

obtained by feeding the ordinary roughage grown on the farm. In order to winter horses cheaply, they should be given exercise but not heavy work. It is believed that money could be saved by feeding one team so that they would be in condition to stand the work and allowing the remainder of the horses to be strictly idle. If one feeder can keep horses in good condition on the ration mentioned, it is possible for others to do the same. Too many farmers kill their horses with kindness during the winter months. It is not necessary to have hay always before them. Less hay and more straw and roots would be better for the horse. The successful methods of wintering horses cheaply employed by some farmers may give others an idea of how to feed idle horses more cheaply next winter.

## LIVE STOCK.

### A Producer's Suggestions Re Marketing Wool.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The handling and marketing of our wool crop in Ontario, would appear at first glance to be a comparatively easy and profitable procedure for the producer. When one considers the small amount of wool produced and the relatively high prices prevailing at present, the whole question would seem to be very easily settled. But are we, and have we, as producers, been getting the prices that we should be getting for our wool? I maintain that we have not. I will go further and make the statement that in my opinion we have been systematically robbed for years, by the so-called manufacturers and dealers in wool. Of course, it seems to be a regular idea, a very common opinion, indeed, among farmers that we are not getting what we should for most of the products of our farms. It also seems to be taken for granted that while we, as farmers, are not getting a square deal we have no means of redress, and about the only thing to do is to take our doses with a smile. The only way that we farmers will ever be able to get some adequate returns for our labor will be the time, when, by systems of organization and co-operation, we will have farmers to represent us in our parliaments, and instead of a horde of cheap country lawyers doing our business, we will thus be able to arrange our tariffs and our systems of government, so that a little better returns, than a bare livelihood, will be given us for our hard labors. This time may come in about a thousand years from now. However, getting back to the wool question, as far as personal experience goes, the question of grading is a very important one indeed. I will admit that a great many wool growers have not put up their wool properly, but have allowed too much dirt and refuse to be bundled into the fleece. The dealers have in this matter just cause for complaint. They have also used this to their own profit in a good many other cases, where wool has been put up properly and correctly graded.

In Ontario the amount of wool produced is very small comparatively speaking, and almost of one grade, the wool produced being mostly of the coarse or combing type. I do not think that a system of collecting and properly grading in a county, or even in a district, would meet with any degree of satisfaction. To my mind there is only one way of handling the situation in Ontario, and that is to devise a system whereby the wool grown in Ontario could be gathered at a central point, say Toronto, and then, under expert governmental inspection be properly graded and classified. I think if the Department of Agriculture would undertake something along this line, it would be a great boon to the wool growers, and a stimulus to the sheep industry.

The wool dealers at present are pointing to the high prices at present prevailing, and telling us we should be satisfied. Let us compare the prices this year with those of last year and the year previous. Then let us try to purchase some pure woolen fabrics, and compare the prices of those with the preceding years. Does that convince one that the grower is getting a fair and just price? When I speak of woolen articles I refer to those not affected by the enormous increase in the price of dye stuffs. With the whole province pretty well organized, by the District Representatives, with their advice in helping the farmer prepare his wool properly, I think a system of provincial co-operation, under government supervision, would be about the only way the wool producer will get anything like a fair value for his wool.

At this late season it would, of course, be impossible to perfect such a scheme of co-operation for the handling and marketing of this year's clip. The question is, how to get the best results from this year's wool crop. I would suggest that the Department of Agriculture publish monthly bulletins to be distributed, perhaps by the District Representatives, informing the grower of the exact conditions of the wool markets. With the machinery that they have at their command they can get this information far more readily and more accurately than the average farmer. I would then advise the farmer to prepare his wool as carefully as he can. Put it up in a manner that will be satisfactory to the buyer, carefully separating all tags, manure locks, and stained fleeces. Do the shearing neatly and cleanly, and always have the sheep dry at shearing time. The wool grower doing his part honestly and carefully, and having access to reliable government information, regarding markets, should be able to command a reasonable price for his product.

Kent Co., Ont.

