

Sound Sense on the Hog Question.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have read with interest the many articles that have appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate," and other papers, on the hog industry, from the feeders' standpoint, as well as the packers'. A word about feeding hogs: Some farmers could not make hog-feeding pay if they got 15 cents per pound for their pork, but this is no fault of the packer, the breed of hogs, or the feed fed to them. It is simply a case that will apply to farmers who care for their stock sitting around the village blacksmith shop, or, still worse, the little hotel. The time has gone by when any thing can farm. To be successful farmers we must have brains, and use them. Some will always have excuses why they have not been successful in business, and the majority of this class that have been trying to keep a few hogs will try to lay the failure at the door of the packer. Now, the men that are engaged in the pork-packing business in this country are only human, and are in the business for the dollar, just the same as the farmer or any other business man, and when they can buy hogs at 5c. they will not pay 6c., even if it cost 7c. to produce them.

There never was, or will be, a time when the packer and farmer can agree on a price. If the packer had an unlimited demand for his product in Canada, where he did not have to compete with the cheap product of our friends to the south and the high-class product of Denmark and Ireland, he could just as well pay the farmer 7c. as 4c. per pound, but when he has to compete with other countries, the cost of the raw material is everything. On the other hand, again, some years farmers might be able to sell hogs at 6c. and make money, as all depends upon the price of feeds used in producing the pork.

A word about the type of hog to produce: Some writers are trying to lead the public to believe that it costs more to produce a 200-pound hog of the bacon type than one of the same weight of the thick, fat, lard type. This is not my experience, and I feed as many hogs as any man in my township. I have tried all kinds, and for the last three years have kept pure-bred Yorkshires. The sire I am using is a hog I purchased from D. C. Flatt & Son, paying \$40 for him when ready for use. He is the best investment I ever had anything to do with in the hog line. For quality and pounds, I will put his get against any sire of any breed in this country, and, as stated before, I have tried all breeds, and the Yorks. are good enough for me.

A word about going back to the old-fashioned fat hog. Supposing that we did, what kind of a position does it place us in? We would be forced to compete in the English market with our American cousins, who, owing to their cheap corn, claim that they can make money out of hogs at 4½c. If our product were the same, it would mean that the United States would get all of this class of trade, and the fact that we had dropped the bacon breeds would leave Ireland and Denmark to fill the orders in this line, and Canada would be left to supply her own little trade. This would result in fully one-half our factories closing down, and then, anyone who saw fit to raise hogs at 4c. to 5c. could do so, but only in very limited numbers. Canada has been a long time getting the place she now holds in the best markets of the world, and can we, as intelligent farmers, afford to let fifteen millions of dollars annually slip from us and go to other countries, all because we are having a little scrap with the packers? Let us raise hogs, and of the proper type, and not let the packers say, at the end of another year, that, "We cannot get half enough hogs to keep our plants going." This would give them good grounds for going to our Minister of Agriculture and asking that American hogs be again admitted into Canada for slaughtering purposes. The farmers of Canada should stand up in a body and commend the Hon. Mr. Fisher for his wise judgment in this matter.

H. A. DRUMMOND.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

How to Save Bloaty Sheep.

About the last of August I turned my sheep into red-clover pasture which was in full bloom, and thought they were all right until I found one down and seven or eight more which were badly bloated. They were turned on the clover in the morning, and I found them in this condition just before dark. The one that was down died, and I saved the rest by putting a three-quarter inch rope in the mouth of each and tying over the top of the sheep's head. The idea is not new, but it saved my sheep, all but the one.

How many of your neighbors are not taking "The Farmer's Advocate?" Tell them what they are missing, get their subscriptions and secure some of our valuable premiums.

Farmers and Bacon Hogs.

I read with admiration your remarks in Feb. 1st issue, under "The Present Status of the Hog Controversy." There is a time for keen discussion of these matters, and also a time to calmly reflect upon the situation in all its bearings, and give his opponent his just dues where he is found to be in the right.

Whatever might be said of the packers during this controversy, there has been a lot of useless talk on the part of the farmers. When it comes to asking the packers to agree to a uniform price for at least nine months of the year, we might just as well save our talk. We cannot expect to get any such arrangement. Supply and demand must regulate the price, and there is always more or less of a speculative phase in connection with any farm produce. Moneyed men must be given to believe they have a chance to make money out of their investments or they will not invest. As farmers we should not begrudge them a legitimate profit, for we need the benefits accruing from their investments. We would be in a sorry plight if all the capitalists withdrew their money from the great institutions, which are of benefit to all classes.

On the other hand, I would not endorse the words of Hon. Nelson Monteith, when he said, "It is up to you farmers to keep these factories running." What obligations are the farmers under? The packers built their plants because they thought there was money for them. They did not consult the farmers as to the number, or size, etc., and why must the farmers be asked to contribute hogs through thick and thin, even at times when neither foreign nor home market will warrant a profit? Under no more obligation are they to do so than to agree to grow a certain acreage of wheat, corn, or potatoes. The farmer must have a free hand to go into whatever line of business suggests itself to him as having prospects of being the most profitable. But it stands in hand for



Pen of Dorset Lambs.

