock on a rented farm. There was not enough good pasture for either. Now we own an abandoned farm of some one hundred acres, which we purchased for \$1,400, and which we use as permanent pasture for our dry cows and young stuff. Moreover we aim to apply from two to four tons of basic slag to the fields of this farm every year and so keep it in good heart. The young cattle when put into winter quarters will do better on hay and roots, or silage, than will young stock from a poor pasture on a good grain ration. It was the importance of grass that impressed me most in my several visits to the Old Country breeders, but we are only beginning to get down to business in this matter ourselves. Personally, I regard the pasture problem as the crucial question in the live stock development of the Province. We have better facilities for pasture than they enjoy farther inland where there is less moisture, but little is being done to develop this natural advantage.

The pasture referred to in the Principal's remarks was visited. Even though the autumn had been very dry, feed was good and the cattle were exceedingly thrifty. Young stuff of the beef breeds were fat and the dairy-bred heifers were thrifty and well covered with natural fleshing. Besides the excellent results that accrue from good pastures, the economy of this plan is an attractive feature. At six per cent. the interest on the value of the property would amount to \$84.00. Add to this the taxes, the annual expense of some fencing, and about three or four tons of slag or other fertilizer, and the cost of summering from 22 to 25 head of cattle is moderate indeed. Furthermore, one gets better results when the pasture is farmed and cared for properly than from a permanent pasture that receives no attention except some fencing in the spring.

Farm the Pasture.

Good results accrue from farming the pasture in accordance with the demands made upon it. Professor Cumming's advice is to sow grain and seed down, but do not cut hay. In this way the land is kept in good heart which reduces subsequent expense. An ordinary seeding of clover and timothy and perhaps a little white clover gives best results, but some red top grass is often used when the land is a bit wet. "We find," he said, "when we seed this way, and by using some manure or slag do not allow the soil to run out, that bluegrass, white clover and other fine pasture grasses gradually become established. As a general thing we do not get results from expensive mixtures. In fact, I am convinced that, within reasonable limits, the pasture problem is more one of the condition of the ground than of the seeds put into it. This is my opinion and it is based on personal observation."

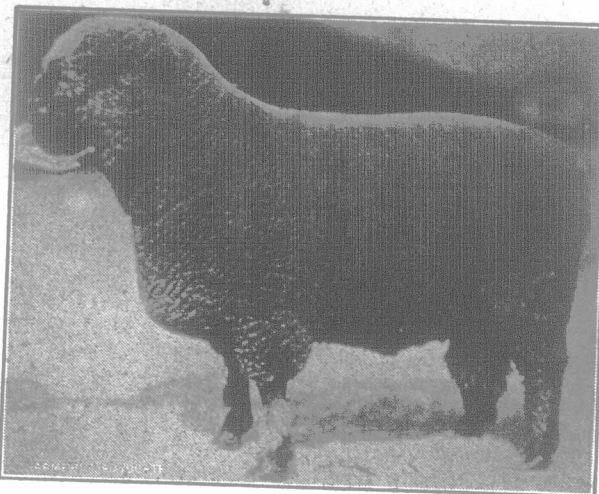
White Turnips for Fall Feed.

One method of conserving feed on the College farm is to sow white, or soft turnips for use in the fall,

when the pasture is often short and it is wise to conserve the hay and grain for winter feeding. White turnips of the Sutton's Early Sheepfold variety are sown on towards the end of June. Early in September they are ready for use and they are fed well on into the month of November. The writer saw these turnips in the mangers and when the cattle came from the pasture in the evening they devoured them greedily. In a year such as the present has been, with good crops of hay but short afterfeed and poor pasture, they are able on the farm at Truro to conserve their rough fodder, into which many farmers have been obliged to make heavy inroads. Last year these turnips yielded as high as 40 tons per acre, but they will not do so well this fall. Through October when the nights get colder and the grass stops growing, the cattle begin to look for other feed. Then the white turnips are pulled and fed, tops and all. They take the place of hay and grain and furnish a succulent feed when it is needed.

O. P. V. Silage.

Much credit is due to J. M. Trueman, Professor of Agriculture and Farm Superintendent, for the introduction of a crop that will make satisfactory silage for the Maritime Provinces, and at the same time require less labor than corn in its production. This crop is a combination of oats, peas and vetches, and is known as the O. P. V. mixture. Taking the average



A Toronto Champion Shropshire.

First prize aged Shropshire ram and champion at Toronto, 1916, for John R. Kelsey, Woodville, Ont.

for a number of years, it has produced more dry matter per acre than corn with less than half the labor cost. This year, however, owing to climatic conditions, it will fall slightly below corn in dry matter per acre but less work has been involved. The proportions of the O. P. V. mixture and varieties grown at Truro are: 2½ bushels of banner oats, ¾ bushel of golden vine peas, and ¼ bushel of annual vetch per acre. When the oats are just beginning to turn, the crop is cut with an ordinary mower. It is forked at once on to the wagons and run through the silage cutter into the silo. In 1914, 65 tons of this mixture were produced on 5.7 acres of land. Last year three acres produced 29 tons, but owing to some parts of the field being wet, the greater part of it grew on 2 acres. The average production per acre is around 10 tons and it has been proven that cattle will eat the silage made from it with considerable relish.

