

## STOCK.

## Fall Fair Judging Competition.

(Ottawa correspondence.)

A great deal of interest is being taken in the live-stock judging competitions for farmers sons to be held at a number of the county exhibitions in the Ottawa Valley this fall. Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist at the Central Experimental Farm, has drawn up the following rules to govern the competitions:

1. Competitors must be under 25 years of age; they must be farmers or sons of farmers, living in the county in which competition is held.

2. Anyone who has spent more than six months at an agricultural college shall not be eligible.

3. Competitors will be expected to judge classes of heavy horses, beef cattle, dairy cattle and bacon pigs.

4. In summing up, the following values will be assigned the respective classes:

Heavy Horses .....	100 points.
Beef Cattle .....	100 "
Dairy Cattle .....	200 "
Bacon Pigs .....	100 "

5. Competitors will be expected to place three animals in each class, and give reasons for placing the one they place first ahead of the ones they place second and third, and for placing the second ahead of the rest of the animals in the class.

6. Competitors will be expected to write their answers upon cards furnished for the purpose.

7. Animals for the judging work will be selected from stock on exhibition.

8. As far as possible the judging competition will be held before the regular expert judges pass upon the stock. In case any classes to be used in the contest have been already passed upon by the regular expert judges, then animals that have not shown against each other or that have not been placed will be selected.

9. Competitors will be expected to come to the Secretary's office, where they will give their names to R. B. Faith, Editor of the Ottawa Valley Journal, and receive instructions as to exact hour and place of contest.

10. The judges in charge will examine the cards immediately after the close of the contest, and report at as early an hour as possible.

11. No appeal against the decisions of the experts in charge will be considered.

## To Prevent Horns Growing.

A simple method to prevent the growth of horns in calves, which is practiced to some extent by stock-keepers in this country, is also being followed abroad. The English board of agriculture gives the following directions for the use of caustic potash: Clip the hair from the top of the horn when the calf is from two to five days old. Slightly moisten the end of a stick of caustic potash with water, or moisten the top of the horn bud, and rub the tip of each horn firmly with the potash for about a quarter of a minute, or until a slight impression has been made on the center of the horn. The horns should be treated in this way from two to four times, at intervals of five minutes. If, during the interval of five minutes, after one or more applications, a little blood appears in the center of the horn, it will then only be necessary to give another very slight rubbing with the potash.

The following directions should be carefully observed: The operation is best performed when the calf is under five days old, and should not be attempted after the ninth day. Caustic potash can be obtained from any druggist in the form of a white stick. When not in use it should be kept in a stoppered glass bottle in a dry place, as it rapidly deteriorates when exposed to the air. One man should hold the calf while an assistant uses the caustic.

Roll a piece of tinfoil or brown paper around the end of the stick of potash, which is held by the fingers so as not to injure the hand of the operator. Do not moisten the stick too much, or the caustic may spread to the skin around the horn and destroy the flesh. For the same reason keep the calf from getting wet for some days after the operation. Be careful to rub on the center of the horn and not around the side of it. Caustic potash is poisonous, and must therefore be kept in a safe place.

## Breed Counts.

The economy of using good pure-bred sires can be most effectively preached by illustrations. A striking one was cited to us recently by Mr. Andrew Elliott, of Galt. Two years ago he had bought at a sale a couple lots of young cattle, one for \$13.50 apiece, the other for \$10.50. A bystander remarked at the time: "You paid all the first bunch was worth, but you got a bargain in the others." The steers were kept two years, and sold for \$47 and \$31 a head, respectively, representing net gains in value of \$33.50 and \$20.50, a difference in favor of the better-bred bunch of \$13 apiece. The cheapest is the dearest in the end.

## Cattle for Trinidad and Tobago.

During the year ending March 31, 1904, there were imported into this colony 7,033 oxen, bulls, cows, etc., not one of which came from Canada, and only two from the United Kingdom (for breeding purposes). Venezuela supplied 6,970 head, and the British West Indies the balance. I had an interview with the largest importer of cattle here, one who slaughters 240 monthly. He expressed surprise that this market was not exploited by Canadian cattlemen. He was of opinion that, given proper freight facilities, it would pay as well to send oxen here as to England, and the matter is one which may merit the attention of those interested in the Dominion. The cattle received from Venezuela are comparatively small, the live weight being about 850 pounds.

The import charges are: 10s. duty; inspection fee, 1s.; scale, 1s.; and the value, landed, is about £6 10s. Owing to weather conditions, the meat is very poor from January to August. It improves from September to December, but can hardly ever be marked as first-class.

A certain quantity of frozen American beef comes here, but there is a prejudice against it, and it does not enter into serious competition with live meat.

