

figure. It is generally supposed that it is more profitable to use high-priced sires than dams in grading up stock, although both are very essential. A fairly good brood mare would cost, say, from \$400 up; a good sire, from \$20 to \$50, for service. The sire is supposed to have as much influence as the dam. There is \$400 up on the one side, while there is only from \$20 to \$50 on the other. It is seldom the dam works for any more than half her feed when raising a foal. It is easy to see the profit is on the side of using a good sire, even with a \$200 mare. It is true the dam would still be an asset when her usefulness at the stud had ceased, but it would be very much diminished. I may also say, according to my own experience and observation, that Canadian-bred Clydesdales, although a little undersized, were improved in quality. The value, on the whole, is quite as good. SUBSCRIBER.

Que.

Light to Medium Drafters.

The following remarks, occurring in a contribution to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," Winnipeg, fit appropriately into the discussion in these columns, as to quality and substance in Clydesdales. Of course, the views set forth are merely one man's opinions, but comparison of opinions is a stimulus to thought and an aid to judgment. The writer is J. D. Gale, of Saskatchewan, and his article was directed more particularly to the question of breed merit.

"My own personal experience has been with the Shires and Clydesdales, with a strong inclination to the Shires. That the Clydesdales are the most popular is no criterion of their claim to being the best all-round horse for agricultural draft purposes for Canada. Facts, not opinions, count. Or, because they require big, overgrown horses in the large cities like Liverpool, would it be wise for us out here to go headlong after that mark? We have a home market here at good paying figures, for horses from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds, and if they have the quality at this weight, they are all right. I have a horse bred from an approved light mare and a Standard-bred stallion weighing 1,150 pounds that has more horse-power to the pound—that is, for general-purpose work on the farms—than any horse with Clydesdale or Shire blood I ever saw; but the extra weight counts on the gang plow.

"I am inclined to think that there is a strong relationship between the Clydesdales and Shires. I have a pure-bred Clydesdale, imported from Scotland, at present in my stable, and if he were with eleven Shires in a row, it would puzzle an expert to pick him out.

"The Clydesdale horse has many good qualities—too numerous to mention here. He has the cleanest, best shank, hock and pastern of any breed, barring the Thoroughbred, but in his native home he is bred for a cart horse, and he must have a place for the saddle; and I have been told by good authority that he must not be so big at the girth that the saddle will slip back! One thing is certain, that the majority of the Clydesdales are deficient here; they have not fire-place enough to heat the boiler. Every pound a horse possesses at his girth measurement is worth two pounds anywhere else.

"At present I am looking for a good little Shire. I don't think there is any mistake in using a medium-sized, well-bred horse on small mares. I started my bunch by getting three nichie pony mares. I got the three all in foal at the time for less than \$20 each. I got an excellent Shire (pure-bred, imported) stallion, weighing about 1,600 pounds, and until he played old-age, my bunch did well. Very few of the horses travelling in this district go much over 1,600 to 1,800 pounds, and if they have the girth and quality, that weight is sufficient to produce good useful horses from even small mares."

Best of Agricultural Papers.

"The Farmer's Advocate" is the best of all farm papers. I have taken it for nearly a year, and am well pleased with its reading, especially the good advice on stock-raising. A family can always enjoy "The Farmer's Advocate" in the winter evenings. A READER.

Kent Co., Ont.

If owners of mares were obliged to pay \$5.00 at the time of service, there would be fewer low-grade, useless and broken-down mares used for breeding purposes.—[W. F. Kydd, Norfolk Co.]

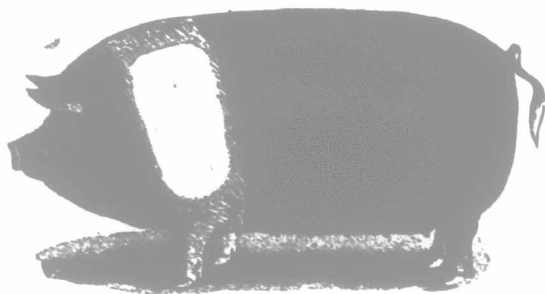
Public opinion is like plaster of Paris—it's easy to mould before it has set.

LIVE STOCK.

P. E. Island Pork-making.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The price of pork has kept up to a good level all fall and winter—7½c. for best weights—and it has now an upward tendency. The packers ask us farmers to have our pork on the market in July or August. This we cannot do, because, first, our spring pigs would be too young and small, and, second, in those months feed of all kinds is scarce. Potatoes and roots are not fit to dig, and potatoes, which, either raw or boiled, form a large part of the fattening feed for our hogs, are about out of the question so early in the season, and those two months grain of all kinds is usually pretty scarce around the majority of our farms, but a few months later on, when there is an abundance of everything, and our spring hogs have grown a good size, we can then make good pork. The high price in the summer months has induced many of our farmers to



Hampshire Sow.

(See page 105.)

slaughter their hogs when they were both small and thin and not fit to ship, and such pork has had a bad effect upon and does not suit ours or any market. Farmers have about arrived at the conclusion that there is very little profit in pork-raising yet. A few pigs can be kept on every farm on what would, in many cases, be wasted if there were no hogs to feed it to.

