

A Chester White Trio.

The porcine trio illustration on this page is the direct reproduction from a photograph taken at the Toronto Exhibition last September. The individuals represented are of Chester White breeding, and the property of Messrs. H. George & Sons, Crampton, Ont. The boar, Dominion King 761 (imp.), standing alone in the foreground, was the winner of 1st prize at Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa, for boar under one year. He was then 11 months old, and weighed 498 pounds. His length, depth of body and strength of back are indeed extraordinary. His offspring are strong and even. The sow standing next him is Bella of Calton 613, also winner of 1st prize at Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa exhibitions, in the aged sow section. Her weight at that time was 742 pounds. She too possesses great development of sides, hams and back. As a breeder she has been most satisfactory, having suckled a litter of nine pigs last June while being fitted for the show campaign, and is still breeding. The other sow, Snow Ball, at 23 months old weighed 638 pounds. She possesses the typical Chester White characteristics, as the illustration shows. Her winnings last fall were 1st at Toronto and Montreal, 2nd at Ottawa, and along with her companions in the picture won the grand sweepstakes at Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa, for best boar and two sows of any age, a prize claimed by this firm to have been taken six times out of seven when shown for at the Toronto Exhibition. Further notes on Messrs. H. George & Sons' herd appear in the Gossip columns of this issue.

Evils in the Shorthorn Business.

(Paper read at annual meeting of the Shorthorn Breeders Association.)

BY D. ALEXANDER, BRIDGEMAN, ONT.

I think one of the evils working against us as a body of intelligent men, engaged in perhaps the grandest, most useful, and to the agricultural world the most intellectual as well as the most fascinating of the several lines composing the agricultural sphere, I say I believe the worst evil is men engaging in the breeding of pure-bred stock without the first talent of what makes a successful breeder. We all can call to mind men who thought they knew as well and much as any man how to choose good animals, how to feed, and how to mate them, and become, in their estimation, second to none as a breeder of pure-bred stock. But, gentlemen, I can count them by the dozen who have not only lost ground from the start, but have brought evils, decided evils, on others engaged in the business. The natural talents of stockmen are not theirs. Love for the business is not in it with them. The fascination and natural delight in caring for and in mating thoughtfully and intelligently is absent, and if we look closely we will find other motives, such as increased remuneration. The prices they hope to get are more fascinating to them than any pains they may take in breeding; and, as time passes, our friends get careless as well as being not adapted, and offer their stock at unremunerative prices to the public, depreciated in spirit, body, and ordinary value. Then we are met with the only too common remark, "Oh, I can get Mr. So-and-So's stock for half your price." We ask them what they are like? The answer is, "Not as nice as yours, but the blood is there and the price is one half." Yes, I answer, the price is one half, the other half this sort of breeder has lost and will continue to lose until he gets out of a business he should never have been engaged in. I defy you to satisfy the general public greed. And when once known that pure-bred cattle can be bought for half the price such cattle can be bred and sold for by those who make their business as remunerative as it should be, this downward plunge of our friend throws its spray over us all.

What can be done to remedy this? The Association raised the standard of the breed. May it not be possible to raise the standard of the breeder? I have often thought an intellectual standard or examination of those applying for membership might be carried out to the advantage of all, and might succeed better than at first sight. For instance, were a few questions asked that would set men thinking, such as the following:—

Have you given the subject of breeding pure-bred stock any consideration? What are the requirements of a successful and intelligent breeder? Describe how you would feed and care for such stock? Give the estimate cost or value of an animal (male or female) twelve months old, as you are or would care for it? I need not give other examples. The able men I see here could easily cover the ground of such a standard as I suggest to better advantage than I can; but you have an idea, and I believe it can be made to raise the standard of intelligence in those about to engage in the business.

Another evil is the grade bull business. I am satisfied that what is called pride in our work will never reach or prevent the keeping of grade sires—the country swarms with them, and legislative enactment can be the only sure remedy. By an enactment men are forced to respect their neigh-

bor's rights, in the building of their homes and places of their business, as to who shall manufacture or sell liquors, and many other things. The municipal system abounds with instances where individual right is more encroached on than it will be by taxing the grade bull or stallion ten to fifty dollars.

Why, gentlemen, need I remind you that none of us can take a wife to himself unless he pays a tax, or let all the world know of it weeks previous. After years of close and painstaking observation, I estimate that there are one-third of the males from common cows, and in some districts more, and they are generally owned by people who also own debentures.

Let all the live stock associations work for the overthrow of this curse to the stock of our country. The pride in our work or idea will never do it—legislative enactment will, and it will help those foolish people more than it will the breeders.

This removed, and an intellectual standard for our profession, as other professions have, and we are on equality with other trades and professions.

Feeding Dairy Cows.

The questions by G. A. A. and P. E. Island farmer, answered by Prof. Day, in another column, revive interest in a timely and most important subject—how to feed the dairy cow in order to get the best returns? A cow, in order to milk to her utmost capacity, must be fed on such food and in such a manner as to keep her in perfect health. Overfeeding a cow, or any other animal, will derange the stomach, and not only waste food, but impair digestion, assimilation, and the milk, flesh and energy forming functions. The best authorities have found by repeated detailed and wisely-conducted experiments and observation, and in every-day experience, that the greatest return from food consumed is obtained when it is composed of palatable, digestible foods compounded in certain proportion of flesh or casein (curd) forming material

thrifty growing condition at all times, but never fat, desiring to encourage the tendency to put fat in the pail and not on the back. It is advisable to handle heifers a good deal, so that they will learn to have no fear of the human animal.

