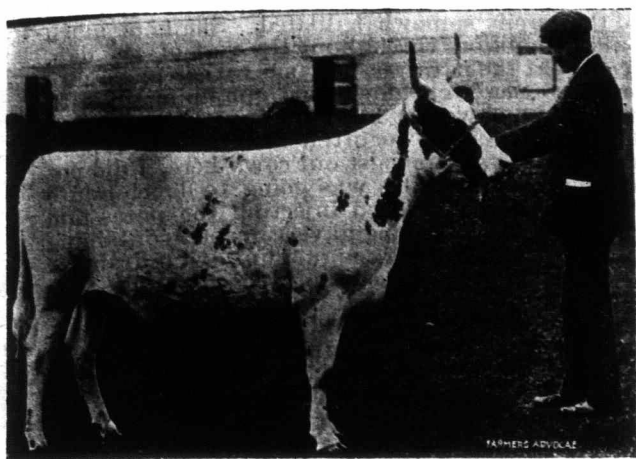


Cleanliness in Stock Foods.

Some time ago we received from one of our readers a letter complaining of a piggery in which the animals were fattened upon refuse from a tannery so ill-smelling that horses could with great difficulty be induced to pass the place. Most disagreeable, if not a positive menace to health, it was also alleged that the pigs became so savage that they would eat each other, and that some young cattle had died in the vicinity, the first case being where the piggery was located. We reported the complaint to the Dominion Agricultural Department, which ordered an enquiry by the Live Stock Inspection Department. The result does not establish very clearly the relation, if any, between the piggery and tannery refuse feeding on the one



ORANGE BLOSSOM OF HILLHOUSE.

Sire Blood-for-Ever.

BRED BY D. & J. WARDROPE, OLD CUNNOCK, SCOTLAND.

hand, and the ailing cattle on the other. Cases of anthrax have arisen, through the medium of hides, even at some distance, when tannery refuse runs into a stream of water. The case does emphasize, however, that the feeding of such material as tannery refuse (animal matter) to pigs cannot be too strongly condemned. A large portion of it must always be in an advanced stage of decomposition, and even if boiled will occasion more or less of a nuisance in the neighborhood, as well as endangering the health of the pigs. We have also heard of cases, a couple of seasons ago, where, in very hot weather, pigs had died from drinking whey which had become well-nigh putrid in filthy cheese-factory whey tanks. The pig is not naturally the filthy animal that some people seem to suppose, and if feeders have regard to its comfort, thrift, and quality of carcass, they will provide it with scrupulously clean quarters, food, and drink. The question of the use of salt in pig fattening is very clearly dealt with by Prof. Curtiss, of the Iowa Experiment Station, in the "Questions and Answers" department of this issue.

Blending Thoroughbred and Hackney for Action.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your Western issue of July 20th I notice a clipping from the English *Live Stock Journal*, under the heading, "Thoroughbred or Hackney," containing the following passages, viz.: "It is to be hoped, however, that the Canadians will set to work in earnest to improve their harness horses, and this object can be readily achieved by the introduction of Hackney blood, which will ensure bone, substance, bottom and action in the foals." Again, further on, the article sums up against the use of Thoroughbred sires for this purpose, as follows, viz.: "In the matter of advice, therefore, there can be no doubt that the American report, which bluntly and truthfully asserts that the introduction of 'blood' is opposed to the production of action, is far sounder than that of his Canadian brother official, and we trust, therefore, that our countrymen of the Dominion will not be influenced by him into attempting to get high-actioned horses by a method which will render the attainment of their object impossible."

Now, Mr. Editor, I think that the passages quoted are apt to leave an incorrect impression on the minds of many readers. Does the English *Live Stock Journal* intend it to be understood that our harness horses can be improved to within measurable distance of perfection by the use of only Hackney sires on our common harness mares? Or do we understand the *Journal* to mean that when we have "bone, substance, bottom and action in the foals," we have all the desirable qualities of a high-class harness horse? We have all seen horses of good knee and hock action, size, substance and bottom, working in delivery wagons, because, to these good qualities was conjoined a coarseness that rendered them unsuited to adorn a well-appointed carriage; and it must not be forgotten that the high action so greatly prized in a carriage horse would only make a delivery horse less durable. It is one thing to lay down rules of breeding likely to be successful in England, where mares with "blood" are the rule, and another thing to apply those rules with a change of dams, most of which are woefully lacking in "quality," as in this country. It will hardly be denied that the Hackney, as a sire of high-class harness horses, is not equalled by the Thoroughbred, the action so desirable in the harness class having