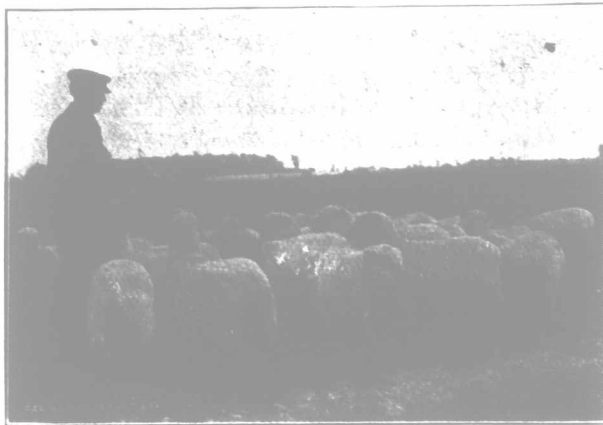
East Prince, P. E. I.

C. C. CRAIG.

Notes from Ireland.

A FEW MEAT TOPICS.

While much sympathy was felt for the stock-owners affected through the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in America, there was in some circles here a natural and ill-concealed satisfaction at the damper which it occasioned upon the agitation for the alteration of the much-debated embargo. The occurrence at least indicated that there was, after all, more than a remote chance of disease being imported, and that danger on this score was by no means so mythical as certain parties lustily proclaimed during the past few years. Of course, the outbreak did not occur in Canada, but the statement that



Salting the Shropshires.

Scene on a farm in Brant County, Ontario.

some of the originally-affected animals passed through parts of the Dominion by rail has considerably strengthened the hands of those who want things to remain as they are.

From foreign to home meat supplies is an easy transition, and, in connection with the latter, a new movement, observable in some portions of Ireland, is significant enough to merit notice. It is an endeavor to create a dead-meat trade with England, and is being fostered by the Department of Agriculture, whose secretary, Mr. T. P. Gill, has lately delivered a couple of addresses on "The Policy of the Finished Article." One of the Department's Inspectors has been touring Aberdeenshire and other parts of Northern Scotland, to see how the dead-meat trade is carried on there, and he has also pursued his inquiries into the same subject at London, the great consuming center. We are promised at an early date a full, illus-

trated account of the information thus elicited, and this is being awaited with eagerness by many farmers whose circumstances would enable them to participate in such an undertaking. The part of the country that is foremost in the movement is the Co. Wexford, in the south-east, which is now enjoying increased transit facilities to South Wales, and a direct and rapid service to the English metropolis, thanks to the enterprise of the Great Western Railway. There seems to be no great reason why a number of our farmers should not take a leaf out of their Scotch rivals' book. A dead-meat trade is, in certain obvious respects, an improvement on the export of live animals. For one thing, it compels the finishing of the beasts at home; for a second, it obviates the loss in condition and weight always incurred in the transit of a living animal; for yet a third, it provides in the offal, which remains in the country, a substantial amount of raw material, the presence of which would justify the establishment of different remunerative local industries. For these and other reasons, we will await with interest the development of the proposal to venture in a new direction.

One great hardship from which our home-produced meat has seriously suffered for many years past has been the widespread practice among butchers of giving imported stuff as much prominence as the native article, if not more. Of course, the law did not require them to make any distinction as to the country of origin of the meat which they offered for sale, and it was, accordingly, no breach of law for a man to conceal from his customers information as to where he obtained his supplies, incidentally, perhaps, hoping they would fancy they were being furnished with home-reared and home-killed meat, for all they could learn to the contrary. British farmers on both sides of the Channel have often complained of this as unfair, and, seeing that the liberty of butchers has been at times abused, our stock-raisers cannot be blamed for feeling that their interests might be better guarded. It has fallen to the lot of a prominent Irish Member of Parliament, Wm. Field (himself a leading butcher near Dublin), and President of the Irish Cattle-traders' and Stock-owners' Association), to introduce an important bill into Parliament, which is to be known as the Meat Marking Bill. This measure, which it is hoped, in the interests of fairness, will become law, applies only to Ireland, and it will require every person who sells imported, frozen or chilled meat, killed beyond the limits of Great Britain or Ireland, to deliver to the purchaser an invoice stating the fact. Any auctioneer selling such meat will have to do likewise, and also declare the fact clearly to his audience. Every seller of imported meat will also be required to affix, in a conspicuous position on his place of business, in printed or painted letters not less than three inches square, the words, "Dealer in Imported, Frozen and Chilled Meat," and he will also have to register his name as such with the local authority, who will keep a list of dealers that will be accessible for free public inspection during business hours. For offences under the act, a first penalty will be a fine not exceeding £5, and for the second and subsequent offences the fine will not exceed £20. It will be noted that only imported dead meat is affected in this measure, as port-killed animals are not included.

During the greater part of 1908 a most depressing condition prevailed in the mutton trade, and prices for sheep have been unusually low. Farmers have looked in vain to agricultural economists to explain the reason for the exceptional dullness, and nobody seems to be able to satisfactorily diagnose the cause of the trouble. Some attribute it to the increase in the ovine population of the Kingdom; others believe it to be due to the restricted consumptive demand arising from the lamentable state of the labor market in practically all big centers. Still, this should also affect pork and beef, which it has not done. Be the cause what it may, several well-informed authorities are of opinion that the depression that has overhung the sheep trade since last spring will soon be lifted, and it looks as if the trend of latest markets would warrant this hope.

This letter has been confined to some phases of the meat trade, but each topic is fairly important, and, as Shakespeare says: "Meet it is that I should set it down."

"EMERALD ISLE."

An Out-of-date Ventilation.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I must say, in answer to your inquiries concerning ventilation, that I can tell you little of interest for publication. Our stables are ventilated by means of tile placed in the wall at various intervals. This is looked upon as a crude system to-day, yet not so much so away back in the early 90's, when the stables were built. The system is not nearly so efficient as the more modern ones in use to-day, still, in our case, it must answer the purpose for a while yet. We have a large stable, one that is open and well lighted. Each animal has ample breathing-space,