Calves do much better in a cool, clean, well-ventilated stable than if left to shift for themselves during the hot summer season. They should have room for necessary exercise, but I have noticed that the majority of calves get a little too much of that article in their search for something edible. As heifers advance in age they should be fed largely on the more bulky foods, in order to extend to some extent the abdomen and give ample boiler capacity. Ensilage, roots, corn fodder, cut straw, etc., with very little grain, will carry them through the winter in hearty and vigorous condition, and they will be less affected by the change to grass in the spring than grain-fed animals.

Our heifers are generally bred to calve at 24 to 27 months old; have never had satisfactory results from those that did not calve until they were three years old. They acquire the habit of putting on beef, and like all bad habits, it sticks to them. After the heifer is in calf she should have plenty of feed in order to develop the milk glands, and for the last month or two before calving a liberal grain ration is of great service in producing a large udder and in giving her a start on the road to dairy success. Most cows are either made or marred during the first period of gestation. It is not safe to feed much grain to an aged cow just before calving, owing to the danger of milk fever, but two-year-old heifers very rarely suffer from this disease. After the heifer drops her first calf she should be fed sparingly for a few days till she regains her normal condition, after which the amount of succulent food should be gradually increased till she gets about all she will take, in order to encourage the milking tendency and further develop the milk glands.

Under this system of management we have never lost a calf and scarcely ever had a sick one. If a calf shows symptoms of scours a little starch dissolved in water is added to the milk, but in a bad case of scours it would be best to eliminate the poison from the system by means of a dose or two of castor oil before giving starch, laudanum or whatever corrective is used. Visitors at "Maple Hill" almost invariably express their admiration for the large and thrifty calves, and we feel proud that six years of persistent care and labor along the above lines has enabled us to build up a dairy herd that has few superiors anywhere in heavy production, rich breeding, and uniformity of type.

G. W. OLEMONS.

From Eight to Ten Thousand Pounds of Milk the First Year.

We select and raise all our heifer calves from our best cows. We find it to be beneficial to the dam and the calf to allow the little one to remain with the mother for twenty-four hours, when it is removed to calf pen, where it is fed new milk three times a day for three weeks, and then we add one half skimmed milk direct from the separator for two weeks, after which they are fed skim milk only, with a little oil-cake meal. They are early taught to eat bran and oat chop dry, and clover hay, the latter of which is always kept in their racks; and when two months old we feed them corn ensilage, and continue to feed skim milk until they are about four months old, when water is mixed with the milk for a few days, when they are weaned. We continue feeding the clover hay, ensilage, bran, and chop feed, with a little oil cake, until they are turned out to pasture at six to eight months old, great care being taken not to let them get too fat. The winter following we divide them into lots of half a dozen each, putting them into warm, dry pens, about 20 x 30 feet, with outside yard attached, in each of which there is a watering trough with a continuous flow of spring water which never freezes. In very cold weather they are allowed out in the yards only a short time, say an hour or two. In mild weather they are allowed to run out and in at pleasure. They are served to come in at two years of age; special care being exercised in feeding for ten days before and after calving. Our heifers are milked the first year for twelve to fourteen months, thereafter from ten to twelve months each year, giving them six to eight weeks' rest. With the above treatment, the best of our heifers give eight to ten thousand pounds of milk the first year.

E. D. TILLSON.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

A Good Dairy-Bred Sire Essential.

It is a fact that dairying has become the foremost and most profitable industry for the Canadian farmer. No other branch of his business has for a number of years given him as good returns, and yet in no other branch does the average farmer show so much neglect as in the breeding and raising of his dairy stock. Little or no thought is given as to the proper selection of a dairy bull. In many instances any bull at all is used, no matter how



A SWEEPSTAKES CHESTER WHITE TRIO, THE PROPERTY OF H. GEORGE & SONS, CRAMPTON, ONT.

(protein) to a certain proportion of digestible heat, fat and energy forming foods (carbohydrates), and withal, of sufficient bulk to satisfy hunger at each meal. Not only is it important that a cow's stomach be well filled to give her comfort and contentment, but by the pressure of fibrous fodder on the lining of the stomach digestive juices are more liberally secreted.

Raising Heifer Calves for the Dairy.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR.—All the calves at "Maple Hill" are pure-bred Holstein-Friesians. Constitutional vigor and inherited dairy tendency are absolutely essential: they are the foundation on which a dairy herd must be built. When a calf is dropped we allow it to remain with the dam for a few hours only, just long enough for it to secure a good square meal of the mother's milk. It is then placed in a clean and roomy box stall, and taught to drink, usually at the first or second trial. We find that the cow does not fret so much, and the calf learns to drink with less trouble, when we follow this plan. We feed whole milk for six weeks or two months, about ten or twelve pounds per day at first, and gradually increase to about twenty pounds; two feeds per day, but three would be preferable for the first month. When the calf is three or four weeks old we put a little bran or chopped oats in the feed box after giving the milk, and in a few days the prospective cow cultivates a taste for bran, oats, oil meal, and clover hay, which are freely supplied. Whole milk is all that is necessary for the first month, after which the ruminating stomach begins to develop and the calf is able to make a start on solid foods. We never feed any gruel, jelly, porridge, or anything of that kind, preferring to develop the powers of mastication from the start. When the solid feeds are readily taken we change gradually to skim milk, of which we are fortunate enough to have an abundant supply at nearly all times of the year. The skim milk is continued until the calf is six or eight months old, and sometimes even longer. We aim to keep our heifers in