

the hog industry. If we wish to export to the United States, we must pay 5 cents per pound duty, while they may dump our markets full on a 2-cent duty.

D. C. FLATT.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

Crippled Pigs.

We have a herd of seven pigs in a pen, on cement floor, and a board platform for them to lie on. Two of them seem to be very sore in their feet and legs, and weak in the back. We have been feeding chopped barley and oats, with a little peas and pulped turnips. Have kept a little bedding under them, and have kept them well cleaned out. The pen is rarely warm. Will you kindly advise me what to do.

G. D. S.

Ans.—It is very difficult to say what is the matter with these pigs. The food and management, so far as described, seem to be all right. Possibly the food has been a little heating, but the pulped turnips should tend to overcome this difficulty. If the difficulty is rheumatism, it may come from a little dampness in the building, coupled with high feeding, and it would be better to take the pigs out of the pen which they are in. If practicable, it would be a good plan to fix up a comfortable spot for them in the cattle stable, where they can be kept warm, and the place should be so arranged that they can be kept very dry, with plenty of bedding. It would probably do no harm to give these pigs a little turpentine in their feed. The dose will depend upon the size of the pigs. Pigs two or three months old may take about a teaspoonful of turpentine each. If they weigh over 100 pounds, the dose might be slightly increased, even as high as two teaspoonfuls per pig. Sometimes even heavier doses than this are given, but it is doubtful whether it would be advisable in a case of this kind. Crippling may be due to so many different causes that a person has to try a good many things in the hope of hitting upon something which may relieve the trouble. Their food should be of a somewhat bulky and laxative nature, feeding them plenty of pulped roots, and making their food somewhat sloppy. It might be well to cook the food, or, at any rate, scald it before feeding, as this would probably help make it more laxative in character. In very many cases, when young pigs once get crippled, they never make a satisfactory recovery; and if they are comparatively small pigs, and are badly crippled, I think it would pay the owner to knock them in the head, rather than attempt to cure them. The chances are that the longer he keeps them, the more money he will lose, if they are really in bad shape.

G. E. DAY,

Professor of Animal Husbandry.

O. A. C., Guelph.

Lean-to for Pigpen.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I would just suggest one improvement on Mr. Wright's plan, in your issue of February 4th. The writer has one very similar. Placing a lean-to on the north side, 6 or 8 ft. wide, and divided to correspond with partitions inside, will make a sort of outside yard for each pen. Have a door from each pen, hung at top, which will always close behind pigs as they go in and out, or in warm weather they may be propped open, causing a draft to windows on south side when open. This lean-to has several good features: The droppings will invariably be left out there, and in many cases this side of pen can be along one side of barnyard; the horse manure or other absorbent materials in the yard may be thrown in through doors or windows (which should be in each pen, about 3½ or 4 ft. high, which can be opened or closed as required) from time to time as needed to absorb all liquids.

When they need cleaning, drive sleigh or wagon alongside and fill through door or window, only requiring once handling. Also in hot weather, you will generally find hogs living there if dry, which is mostly the case if hogs are running out. Again, if they are closed up they have more room for exercise. I would highly commend Mr. Wright's plan with this addition, and if the pen is not long enough to meet requirements of builders, I would say build longer instead of wider. If built wide enough for two rows of pens, with passage in center, a large portion of sunlight is shut out; also requiring difficult places for cleaning out. The wire partitions have given satisfaction in my pen, which was repaired in 1903.

I think the plan would do away with doors at end of pen, in Mr. Wright's plan, marked slush.

J. R. P.

THE FARM.

Specialty vs. Mixed Farming.

The regular monthly meeting of the Brant Township Farmers' Club was held at the home of A. E. Wahn on the evening of February 2nd, and a goodly crowd of about 25 neighboring farmers gathered together to enjoy a social and educational evening. A new feature that was added to our club is an entertainment committee, and the entertainment that the committee presented was well rendered and much appreciated. This will be a regular number of our meetings whenever possible. The programme consisted of a violin solo, reading, recitation and vocal solo.

The educational feature of the evening was a debate on whether it pays the farmer to specialize more in raising or producing a certain line of product, or to keep on with mixed farming as our ancestors have done, specializing being the affirmative.

The members of the affirmative side were Messrs. W. A. Rowand, A. E. Wahn and E. Tolton. The members of the negative side were Messrs. J. L. Tolton, J. A. Lamb, Walt. Rowand. I will briefly enumerate the points brought out on both sides.

For the affirmative.—Definition of mixed farming: Our grandparents grew and sold their grain, kept a few cows for milk, and killed their calves for meat; kept a few chickens for eggs, a couple of pigs for meat for the winter, and raised enough potatoes to do them for the year. They incidentally sold any surplus that they did not need for home consumption. That's mixed farming.

Definition of specializing.—To lessen the number of lines of products that leave the farm by using up the raw material and working it up into a finished product, in which form it leaves the farm. The fewer lines of articles and the more of those articles we sell the more we specialize.

1. From the above it will be seen that most farmers specialize nowadays to some extent at least. We nearly all specialize on stock, and quite a few are beginning to specialize on a special line of stock, such as cattle, hogs, sheep, etc. The question is, why do farmers specialize to the extent that they do, or why don't they farm as our forefathers did?

2. The fact that farmers in the older localities are specializing to a great extent, and are making it pay, should be proof sufficient that specializing pays.

3. One thing at a time will lead to doing it well. Example: Edison (electricity), Burbank (plant breeding). The man that devoted his time to the wire spiral around the end of our shoe laces has made a fortune. By working on too many lines we know a little of everything and not much of anything.

