

Comments on Last Issue.

SIR,—For several years I have been a subscriber to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and after reading the last issue I was more forcibly impressed than ever that the ideas found on its pages, if put in practice, would be the key that would open the door to success in farming and breeding. The articles are opportune and practical, and should meet the requirements of all who are in search of useful information. Mill says: "The worth of a State in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it." So I may say of an agricultural paper: "The worth of an agricultural paper in the long run is the worth of the individual articles found on its pages."

I desire, however, to make a few comments on some of the articles in your last issue. Prof. James' "Thanksgiving Day Reflections" are well worthy of careful perusal and study. He takes a broad view of the agriculture of Canada and shows wherein consists the national wealth of our Dominion. The great sources of our national wealth are the farm, the forest, the fisheries and the mines, and the industries connected with them. He quotes the number of persons engaged in each of these and gives the amount of wealth derived therefrom. Part of this wealth is locked up in the bowels of the earth, part is concealed under the water, part is crowded in the dense forests, and last, but not least, part may be seen in profusion on our farms in the form of grains, fruits, dairy products, animals, etc. These all speak eloquently of the great wealth of our land, and for which we all should be truly thankful. The farmers of Canada came from hardy stock, and, as Prof. James rightly says, the intermingling and coalescing of the nationalities from which they spring will produce a rural people "unexcelled if not unequalled." The great variety of our resources and the quality of our products, in whatever form they may be, are encouragements and inducements to strive still more energetically to make of our land a great nation. But the crowning point is the great intellectual activity aroused in the farming community. This is seen by the increase in the reading of agricultural papers, in institute meetings, in associations, and in a deeper interest being taken in all the leading questions of the day.

The Classification of Grade Cattle at Agricultural Shows.—Mr. D. F. Wilson has very aptly pointed out the difficulties in classifying grade cattle, and his suggestion in advocating two classes—the dairy grade and the beef grade—is worthy of consideration. The prizes now are too small, and more classes mean smaller prizes. This is a very serious obstacle. Some have suggested that there be fewer classes, e. g., strike off all under one year and give better prizes to the more developed animals; others think that there should be fewer classes and that they be shown in pairs, as best pair of dairy grades and best pair of beef grades, etc.—There is also a difficulty in obtaining suitable judges, as pointed out, but this may, to some extent, be overcome by giving definite instructions to the judges, and require them to judge in accordance with these rules.

Breeding and Feeding Beef Cattle.—Mr. Thos. McMillan very wisely urges that to succeed we must make a specialty of some particular department of the farm, and that we must have some definite object in view and endeavor to attain to it. Having decided upon what particular line we shall engage, we must prepare ourselves as well as have a liking for it. Taking for granted that the special line is beefing animals, Mr. M. gives a concise description of the type of such an animal. Too much stress cannot be laid on the proper selection of animals, and he gives some very valuable hints. We should next improve the quality by careful selection of males. His advice regarding males is sound and should be followed. He emphasizes the importance of keeping sires for longer than from one to three years. A sire that transmits to his offspring health and vigor of constitution and gives good stock should certainly be kept for years. Weed out the inferior ones and make war on the scrub. Mr. M. gives a telling example of loss in feeding inferior animals by a Mr. B. near Toronto. His remarks on general conformity and capacity to feed well are good, and on them rests largely the profit or loss in feeding. He also shows us the profit from early maturity and the benefit derived from keeping animals always in good condition. His experience in rearing calves shows success, and I think his advice very beneficial; however, my experience causes me to differ with him in one or two points. I prefer a mixture of chopped oats with a little oilcake to his crushed oats and oilcake, as it is not so rich and heavy. Besides this the oilcake and chopped oats keep the bowels and coat in a better condition. Corn ensilage is certainly very good, and with a little meal sprinkled over it forms an excellent food for calves. I have the impression that roots are too cold and heavy for young calves and tend to make them have too large bellies, but after they have become five or six months old roots are very good. Clover hay is an excellent food for calves, and Mr. M.'s ideas on it are in perfect accord with mine. Regularity and kindness are essential.

The Advantages of Keeping Sheep [Jas. Bowman].—This article is taken up in a practical way and shows many points in favor of sheep raising. Mr. B. says that the fertility of the soil may be improved by pasturing sheep on rape. In fields where weeds abound sheep almost destroy them.

He suggests using hurdles made dog-proof, or of bringing the sheep home every evening. In winter sheep consume food that no other stock would eat, and in this respect save that food. The expense of housing them is very small. They return a two-fold profit—wool and lambs. They are easily prepared for market and can, with care, be made profitable.

A Plan for Securing Greater Uniformity in the Quality of Cheese.—It requires wise forethought to find and keep a good market for our products, and the suggestion offered in your last issue in regard to cheese should be promptly acted upon. We derive a large revenue from cheese, and it would be a great pity if this should pass out of our hands through indifference or neglect. The article suggests a means now within reach, and before next spring such steps should be taken that there could be no possibility of our lessening our reputation in the cheese markets of the world. Let us neglect no practicable means to improve the quality and not allow any inferior article to leave our country for British or other markets.