I. D. BRIEN.

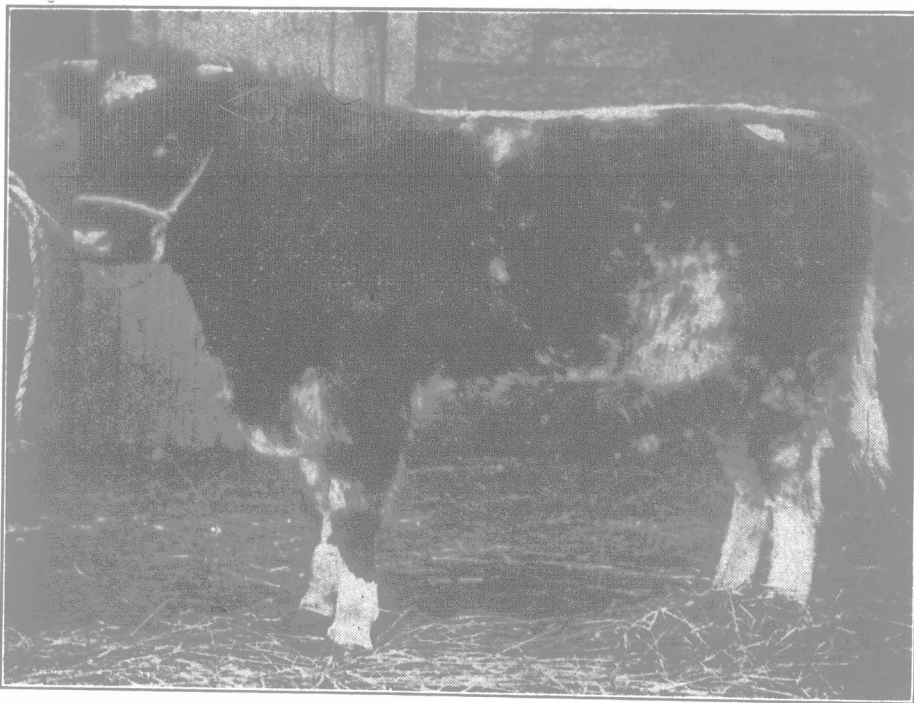
### English Live Stock Doings.

EDITOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Some time ago a bombshell, in the shape of a letter, boosting their type as best, from the Editor of the "American Hereford Journal," fell upon English breeders of that type of cattle, who were startled to be told that they were beaten to a frazzle, or words to that effect, when it came to comparing the American brand to the native stocks of England. The Englishman literally winced in his shoes, shook himself, and has immediately set about to put things in order. He is going to give that American booster something to go on with. As though to prove the American was wrong, the Brazilian Government have just been over to England to buy up about 40 head of stock to form a new herd in that country, which is going ahead so in the raising of beef cattle. The consignment has been picked from the herds of Lord Rhondda (formerly D. A. Thomas), Sir J. R. G. Cotterell, Captain E. L. A. Heygate, and G. Butters, G. A. Denny, W. S. Russell, C. H. Morris, W. H. B. Cave, H. Moore, and other kings of the "fancy." To Uruguay, also, have other Herefords been sent recently.

In Hereford city itself a day's sale of young bulls realized over £17,000, and, while no big prices were made, many went at well over \$500, and the buyers were chiefly Argentine agents. At a dinner held by the Hereford Cattle Society, Lord Rhondda told the members they must advertise and declared that "the land would carry half as many Herefords again as it would any other breed of cattle." Another speaker claimed that the Hereford was a real dual-purpose breed and "were as good milkers as Shorthorns!" What will these zealots say next?

Shorthorn sales are productive of very useful prices. Young bulls chiefly for export to South America were making 500 guineas at Birmingham, but at Penrith, in Cumberland, one youngster made 950 guineas, a record for the township where the sale was held. The country is now completely clear of foot and mouth disease, and the Argentine import regulations having been made more amenable to immediate shipment. English Shorthorn business is fizzing some.



Velox of Naemoor.

First and champion bull at Perth Shorthorn sales in February, 1916. This bull sold for 1,550 guineas.

In the many war-time suggestions made by the British Government for increasing the production of home-grown food, little notice has been taken of an important trade—i.e., the pedigree stock breeding industry, which has a good deal to do with what is called the "meat manufacture" of the country. If it had not been for the influence of pedigree stock, progress in the production of beef would have been much less than it has been. This gradual improvement is not so noticeable at home as it has been abroad, especially in The Argentine, where the continued use of pure-bred sires from Britain has revolutionized the character of the stock and rendered possible the extensive and lucrative beef export trade, which is worth to that country many millions of pounds annually.

It is satisfactory to find that the demand for good cattle of most of the distinctive breeds has recently been very brisk. For all the well-known types trade has been most active, and very high prices have been realized for several beef breeds, the general tone clearly indicating confidence in the future of the cattle-breeding industry. Home breeders have been competing with buyers for export, and so prices have advanced sharply.

