



ROYAL INFIRMARY FLOCK, EDINBURGH.

needs of the community. The farmer, as a citizen, has similar needs and requirements as other citizens, and therefore must have training in the subjects of general education, but in addition he must be familiar with nature, and, therefore, nature study should form part of his course. In fact, the course of study should be such as would best qualify the individual for the profession or occupation which he intends to follow.

(f) A better library of good literature and reference books could be provided.

(g) A more regular and punctual attendance would be secured, because if the scholars were conveyed to a school in some central locality, there would scarcely be any trouble with absent or late scholars.

(h) The course of study for our rural schools could be much extended.

(k) The health, morals, intellectual development and progress would be proportionately higher than in our schools as at present constituted.

And lastly, the teachers thus engaged would, in all probability, remain for some years in the profession, very much to the advantage of the young and rising generation.

CHAS. A. BARNES,

Lambton Co., Ont. Inspector Public Schools.

## STOCK.

### Breeding Tells in Feeding.

In an able article written by Mr. T. F. B. Sotham, and published in the annual report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, he says: "Highly satisfactory results have been recorded from feeding the grades of all the beef breeds. What a significant lesson is taught by the pre-eminent fact that not one single instance of a profit with scrubs is recorded. Men who feed scrubs do not care to advertise their methods; a profit from them savors too much of sharp practices. Men who claim to have made money feeding scrubs are few, and they are sly in their operation. They buy anything cheap: bulls, which they castrate and dehorn; cock-horned, stunted three-year-olds are dehorned, in the expectation of palming them off as yearlings—anything to improve appearances. Yet the operations of these feeders, if carefully investigated, will show that they never get above market price for their corn, and men who have borrowed money to buy this sort of cattle and fed purchased corn invariably lost money, while for every dollar profit made on scrub feeding the same feed would have yielded far greater results if fed to good stock. If in isolated cases any real profit has been made from feeding scrub cattle, it has been invariably by owners of large tracts of rich corn lands feeding their portion of corn, which is mainly raised by renters. In a majority of years it is safe to say they do not receive through their cattle the market price for this corn, and in profit-yielding years they have such large numbers that a small average profit realizes a large sum. In this these big feeders of cheap cattle are like the packers, who, killing thousands of cattle per day, are satisfied with so small a profit that a small slaughterer cannot live in competition. Feeding scrub cattle is largely a speculation. Where feeder does not own the corn, debt free, he runs a dangerous financial risk. Scrub cattle should be allowed to fill the tins, off of grass, and that grass must be cheap grass, in a country where it is so plentiful and valueless that cattle can be kept the year 'round for a pittance. In such a section they may be kept with only the loss of the profits of what might have been had better stock been kept in their place."

### Cost of Pork Production.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your paper of Jan. 15th, 1902, appears an article on pork production, which, with your permission, I would like to criticise. Mr. Wrenshall tells us he kept his brood sow for four months for \$1.50, and fed her 3 pints of oat chop and 1½ pints of cut clover, scalded, per day. Now, as I figure it, his sow would eat nearly six bushels of oats in the time, and oats were worth here in 1901, 25 cents in November; in January, 30; and in April, 35; so you see his \$1.50 is swallowed up in oats. Clover hay was \$6 per ton in November and \$10 per ton in March, and I should think 5 lbs. per day would not be too much for the sow. At that rate, she would eat about 600 lbs. of clover; at \$6 per ton, would be \$1.80. Now, what about the labor in feeding her? Suppose he takes 3-13 minutes to feed her and scald her feed, it would make ten minutes each day, which for four months would make two days of ten hours each. Here we cannot get men for less than 75 cents per day, and first-class men get \$1 per day, so you see his \$1.50 is gone again. His sweet milk he fed for three weeks he does not reckon at all. Query: How does he raise mangolds for five cents per bushel? I have been trying it for thirty years, and could never raise them for that. There are some other items to which exception might be taken, but the whole article seems to have been written by some capper for a pork-packing factory, rather than a practical farmer. How did he get his brood sow? She seems to have cost nothing. With shorts and other ground feed at one cent per pound, I never could raise pigs for less than five cents per pound, and have always fed skimmed milk, buttermilk and whey, mangolds, sugar beets and clover, and if others can produce it for less, I would like to know how they do it.

Lennox Co., Ont.

F. VAN DE BOGART.

### Care of Cows at Calving.

I believe in having cows dry six weeks or two months before calving, and when thoroughly dry, feed liberally up to within a week of parturition. It is the greatest mistake, and the most common, to have cows thin in flesh before calving. A cow should be fed but lightly a week before calving and a week or ten days after calving, as her digestive organs have not recovered their normal power and there is also the great drain of motherhood upon the system. We have thus two weeks of light feed with a great drain upon the system, and if a cow is not in good "heart" before calving, she will be altogether too weak to do good work after. A cow has been likened to a steam engine. Well, we get up steam before we start the engine. A cow in proper condition before calving is, of course, likely to develop a large udder if she is any good. Feed lightly when the udder has developed to a "comfortable" size. The best feed I find is ensilage and a little bran and a cup of oil cake twice a day with some nice hay. A few days before calving, give 1½ to 2 lbs. of Epsom salts, 1 tablespoonful saltpetre, 1 cup black molasses, mixed in two quarts of water, as a drench, and the same a day or so before the calf is dropped. If the udder is a "leg spreader" or caked, give 1 tablespoonful saltpetre twice a day as long as you consider advisable. It is a mild purge and thins the blood.

There is nothing better to reduce a caked udder (before calving) than to put a halter on the cow and take her for a one-mile walk. If the weather is cold, be careful that she does not catch cold after her walk. Blanket her. I never milk before calving, not even if the udder is 6 or 7 feet around. Exercise and purges given as stated, and there is no danger of garget. To ward off milk fever, I have been giving, the past three years, 20 drops of pure carbolic acid twice daily, diluted in a pint or quart of water and mixed with bran feed. Give say six doses, commencing a week before calving, and a few doses before and after calving. This will also insure thorough expulsion of the afterbirth, and be a benefit to the cow's system, enabling it to sooner recover from the effects of parturition.

When calving, a cow should, of course, be in a box stall, with dry bedding, and temperature at about 60 degrees. After the calf is safely delivered, leave them alone for an hour or more. Then give a scalded bran mash, in the winter time, cooled no lower than the cow can take it; mix quite wet and add a good handful of salt. The cow will be very thirsty. Give her all the tepid water she will drink, say 25 lbs. every hour until her thirst is satisfied. This helps the bowels to move and flushes out the system. If the pen is lower than 60 degrees, put a blanket on the cow immediately after the calf is delivered. If very cold, put on two blankets. A difficult parturition or chill may cause retention of the afterbirth. In the summer time keep the cow as cool as possible. Sixty to seventy degrees is ideal temperature. Don't be in too big a hurry to milk; let the calf have a chance. Many good dairymen with heavy milkers do not milk clean at first, but take some away every two or three hours for the first twelve hours. After that, take out the last drop at each milking. Don't feed very heavy for first week. The system and digestive organs are weakened. Gradually increase feed. The excrements are the best guide as to the state of the digestive organs.

Oxford Co., Ont.

GEO. RICE.



RIVER SCENE AT MARYSVILLE, NEAR FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK.

Photo by H. F. Albright.