

Of late much has been said in agricultural journals regarding the importance of rapid growth early in life, especially where the block is the ultimatum. This will hold true in all the lines of meat production, notwithstanding the statements of England's Professor Brown to the contrary. One pound of grain fed to the lambs will produce more flesh during the first six months of their growth, than will two pounds during the next six, owing to the greater activity of the powers of assimilation during the former period.

When thus pushed quickly along, there is a corresponding growth of fleece, both in quantity and quality. The difference in this respect of lambs that are good and ill kept when one-year-old is most surprising.

Water. When ewes are suckling lambs, they should get a plentiful supply of clean water every day. They will live without it, but they will not thrive, nor will the lambs. The influence of water on the milk flow is very marked, and therefore cannot be dispensed with without great loss. Sheep that are not suckling lambs often thrive apparently without water, but they do not thrive so well as though they had access to it.

Weaning the lambs. This should be done when the lambs are about five months old. Much vigilance should be exercised in the care of the udders of the ewes for a week or more. Those requiring milking should get it, and the ewes should be kept for a time on scant fare, after which they should get liberal pastures, to repair the waste of the period of maternity, in which case they do not require grain.

The lambs now must receive every attention. They must be allowed plenty of pasture, an increase of grain and abundance of water. This provision should extend through the first winter. The great advantages of having the lambs well used to a grain ration will never be more apparent than at this period. The process of weaning will give them no check, whereas in the case of lambs not thus cared for previously, they are sure to go backward rather than forward for a time.

The advantage, too, of having the ewes lamb early will be very apparent in the fall of the year. The early weaning of the lambs allows the ewes to become well-fleshed and robust before the commencement of winter. When the lambs come late the weaning must be correspondingly late, in which case the ewes enter winter at a disadvantage as regards condition, which in all probability they will not fully overcome while the winter continues.

We are aware that this paper will be met with the objection that all this involves too much labor—more than can be given by farmers so busily occupied during the summer months. We have this one answer to all such objections—that whatever pays doing at all will pay doing well. Men have kept sheep in Canada numerously in the past and have made a profit without taking so much pains, but the question at once arises, if a profit can be made by doing things in a slipshod way in any branch of the farming industry, will not the profit be correspondingly greater when done in a painstaking manner?

Perseverance in Stock Raising.

Perseverance is an excellent quality in the pursuit of any business, but especially so in the raising of stock. The lack of it is a sore evil in any line of life, but the consequences are not so far-reaching, nor so ill to overcome in some departments as in others, especially in the several departments of farming. Violent changes in the pursuit of agriculture are at all times to be deprecated, as it usually takes some time for him who makes them to accommodate himself to his new adjustments, and to make the most of them. But in grow-

ing grain it takes less time to bring about a revolution of system than to do so in reference to stock. In the former instance it may be done in a single season, while in the latter it usually takes years. A farmer may have his land mostly sown to grass one year, and the next to grain, by the simple use of the plough, but in stock-keeping to change from dairying to beef-production is the work of years, unless the change is brought about by direct sale and purchase.

But difficult as the change is, it is easier to bring it about than to master thoroughly its details when the change is made. He who has concentrated his attention on one branch of stock-raising for a term of years has learned a good deal about that one branch. When a change is made, the chances are that it will take as long, or nearly so, to master the other branch, or even to get it brought to a like degree of thoroughness.

He who is constantly changing his tactics in stock-keeping is about on a par with him who is chasing the wind in the hope of overtaking it, and will succeed about as well. We have never yet known one to attain to any distinction who adopted such a course, nor do we ever expect to, for stock-keeping is a science which has great depths, that will take the giant over his head at the first plunge, even though it has its shallows through which a little child may wade.