been discouraged in the Thoroughbred as being inimical to great speed at the gallop; but to say that Thoroughbred blood is antagonistic to good knee and hock action is to state a proposition which may, I think, be readily disproved. The tendency to high action is dormant in rather than foreign to Thoroughbred blood; but even a limited ring-side experience will have afforded the observer several instances of good and a few of exceptional action in Thoroughbreds. If the Hackney has a noticeable defect as a sire, it is in the lack of "quality," and, unless this be supplied by a plentiful infusion of "blood" in the dam, the progeny must be lacking in this desideratum of the high-class horse. What, I take it, the English *Live Stock Journal* meant to impress upon us was that the high-class harness horse must be sired by a Hackney, and that the use of a Thoroughbred as a sire of the finished harness horse was out of place—not that the blood of the Thoroughbred in dam or granddam was to be objected to. I trust that you will forgive this trespass on your valuable space, should I have erred in believing that the summing up of the article in question, owing to the way in which it was worded, did a grave injustice to the value of Thoroughbred blood, and, through it, as the foundation of improvement, to the best interests of the horse breeders of this country.

Winnipeg.

Yours truly,

P.

FARM.

Agricultural Notes from Ottawa.

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Ottawa, Aug. 11th.—Parliament has risen, after making provision for the carrying on of the public service for the ensuing twelve months. The vote for the promotion of agriculture is liberal, but none too liberal, considering the importance of the industry. Ten thousand dollars extra was voted for the Department of Agriculture, of which \$5,000 was for purposes of live stock. In granting this money Parliament shows that it recognizes the necessity for pushing this great and constantly growing trade.

It has been stated that \$2,000 of this amount is to pay the salary of a Live Stock Commissioner. I understand that this is scarcely a correct statement of the case. Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, has undoubtedly made up his mind to appoint a Live Stock Commissioner, to take special charge of the promotion of that industry, who will devote his whole time to it, and advance it in every way possible, in conjunction with and under Professor Robertson. Of course, Professor Robertson is well paid, but it is doubtful if a man could be got for less money to take his place, even with an associate specially charged with the promotion of the live-stock industry. The question which presented itself to the Minister was how best to secure the advancement of this important branch of farming. To provide this assistant, a suitable salary will have to be paid, but it may not amount to \$2,000. A good deal will depend on the man who is appointed. He ought to be the very best available, and the Minister has promised that merit and adaptability for the work shall guide him in his choice. An appointment has not, of course, yet been made.

The proposal to establish Illustration Stations in various parts of the Dominion, with the view of aiding the less forward portions of the country to a better system, was brought before the House of Commons, but was not pushed by the Minister at the present time. I have heard numerous regrets that the experiments have, for a time, been abandoned. The opposition in Parliament came almost entirely from Western Ontario representatives. Now, although this kind of teaching may not be necessary in the best farming districts of Canada, which are to be found in the Western Peninsula of Ontario, there are very large areas in the rest of the Dominion where it might be of the greatest value, and the question has been asked: Would it not be in the interest of the more advanced sections to bring the remainder of the country up to the same position as they occupy?

I am informed that the Minister of Agriculture has read, with much interest, the suggestions of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE with regard to the collection of Canadian agricultural statistics so that they may be more promptly and systematically obtained from all the Provinces, and the results compiled at stated intervals, instead of simply summarized from Provincial returns once a year in the Dominion Statistical Yearbook, as now. It is probable that, in the course of the ensuing year, the subject will occupy the attention of Hon. Mr. Fisher, and before next census is taken a radical improvement may be effected. As to the census, it will not be proceeded with till the usual time in 1901, so that the arrangements need not be made for this work till next year.

The hog-feeding experiments are still in progress at the Central Experimental Farm here. Over 200 animals are being fed, with the object of finding out the causes of soft bacon, which has given farmers a good deal of trouble. One-half of the animals were brought from Western Ontario and the other half were procured in this district, the object being to discover the difference, if any, in the effect of

various methods of feeding on animals from widely separated districts. Mr. Grisdale, the Stock Manager, has the direct charge of the work, on a plan elaborated by the Minister of Agriculture, Professor Robertson, Dr. Saunders, Mr. Shutt, the chemist, and Mr. Grisdale himself.