While this mixture does not require so much fertilizer as turnips, corn, or potatoes, yet it requires more than is ordinarily given the grain crop. No farmer should attempt to grow it unless he puts his land in first-class condition and it is the first crop to be planted in the spring. This year at Truro it was seeded about May 1 and cut on August 10. The O. P. V. mixture is gaining ground in the Maritime Provinces where the corn often fails to yield as well as in some other districts. The latter crop, however, is being grown more extensively than in former years and silos are becoming common. Longfellow, at this Institution,

has been found to be the best of the flints, and flints, while superior in quality, are almost up to, if not equal, the dents in yield per acre.

Prepare for Next Season.

Owing to the dry autumn in the East, Professor Cumming was warning the farmers to prepare for a considerable acreage of hoed crop and green feed in case the hay should be short next season. Good yields of hay were harvested this year and last, but both falls previous to these crops saw a more liberal precipitation. If the lack of moisture this season should reduce next year's yield of hay the farmers will do well to have plenty of roots, corn, or the O. P. V. mixture to take its place.

We have mentioned here only a few features that impressed us upon our visit to the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. One thing is certain that if stockmen in Eastern Canada would imitate Old Country breeders in the rearing of sappy, lusty, young stock, they should improve their pasture and produce more succulent feed. In many sections feeders depend upon their hay, grain and silage to develop their stock and put on flesh, when, if the pastures were kept up, the greater part of this could be accomplished on grass at a great reduction in cost. Professor Cumming's methods and recommendations regarding permanent pastures in the Maritime Provinces, where the facilities are so good, are deserving of special consideration.

THE FARM.

Sandy on High Prices.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I took a little trip intae toon one night last week tae get a few things the auld wumman wis needin' in her business, an' to dae a wee bit o' buyin' for mysel' on the side. "Mind ye dinna' forget that black spool o' thread, number 40, Sandy," says Jean as I wis drivin' oot o' the yard. "Na," says I, "I'll no' forget it, nor the white spool, number 30, nor the box o' hair-pins, nor the yard o' elastic, nor the stove-polish, nor the lamp-wick. An' ye were wantin' a couple o' cans o' salmon, too, weren't ye, besides the soda biscuits, an' the cream-o'-tartar, an' the—"

"Hoot," interrupts Jean, "gae alang wi' ye, ye'll remember them a' I guess." "Weel," says I, "I ought to gin practice is guid for anything. I'm gettin' tae be a regular walkin' Eaton's catalogue, I'm that filled up wi' groceries an' dry goods an' so on."

An' it's a caution a' the things a mon has tae buy ilka time he gae tae toon; high prices or no, it's juist the same. The city chap has an idea that aboot a' the farmer is daein' these times is rakin' in the dollars wi' one hand an' pittin' them awa' in a box wi' the ither. But he'd find oot different gin he ever got bitten by the "back-to-the-land" bug. The only way ye can get oot o' buyin' things, that I ken aboot, is tae follow Robinson Crusoe's example an' get wrecked on a desert island, or maybe to join the army. An' mony's the thing the farmer has tae get in the way o' machinery an' so on that the city mon kens naething aboot. We're gettin' sae highly civilized the noo that we've got to hae a lot o' things that oor forefathers never dreamt o' in their worst night mares. It keeps the money in circulation a' richt, ye can say that for it, an' gin a chap kened that there wad be na showery weather alang towards the end o' his career it might be juist as weel tae avoid gettin' intae the savin' habit, but as it is, it's no' a bad plan tae get somethin' past ye, gin ye can dae it wi' a fair amount o' wark an' guid management. 'Hooever, as ma uncle used tae say when he'd get cornered up in an argument, 'that's another matter.' What I started tae tell ye aboot wis that trip intae toon. The first place I went tae wis the baker's, as the auld wumman has na' been feeling ower weel for a week past, an' didnae dae ony cookin'.

"It's juist twelve cents for the loaf," says the baker, "but it canna' stay at that lang. They say flour is gaein' tae be ten dollars a barrel next week, sae bread will have tae keep it company." The next mon I called on wis the tinsmith. When I had got what stove-pipes an' ither things I wanted I asked him the price. "Weel," says he, "tae tell ye the honest truth I'm ashamed tae say it, but what ye've got will cost ye three dollars. I ken ye could have got it for a dollar an' a half this time last year, but that's the price to-day." "Oh," I replied, "that's no' muckle tae pay for a' that guid tin. Are ye sure ye're no' cheatin' yersel' noo?" says I, "I got a bill frae a mon the ither day an' when I went tae pay it he said he'd have tae mak' me oot a new bill, as prices had gone up while I wis comin'." After this I thought I'd better gae to the harness-makers an' get a hame-strap I'd been needin' for a week. When I had bought the strap, wi' no remarks made on either side about the price, the harness-maker says tae me, "Wait a minute, Sandy, I've something here I want tae show ye. Talk aboot high prices, says he, "juist look at this, will ye?" an' he handed me a box o' linen thread that harness-makers use in their business. "When I started here," he went on, "a box like that cost me one dollar an' fifteen cents, an', as ye see for yersel', that box is marked four dollars an' eighty cents. Can ye beat it?" says he. "No," says I, "but I'm juist on ma way tae Jim McCuaig's store. It's likely he can."

When I got tae the store I started tae look for the list I used tae tak' wi' me, until I thought o'