Winners of championship at International Show, Chicago, 1905. Exhibited by R. H. Harding, Thorndale, Ont.

each farmer to keep account of his expenses and receipts in regard to every branch of live stock, and know for himself whether hogs or horses are paying him best, and not rush to conclusions in regard to them just because someone else says they are money makers or losers. No doubt some men can make from 25% to 50% more profit from hogs than can others; economy of feed and judicious management play so great a part in the profits of stock-raising. One thing is sure, the man who rushes into the business for a year or two, and then quits for a like term, is not going to find much money in hog-raising, nor in any other branch of stock-raising conducted in like manner.

To my mind, the most unsatisfactory part of the trouble is to be found in the packers demanding a certain type of hog, and after the farmer has used his money and skill to produce this he finds he is not receiving adequate advantage for so doing, and if packers want a certain type they must respond to the effort made by the other fellow.

Under the present quarantine regulations the farmers of Canada should take heart, and give hog-raising a fair place in their live-stock list. We want the American hog prohibited, not to tie the hands of the packers, but to protect our interests in the British market. It cost too great an effort on the part of Canadians, to build our claim to this market, to see it thrown away. I trust our farmers will not be side-tracked into the idea that hogs do not pay. In many instances they pay well, as I know from experience. Where they are money-losers, it is because of not being supplied with the proper food or proper care. Don't charge it up to the hog when it is the man who is at fault.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

J. R. H.

The Dairy Shorthorn.

The primary function of the Shorthorn cow is the production of beef, but, at the same time, when one questions the average user of this class of cattle, he finds that, except possibly by some of the Western ranchmen and some of the larger pure-bred breeders, they are preferred above other classes of beef stock because of their better milking qualities. Moreover, when one analyzes the matter, he cannot but concede that the ultimate success of any breed of stock depends upon the extent to which they satisfy the requirements of the average farmer. True, the large breeder, for the most part, depends upon the small pure-bred breeder for his market, and does not always realize this; but the smaller breeder, who sells mostly to the general farmers, soon hears criticisms when the milking qualities of his stock fail. And there is good reason for the criticism, for, at least in Eastern Canada, the margin of profit on feeding cattle, under average conditions, is so small that the farmer must look to the milk pail for part of his return. Of course, one's opinion is largely formed from the environment in which he lives, and, therefore, must be taken with some limitation, but I am inclined to be strongly of the opinion that the dairyman of the East should, for the most part, breed his cows along as pure dairy lines as he can; but the average beef man, on account of the markets, must have his beef cattle possessed of fair milking qualities. In other words, I would prefer to consider the milking beef cow rather than the dual-purpose cow. Perhaps it's only a difference of terms, but to me it conveys a different meaning. Yes! At least a large proportion of Shorthorns should be good milkers. The statement has been made in many sections of Canada, that Shorthorns are not so good milkers as they used to be, and the explanation is not hard to find. We have at Truro a good herd of Shorthorn cows. We have one good strain of milkers. The others are just good enough milkers to raise their own calves well, and, in some cases, give a little extra during the first few weeks of lactation. We look for sales,

for the most part, to our young bulls and heifers, and in every case we find that, given the same food, we can raise a more parallelogramic, low-set, well-filled-out calf from our pure beef strain than from our dairy strain, and in practically every case we can sell these more beefy calves for a sufficiently more profitable figure to offset the profit from the increased yield of milk from our milking strain. Therefore, it pays us, as breeders of pure-bred stock, to breed the pure-beef sort. But that does not prove that it pays the country best. If we would advocate the milking Shorthorn, our experience is that we must advocate a somewhat different type of Shorthorn from the one that wins in the show-yard. True, I am quite aware that there are Shorthorn cows, such as Mr. J. Deane Willis' "White Heather," that can win in both the beef and dairy classes, but, as far as my experience goes, this is the exception rather than the rule. Our Shorthorns that are in the highest favor to-day are not fulfilling the function of milk production so well as they might.

Experience will teach any breeder of Shorthorns that his best breeding cows—i. e., the cows that produce strong calves regularly and rear them well—are almost always above the average as milkers. So much is this the case, that such a world-famed breeder as Mr. Duthie, of Aberdeenshire, considers a good udder an indispensable requisite of his Shorthorns, and taboos those cows that cannot raise a calf well. But this is not all that is wanted in a milking Shorthorn. She must produce more than enough milk for her calf. The question, therefore, arises, how can the milking qualities of Shorthorns, as a rule, be improved, or, if you will, restored? In answer to this, it appears to me that there must be a popular movement along the line, similar to that which to-day puts the premium upon the more beefy sorts. Our exhibitions are our best educators and popularizers. Therefore, inducements in the shape of special prizes for Shorthorns of this sort should be held out at our exhibitions and fairs. It is true that attempts made along this line have not as yet met with large response, but, nevertheless, the present demand for such cows is growing, and this will cause more interest to be taken in the matter. The proposition made by the English Shorthorn Society, to give cash prizes for four-year-old cows giving not less than 25 pounds of milk per day, if calved within three months of the date of the