The Growing of Fall Wheat.

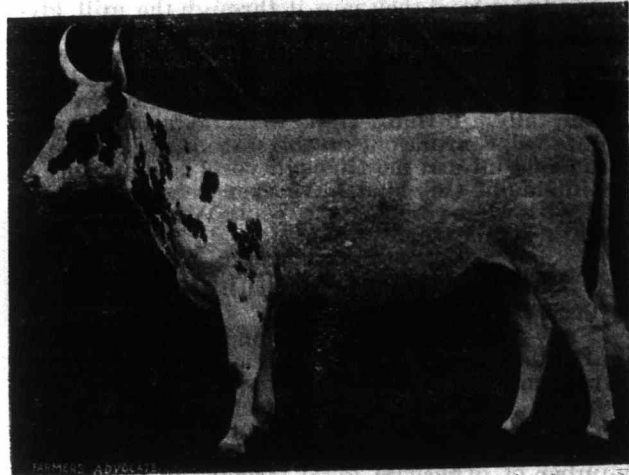
To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The reason given in your issue of July 15th for the winter-killing of wheat last season may be, or may not be, the true one for the large percentage of winter wheat killed. True it is that a great many pieces that were sown early have been winter-killed, while pieces that were sown later have fared much better, but, perhaps, there have been other causes besides the great amount of top. In the fall of '97, our wheat had fully as much top as it had last fall, and yet, this year we have scarcely any killed, and last year we had scarcely any killed. How can we conclude, then, that our wheat was sown too early and developed too much top? If we were to come to that conclusion, we might also take it for granted, from last year's experience, that wheat will do well on comparatively wet land, because there were some pieces around here last year that came out well on wet land, while many pieces on high and dry land were almost totally killed. Such a thing as the latter conclusion, however, we know by many years' experience to be absurd. All wheat-growers know that dry land is the only land suitable for wheat.

After the wheat was sown a year ago, we had plenty of rain, and there were very few days that the sun was shining in a clear sky. We all know what important factors the rays of the sun are in the formation of strong, healthy plants. We have noticed the pale green color of plants that have started to grow in a dark place. It has a luxuriant growth, but it is very tender. Might that be the state of the young wheat plant in the fall of '98? Personally, I fancy it was not so much the abundance of growth as it was the weakness of growth that caused the partial failure of wheat this year.

Our farm is composed of 235 acres, most of which is under cultivation. During the ten years that we have lived here we have grown fall wheat on mostly every part of it. The field which we count the most suitable for fall wheat is sheltered on the north and west by a bush. It is slightly undulating, with fair top-drainage and good natural underdrainage. It is of a clay loam soil of a good open texture. Land for wheat should be well drained. Natural drainage is the best, but it may be grown on land inclined to be wet, provided there is a good system of underdrainage. One year we sowed wheat on a piece, part of which needed underdrainage. The field was plowed about seven inches deep in eight yard lands and sowed some time about the 10th of September. The wheat on the part of the field that needed underdrainage never grew well in the fall, came out in poor shape in the spring, and yielded but a small crop of poor wheat. The other part of that same field did exceedingly well in every respect. I would emphasize having well-drained land.

A windbreak to the north and west is often advantageous. It helps to distribute the snow more evenly over the field, and thus gives better protection to the young plants.



LADY FLORA.

At two years old. Sire Cock-o-the-Walk, by Cockabandie. BRED AND OWNED BY A. P. GILMAN, KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SCOTLAND.

We have always made a practice of bare summer-fallowing, and this serves as a preparation for the wheat. Our principal reason, however, for summer-fallowing is not to prepare for fall wheat, but to rid the farm of bad weeds, such as couch grass and thistles. We very seldom use any manure, except it be on the crest of some knolls. One year we used a bag of commercial fertilizer. We thought that it may have done some good, but as we had no marked result and no measured plot to make certain, we neither recommend or condemn.

With reference to the time of sowing, there is a diversity of opinion. Some say, "Sow early, from the 20th to the 31st of August, if possible." Others say, "Wheat should be sown from the 10th to the 20th of September." Last year excepted, we have always had the best crops when we have sown about the 1st of September.