More County Shows are declared off this year than last. But the Royal Show is to be held at Manchester, and the prize list is as big as ever. Experience has taught the Royal Society that visits to industrial centres such as Manchester are always—in times of peace, that is—productive of the greatest financial success. For instance, at Leeds, in 1861, the first large profit of the Society ever encountered was secured—i.e., one of £4,470—which came immediately after a loss of £2,005 sustained at rural Canterbury, in 1860.

Newcastle gave the Society a profit of £1,342 in 1864; Manchester the huge one of £9,153 in 1869, as already stated; and in three successive years, at Birmingham, Liverpool and Bristol—i.e., 1876-7-8—profits of £3,424, £3,947 and £1,667 were struck, for all accumulations to disappear in the failure of Kilburn in 1879, when, although 187,323 people were admitted to the grounds, a loss of £15,064 was the outcome. Recovery after such a blow was slow, but Derby in 1881 produced a profit of £4,528; York, one of £5,190 in 1883; Nottingham, one of £4,229; even the "sleepy old City of Chester," of Kipling's verse, a profit of £2,404 in 1893; Leicester, one of £3,600 in 1896, and Manchester that of £4,074 in Jubilee year. Other periods of plenty were also enjoyed, but there is no desire to weary readers with recital of them. Lincoln, coming to nearer times, gave the Society a profit of £5,056 in 1907, and Newcastle the record one of £10,054 in 1908 when as many as 213,867 folk paid admission at the turnstiles. Since then Liverpool (1909) has yielded £5,483 and Bristol (1913) £3,115; but, with all their large aggregates of attendance, the Manchester Show of 1897 still holds the record in the matter of the number of interested spectators at a Royal Show—i.e., the fine total of 217,980. Will that figure ever be attained again? If peace should come to the nations of Europe before the joyous days of June end next year, then most assuredly will the people of Lancashire give the record of Jubilee year a good shaking, if not eclipse it.

Truman's, of Bushnell, Illinois, have bought a big consignment of little Hackney ponies, headed by a London champion, Chocolate Soldier, once (and still, I hear) one of the smartest goers ever seen at Islington.

ALBION.

### The Canadian Farmer and the Bacon Hog.

EDITOR THE "FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

It goes without saying that the hog should have a prominent place on the mixed farm in Canada. As the products of the Canadian farm are of the best for bacon production, it is therefore true that the bacon hog is

the hog for the Canadian farmer. In Eastern Canada where dairying is an important industry the by-products of the farm have yet to be surpassed for bacon production, and it therefore stands to reason that the dairy cow and the bacon hog go hand in hand. Canada is favorably known for her dairy products and is making an equally good name for "Wiltshire" sides.

The farmer of the West with an abundance of cereals at his disposal may sell direct to the elevators thereby losing large amounts of fertilizing material sold in the grain. Not wishing to rob his farm of its fertility he may produce bacon, thereby getting as high returns in dollars and cents and pay for his winter employment and valuable fertility to return to the soil in the form of hog excreta.

Why not produce fat hogs? In the United

States where an abundance of corn is the chief feed great numbers of fat hogs are reared. The hogs are let run on the blue grass and clover pasture with a little additional feed until they are a suitable age to let follow the fattening steer in the great corn fields. Here they pick up the waste corn and with very little labor on the part of the owner produce the well known fat hog for which the United States has gained a reputation. It is obvious that bacon could not be produced under such circumstances. In Canada we have not such good facilities for the production of lard hogs as has the United States. But with the United States producing fat hogs it is the part of wisdom for Canada to turn to the production of bacon for which this country is well adapted.

Although the production of bacon is the aim of most Canadian hog raisers the fat hog is not extinct. In some cities, as Montreal, and in the mining and lumber camps, there is a large amount of fat meats consumed. To meet these home demands for fat meats it is hardly necessary to turn our attention to that side of production. In trying to obtain our export bacon there will still be enough fat hogs and undesirable bacon to supply the home demand for those meats.

In breeding hogs for bacon production no hard and fast rules can be set as to any breed in particular. However the Yorkshire and Tamworth have become noted for producing the best sides of bacon, and in the bacon competition at Guelph Winter Fair have almost invariably carried off the red ribbons. It has also been found that a cross between the Berkshire and the Yorkshire produces a good side of bacon with a little more economic gains. The Chester White and Duroc Jersey are of the lard type yet it is possible that, through select-