

Lincoln Sheep.

The Lincoln breed of sheep originated in the county of Lincolnshire, England, where they are yet more generally kept than any other breed, while they may also be found in several other counties in that country, and are widely distributed in other countries, having found their way in large numbers into Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, Canada and the United States. The original Lincolnshire sheep were a large, loosely-made breed, with flat ribs and deep bellies. Their improvement, which was effected principally by crossing with Leicester rams, commenced about the middle of the eighteenth century, while Mr. Bakewell, the great improver of Leicesters, was yet living. In general form, the Lincoln somewhat resembles the Leicester, but they are deeper-bodied and carry heavier fleeces, are woolled on the legs, and, as a rule, have a tuft of wool on the forehead. They are the largest and heaviest of the English breeds. The average weight of matured rams in good condition, may be put at 300 to 325 lbs., and ewes at 250 to 270 lbs. Show rams, highly fitted, have weighed as high as 400 lbs. and up to 450 lbs. Their flesh is firm, and their backs well covered with flesh, which is of good quality, the meat being juicy and well marbled or mixed, the lean with the fat. They are the heaviest shearers of all the English breeds, the average weight for fleeces in well-fed flocks being from twelve to fourteen pounds, unwashed, while there are records of rams' fleeces weighing twenty to thirty pounds. The wool on yearling ewes, the first fleece, grows very long, sometimes measuring twelve to sixteen inches and upwards, and the quality of the wool in the best flocks is excellent, being fine, and yet strong, lustrous and of even quality all over the body, and they hold their wool on the belly and legs into old age. Lincolns mature early for their great size. They are good grazers, and also answer admirably for folding. Their docility, improved breeding and strong constitution enable them to feed profitably and make good returns. Their value in crossing upon Merinos and other breeds, increasing the weight of wool and mutton, both of which are of good quality, is among their strongest claims for preference. They have been largely and successfully used for crossing on the range flocks of the United States, and in South America, where they have been eagerly sought after and imported from England at very high prices, the Argentine breeders buying the best rams obtainable, with practically no limit as to price. The well-furnished Lincoln has a squarelike and massive appearance, strong, straight, well-placed limbs, a strong neck, well set into the shoulders, a deep body, and all the indications of constitutional vigor.

The National American Lincolnshire Sheep-breeders' Association was organized in 1891, and the present secretary is Mr. Bert Smith, of Charlotte, Michigan. There have been recorded something over 10,000 of this breed by owners distributed through many of the Middle and Western States, and in every Province in Canada, though the principal flocks are found in Western Ontario.

Worth Double the Cost.

Enclosed find the sum of \$3.00, for 1904 and 1905. I would not be without the "Farmer's Advocate" if it cost as much more.

R. SHEEHAN.

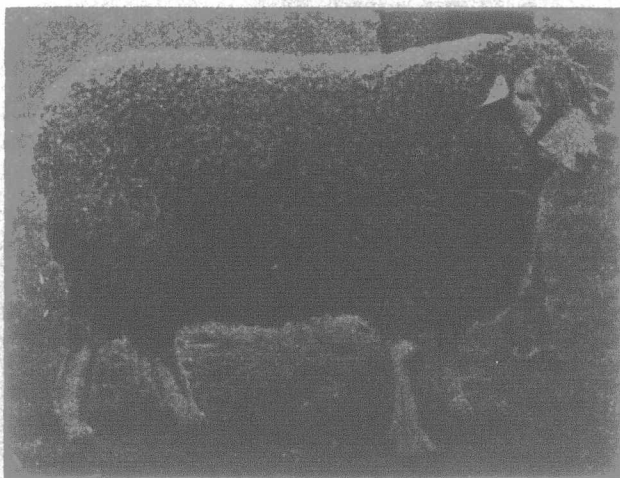
Peterboro Co., Nov. 12th, 1904.

FARM.

Shall I Move to Town?

The practice of selling or renting a farm and moving to town has become quite general over almost the entire country. Farmers who do this are called "retired" farmers, and it is no small tribute to the resources of any state or country that the farmers are about the only class of men engaged in active employment who are able to retire after they have passed middle life. The merchant, the lawyer, and the doctor seldom retire. The officeholder seldom retires voluntarily, but, fortunately, he is often "retired."

The reasons usually given for moving to town are various. Those given by the man over sixty years of age are the following: First, "I am too old to do a full day's work on the farm; therefore, I will retire,



Lincoln Ram.

move to town, and take life easier." It is quite true that when a man passes sixty, or in some cases fifty, he is much less able to do a hard day's work than before. His joints become stiff, his fingers are all thumbs, and he gets out of breath when he chases the fractious horse or tries to drive the old sow out of the potato patch. He tires more readily after a day's plowing, and is convinced, whether he will or not, that he is growing old.

He has not, however, become useless on the farm because of any or all of these things. He has had a lifetime of experience and observation, and has qualities which the young man has not had time to acquire. When a man thinks about retiring, his head, if he has used it to good purpose, is worth more dollars per month to the farm than the work he can no longer perform, as compared with his younger days. The old man's place is not to do a hard day's work, but to direct and plan and allow others to execute.