4. The more we work on one thing the more experience we get, and this experience can be used as stepping-stones to greater success.

5. The cry of the employers in the great field of labor is for specialists who know how to do one thing perfectly.

6. By specializing we are able to market a finished product, and this is always more profitable than selling an unfinished product.

7. By producing just one thing we are able to make it more perfect. We are enabled to procure conveniences to facilitate our work.

8. By producing just one thing we are able to make our products more uniform. We get into a certain way of doing things, and by always following that way our product will always be of the same high order.

9. A ready market is always waiting for a perfect and uniform article.

10. The best price is always waiting for a perfect and uniform article.

11. The increased income of a locality that specializes raises the value of the farm land.

12. Special freight and express rates for a locality are the result of a locality producing only one line of product.

13. By specializing on a certain product, more of that product is produced, and the cost of production is thereby lessened, therefore the profit is increased.

POINTS FOR NEGATIVE SIDE.

1. We hear much about the man who has made a success of specializing, but none about the one who failed.

2. Manitoba, which is chiefly a specializing Province, in 1908 had under cultivation 5,166,000 acres, producing \$66,115,000 (butter, cheese, grain, hay and clover), or about \$12.75 per acre.

Ontario in 1908 had under cultivation (mixed grains) 9,985,000 acres, producing \$202,785,000 (butter, cheese, grain, hay and clover), or a little more than \$21 per acre. This in neither case includes cattle, hogs, horses, fruit, etc., which would swell the total products in Ontario to double that of Manitoba.

3. When we specialize extensively on one line of crop, our land is bound to deteriorate in fertility.

4. The Northwest is finding it necessary to go into mixed farming.

5. It is not well to have all our eggs in one basket, lest if the basket upset, or we have a failure in our special line, we have nothing else to fall back on.

6. Is the average farmer of Ontario farming on the mixed plan because he is slow to take up a good thing? Why do only a small minority engage in special lines?

7. Years ago, when horses were cheap, it would not have paid to specialize on horses.

8. It is not well to specialize on a special grain, because we need a balanced ration for our stock. We would have to buy feed that would cost us a great deal more than what we could raise it for.

9. To specialize on any one line of stock we would sometimes have to wait quite a while to get a paying price for it, while if we had more than one line there would always be a chance of getting a good price.

10. Specializing along one line requires more capital and brains than mixed farming.

Criticisms by the negative side of the affirmative side points:

Point No. 1.—It was held that the farmers of the locality are not specializing by working crops into fewer lines of products to leave the farm.

Point No. 11.—The price of land rises not because of specializing or increased earnings, but because of location.

Criticism by affirmative side of negative side points:

Point No. 2.—This is an unfair comparison, for if the number of persons to produce the values were considered, the comparison would appear greatly different, and, besides, as the comparison reads, taking into consideration the same crops, it is only a comparison of a young grain-growing country with an older mixed-farming country.

Point No. 4.—The Northwest is finding it necessary to go to mixed farming, but not because it pays better than specializing, but because they need manure to keep up the fertility.

Point No. 7.—"Let the dead past bury their dead." We are living now when horses are a good price.

Point No. 10.—May we ask if the latter part of the point is the reason why farmers don't go more into specializing? We hope not.

The judges decided the debate a tie, and we would ask the editor of "The Farmer's Advocate" for his opinion as to the decision.

The subject for next debate is, "Resolved, that growing roots alone is more profitable than growing corn alone."

A. E. WAHN.

Soft Water and Fuel.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Of the many conveniences for the farm home, I will mention only two: (1) soft-water supply, (2) fuel. In a great many farm homes the only provision made for a supply of soft water is a barrel or two, and only those who use them know how unsatisfactory they are, especially in winter, or when dry spells occur in summer. It is all the more regrettable when a supply tank or cistern can be had for so little cost, of which there are several different styles. We will just mention two, perhaps the cheapest, both of which have given entire satisfaction in a number of cases: (1) To be placed outside. Dig a hole the desired size—5 ft. diameter x 5 ft. deep will hold about 15 barrels, which is enough for the average family. It should be pot-shaped in the bottom. Plaster with sand and cement, right on clay or gravel, as the case may be. Provision should also be made to bank well to protect from the action of the frost. Of course, to get the best use of it put in a pump. (2) In the majority of farm-houses there is abundance of cellar room, which is an ideal place for a cistern, being at all times free from frost and easy of access for cleaning out, which should be done at least once a year. This style can be built of cement or brick (soft will answer), about 1,000 for the size mentioned. Lay a 9-in. wall circular in cement mortar, and plaster inside and it is completed. A good mason will do most of the work in a day. Put in an overflow pipe, and connect with the cellar drain. A small pump, connected by lead pipe, placed in a convenient place in kitchen or washroom, will be found very satisfactory. It will cause no inconvenience by being so situated.

The fuel in Ontario is principally wood, and there is nothing better if put in proper shape. Too often, for different reasons, wood is left unhusked, and undried or in the green state, in which state it is impossible to get satisfaction, and this is the reason some prefer coal to wood. A good plan is to cut, split and pile inside enough hard wood, or soft if hard is not available, each spring to last till the following spring for winter use, and to those who have never tried it, the saving will be an agreeable surprise, to say nothing of the comfort and satisfaction. If we stop to consider, when we put on the fire wood that is not thoroughly dry, it takes a certain amount of the fuel to drive out the moisture. For anything except baking, soft wood does very well for summer use. It makes a quick fire and is over, which very often is all that is required at that season of the year.

JNO. R. PHILP.

Grey's Cove.