But where is the limit to this perseverance? The market may change and remain permanently changed; or at least the indications may point in the one direction for a long time, as in the receding demand for Leicester sheep in England. For so long a period has the current been setting backward that serious fears have been expressed for the preservation of this noble race, as a distinct breed. Are those engaged in breeding this class of sheep to give it up? We think they should hesitate before doing so. There is usually a good deal of capital invested. To transform it into some other kind of live-stock popular at the time, can only be done at a sacrifice, as the stock sold at ebb tide is usually sold at a loss, and that purchased at spring tide is also likely to be purchased at a loss, owing to the exorbitant prices. Here, then, is a very great disadvantage to be met at the outset. Then the habits of the new line of animals have to be studied, which takes a long time. Those of Shropshire sheep are not identical with the habits of Leicesters, though in many respects similar, and there is a corresponding difference in the treatment required, only learned usually in the school of experience, which is generally an expensive one. The man who succeeds well in any line of live-stock is usually a good judge of the same, but while he may excel as a judge of what is best in his own line, he may not be an expert in the new line taken up, indeed it is almost certain he is not.

In the case chosen for illustration, that of Leicester sheep, what should the breeders do? Should they abandon the pursuit and take up another line? Not hastily, as already stated, but rather seek a standard of higher excellence in breeding them; produce better individuals and they will be more sought for. This is the remedy suggested by the ablest writers for the agricultural distress of Britain at the present time, and we think it is a good one.

There is, too, the chance that the fashions of the former years may come again. These like the seasons go their rounds: if by a slower succession, just about as surely. Within the memory of many living, Leicester sheep brought exorbitant prices; and so they may again before the end of the century. A few royal personages may appear clad in textures manufactured from coarse wools, and the world will at once set out in the chase for long-wooled garments.

If there is merit in any breed, parties should be

slow to change. It will fight its way into the favor of a sufficient number to give it honorable recognition, and to render its production remunerative.

Herein it is that the *scrubs* fail so notoriously as a beefing breed; there is no merit in them, and yet strange to say the keepers of these are above all men inclined to persevere in multiplying them. Now is there the shadow of a chance that some changeless fashion will bring them to the top of the revolving wheel that gauges profits? There is no likelihood that scrub beef will ever be eagerly sought out by a revolution of taste however violent, and just because it is lacking in intrinsic merit.

Men may cry about live stock booms until they are hoarse, but no amount of booming will keep any breed long upon the crest of the wave. Unless it is stayed upon merit, it will sink down into the trough of the sea, and the next advance wave will roll unconcernedly over it. If the Shorthorns are the most widely known and numerously kept of the beefing breeds to-day, it is because they have merit. If the Herefords and Aberdeen-Angus Polls are pressing them closely in the fat-stock show rings, it is because they have merit. If the Jersey and Holstein men, two immense armies drawn up in battle array, have already begun the fight, it is because there is merit in the breeds which they champion, and so of all the rest. The *scrubs*, in Ontario, are the only breed whom no one regarded in the possession of his senses, champions, and this is a most convincing proof that they lack merit. Without defenders they must go; they are assuredly destined to a sure and utter extermination.

The kinds of stock to be kept cannot be too carefully considered when first investing. If one has the discernment in looking down the vista of the future, to see which way the wind is likely to blow, or in other words to forecast the demands upon a breed in the near future, it is well. It is better to go out with the tide than first to have to wait for its coming in, but when once fairly launched in any given line, persevere in it most tenaciously.

Life is too short to give countenance to fickleness. If, like the ante-diluvians, men could live for half-a-dozen centuries, they might try all the breeds and decide for themselves, but this cannot be successfully done within the modern limit of the three score years and ten. It takes a life-time to master the production of any breed in perfection, if indeed the feat has ever been accomplished. Perseverance may be read above every stable door within which a good representative stud, herd, or flock has been reared. It may be discerned on every prize-ticket where the winning beast is home-bred. It is stamped on the bank account of every successful keeper of stock. And we feel we are quite safe in saying that without it, failure in the end will overtake everyone engaged in the keeping of stock.

The Beef Breeds of Cattle.

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THE ABERDEEN-ANGUS.

This breed has long been quite familiar to the show-goer in this, and particularly the old country. Their jetty, glossy, soft, silky coat, covering the primest of carcasses—of almost perfect symmetry and minimum of offal—these are their outstanding features. Their straight top lines, straight from the crops to the tail-head; their true underlines; their filling up of all vacant spaces in front (neck-vein) of shoulder, and behind (fore-flank) shoulder, in front of the hooks and behind; with a level filled up rump and "short rib";