Tuberculosis Among Cattle [by Dr. S. J. Thompson].—Dr. Thompson's article on tuberculosis is well worthy of being carefully read. He believes there is not more than three per cent. of the cattle in Manitoba affected with this disease. He advocates the use of the tuberculin test to find out to what extent this disease may be found in herds. He claims that beef from animals with localized tuberculosis is not harmful if well cooked, and that 80 per cent. of the milk from them is not affected. His advice upon measures to prevent the spread of the disease should be studied carefully and put into practice. Animals should be either destroyed (if the disease is deeply seated) or isolated (if localized or not deeply seated). This will prevent spreading. Cleanliness and disinfecting the stables are essential preventives. He gives some very sound advice on breeding from diseased animals. This advice should be carefully considered by every stockman. The paper is a thoughtful exposition of this disease and should have a good effect upon those who heed his warnings and practice his advice.

[NOTE.—A good many veterinary authorities have no doubt recommended the use of tuberculin as a diagnostic agent for tuberculosis, but we are disposed to say that there is yet much to be learned regarding its effects. Indeed, our contemporary, the English Live Stock Journal, goes so far as to say: "One thing is pretty obvious, that the unregulated use of it in the present state of our knowledge is more likely to increase than diminish the prevalence of tuberculosis; and it seems really necessary that some measure should in the meantime be adopted to check its promiscuous employment." Meanwhile it would be wise for breeders to hasten slowly in regard to tuberculin.—Ed.]

Covering Strawberry Plants [E. F. Augustine].—Experience is the best teacher, whether our own or some other persons. Mr. Augustine's experience must be useful to all who wish to grow strawberries successfully. He says it is best to cover the plants as soon as the ground is firmly frozen, but it may be done later. Good clean (he emphasizes clean) wheat, oat, or barley straw is the best covering. Spread evenly over the field from two to three inches deep. In the spring part of this should be raked off the rows, and tramped down in the paths between, leaving just what the plants can readily push their way through. The straw thus serves as a mulch, and keeps the plants clean during heavy rains. It also prevents the weeds from growing. No cultivation is needed before the fruit is harvested.

There are two papers on poultry,—one on "Fitting Poultry for the Shows," which may be read with profit by those who fit birds for exhibition; and the other is on "Eggs and Meat," in which Mr. Maw shows the value of eggs, and how to get the best results, and also wherein the profit of raising poultry for market lies.

Besides these there are, in the last issue of the ADVOCATE, several other important subjects, as Manure for Hay, Feeding Potatoes, The Question Drawer, The Home Department—full of interest and instruction, The Children's Corner, The Quiet Hour, the illustration of Mr. Macmillan's Shropshires, The Foal in Winter, and several others. Thus we, as farmers, find a fund of practical experience stored in the ADVOCATE'S pages, which, to be appreciated and put to profitable use, must be carefully read and studied. D. E. SMITH, Peel Co., Ont.

A Promising Young Agriculturist's Death.

For many years the name of Mr. John I. Hobson, of Moshborough, Ont., has ranked high among the progressive farmers and business men of this country. Occupied with public affairs, he has of late entrusted the management of his fine farm and stock to his only son, Mr. Joseph Hobson, a young man of some 23 years, who by his wide and practical knowledge and many excellencies of character had won for himself a host of friends, and bid fair to rise to eminence in his calling. It was therefore a painful shock to learn of his sudden demise from peritonitis on Nov. 26th. His loss is greatly to be deplored, and has called forth many expressions of sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Hobson.

STOCK.

Meetings of Live Stock Breeders.

AMERICAN SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

CANADIANS AGAIN HONORED.

New York City, November 26th—(Special)—Shropshire Sheep Breeders in session. Election of officers as follows:—President, Hon. J. Dryden, Toronto; Vice-President, Prof. W. C. Latta, Lafayette, Ind. Executive Committee, for three years—R. Gibson, Delaware, Ont.; J. L. Thomson, Gas City, Ind. On Pedigree Committee—Marion Williams, Ind.; Robt. Miller, Brougham, Ont. Vice-Presidents by States, etc.—W. H. Beattie, for Ontario; J. N. Greenshields, Quebec.

WINTER FAT STOCK AND DAIRY SHOW.

Prospects are for a large gathering of breeders and others at Guelph, Ont., beginning on Tuesday, Dec. 10th, the week of the annual Fat Stock Show, for which upwards of \$3,000 is offered in prizes. Secretary Wade writes from Toronto that there will be a large display, particularly of sheep and swine. Entries were also coming in for the beef and dairy classes, which were expected to fill up well as the time drew near. Several important breeders' meetings have been called, particulars of which are given below. As announced in last issue, the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union will hold its annual session at the Agricultural College, immediately at the close of the show (December 12th and 13th), so that all who are in Guelph can take advantage thereof.

