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The Guiding Power of a Correct Ideal

(Continued from page 5).

of them have never attained their ideal for their whole breeds, but their work has resulted in much good for the Canadian live stock industry. It is from my observations among the really good herds of Canada, herds that were bred on the farms where I found them, that I will lay down a few principles that may be a guide to the young farmer and prospective breeder in the selection of his ideal.

First, let your ideal conform in all essential particulars to the best conception of the breed as held by previous generations of breeders. Try to make over a breed within a single life time is a venture that offers little chance of success and is unwise in any case. The man whose ideal calls for fine quality and rich milk, would be foolish to select the rugged, deep milking Holstein; the Jersey or the Guernsey offers him a better field for his breeding endeavors.

To select an ideal that will not conflict with the inherited and inbred tendencies of his breed, the young breeder must be a clear student of his breed; he must have his ideal so clearly before him that he can see it in his mind's eye; all animals of his breeding must be compared to the ideal and rated accordingly. Particularly must the herd bulls be selected most rigidly with the ideal in mind.

It is a falling of many breeders, whose ideal is correct in all essential particulars, to be carried away by fads and fancies. It is well to remember that the popularity of any breed or strain or family is based in the long run, on utility value. And there is not a breed of cattle in Canada to-day that has not received a setback at some time in its history because of the devotion of a considerable part of its fanciers, to some passing but popular fancy. Of these fads, color fancies have been most destructive in their results. The Hereford, for instance, is an older breed than the Shorthorn, but its early development was so retarded by the rivalry of three sections of breeders favoring three different colors, that Shorthorns occupied the paramount position in the Hereford men started in real earnest and unitedly to push their breed. Shorthorns, too, have suffered because of whimsical preferences, none of them of long duration, for either reds, whites, or roans. All who are acquainted with the history of the Ayrshire breed, find it hard to calculate the damage wrought by the preference for tight, buttoned unders and too smooth and well rounded a body. Latterly, in both Ayrshire and Holstein breeds, some of the best fanciers have been showing a strong preference for light colors. This, too, is but a passing fancy that cannot last because it has not basis in utility. Beauty of form should constitute a part of every breeder's ideal, but it should never be allowed to interfere with the economic value of the herd.

Community Work Necessary.

So far as the individual breeder is concerned, these two, conformity to breed, type and avoidance of passing fads and fancies, are the most important considerations in formulating an ideal. The breeder, too, should be a missionary for his breed. He should endeavor to make it the breed of the neighborhood. The highest development of any breed of live stock is attainable only when the whole neighborhood is breeding in the same direction. It has been the neighborhood ideal, rather than the work of the individual breeder, that

developed the Ayrshire in Scotland, the Jersey in Jersey, the Holstein in Holland and so on through all the breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine. We need community breeding in Canada. In the breeding community, the individual profits by contact with others of like mind with himself. Healthy rivalry engenders greater progress, and, if a true community spirit exists, better bulls can be secured on the cooperative plan. But the ideal in the mind of the breeder will always be the great guiding power toward breed progress. Even in Scotland, Jersey or Holland, there are breeders without an ideal and in whose hands the breed suffers. But there are also the breeders with high ideals and ranch perseverance; those indeed are the salt of the earth so far as live stock breeding is concerned. And in the hands of such, lies the future progress of the pure bred animal in Canada. We can no longer depend to the extent that we have in the past in the skill of breeders of other lands. Henceforth, we must, to a great extent, formulate our own ideals and do our own work.

Assisting the Sheep Industry

(Continued from page 17.)

alfalfa hay with swedes. Cereal hay without swedes produced gains at an increased cost of \$2.40 a hundred more as compared with timothy hay. The addition of four pounds of swedes, however, produced gains at \$1.89 a hundred cheaper than timothy. The addition of two pounds of silage to the timothy ration reduced the cost of gains slightly below that of oat hay and four pounds of swedes. Timothy and oat hay alone were not as palatable as alfalfa hay and silage. With the addition of swedes, however, the lambs consumed more roughage and meat.

The following conclusions may be drawn from these results: First, alfalfa hay is the cheapest and most economical roughage to use in lamb fattening; second, the addition of two to four pounds of swedes increases the gains and lowers the cost in all roughages, except timothy hay, when the defective roughage is apparently not overcome, probably due to the lack of protein in the ration; third, timothy hay alone is not an economical roughage to use for lamb fattening; fourth, silage, if fresh and sweet, stands up to alfalfa hay for economy of gain; fifth, oat hay, unless fed in conjunction with liberal quantities of swedes, is not an economical roughage for lamb fattening.

Edgational Features.

The practical and educational features of the work go hand in hand. The grading and sale of wool, the grading and sale of lambs and the introduction sale and exchange of breeding stock provide kindred problems plentifully. They give ample opportunities for securing timely topics for addresses and features for demonstration, which are directly related to the furthering and improvement of the sheep industry.

Since the war began the Belleville cheese board and the patrons of the factories it represents, have raised more than \$10,000 for Red Cross and Patriotic work. Besides supplying material for Red Cross workers of 11 branches, with which they have made comfortable and necessary for soldiers, it has also been making grants to the battalion funds.

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(See advt. also on page 14.)

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