This brings up the second reason for moving to town; namely, it is almost impossible to get help either in the field or in the house. Unfortunately, this is true. Help never was as scarce on the farm as it is in 1904, nor has it ever been less efficient. Not because the young men of to-day are less intelligent than heretofore, but because the improvements in farm machinery and in methods of feeding and caring for stock require a higher degree of intelligence and greater skill. Farming is fast becoming a profession, or business, requiring skilled labor. Formerly we bought muscle when we hired men; now we buy brains and practical experience as well as muscle. The young men who have not brains enough to do farm work are being driven to town to work on the streets or on the roads, or in some line of business where they are required to do but one thing, and that becomes automatic from habit

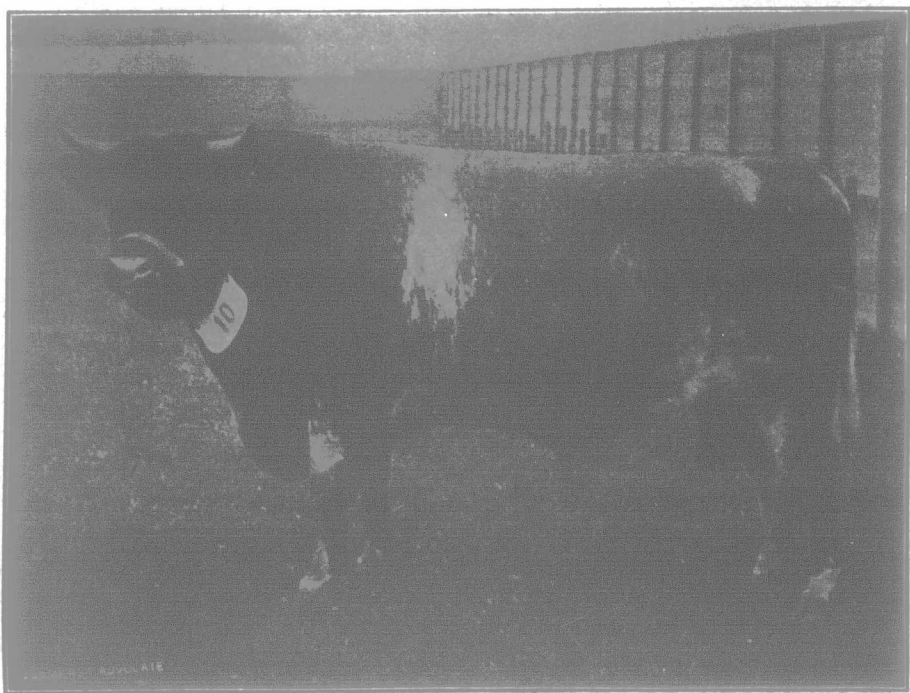
and does itself. Nor is it likely that things will be any better soon. The demands on the hired man in the way of intelligence and skill will become greater and greater every year. The time will come before very long when labor will be more or less of a drug on the market in the town or city, but this labor will be useless on the farm.

We suggest a better way out of the difficulty than moving to town. Let the man past middle age rent his farm to the brightest young farmer that he can get hold of, and give him, to use a common expression, a good "lay." Let him, however, retain in his hands the rotation of crops generally, and give directions as to how the farm shall be managed. Let him build a small but comfortable house for himself, retain one team, a cow, and enough acres of land to keep him busy, and go into some special line of farming; such, for example, as raising seed corn, improving grains, breeding improved hogs, or poultry, or beekeeping—anything to keep his mind busy and keep himself as much as possible under the old environment.

The third argument for moving to town is: "I want to give my children the benefit of a first-class education." Now, it is quite true that the country school is not what it should be. It is equally true that so far as the mere imparting of knowledge the graded school in the city or town is superior. The inferiority, however, of the country school and the superiority of the city school is largely the result of the custom of farmers moving to town. The country schools are comparatively empty; the city schools are overcrowded. However, the farmer must bear in mind that education does not consist solely in imparting knowledge. That really is but a small part of it, and the farmer who moves to town solely for the purpose of giving his children an education in one line is quite likely to give them a worse education in another. They are removed from the simplicity of the farm life. They do not acquire the sterling virtues of the farm boy or girl. They acquire much more expensive tastes and habits. They are very apt not to learn the first and most important element of all education, the habit of steady and persistent work. We had rather take our chances with a boy or girl reared wholly in the country and educated at a first-class country school than one educated in town at the graded schools. The chances of success in life for the children are not increased but diminished by moving to town and being educated in the graded schools. The school is all right enough, but the accessories to the school are frequently all wrong.

The fourth argument is: "I want to be near church and prayer meeting." A sufficient answer to this is that as a matter of fact people in town do not attend church any better or even as well as the farmers in the country. The habit of church-going is peculiarly a country habit, and while it involves in the case of old people more or less sacrifice, and more in the country than in the town, we doubt if the retired farmers discharge their church duties as well as they did when they were in the country.

The fifth and last argument is this: "I have earned a rest, and intend to take it." If by rest is meant the opportunity to do nothing, we do not believe any man ever earned it, and if he did, he is very foolish in claiming it. Rest kills men; moderate and wisely-directed work never does. A man is a good deal like a machine. He rusts out much quicker than he wears out. If a man who is past middle age expects to live out his days, he must keep his mind active. He must have something to do in which he is vitally interested. Look around at the hale, hearty old men, whether in town or country, and you will find that they are almost invariably men who are constantly thinking and planning, who take an interest in all things around them, and are especially interested in young people. The remark is often made that this man or that man who is in the seventies or eighties is as greedy for money as he ever was in his life. These men are



Chewton Victor 6th (E06C6).



Alastair (78217).