SHEEP AND SWINE BREEDERS' ANNUAL MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association will convene in the City Hall, Guelph, at 2 p. m., December 10. From 2 p. m. to 6 p. m. will be spent in carrying out the following programme: Addresses and reports of officers, reports of committees, nomination of expert judges, election of delegates to fair boards, election of officers and auditors.

The annual Swine Breeders' Association meeting will convene same place as above, on December 11th, at 9 a. m. The forenoon will be spent in carrying out a programme similar to above. At 7:30 p. m. an open meeting will be held under the auspices of the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association, the Guelph Fat Stock Club, and the Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario. The following programme will be carried out: 7:30, chair taken by Hon. John Dryden; 7:40, address of welcome by Mr. James Innes, M. P., Guelph; 8:00, response by Andrew Pattullo, Woodstock, President of Western Dairymen's Association; 8:20, address, "The Requirements of the British Market, with Special Reference to our Exports of Cattle, Sheep, Swine, and Products Therefrom," by Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, Ottawa; 9:00, "Economic Cooking of Meats" (demonstrated), Miss B. Livingston, Superintendent Ottawa School of Cookery.

HEREFORD BREEDERS TO MEET.

The Canadian Hereford Breeders' Association will hold its annual meeting in Guelph Skating Rink, on Wednesday, December 11th, at 10:30 a. m. This is the second day of the Ontario Fat Stock Show.

CANADIAN HORSE BREEDERS.

The first annual meeting of Canadian Horse Breeders' Association was held in Toronto, November 21st. Members present—Robt. Davies, Toronto; David McCrae, Guelph; R. Beith, M. P., Bowmanville; N. Awrey, M. P., Hamilton; John Gardhouse, Highfield; H. N. Crossley, Rosseau; Dr. A. Smith, Toronto; Jos. Duggan, Toronto; J. H. Allen; Pictou; Leeming Carr, Stony Creek; J. C. Boyd, Sault Ste Marie; A. G. Ramsey, Hamilton; Wm. Wilkie, Toronto; Wm. Hendrie Jr., Hamilton; Hugh Smith, Claude; C. P. Geary, St. Thomas; H. Wade, Toronto; R. Graham, Claremont; H. Cargill, M. P., Guelph; F. Chisholm, Milton; W. A. Lawrence, Milton; Jas. Cochran, Hillhurst, Que.; Wm. Beith, Toronto; J. D. Graham, Toronto; A. G. Bowker, Woodstock; John Vipond, Brooklin; John Holderness, Toronto.

The Constitution and By-laws of the Association were presented by Secretary Wade, and adopted. They provide that the object of the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association is to encourage the importation and breeding of pure-bred stock in all the recognized breeds of horses in every legitimate way.

The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, whose term of office, with the exception of the Secretary-Treasurer, shall be for one year, or until their successors are elected.

The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of ten members, to be elected annually by ballot, from members of this Association, and representing as far as practicable, the different Horse Breeders' Associations now in existence, which are as follows:—The Hackney Horse Society, the Clydesdale Horse Association, the Shire Horse Association, the Thoroughbred Horse Association, and the Trotting Horse Breeders' Association.

The membership shall consist of the present provisional officers, and any person who takes an interest in horses, may and shall become a member, who, having signified to the Secretary his desire to do so, by paying \$1.00, providing his name be approved by the Board of Directors.

The annual meeting shall be held at such time and place as may be designated by the Directors. Fifteen days' previous notice to be mailed to each member of the Association, giving time and place of meeting.

The Sub-Committee shall hold meetings at the call of the President and Secretary, when requested in writing by any three Directors. The Secretary shall hold office during the pleasure of the Directors.

Persons desirous of becoming members shall so notify the Secretary, pay one dollar entrance fee, and agree, if elected, to conform to the rules of the Association, and not to withdraw without giving three months' notice of his intention to do so. Members shall pay an annual fee of one dollar, which annual subscription shall be due and payable on or before the first day of January of each year, and all reports of the Association will be mailed free to each member.

Directors were elected as follows:—From Clydesdale Horse Association, R. Davies and David McCrae; from Hackney Horse Society, R. Beith, M. P., and N. Awrey, M. P.; from Shire Horse Association, John Gardhouse and H. N. Crossley; from Thoroughbred Horse Association, Dr. A. Smith and Wm. Hendrie, Jr.; from Ontario Trotting and Pacing Horse Breeders' Association, H. Cargill and Dr. L. Carr.

It was Resolved, "That the Directors take immediate steps to incorporate this Association under the Agriculture and Arts Act for 1885."

Mr. McCrae suggested improvements in the classification of horses at shows, and the giving of prizes for herds the get of one animal.

Mr. Wm. Wilkie said it was only by seeing his get, that the true worth of a stallion could be known. Moved by Mr. Wilkie, seconded by Mr. H. N. Crossley, "That the Directors of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition be asked to give prizes to a herd of four for the different breeds of horses, ages of the gets not to exceed two years." Carried.

Messrs. R. Beith, M. P., and H. Cargill were appointed delegates to the Industrial Fair Board.