

Interesting Facts re Smithfield Show.

Probably one of the most important matters that have been brought out for the use and benefit of breeders and feeders of live stock all the world over, is the early maturity and rapid development of present-day cattle and sheep, as compared with those of former days.

Mainly owing to the industry of Mr. W. W. Chapman, F.S.S. and M.I.J., our London representative, these facts are now rendered more easily available and in far greater detail than was the case some four or five years ago. Space is too limited to give the full details of the table proposed by Mr. Chapman, but it may be remarked that the figures given below are the results derived from the actual working out of the daily average gain of each animal exhibited at Smithfield show.

The Earl of Strathmore's champion Aberdeen-Angus heifer, who won amongst other honors the King's challenge cup, the champion plate for best beast in the show, and the cup for the best heifer, at 1023 days old gave an average daily gain of 1 lb. 11.93 ozs. The best steer in the show at 1037 days of age gave an average daily gain of 1 lb. 15.42 ozs., and His Majesty the King's Hereford, who won the cup for best animal under two years of age, shows the average daily gain of 2 lbs. 0.02 ozs. The highest daily gain made by any animal in the cattle section was 2 lbs. 8.34 ozs., made by Mr. Gerald Warde's first-prize yearling Sussex steer.

Briefly summarizing the results, we find that the following shows the averages, daily gain and number of entries in each of the classes for steers not exceeding two years: Devons, 10 entries, average 1 lb. 12.65 ozs.; Hereford, 8 entries, average 2 lbs. 0.51 ozs.; Shorthorns, 8 entries, 2 lbs. 2.09 ozs.; Sussex, 13 entries, average 2 lbs. 1.72 ozs.; Red Polls, 2 entries, 1 lb. 14.99 ozs.; Aberdeen-Angus, 11 entries, average 2 lbs. 1.77 ozs.; Galloway, 7 entries, 1 lb. 13.90 ozs.; Welsh, 7 entries, average 2 lbs. 1.78 ozs.; Cross-bred, 12 entries, average 2 lbs. 0.68 ozs.; Cross-bred heifers, 5 entries, average 2 lbs. 0.12 ozs.; small cattle, 6 entries, average 1 lb. 4.96 ozs.

Number of entries and average daily gains of the steer classes above two and not exceeding three years: Devons, 6 entries, 1 lb. 8.12 ozs.; Herefords, 4 entries, 1 lb. 12.70 ozs.; Shorthorns, 6 entries, 1 lb. 14.08 ozs.; Sussex, 6 entries, 1 lb. 11.98 ozs.; Red Polls, 2 entries, 1 lb. 11.03 ozs.; Aberdeen-Angus, 5 entries, 1 lb. 14.24 ozs.; Galloways, 5 entries, 1 lb. 11.30 ozs.; Welsh, 10 entries, 1 lb. 10.42 ozs.; Highland, 6 entries, 1 lb. 8.00 ozs.; Cross-bred steers, 9 entries, 1 lb. 13.18 ozs.

The heifer classes above two and not exceeding three years gave the following average gains: Devons, 4 entries, 1 lb. 8.42 ozs.; Hereford, 1 entry, 1 lb. 7.03 ozs.; Shorthorns, 7 entries, 1 lb. 8.77 ozs.; Sussex, 10 entries, 1 lb. 9.46 ozs.; Red Poll, 1 entry, 1 lb. 7.27 ozs.; Aberdeen-Angus, 7 entries, 1 lb. 10.85 ozs.; Galloways, 2 entries, 1 lb. 5.95 ozs.; Welsh, 5 entries, 1 lb. 10.42 ozs.; Cross-bred heifers, 7 entries, 1 lb. 9.88 ozs.

RE SHEEP AND LAMB CLASSES.

Throughout this section each breed included has two classes, (1) lambs not exceeding 12 months, and (2) wethers above 12 and not exceeding 24 months. The following are the number of entries and average daily gains of each class: Leicesters or Border Leicesters, lambs, 6 entries, 10.05 ozs.; wethers, 5 entries, 7.02 ozs.; Cotswolds, lambs, 2 entries, 10.74 ozs.; no wethers entered. Lincolns, lambs, 4 entries, 11.74 ozs.; wethers, 4 entries, 8.40 ozs. Romney Marsh lambs, 8 entries, 9.80 ozs.; wethers, 11 entries, 7.08 ozs.; Devon Longwool, etc., lambs, 3 entries, 11.23 ozs.; wethers, 4 entries, 6.70 ozs.; Cheviots, lambs, 3 entries, 9.79 ozs.; wethers, 3 entries, 6.58 ozs. Southdowns, lambs, 14 entries, 8.43 ozs.; wethers, 11 entries, 5.47 ozs. Hampshires, lambs, 10 entries, 10.39 ozs.; wethers, 13 entries, 6.58 ozs.; Suffolks, lambs, 4 entries, 10.81 ozs.; wethers, 4 entries, 7.19 ozs.; Shropshires, lambs, 5 entries, 9.21 ozs.; wethers, 3 entries, 6.78 ozs.; Oxford Downs, lambs, 6 entries, 9.63 ozs.; wethers, 5 entries, 6.95 ozs. Dorset Horns, etc., lambs, 2 entries, 9.81 ozs.; wethers, 3 entries, 5.92 ozs. Cross-breds, lambs, 8 entries, 10.77 ozs.; wethers, 4 entries, 7.06 ozs.; Scotch Cross-breds, lambs, 3 entries, 10.00 ozs.; wethers, 1 entry, 7.66 ozs.