I understand that cattle from Alberta and elsewhere, weighing about 1,400 pounds, are shipped from St. John, N. B., to Liverpool, the f.o.b. price being from £6 to £7 per head. Allowing for the difference in weight and in the quality of the beef between Canadian and Ven-



Photo by G. H. Parsons.

Bapton Favorite (76080).

Shorthorn bull. Bred by Mr. J. D. Willis, Bapton Manor, Wiltshire. Sold for \$6,300 at the dispersion of the Uppermill herd of the late Mr. W. S. Marr, of Aberdeer shire, in October, 1904. Purchased by Mr. G. Rodger for export to South America.

ezuelan animals, it seems probable that shipments here would pay.

The same fees, duty, etc., are payable on the larger as on the smaller beast, and the slaughterman would certainly pay a higher price for beef which would command so much greater value from his customers. On the few occasions when cattle have been imported elsewhere than from Venezuela and the neighboring islands, and the fact has been duly advertised, all other meat has been neglected in the market by the better classes, who have been most willing to pay much more for the good article than for the usual inferior quality. The larger the animal the better, but an average of 1,000 to 1,200 pounds live weight, would be very suitable.

The question of transport is, of course, an important one. The voyage should be completed, if possible, within ten days. It is a question whether sufficient freight inducement otherwise would warrant direct steamers for the purpose. But lots up to 500 head would find ready sale, especially if advice were given some time ahead.

In addition to the ordinary underdeck cargo, cattle steamers could always bring a certain number of sheep. Mutton here is much more expensive than beef. It is imported principally from New York, where the f.o.b. price is 5½c. lb. live weight, and the freight \$1.75 per head. Some importations from Canadians have not been satisfactory. Wethers are wanted, and rams, and ewes in young have been sent. There is no difficulty of obtaining wethers in New York. The sheep trade should certainly be worth looking into. The longer voyage does not affect them so much as cattle. EDGAR TRIPP.

Port of Spain, Trinidad.

## Canadian Bacon in Leeds.

In the Bradford and Leeds districts a great deal of satisfaction is being caused by the large shipments of stale and overkept bacon from the United States, and Canadian bacon is steadily gaining ground and is in better demand. It was stated to me the other day by a large dealer in bacon here, that "apparently United States bacon is losing its hold on the English trade, and Canadian bacon is taking its place; just the same thing happened in the cheese trade a few years ago." The English trade requires regular weekly shipments of well-cured and well-selected bacon. Trade prospects here for Canadian bacon are very promising.

JNO. B. JACKSON.

## The Argentine Government Has Become Suspicious.

The Farmer and Stock-breeder, in a recent issue, comments on the large number of British cattle that have failed to pass the tuberculin test—some 77 in three months, whereas previously, from 1898 to 1904, only 412 were rejected. The quotation below, from our contemporary, is so naive that we cannot resist publishing it:

"We agree with our contemporary that something is wrong somewhere. Were all those slaughtered passed before being shipped? Are our veterinarians so inefficient that they fail to detect so large a proportion of diseased animals? It would be interesting, and indeed useful, to have in each case a post-mortem examination to reveal the truth or otherwise of the tuberculin diagnosis. Our representative in that country should have immediate instructions that in all cases where an animal is condemned for tuberculosis a post-mortem examination be conducted by the highest authority procurable. It is indeed surprising that the proportion of rejections should have jumped to such large numbers so suddenly."

To those "in the know" it is not at all surprising that rejections should have jumped so, but it is surprising that the Argentine authorities did not tumble to the trickery long on more quickly. It only took the Canadian Government two years to take measures to stop it, and by so doing avoided putting temptation in the way of our weaker brethren across the seas. As one Scotch breeder, in conversation with the writer as to how they (the breeders) beat the test, said, "It is no use being mealy-mouthed about it, I admit it has been going on right along." As long as the craze for certain Shorthorn families exists, thereby limiting buyers in their choice of cattle, and as long as the test is demanded of those cattle, so long will be found fellows trying to beat the test and the official administering. A little common honesty is the need at the present time, and the man that will undertake to beat the test is just as likely to fake a pedigree. In the words of our Scotch friend, "There's no use being mealy-mouthed about it," if the miserable business is to be stopped.

## Live-stock Arena for Toronto Exhibition.

At a recent meeting of the Toronto Exhibition directorate, a discussion took place on the proposed stock-judging arena. Mr. R. J. Score brought the matter up, and energetically advocated proceeding with its erection with the least possible delay. Ald. O. B. Sheppard and Ald. Dunn endorsed Mr. Score in his views. President McNaught said he had heard that the Armories would not again be available for the Horse Show, in which case, he, too, thought no time should be lost in erecting the arena. Controller Spence agreed with nearly all that had been said, and would see that the Board of Control take the matter up at once and proceed as fast as possible.

## We Can Sell that Farm for You.

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