The Lincoln breed secured a notable and well-deserved triumph by the success of Mr. Henry Dudding's notably fine pen of Lincoln wether sheep, whose average daily gain was 8.83 ozs. This pen won first in their class, and Longwool champion prize, and then at the hands of Mr. J. Bowen Jones, the well-known Shropshire breeder, they received the coveted blue ribbon of the show, and were declared the champion pen of the sheep classes in the present year.

PIGS.

The champion pen of pigs, Mr. A. Brown's, gave a daily gain of 1 lb. 8.96 ozs., and the best single pig in the show, belonging to His Royal

Highness Prince Christian, a Berkshire under 12 months, gave the average daily gain of 1 lb. 6.72 ozs. The first section of the pig classes is two classes for each breed, one not exceeding nine months, and the other above nine and not exceeding twelve months. The number of entries present and the average daily gain per pig was as follows: Small White, young class, 3 entries, 11.31 ozs.; old class, 2 entries, 13.96 ozs. Middle Whites, young class, five entries, 1 lb. 3.05 ozs.; old class,



PRINCE OF THE VALE.
Owned by Mr. Wm. Anderson, Saphock, Old Meldrum, Scotland.

six entries, 1 lb. 1.92 ozs. Large White, young class, 3 entries, 1 lb. 4.73 ozs.; old class, three entries, 1 lb. 5.57 ozs. Black Breed, young class, six entries, 1 lb. 3.06 ozs.; old class, three entries, 1 lb. 3.23 ozs. Berkshires, young class, 11 entries, 1 lb. 3.79 ozs.; old class, nine entries, 1 lb. 3.80 ozs. Tamworth, young class, three entries, 1 lb. 3.78 ozs.; old class, three entries, 1 lb. 2.25 ozs. Any distinct or cross breed, young class, four entries, 1 lb. 6.79 ozs.; old class, six entries, 1 lb. 5.98 ozs. The single pig classes not exceeding twelve months of age: White Breed, four entries, average 1 lb. 2.98 ozs.; Black Breed, 4 entries, 1 lb. 2.88 ozs.; Berkshires, 16 entries, average 1 lb. 2.96 ozs.; Tamworths, three entries, average 1 lb. 5.08 ozs.

Fighting Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

Dr. Salmon, the chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, who is in Boston directing the campaign against the epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease, says that the disease will be stamped out this winter unless it has been carried to some other part of the country where it is yet undiscovered. Large numbers of cattle have been slaughtered.



UP-TO-DATE.
A Shorthorn-Angus cross-bred steer, 1,857 pounds. Fed at Lord Roseberry's farm for Smithfield, England.

Always Helpful.

I think the Christmas number of the "Farmer's Advocate" is first-class. I am well pleased with each number. We can always find in it useful instruction concerning the farm which even the best farmers should read.

East Assa.

JAS. KEITH.

FARM.

Suggestions from an Old-timer.

Writing from Vernon, B.C., Mr. E. C. Thompson, formerly of the Antler district, Assa., says: "As an ex-Manitoba farmer of several years' standing, I venture to make two suggestions, which it seems to me, if acted upon, would materially help things along, and which I would certainly try were I to return to the broad prairie. One is regarding fruit and the other storing grain.

Now, as to the former, I had on my farm on the S. Antler a very nice little plum patch. There it was, and there it probably is to this day; but beyond picking the fruit every fall, that is all the attention it ever got. My idea now would be to clear the trees out to a distance of say twenty feet apart, plow in between and keep them cultivated, and graft some hardy plums on to them. If that experiment were tried, why should Manitoba not have as fine plums as any other country?

The other suggestion is regarding the difficulties connected with storing grain. Why should threshers not bag the grain up as is done in British Columbia, where each outfit takes a sack sewer with them. The grain is then piled up in blocks in the field, with a straw roof over it, and left there until hauled to the elevator. The farmer saves a lot of handling; takes his cleanings back from the mill if desired; and pays about two cents each for the use of the bags; thus granaries are dispensed with.

That Labor Question.

Another year has passed away, and although we have already entered upon a new year, it is not too late for the farmer to sum up carefully his observations and lessons from the past year. The Province is progressing rapidly, and rising from the pioneer stages of its development to a more established state. This progress alters conditions, and the intelligent farmer must observe and adjust his management to suit the circumstances of the times. Each season brings with it new problems and new lessons for him, and it is only by carefully noting the lessons of the past that he will be able to meet and solve the problems of the future.

Although the past season has been so highly satisfactory to the farmer, yet it has not been without its problems, which challenge his very best judgment for solution. This year, as never before, the farmer has been brought face to face with the labor question and transportation problem. The latter, however, is beyond his power to remedy, but remains for the Government to settle. The former is perhaps the most pressing, and lies largely within his power to improve.

The scarcity of labor during the last two or three years has been general over the Dominion. The prevailing prosperity of the country, which increases the demand for laborers, is largely accountable for this. But we in Manitoba have labor conditions peculiar to ourselves. The immigration of the past two or three years has consisted chiefly of home-seekers, rather than of laborers. These bring more land under cultivation, and thus add more to the demand for rather than the supply of labor. The present system of farming, too, is a factor to be considered as affecting the labor supply. Wheat farming will always require twice the amount of help in harvest and threshing that is needed at any other time of the year. So long as this system of purely wheat-farming prevails, the extra supply of farm hands for the fall months must come from other parts, for there is no other industry in the Province to which the laborer may turn his hand for the other eight or nine months.

In the past, this difficulty has been overcome by laborers brought in by excursions from the Eastern Provinces. But we cannot expect this system to last much longer; and, at best, it has many faults, both for the farmer and laborer. While many of the excursionists make good able farm hands, yet too many of them are slight town clerks, induced by the cheap fare to come West